



The Passing Bells - Ep.2

MUSIC IN 5M01 10:00:00

RECAP IN

KATIE runs away from MICHAEL playfully as he gives chase up the grassy bank.

CUT TO:

10:00:01

MICHAEL lays in the grass kissing KATIE.

CUT TO:

10:00:02

THOMAS rides a grocery delivery bicycle with some gusto in a quite well-to-do street. He passes by a group of WELL DRESSED WOMEN6()-86dg0 G -0.024 Tc[(

The Passing Bells - Ep.2

10:00:13 SUSAN takes MICHAEL's face in her hands.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
You don't have to be a hero...

CUT TO:

10:00:14 MICHAEL and the new recruits are being waved off.

SUSAN (V.O. - CONT'D)
... you know.

CUT TO:

10:00:15 MICHAEL stands amongst the other RECRUITS, rifles in hand.

BEN (V.O.)
We're going. We're actually...

CUT TO:

10:00:16 THOMAS, CYRIL, ANTHONY, BEN and KEVIN run from their s6c[()] TJET EM1-292(K4tlt4r tNu.89.4Tm870 Tc[(

TO BLACK.

MUSIC IN 5M02(TITLES)10:00:26

MUSIC OUT 5M01 10:00:27

MUSIC OUT 5M02(TITLES)10:00:58

BLACK SCREEN: A whistle blows. The sound of artillery in the distance.

MUSIC IN 2M03 10:00:59

EXT. BRITISH TRENCHES. DAWN

BRITISH SOLDIERS climb over the top of the trenches with guns wearing gas masks.

TWO BRITISH SOLDIERS release canisters of poisonous gas.

CORPORAL BOND (O.S)
Gas released!

The announcements are passed on.

OFFICER (O.S.)
Gas released!

The next wave of SOLDIERS in the trench get ready to go over and do battle.

CORPORAL BOND
Masks on!

OFFICER (O.S.)
Masks on!

10:01:13

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

CORPORAL BOND (O.S.)
It's gonna hit their trenches in 3 minutes.

We follow a pipe along the earth.

OFFICER (O.S.)
It's gonna hit their trenches in 3 minutes.

At the end yellow poisonous gas is emitted into the air.

10:01:20

EXT. BRITISH TRENCHES. DAWN

THOMAS and the SOLDIERS put their masks on.

CORPORAL BOND (O.S.)
Tuck those bloody masks in. Come on boys! Next wave!

A whistle blows.

OFFICER (O.S.)
Next wave.

OFFICER (O.S.)
Next wave.

They move and climb up the ladders to the top of the trench.

CORPORAL BOND (O.S.)
Move, move, move! Keep moving forward!

10:01:32

EXT. NO MAN'S LAND. DAY

The SOLDIERS walk into battle. THOMAS fiddles with his mask.

THOMAS
Can't see a thing! Fogging up! I can't see! Can't breathe.

The Passing Bells - Ep.2

We can't stay here we've got to keep moving.
Upwind of the gas.

THOMAS

The Passing Bells - Ep.2

FRANK
Bastard.

He opens his tunic pocket.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Pocket...

The breath leaves him and he dies.

THOMAS goes into his pocket and takes out a photograph. It's FRANK and his SON.

MUSIC OUT 2M03 10:04:05

THOMAS closes his eyes and takes cover as another shell explodes just above his head. He put his hands over his ears.

10:04:07

EXT. RUINS. EASTERN FRONT. DAY

An old ruin, it's snowing heavily.

LANZO
I like his version.

FREDDIE (O.S.)
And me.

A moment as they walk on.

FREDDIE
Let's get inside. Light a fire.

LANZO
Oh I can smell bacon.

STEFAN
This morning it was sausages.

LANZO
You think it's a Russian secret weapon? Send over
smells to distract us?

FREDDIE
Don't see how, if you're the only one who can
smell it.

LANZO
So why they picking on me?

RUDI
No idea.

They continue towards the ruins.

10:04:49

EXT.

The Passing Bells - Ep.2

The RUSSIAN SOLDIERS prepare to attack.

10:05:10

EXT. RUINS. EASTERN FRONT. DAY

Suddenly a RUSSIAN SOLDIER appears in front of them and shoots.

MICHAEL

Together they pull the INJURED MAN back towards the British wire, watched by other SOLDIERS, at first incredulous, but then slowly both sides merge to collect the wounded, irrespective of their nationality.

THOMAS and LUCAS help another wou

MICHAEL
When I can.

RUDI
After a year it's hard to say anything new, well it is if you leave out the mud, rats, shells and dead people.

MICHAEL
You need a system. When you write to your parents, you tell them that you're bored, that there's nothing to do, that you're safe, there's lots of food and clean blankets so they don't worry. Then to your girlfriend. If you ever get one. You tell her that you're fighting the French and British single handed.

RUDI
You don't mind lying to your parents?

MICHAEL
Do you think I should tell them that I'm freezing to death on the eastern front? That I can't feel my hands or feet? No.
(wry smile)
I tell them I'm proud to be fighting for my country.

A breathless FREDDIE runs into the ruins holding a slip of paper.

FREDDIE
We're getting leave!

MICHAEL
When?

FREDDIE
Soon! We're getting moved back to the western front and they're giving us four days leave before we go.

MUSIC IN 2M06 10:14:03

MICHAEL takes this in and looks at KATIE'S picture.

10:14:11

EXT. RUIN. DAY

The GERMAN SOLDIERS file out into the snow on their way home.

10:14:24

INT. LITTLE CURIE TRUCK. DAY

MICHAEL sits on the back of a horse and cart as it drives into the village and stops outside the church hall.

MICHAEL
Stop!

KATIE appears and runs towards him; he lifts her off her feet in an embrace and they kiss.

KATIE
Your mum said I could come and meet you, if I promised to bring you straight home.

A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN clutches half a loaf of black bread pushes past. They look at her.

KATIE (CONT'D)
People are struggling, things aren't so easy to come by. No-one complains, they say the food's all going to the soldiers fighting.

MICHAEL
If it is, I haven't seen it! Sometimes the bread's so hard, if we threw that at the Brits instead of bullets we might cause more damage.

KATIE smiles as he kisses her head.

10:16:10

EXT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE. DAY

SUSAN and WILLIAM load turnips and swedes from their farm on to a flat bed army cart helped by a SOLDIER.

KATIE and MICHAEL walk up to the house.

SARAH (O.S.)
Mikey!

SUSAN looks up and sees SARAH as she runs to greet MICHAEL. SUSAN runs to her SON.

SUSAN steps forward now to embrace him tightly, KATIE looks on.

SUSAN
Oh thank God...

WILLIAM approaches.

WILLIAM

Welcome home Michael.

They all walk into the house together.

10:16:39

INT. FIELD HOSPITAL. NIGHT

THOMAS sits against a wall. A commotion ensues as a YOUNG SOLDIER screams and struggles on the floor. He is helped away.

DOCTOR

Come on let's get you back. You'll be alright.

THOMAS looks on concerned.

JOANNA is in discussion with a DOCTOR. As she walks away she passes THOMAS. He calls out.

THOMAS

Will he be alright?

JOANNA

We can only fix bodies.

JOANNA moves to leave.

THOMAS

Don't go.

JOANNA looks back at him;

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I don't know anyone else.

JOANNA

Two minutes.

MUSIC OUT 2M07 10:17:12

She sits with him.

THOMAS

I always thought my first time in hospital would be falling out of a tree or something, not being gassed or blown up...

JOANNA

You were very lucky.

THOMAS

That's terrible.

JOANNA

My father and brother are fighting with the French. They say this is the war we've been waiting for... The one that will give us back our homeland.

THOMAS

It's funny to think of someone actually wanting all this to happen.

JOANNA

I must go. You should get some sleep.

THOMAS

I'd rather keep talking to you. Will I see you tomorrow?

JOANNA nods then walks away.

10:19:02

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE. NIGHT

MICHAEL at the sink, washing his plate.

SUSAN is beside him - WILLIAM and KATIE at the table.

SUSAN

Wasn't that long ago I had to remind you to fetch your plate from the table. Now look at you, washing them yourself.

KATIE gets up and heads for the door. She taps MICHAEL to follow.

KATIE

Let's get some air.

MICHAEL follows. SUSAN watches them go.

SUSAN

He seems so much older.

WILLIAM puts his hand on hers.

WILLIAM

He's home. That's all that matters.

SUSAN

And we haven't got enough food to feed him.

WILLIAM
We'll manage...

10:19:45

EXT. BARN. MICHAEL'S HOUSE. NIGHT

MICHAEL and KATIE are together in the barn. He's pensive, she studies him.

KATIE
You've been so quiet since you got back, is everything alright...between us?

MICHAEL
Of course. It's just strange being back here again that's all.

A moment, KATIE watching him.

KATIE
You can, you can talk to me you know. I know you don't want me to worry.

MICHAEL
There's really not much to tell.

KATIE
Liar.

She turns away and he realises she needs him to be honest with her.

KATIE (CONT'D)
That worries me even more. How bad must it be to make you lie to me?

MICHAEL
I don't know how to explain it. The words. How, how could you understand? There's, there's nothing I can compare it to?

KATIE
Tell me how you live, where you sleep.

The Passing Bells - Ep.2

MICHAEL and

WILLIAM
We're with you son.

KATIE holds up her hand to show him her wedding ring, he does the same with his.

SARAH
Bye bye.

The cart moves off.

10:26:03

EXT. FIELD HOSPITAL. DAY

THOMAS and JOANNA walk outside. He is leaving.

JOANNA
You know I could tell them I wasn't happy with your x-ray and they'd keep you here longer, maybe even send you home.

THOMAS
I can't do that. Not with my mates still here...

She leans in to kiss him. Their kiss then interrupted by other SOLDIERS cheering at them from the waiting horse drawn cart. THOMAS grins and gets on the cart. He blows her a kiss as he goes. JOANNA waves, watching him go back towards the front line, tears in her eyes.

10:26:46

EXT. FIELD. DAY

MICHAEL walks with RUDI, FREDDIE, LANZO and STEFAN.

The Passing Bells

At that moment, there's an explosion.

CORPORAL BOND screams into the dugout.

CORPORAL BOND
Stand to!

The GROUP all grab their things.

10:27:29

EXT. TRENCHES. DAY

They all scramble out with their rifles and stand on the fire step.

MUSIC IN 2M09 10:27:32

CORPORAL BOND (CONT'D)
COME ON BOYS...GET A MOVE ON... UP HERE....STEP UP, STEP UP...Go, go. Go. Go. Go. Go

The firing begins. As the shelling intensifies, THOMAS presses the daisy given to him by JOANNA into his bird book. He tucks the book safely away and picks up his rifle.

10:28:04

TO BLACK.

MUSIC IN 5M01 10:28:06

TEASER IN

On MICHAEL.

CUT TO:

10:28:07

KATIE, alone, praying silently.

CUT TO:

10:28:08

JOANNA and THOMAS embrace.

STEFAN (V.O.)
I don't know where we're going...

CUT TO:

10:28:09

A platoon of weary GERMAN SOLDIERS take a break from a march, STEFAN looks around at the assembling TROOPS that march past.

MUSIC OUT 2M09 10:28:11

STEFAN (CONT'D)
...but they don't normally move this many people without good reason.

The Passing Bells - Ep.2

CUT TO:

10:28:12

A huge piece of artillery. The barrel is raised.

BEN (V.O.)

The Passing Bells - Ep.2

FRANK	KIERAN O'BRIEN
FREDDIE	WILF SCOLDING
STEFAN	CHARLES FURNESS
LANZO	FELIX AUER
RUDI	JOHNNY GIBBON
LUCAS	BARTOSZ BIELENIA
JOANNA	ERIKA KARKUSZEWSKA
FEMALE RADIOGRAPHER	KATARZYNA MARIA ZIELI SKA
KATIE	SABRINA BARTLETT
WILLIAM	SIMON KUNZ
SUSAN	

KEY GRIP SEBASTIAN FR C

GRIPS MARCIN GRZEGORY

ŁUKASZ GAPI SKI

GAFFER JACEK KUROWSKI

BEST BOY BOGDAN MODZELEWSKI

ELECTRICIANS ŁUKASZ CAREK

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