

JOURNEYS – SYNOPSIS

Present time. Monika and Jara are getting to know each other in a café in Gothenburg, Sweden. Monika has a gift for Jara - her book that had been published recently. It's a story about the journey of her uncle.

Socialist Republic of Macedonia, 1955. Mitre Jankulovski(18), lives in poverty and dreams to leave his country. He and four of his friends decide to cross the border, which is strongly forbidden. The plan is to get to Greece and then to America. They start their journey through the thick snow in the mountains. They reach the border, but they are being spotted by the guards. Shot is fired and an army patrol is after them. They split, so Mitre is on his own now. He manages to escape the guards and cross the border.

Mediterranean Sea, 2015. Jara (30), Samir (32) and their nephew Osman (18) are on a crowded small boat in the middle of the sea. Jara is pregnant. They escaped from Syria when the war destroyed the life they had. A strong wave hits the boat. Some of the people fall overboard. Samir is one of them. The boat goes on. Jara sees how Samir slowly loses his energy and drowns.

Mitre arrives to a village. A man takes him inside his home where they discover that Mitre's feet are frozen because of the cold. One of Mitre's friends also arrives at the village. Unlike Mitre, his feet are far more damaged and he can't walk on his own. After an examination in a local hospital they amputate the friend's toes. After recovery they need to register at a refugee camp.

A big strong flashlight hits Jara in the face. The boat is surrounded by two big ships. It's the coastal guard. Ladders are ejecting towards them and one by one enter one of the ships.

Mitre struggles in the camp to get to America but only a few are chosen. He sends a letter to his family.

Jara and Osman enter a refugee camp in Lesbos, Greece. A man approaches her and talks her into getting to Sweden by manipulating the exile rules. They escape during the night.

The soldiers appear at Mitre's family house. They've found the letter first. They torture Mitre's parents to find out where he is hiding.

Jara and Osman throw all their documents and split with a promise to meet each other again in Sweden. Jara arrives in Sweden and the man puts her in an overcrowded small flat in Gothenburg. Osman enters Sweden like an underaged refugee. Jara gives birth to a baby girl and names her Samira, by her father.

Mitre arrives in Sweden and gets a job at a farm in the countryside. After a few rainy days of hard work in the cold, he realizes that this is exactly what he escaped from, so he ends up crying in the mud.

Back in the café, Jara tells Monika that Osman also got an asylum and lived with her all these years, but she doesn't like him visiting the Islamic educational center. In the Islamic center, Osman is angry because the immigration office didn't extend his asylum. His friends tell him that the time for his revenge has come.

Two children are entering a café. They are Jara's and Monika's children. Monika's son asks if they can have some money for ice-cream. Monika goes inside to buy them ice-cream. Jara looks up and sees Osman in a truck that is fast approaching the café. The truck drives into the people in the café. It's total mayhem. Monika runs out from the café and finds Jara lying covered in blood. Monika falls on her knees, takes up Jara's head in her arms and starts crying.