1. **Prologue**
   1. **The Promise (or: The disappearance of Kris Keidann):** It is early 1916 and the 2nd Latvian Riflemen Regiment is defending Riga, the capital of the province of Latvia - one of the westernmost of the Russian Empire - from the German Army. Kris Keidann, a young soldier, finds himself in a skirmish in the forest where he rescues a russian courier bringing orders to the 3rd Kurzeme Regiment, a unit where his brother is fighting. The orders include the information that the Regiment is about to be surrounded. Decided to save his brother, he takes the courier’s horse and vanishes into the smoke of battle.  
      \*\*\*  
       The chapter cuts to three weeks later. His brother, Markuss, is on the train after being given a leave. He does not know what happened to his brother, nor why he disappeared. Since his house is in an area under german control, he goes to visit his uncle - where his mother is currently resting and ill. There, she makes him promise to find his brother and bring him safe.  
       [People in this chapter: Kris, Markuss, Uncle, Aunt, Ieva, Mother, Laura, Junior (mentioned)]  
      [Themes: the paradoxical harmony of nature and war, as the years of war pass by, and the disruption of caused by the german war machine - and how the rush to dominate and be better transformed conflict in nature from a war of “gentleman” into the calculated, industrial slaughters]  
      [Central central theme: the will to dominate]
2. **Act I**
   1. **Chapter I: The Burning Church** The book goes back 11 years to the year of 1905 and Kris and Markuss’ childhood in the village of Aizpute, Kurzeme. Their father is a woodchopper, hunter, and works the land with his few workers, and their mother is a teacher at the local church school. Both of them are part of the baptist church and their grandfather was one of the founders, who helped donate the land (with the help of the local german baron) and built the temple with his own hands. The pastor, Father Andermann, was called from Riga to be the pastor of the congregation - a job which he took seriously. His wife started the local school with Markuss’ mother to offer education for the local peasantry. The school sometimes “unofficially” teaches latvian language, even thought it is forbidden by the government. Mme Keidann usually teaches language, and recently taught them the word [WHAT WAS THE WORD? I FORGOT~, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE THEME, TRUST ME], while Mme Anderman is usually more in the crafts. She makes a special “condecoration” for all the best students.  
       Their children, Anna and Gustavs, are Kris’ and Markuss’ best friends and they often spend their days playing in the churchyard. Also, usually their cousins, Junior and Ieva, come to visit on Christmas. Junior and Markuss to a greater extent, and Junior and Gustavs to a lesser, like to play as knights of old, while Ana and Kris are usually more bookworn - but they all get along.  
       The school was only started later and by this point Markuss is already a little bit older and has more difficulty at school. He’s much better with less refined crafts. While Kris, younger, had the opportunity to always study at the school and is not only smarter but more talented, specially in music and the violin, something which his father is extremely proud of, but also a little bit bitter because his grandfather was very good, but he himself never was very talented himself. Kris has also a very weak health and is constantly picked up in school by the local peasant boys, and is much more protected by their mother. Markuss, on the other hand, usually has to help his father on the manual labour.  
       As the year progresses, the relationship between Markuss and Anna grows (In christmas 1904 Ieva already deduced Markuss’ crush on Anna). At the same time, social situations in Latvia also start to boil as the 1905 revolution starts and the local peasants and workers start to revolt in multiple cities. Mr. Keidann is usually good and friendly to his workers and he gives them leaves not to work in the field, but it means that he and Markuss have to start working more. His father promises to teach him how to shoot as a reward for helping him. Markuss grows increasingly distant from his brother - who does not work - and is tired of his father’s work. Meanwhile, Mme Anderman is pregnant and Father Anderman is considering an offer to be a pastor in Riga. He thinks he will not take it, even thought it would be better for his family, but the fear of being separated scares the children.  
       Before Christmas, a church council is called, and the revolutionary elements discuss with the more conservative ones. Mme Keidann and Mme Anderman are more favorable to the revolutionaries and their plight, while Mr. Keidann is more neutral and Anderman is worried about the effects it has on the church, but he allows the discussion to follow. Uncle, Aunt, Ieva and Junior will not visit them and Markuss is scared with the idea that christmas might be canceled. On the following days, martial law is declared and the confusion begins as during the night the authorities start arresting people. Mr. Keidann instructed his children not to leave unless with adults.  
       However, some days after Christmas, Markuss is nowhere to be seen. His mother is worried and goes to the local church to see if anyone can help. His father goes to chop wood for the fire and brings Kris with him. However, while passing the road, they find a wounded local soldier and they hear of the battles in Aizpute, as well as see the burning in the distance. He tells Kris to go back home and takes the soldier to the church to be taken care of. However, not long after he leaves, Kris is stopped by a punitive expedition, with cossacks and their horses, and one wagon with a russian officer. He is asked the directions to Mr. Anderman’s house, and he decides to lie, while they leave, he runs through the forest - having trouble breathing - but he manages to reach Mr. Anderman’s house, Kris tells him they are looking for him, and Father Anderman tells him the church has been converted into a field hospital, and after trying to look for him, they are going to destroy it. He leaves and Kris finds Anna and Markuss, who had been hiding in the yard.  
       At this moment, the wagon with the officer arrives - knowing now that Kris fed them a lie and came to tell Father Anderman to escape. The officer demands Kris to be beaten but Markuss protects him and receives a scar on his cheek. But is spared when a soldier stands up and reminds the officer they are children.  
      The chapter ends with the soldiers going away, and in the following nights the children see the town and the church burn. As the revolutionary and the soldiers try to kill one another. In the following days, their fathers come home, Mme Keidann wounded, but not Mme Anderman. And the Andermans decide to move away. And it is the last time Markuss and Anna see each other.
   2. **Chapter I: The Birthday** Now it is early 1914, and Markuss is helping his father with his work. He is now older and more intelligent, but equally tired of not going forward in life and working for his father. He somewhat feels guilty for Anna going away and blames on him not following his father’s instruction. On the day of his birthday, he receives a letter from the Russian Army calling him to the service and tells his Father he kind of wishes to become a soldier. A claim which Mr. Keidann is a little bit wary of. His father also seemed to forget it was his birthday and continues to give him work after work, and increasingly odd ones, like placing empty round plaques in a trees. Before the end of the day, a very tired Markuss shouts at his father for forgetting him, and tells he wants to leave and go home. His father tells him that’s ok, but he will lose the surprise. Markuss stays.  
       The surprise actually comes in form of a small cake and the rifle in their toolshed. His father had been placing the targets to finally come true to his promise of teaching him to shoot and hunt. They go out for hunting discussing his future, and what they will do with Kristaps when he wants to leave hime, also how parenting his hard and what Markuss wants to do with his life. His father teaches him many important things before making a small joke with him about Anna, distracting him from hitting a deer (which he would miss), then they start using the rounded plaque. His father eventually comes to trust that he can leave his son follow his own path, and promises him to bring him to the recruitment office.

**\*\*\*** A few weeks later, him and his father are traveling to Jelgava. Markuss’ dream is to become an officer, like his greatgrandfather supposedly was during the Russian-Turkic wars. His father tells him that it’s ok if he doesn’t turn out to be one, there’s no shame in being a normal soldier, and he himself was a normal soldier when he had to serve. He enjoyed his little time in the army but tells Markus to be prepared for it not to be what he expects it to.

At Jelgava, his father and mother take him a small tour in the city, showing special places for him, specially the steps of the main church where they met. They go right around the corner for a local recruitment station manned by a Latvian, who takes Markus’ documents and tells him good luck. The recruiter and his father start to talk about rifles and about good memories, before his mother gets a little bit sick and almost collapses with cough. Arriving at home, they tell them that her mother is suffering from all the inhaled smoke of the burning church. At home, Markuss takes Kris aside and tells him he will have to start working too if they are to pay their parent’s medical needs.

* 1. **Chapter III: Training** Markuss is finally on a train to his training camp, when he meets Wilks, a cold, distant person who seems to pay no interest to him. But Markuss still tries to be friendly towards him. They are both going to the officer selection camp and there are presented with the commanding officers. The officer is a Russian commander, but the training leader is an jaded, very strict latvian. And amongst them is a captain of the national guard. Most of the trainees don’t want to be in the national guard because it is the most ignored branch.  
      Training is hard as the soldiers are constantly pushed to their limit, and dehumanized constantly. Markuss is constantly targeted by the Russian commander, and the training with the Latvian one pushes him to his physical limit, and Markuss is pushed right to the point of almost giving up. But at the same time, Wilks becomes more friendly to him. Before the last week, Markuss is told he is going to the national guard, specially because of his lack of skill in the Russian language. But in the last week there will be a game where the potential officers have to play a game of capturing the flag. Wilks is with one team and Markuss with another, and many other recruits with other teams – as the officers watch.  
      In the game, teams start to be eliminated. Wilks demonstrates his tactical brilliance by positioning his soldiers in “sacrificial” manner. But inspired by his conversation with Wilks earlier, Markuss realizes that the winner is not necessarily the one who captures most flags, but the one who survives to the end, and goes to fight Wilks in an all-win move. Markuss and Wilks eventually come to a stand-off, with Markuss appearing as the winner, he however lets Wilks win and accepts his offer into the National Guard, preferring to be with the Latvians in a more ignored branch than with the army that constantly dehumanizes him. He greatly impresses his captain, but the decision is questioned by the Latvian officer, and disdained by the Russian commander. However, before any other thing can be set, the mobilization of 30 July is announced and the new officers are given three days to go home to their families before coming back. Wilks tells him he’s not going back and he’ll probably stay in the training camp. He and Markuss bid farewell as they don’t believe they will see eachother again. Markuss spends a day with his cousin Junior, who is also in the navy.   
      Markuss goes home but there discovers that his father has let Kris go to the Riga Music School with his half of the inheritance. Not only that, but his father also took him there for the inscription, as he did with Markuss. Markuss feels incredibly betrayed not only by his brother taking the money, but also by his father, and in a fit of rage leaves home with the news he is being mobilized. However, when he arrives at Jelgava, he receives news that war was declared the day before (1 august) and sees the german warships shelling Liepaja (2 august).
  2. **Chapter IV: The City of the Giant** Kris arrives in Riga some months before the war (it’s quite unclear how long Markuss is in training, but I’d guess 3 months, so Kris would have something a little bit less than this to develop this entire part). It is the most interesting city he has ever seen and he goes head in his studies, but realizes not only all people are equally or more skilled than him, as staying away from home is hard. He and another “friend”, a kid 1 year older than him, come to study in the Riga conservatory and they agree to be roomates, but they soon turn not to like eachother so much as his roommate starts drinking heavily and going to parties. They too are a little dehumanized as the conservatory expects them to work in the “fine arts” and popular Latvian music is left aside.  
      (also talk about the history of Latvia?) Kris often finds himself sad, hanging in the rooftop of the conservatory. looking at the city below and considering jumping. Until he hears that war had been declared. Kris falls into deeper doubt and sadness as he hears of Jelgava, he also tries to party or drink and eventually finds himself waking on the gutter one day, only to be helped by a local church group, he finds gustavs and hopes he does not recognize him, and apparently doesn’t. Meanwhile, news arrive that the Russian army continues to lose battles in the frontier, and the german army is advancing. One day, he goes to the rooftop of the conservatory and thinks about jumping, only to find his roommate there as well. His roommate explains to him how nobody ever told him that doing bad things was fun, and how he is considering to jump. They promise to help each other, and on the way down, he finds Father Anderman looking for him.
  3. **Chapter V:** **Augustow / The Expulsions**

(7-22 February) (28 April 1915).

* 1. **Chapter VI: Jelgava**

27 April (Liepaja falls on 7 May 1915).

* 1. **Chapter VIII: A Good Memory** In this chapter, Kris becomes friends again with gustavs, who is working in a factory but would really like to go to university. Anna, on the other hand, works as a handmaid in a Russian governess house, whose visits usually include the top generals and aristocracy of the region.  
      Kris is now almost Father Anderman’s “right hand man”, often participating in many meetings, as his father is now preparing chaplains for the war effort and training medical staff on the church. He is now much more complacent in following orders of the authorities. Anna wants to become a nurse but is forbidden by her father. Kris and Anderman usually go to meetings talking about the formation of the Latvian Riflemen.  
      One day, Kris is invited to dine at their home. Mr. Anderman doesn’t cook that well but he tries his best. After that, he leaves to train chaplains and leaves Kris, Anna and Gustavs. Anna goes to show her library and offers books to Kris, between some books fall a paper about nurse training. She tells Kris jokingly that it is as forbidden as socialist literature at their home [“but you’re not one, are you?” “a nurse?” “no, a socialist” “No!”].  
      Kris goes to show Gustavs how to play the violin and both start using the bow of the violin as a sword, and play as “knights” once again. Gustavs hits her and Kris tells her – since she is the oldest in the house with their father gone – she should give their orders. The conversation shifts its focus to Markuss, and Kriss feels a gut punch as they play as knights in Riga, while Markuss is fighting like a knight in Jelgava
     1. **Chapter ?: What happened**  
         The chapter cuts to Anderman arriving in the city and seeing the ensuing chaos, as cossack units hang people in the streets and revolutionaries take the windows. In the hospital, more and more wounded people are dragged in. Mme Anderman and Mme Keidann are now both helping the wounded when Mr. Keidann arives with the wounded soldier. A discussion ensue as Father Anderman tries to tell his wife and Mme Keidann to escape, and the revolutionaries disagree with tending to the wounded soldier brought by Mr. Keidann – an assertion the women stand bravely against – even when weapons are drawn.  
         Another group of soldiers arrive and Father Anderman and Mr. Keidann try to go negotiate.

The ancient believed the world was part *Austraskoks* – the tree of dawn – and that the sun *saule* would

Riga 1 (Gustavs)  
Augustow / Expulsions (Wilks)  
Jelgava 1 (Markus)  
Riga 2 (Kris, Ana)  
Expulsions 2 (Mr. Keidann)

**Expulsions**

Mr. Keidan is leading other families in the evacuation and he gives something to a beggar kid – altought the advice of the others is not to because there could be bandits in the roads. They come across a roadblock by soldiers, and Keidan is quick to realize they are deserters looking to steal money from the caravan. After a fight, Keidan and Līna Čanka spare a deserter.

**Others:**

Wilks and Markuss go get letters in a wretched train, they find the boxes of the commanders’ personal belongings, which are luxurious

Wilks and Markuss find the postal service stealing letters.

Jelgava 2 (Markuss, Wilks)

Riga 3 (Kris, Gustavs, Ana)

Saldus / Gulf of Riga (Markuss)  
Formação

Batalhas Sloka

“And that’s our trench cat, Prinz Wilhelm the fourth – you can guess the genius who named it”, his eyes darted at Patrice. “and like the owner, he’s the laziest animal I’ve ever seen”

“Lazy?”, Patrice said, “you have to thank him, that’s what! There are no rats in our trench. He eats them all.”

“He doesn’t eat the rats, Patrice, *we* do. Where do you think the regiment cook gets meat?”

“Gentlemen, welcome to Death Island.” Captain Milgrave said, his cigarrete in a very melancholic smile, “Here, time stands still. No one leaves and no one ever will”.

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**Antigo (13/10/2021)**

**prologo:** kriss desaparece tentando avisar o markuss que a unidade dele estava sendo cercada, 2 semanas depois o markuss recebe a notícia e é mandado para casa para ver a mãe doente antes de voltar para a linha de frente

**cap 1:** infância da ana, kriss, gustavs e markuss em aizpute. revolução de 1905 acontece e a idílica vida deles é destruida, ana e gustavs perdem a mãe por causa dos cossacos e o pai deles é obrigado a sair da igreja de aizpute e ir para riga

**cap 2:** início de 1914, markuss está trabalhando com o pai e o pai dele ensina ele a atirar, e avisa que talvez ele não deixe o kriss ir para riga para estudar na academia de música por medo de perde-lo. markuss é convocado para o exército/guarda territorial. O pai dele leva ele para a matrícula militar e o Markuss quer ser oficial, mas o pai sabe que isso não é fácil nem possível.

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**cap 3:** kriss em riga, a guerra mal atingiu a letônia ainda e ele está vivendo uma vida mais ou menos ok, ele reencontra o pastor (pai da anna e do gustavs) e volta a ser amigo deles, mas apesar da vida "easygoing" do kriss, ele fica um pouco mal quando percebe que o markuss está indo lutar os alemães, da mesma forma que eles brincavam quando eram crianças.

nesse capítulo também descobrimos que o gustavs está trabalhando nas indústrias de riga mas queria ser músico também e a ana está vivendo uma vida mais ou menos miserável, querendo ser uma enfermeira que nem a mãe (que morreu ajudando pessoas em 1905) mas o pai não deixa, e ela fica mais brava ainda pois o pai está treinando capelões e enfermeiros para as batalhas (e portanto, várias outras pessoas vão perder os entes) mas ela é protegida.

anna mostra a biblioteca dela (que ocupa grande parte do quarto) e oferece os livros para o gustavs, e entre os livros cai os documentos para se tornar enfermeira

ela fala brincando que isso é tão proibido quanto literatura socialista na casa dela

“but you’re not one, are you?”

“a nurse?”

“no, a socialist”

“ah, no, this was but a joke!”

anna works in the house of a russian governess.

**cap 4:** os alemães finalmente começam a chegar na letônia e os pais do markuss são obrigados a deixarem as coisas e fugirem do front. eles presenciam o caos da evacuação e o exercito russo expulsar milhares de judeus de suas casas (como aconteceu na vida real, por eles serem "espiões alemães", o livro segue o ponto de vista da mãe do markuss e em algum momento o pai dele sai de perto para ajudar em alguma coisa e é uncerimoniously shot, a mãe dele nem presencia, só encontra o corpo muito depois.

falar do uncle e cousin também.

**cap 5:** markuss defendendo jelgava. 27 de Abril de 1914.

conhece wilks

abre mão da missão para salvar alguem

briga com wilks do jeito que se vese, quebrar regras

**cap 6:** ponto de vista do kriss em riga, vendo jelgava queimar e os alemães se aproximarem. ele ajuda a ana a se tornar enfermeira, ajudando ela a ir para as aulas escondida e depois convencendo o pai dela a aceitar, no final, temos a formação dos latvian riflemen. *A referida reunião teve lugar a 1 de Junho de 1915 nas instalações da Associação Central Agrícola da Letónia, Mutual Credit Union, em Riga, Rua Tērbatas 1/3. <-*

*Kriss em riga no topo da academia, acompanha o pai da Ana nas reuniões. A notícia*

**cap 7.**

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**Cap 4.** He goes back home to his father, learns to shoot. Markuss goes to training, but he kinda sucks. Rivalry with an older fellow. He comes back home and learns his Father has let Gustavs go, he gets mad and war starts.

**Cap 5.** Gustavs in Riga

**Cap. 6.** Training competition to choose new officers for war. Markuss excels with unconventional tatics of not engaging the enemy but rather going for the objective. He spares the rival and asks for him to be his second in command.

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**Prologue**

0. Kris Keidann disappears, Markuss goes to the front.

1. 1905

2. Liepaja

3. Riga

4. Expulsions

5. Jelgava.

6. Riga 2

7. Training + Bogs

Ideas:

6. Bogs

7. Death Island + Rescue

8. Flashback + Death Island + Hospital

9. Small stop for character growth

8. Death Island +

10. Party

73 chapters 4,970 **words**.

**Prologue**

1. Kris Keidann disappears, Markuss goes to the front.

**Act I**

2. 1905

3. Liepaja

4. Jelgava + Expulsions

5. Riga, Training

6. Fighting in the bogs.

7. Bogs. Hospital, Anna appears.

**Act II**

8.

9.

10.

11. Arrival at Death Island

12. Death Island

13. Attack on Death Island + Flashbacks of Markuss saving Kriss

**Act III**

14.

15. Christmas Battles begins. Kriss breaks out.

16. Advancing into the mist

17. Stand-off at the Church

18.

19.

**Concept art:**

* Waltz with Bashir
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6504eRh5h6M>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i12oWm3v6Ho>