GRANDMOTHER AND HER SUITCASE

A LIFETIME OF STARTING OVER. ONE LAST JOURNEY HOME.



HISTORICAL FAMILY DRAMA

Lithuania • Siberia • Kazakhstan
Israel • Las Vegas

THE HEART OF THE FILM

A woman's life shaped by resourcefulness, loss and the care she gives others. A coat carries the means to survive; a suitcase carries what she chooses to keep. Her last journey asks where she can finally belong.

WRITER / CREATOR

Alex Avetis

LOGLINE

After escaping wartime Lithuania and surviving Soviet imprisonment, a resourceful Jewish woman finds security in Israel, only to face a final choice between the home that provides for her and the family waiting in America.

THE STORY

In 1941, Feiga leads her family out of Kaunas on the last departing train, carrying a small suitcase and a black fur coat. An air attack scatters the refugees. A stranger returns the coat she gave him, warming her son and quieting the cries that could betray their hiding place. Later, money sewn into its lining offers a way out of Siberia, but her mother dies before they can leave.

Back in Lithuania after the war, Feiga builds a hidden shoe workshop to support the household. Arrested for illegal production, she spends nearly a year in prison. Her husband gives up their savings trying to free her and is brutally interrogated. When they are reunited, they close the workshop. Soon afterward, he dies, leaving an empty place across the kitchen table.

Her second husband dies just before their departure for Israel. Feiga goes alone. Isolation and humiliation give way to companionship when she begins cooking for Manus, a wealthy widower. She shares his home and cares for him as he grows old. After his death, lifelong accommodation and support depend on her remaining in Israel. She is secure and increasingly alone.

When her grandson Boris asks her to join the family in Las Vegas, Feiga must decide what she can leave behind. She packs a few dresses and a photograph in her old suitcase. That night, family voices reach her bedroom. In the morning, she joins them at the table. The suitcase is no longer waiting for an escape.

PROJECT STATUS

Published novel | Completed English feature screenplay
Screenplay and development materials available on request.

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