CHINATOWN SHOPPING DISTRICT, SINGAPORE QUARANTINE ZONE.

IT WHISPERS.
IT ROARS.

SOMETIMES... I HEAR IT TALKING TO ME.
I NEVER ANSWER IT, OF COURSE.
TWOS

LES

THAT WOULD BE CRAZY.

KRYSFOF "FIREBREAK" HEJEEK
I'm a professional. I'm an expert.

I'm good at what I do.

Please...

I'm not crazy.
WE WERE ONLY KIDS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD THE FIRE SPEAK TO ME.

WHEN WE USED TO PLAY OUR GAMES.

IN THE QUIET MOMENTS IN BETWEEN OUR FATHER'S STORMS.

I HEARD THE VOICE TELL ME, "LET THE FLAMES TAKE HIM AWAY."

NO CHILD SHOULD HAVE TO ENDURE THE ABUSE THAT OLD BASTARD PUT US THROUGH.

NO CHILD SHOULD HAVE TO ENDURE WATCHING THEIR PARENTS BURN TO DEATH, EITHER...

I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE WHAT THAT WOULD DO TO YOU.
Poor, sweet sister.

But what did I expect?

I only wanted to protect you.

With no mother to claim us and no home to go back to...

...Of course the authorities would tear us apart.

While you were shuttling between foster homes, I was drowning in the justice system.

They told me I wasn't allowed to ever see you again. That was the worst punishment.
Eventually I was given a choice, go to prison or enlist in the military.

My superiors wanted men who were good with fire, who could take it.

They gave me everything and more.

It was too much.

It cut me off from the world. I think that was their plan all along.

Something is wrong with my mind, Marina.

Something inside of me was shattered when they took you away.

If I find you... can you put me back together?
I followed your records. From country to country, I traced your life.

Where there were gaps in your files, I found ways to fill them in.

MISSING INFORMATION ISN'T HARD TO RECOVER WHEN YOU ASK POLITELY.

WHATEVER MY SUPERIORS HAVE DONE TO ME... IT'S GETTING WORSE.

Sometimes I don't recognize the voice inside my own head.

I have to find you soon...
...while there's still something left of me to save.

ZLATNO, SLOVAKIA.

KA-PING

You have a seamstress working here, yes?

What is it to you?

Where is she?

SLAM
MARIAKA?

IT'S ME... KOWALCZYK... IT'S YOUR BROTHER.
I'm sorry it took so long.

It wasn't easy.

This is nice fabric. Did you choose it yourself?

Yes. I order most of it over the phone, from all over.

We save a little money if we purchase it before it's treated.

I repurpose furniture for poor families. It helps the other little girls.
OH, KRYSYOF...

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

PLEASE DON'T PUSH ME AWAY.
I CAN BARELY LIVE WITH MYSELF KNOWING WHAT I PUT YOU THROUGH.

I DON'T DESERVE FORGIVENESS...
...BUT I NEED YOUR GRACE, PLEASE.

THERE'S NO GRACE HERE. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING.
BEING AROUND YOU ISN'T SAFE.
You don't ever have to worry about that again. No one can separate us now.

It can be like it was before!

Remember how we used to play?

You always thought it was magic.

But all it took was a pinch of coffee creamer...

...to make the fire do its tricks for us!

You don't have to hide anymore. We can go live a normal life together!
NORMAL LIFE?

THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN HANGING ONTO ALL THIS TIME?

YOU'VE HAD IT ALL WRONG.

I HAVEN'T BEEN HIDING FROM YOU...
...I've been protecting you.

Who did this to you?

I did it to myself. After they took me away.

The foster homes always burned down... the orphanages... so many accidents.

I had a problem, but I have it under control now. I stay away from temptation.

All this time I've felt so guilty for what I did to you.

Did to me?

I'm the one who started the fire that killed Father.

But it was my idea to do it, brother.

"I'm the one who poured the fuel on him. Remember?"
WAIT, YES... HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT?

WHATEVER TURN YOUR LIFE TOOK FROM THERE HAS BEEN MY FAULT.

CHIK

CHIK

MARIKA... PLEASE GIVE BACK THE LIGHTER.

BUT I CAN MAKE IT UP TO YOU!

I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO SAVE THE OTHER CHILDREN!

THE FABRIC I USE; IT ISN'T TREATED— IT'S NOT FLAME RESISTANT.

WHEN THE CHILDREN START THE FIRES, THERE WON'T BE TIME FOR THEIR FATHERS TO ESCAPE, EITHER!
IT GOES UP REALLY FAST, LIKE YOUR POWDER!

WATCH!

FWICK

OUCH!

NO!

FWOOOOOSH
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

HOLD STILL!

NO, I CONTROL THE FIRE, IT DOESN'T CONTROL ME.

COME WITH ME---RIGHT NOW!

BWOOSH
KROOOSH

This wasn't supposed to happen anymore.

NNGGH!

I had it under control.
I COULDN'T SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE HERE. IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU.

SISTER! KOFF! KOFF! PLEASE!

DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO FIND ME AGAIN!

DON'T LEAVE ME HERE!
NNGGH!

KOFF! KOFF!

MARika!

DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND...PLEASE!
MARUKA...
MY GOD...

...THE VOICE IN THE FIRE...

...ALL THIS TIME...
...It's been you.