

*Liebes and Polline are brother and sister. He is twenty years old, she is nine. A doctor has just left Polline's room. The bond between brother and sister is very deep: they have no father, and their mother considers her son useless, placing all her attention and expectations on her daughter, who finds herself unknowingly oppressed by her mother.*

*INT. POLLINE'S ROOM.*

*Liebes enters the room. As soon as Polline sees Liebes, she pulls the covers over her face.*

*LIEBES*

*The doctor said you're fine. Why are you still under the covers?*

*POLLINE*

*Because it's comfortable, and Mom doesn't yell at me. Where have you been all afternoon?*

*LIEBES*

*... I was doing something. I didn't want to stay at home.*

*POLLINE*

*You should have stayed with me! I was left here alone. Next time I'll come with you, even if I'm sick.*

*Liebes kneels at the foot of the bed. He places a hand near the pillow and mimics with his fingers an animal that walks.*

*LIEBES*

*What medicine do you have to take?*

*POLLINE*

*Mmm... only if I feel really, really sick.*

*LIEBES*

*Then you can come and eat without me bringing dinner here.*

*Liebes puts his hand under the covers and tickles Polline's neck. She comes out from under the covers laughing.*

*POLLINE*  
*No! That's not fair!*

*LIEBES*  
*I'll wait for you downstairs.*

*POLLINE*  
*No! On shoulders, on shoulders,  
otherwise I won't eat anymore.*

*LIEBES*  
*You're always the same old Polline.  
Sooner or later you'll get too big.*

*POLLINE*  
*But you'll be even bigger than me.  
You can carry me forever.*

*Polline climbs onto his shoulders. Liebes walks outside the room.*

*DISSOLVE TO:*

*INT. DINING ROOM*

*Liebes has Polline on his shoulders. They approach the table. The mother is drinking a glass of wine. Polline continues to laugh, and Liebes puts her down.*

*MOTHER*  
*(Grumpy, looking at  
the table)*  
*Come down. It's time to eat. The  
doctor said you're not sick. Don't  
lie about silly things.*

*POLLINE*  
*Mum...*

*MOTHER*  
*Come on. Dinner's ready.*

*Polline looks at Liebes, who barely smiles. They sit down at the table.*

*MOTHER (CONT'D)*

*Tomorrow, after school, come straight home, and study. I'll be back in the evening as usual, and I want to find you still studying. You have your exam in a week. You need to be ready. Don't disappoint me.*

*POLLINE*

*Okay mum. And after the exam, can I play with Liebes?*

*MOTHER*

*No. You mustn't waste time.*

*POLLINE*

*But that's not fair. I want to play a little. You want to too...  
(addressing Liebes).*

*MOTHER*

*(Still addressing  
Polline)*

*I said no. That's final. You have to think about your future.*

*POLLINE*

*But I wanted to play! I want to go to the old streetlight with you again.  
(always addressing Liebes)*

*Polline gets up and runs away.*

*LIEBES*

*Polline...*

*The mother continues eating.*

*MOTHER*

*Don't go to her. Don't talk to her. Tomorrow she'll be over it. And don't waste my time... I told you to stay away from her... why do you always disobey me? At least let your sister become someone in this city.*

*DISSOLVE TO:*

*EXT. STREET.*

*Liebes goes out for a walk early in the morning. As he walks, he also approaches the streetlight mentioned by Polline. He sees people in cloaks, fleetingly, as they leave. He has never seen them, and he finds their behavior suspicious. He doesn't have time to follow them, so he returns home.*

*INT. ENTRANCE.*

*The mother runs to meet Liebes.*

*MOTHER*

*Where is she? Did you take her away?  
She ran away...*

*FADE TO BLACK*