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A schematic breakdown of *It Can Pass Through the Wall*

Richard Raskin

NB. This entire film consists of a single, continuous shot. The stills and numbers below indicate moments within that shot. Images and text are reproduced here with the kind permission of Radu Jude.

1 BONDAR: Five-one. I'm crushing you, Fane. So, five and one more here.
GRANDFATHER (to Sofia): Here, you roll the dice.
SOFIA: Five-one.
BONDAR: Oh, my, this one's gonna beat me.
GRANDFATHER: I've got some reliable help here!
BONDAR: Right. Four-one. Wait, four and one here.
GRANDFATHER: Come on, the table's crying for action.
SOFIA: Four-one again.

2 GRANDFATHER: God, it's cold.
BONDAR: Listen. Maybe his mother got home.
SOFIA: Who screamed like that?

3 GRANDFATHER: There, they've brought a flag.
BONDAR: Yeah, I saw.
SOFIA: How are you?
ALECU: Fine.
SOFIA: Are you coming in?
ALECU: No, I have to go to the dentist.
BONDAR: His mother's back?
BONDAR: Poor souls. God forbid.

4 SOFIA: Getting a front or a back tooth out?
GRANDFATHER: Come, Alecu. Leave Sofia alone. You'll see her another time.

GRANDFATHER (to Sofia) Say good night, we're going to bed
SOFIA: But I want to stay.
GRANDFATHER: You can't. It's late.
BONDAR: Children need ten hours of sleep. Just so you know.

5 SOFIA: But I want to stay up a bit longer. I'm not sleepy. And besides, I said I'd show you the hoop thing.
GRANDFATHER: Alright, then. Go brush your teeth. You show us and that's it, to bed!
SOFIA: Okay.

6 BONDAR: Too much learning isn't good either.
GRANDFATHER: It's a shame.
BONDAR: He'd stay up the whole night writing. I'd see the lights on.

7 SOFIA: Ready!
GRANDFATHER: It's my turn now. Where did he take the children?
BONDAR: To her mother, Costel told me.
GRANDFATHER: So it was planned?
BONDAR: He sent the kids away first.
SOFIA: Look!
BONDAR: Brava, Sofica. You're worth millions. Euros, not lei.
GRANDFATHER: Wait 'till she grows up and starts swinging those hips.
GRANDFATHER: Good girl. Now let's go to bed.

- 8 BONDAR: Good night, Sofica.
SOFIA: Good night.
GRANDFATHER: Take the blouse off. (Doorbell rings. To Bondar) Go open up.
BONDAR: Okay, Fane.
SOFIA: Are we selling something at the flea market?
GRANDFATHER: Yes, in the morning.
SOFIA: But what are we selling?
GRANDFATHER: We'll find something in the pantry. (To Bondar) Who is it?
BLIND NEIGHBOR: Get the blind man. Get his eyes out. It's me, Fane.
- 9 GRANDFATHER: Welcome! Let's play some backgammon. Take a seat.
BONDAR: Move your dick to the side so I can squeeze in.
GRANDFATHER: Get into bed. There, good night.
BONDAR: New game, right?
BLIND NEIGHBOR: Were you there? Ho
BONDAR: His mother's a mess. She looks like she's going to cry herself to death.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: God forbid.
- 10 BONDAR: His father's better. Just sitting in a corner. He left a letter, blaming it on Daniela leaving him for another.
SOFIA: Grandpa, come here.
BONDAR: They didn't get along anymore. She left with her ex and he said "If you leave me..."
BONDAR: Why didn't they get along?
GRANDFATHER: Are you stupid? You get along until you don't, right? She probably left 'cause she had problems we don't know.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: Or maybe she's a whore. As my mother used to say: "A cunt will bend you lower than any wind can."
- 11 GRANDFATHER: I wonder why they didn't take him to the chapel.
With this new law, you can't keep the dead inside the house.
BONDAR: Our time will come too.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: Cut it out. I'm getting depressed. Your poor man's Marcus Aurelius.
GRANDFATHER: May God forgive him!
BONDAR: No theological calls to redemption for those who kill themselves.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: Calls? I thought you said "No balls."
His soul is going straight to hell, to Satan.
- 12 GRANDFATHER: The hell it does.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: I'm telling you what they say. I don't have an opinion, I'm an atheist.
GRANDFATHER: But why keep him in the house? It means he's not allowed in the chapel.
GRANDFATHER: Blind man, some brandy?
BLIND NEIGHBOR: Hit me! Same thing happened to someone I know. She put her head under the elevator and bam! Smashed. One of those interwar period elevators.
GRANDFATHER: Schindler?
BONDAR: "Schindler's List."
- 13 BLIND NEIGHBOR: She opened the doors, called the elevator and put her head down. Her head got caught between the elevator and the floor. And it got pressed so hard that it got crushed like a pumpkin. Her mother had to bribe people so she could have a funeral service. To say it was an accident, I mean. Not suicide. And it got done. Wrapped her, starved her, washed..., priest... They buried her in the countryside.
There's nothing money can't buy.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: Wait. After a while, someone at the cemetery goes like: "Your daughter keeps crying under the gravestone."
- 14 GRANDFATHER: Stupid superstitions, man.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: That's what I think. I'm an atheist. Thanks.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: But then she says; "You're all a bunch of wankers." She goes to the cemetery at night and she too hears her daughter crying. She talked to the priest, hired some peasants and said: "Dig my daughter out and bury her outside the cemetery!" She gave them money, vodka, and the job got done. Even today, the gravestone's inside and the body's outside the cemetery.
GRANDFATHER: I don't believe this crap.
BONDAR: God have mercy on us all.

- 15 BLIND NEIGHBOR: She didn't either, and look! She swore on her soul it was real. That she heard her crying underneath. She had a nice burial chamber. Made of Marmosin marble. Bought from Videanu... And it seems that on every Whitsun a black dog rips the food from her hand. We all know what that dog is.
SOFIA: What kind of dog?
BLIND NEIGHBOR: Oh, Sofia, you were here too! Lucifer, Satan.
BONDAR: All sorts of paranormal phenomena.
GRANDFATHER: Don't be scared, my dear. It's all lies, nonsense.

- 16 BLIND NEIGHBOR: Just stories, to pass the time. None of it is true, sweetheart.
GRANDFATHER: But why aren't you in bed? Come on, go to sleep. (Sofia whispers in his ear.) You can't go home, There's no one there right now.
SOFIA: I know, but I'm scared here.
GRANDFATHER: Scared of who?
SOFIA: Of the dead person.
GRANDFATHER: But why, he can't harm you. There's no reason to be afraid.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: You should fear the living, Sofia, Not the dead. The living mess you up. Look at me!

- 17 GRANDFATHER: Cut it out! Sofia, you're with me, with Mr. Bondar, with him... Look at this thick wall here. Touch it. Nothing can pass through. See how thick it is? Nothing gets through. Four meters thick. Made of wrought iron, by the Germans. I give you my word.
SOFIA: Alright, then.
GRANDFATHER: Alright, let's go to bed. Say good night.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: Good night, Sofia. I'm glad I saw you.

- 18
SOFIA: I want to talk to mummy.
BONDAR: Six-one.

- SOFIA (on phone): Hello, I want to come to you and dad. Because I'm scared of the dead person. There's a dead person here, At the neighbors' I mean. Ok. She wants to talk to you.
GRANDFATHER (on phone): A young man died in the building. He killed himself, don't know why. Hanged himself from a banister. I don't know, he had problems. Of course I didn't take her to see the dead guy. We have other things to do.
BONDAR: Marius, I'll go take my pills. (To Grandfather) Fane, I'm off.
GRANDFATHER (on phone): Listen, I don't want to give her a bath tonight, it's cold.
BONDAR: Don't pinch anything, blind man! I'm watching you.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: You maybe, like you nipped those books.

- 20 GRANDFATHER: Alright, I'll give her a bath, yes. That too, sure.
BLIND NEIGHBOR: Fat and stupid. Go fuck yourself.
SOFIA: Hello, yes, I'm scared. He's not staying with me. He's playing backgammon with Mr. Bondar and some blind man. And he's drunk too.
GRANDFATHER: Not true.
SOFIA (still on phone): He is. Alright, I'll tell him. Love you, bye.

- 21 SOFIA (to Grandfather): Mom said you should stay with me and stop playing backgammon.
GRANDFATHER: Fine, fine.
SOFIA: And to read me a story.
GRANDFATHER: Alright, my rose, But I can't leave those guys alone... Come on, got to sleep.
SOFIA: But I'm scared.
GRANDFATHER: Let me light you a night lamp. Better? Come on, good night. Let's say „Our Father“. To the East, like that.

22 SOFIA: "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. His love to guard me through the night, And wake me in the morning's light." Amen.
 GRANDFATHER: Now your guardian angel is with you.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: How can you imagine such a thing?
 GRANDFATHER: Cohorts of angels will guard you.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: (To himself) Poor dead men.

23

24 BLIND NEIGHBOR: The wind!
 GRANDFATHER: I can't see much. It seems like they set him on the table.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: You could see something by the curtain.
 GRANDFATHER: Legs on the table, particular shoes.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: Maybe they're embalming him. From the morgue.
 GRANDFATHER: Let's put the pieces in order and have a decent game.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: You roll. Right.
 GRANDFATHER: Very well. Let me see. Alright. I'll roll the dice.

25 SOFIA: I don't want to stay there, I want to stay here, with you.
 GRANDFATHER: Alright, dear, go there on the couch. Grandpa will come and tuck you in.

BLIND NEIGHBOR: What grade are you in, Sofia?
 SOFIA: First grade.
 26 BLIND NEIGHBOR: Are they beating you at school?
 SOFIA: No.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: The beatings I had. Standing with my knees on walnut shells.
 GRANDFATHER: Isn't it better to stay in the bedroom? The wall's farther away there.
 SOFIA: But here I'm with you.
 GRANDFATHER: My sweetheart, how she loves me.

27 GRANDFATHER: Come on, put your head on the pillow. Let me tuck you in. You're not scared anymore because we're all here, right? Good night.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: Good night, sleep tight. Don't let the bed bugs bite!
 SOFIA: Thanks.
 GRANDFATHER (to Blind Neighbor) Take them. Right.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: How much?
 GRANDFATHER: Four-one.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: You're not lying, right?
 GRANDFATHER: Sure, now I'm cheating on a cripple.

28 BLIND NEIGHBOR: Let me roll now.
 GRANDFATHER: Fine, roll again.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: Poor Lou Reed's gone too.
 GRANDFATHER: Me again. Where's one of the dices?
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: I don't know, I rolled them both.
 GRANDFATHER: Well, look for it then.
 BLIND NEIGHBOR: How can I look for it?
 GRANDFATHER: Wait. Wait. It was here.