





Skim Milk  
&  
Soft Wax

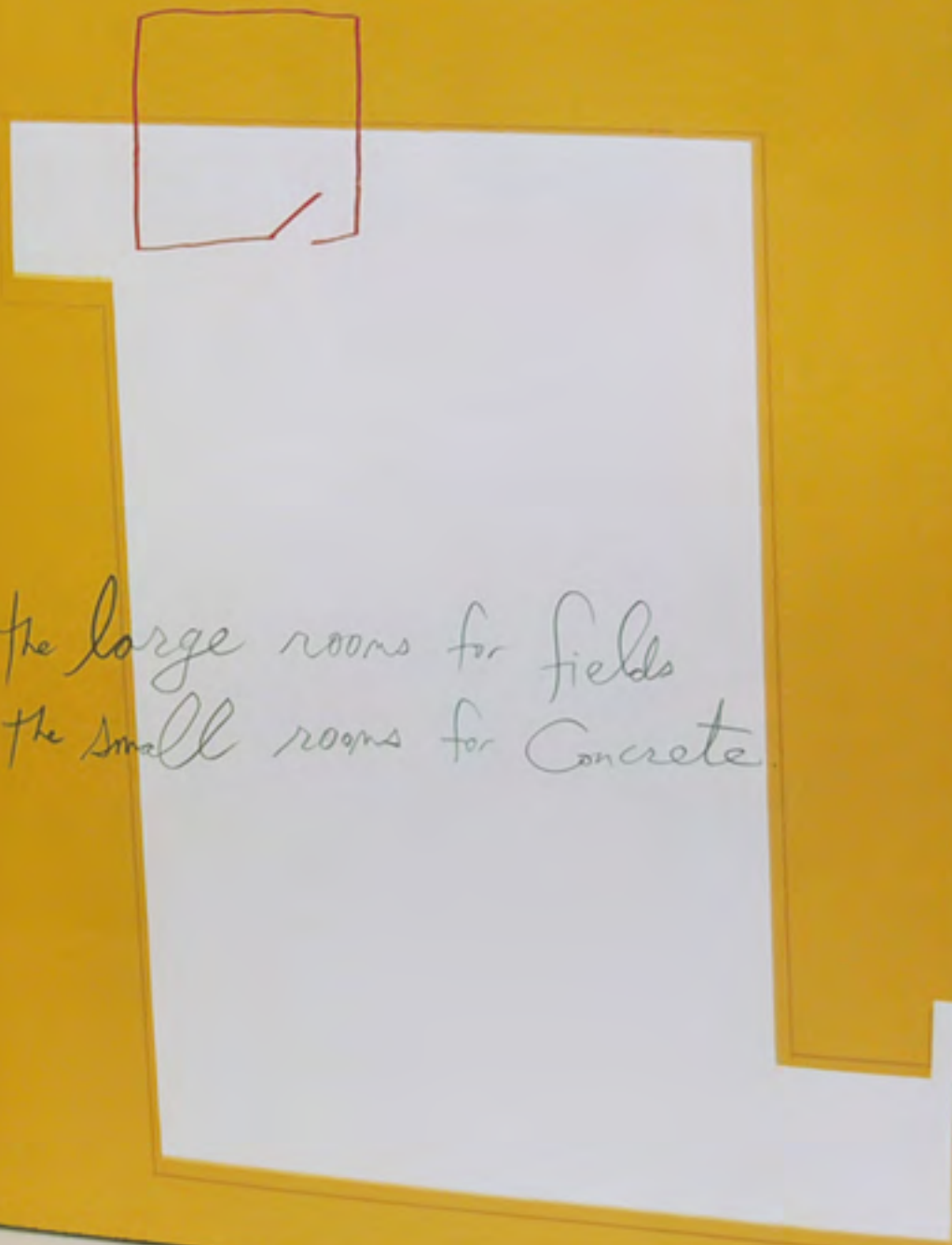
Armored with a tank in her brain  
and a bike between her legs  
She would ride for days

Stopping only for meat, sleep or  
Conversation with children  
who were often moody and restless

The road led to water and revolving women.

One was named Indigo Bunting. She made the journey ~~well~~ <sup>swell</sup>.

when homesick  
She made calls  
to grandma bigot  
whose floorplan  
was made in Cleveland



the large rooms for fields  
the small rooms for concrete



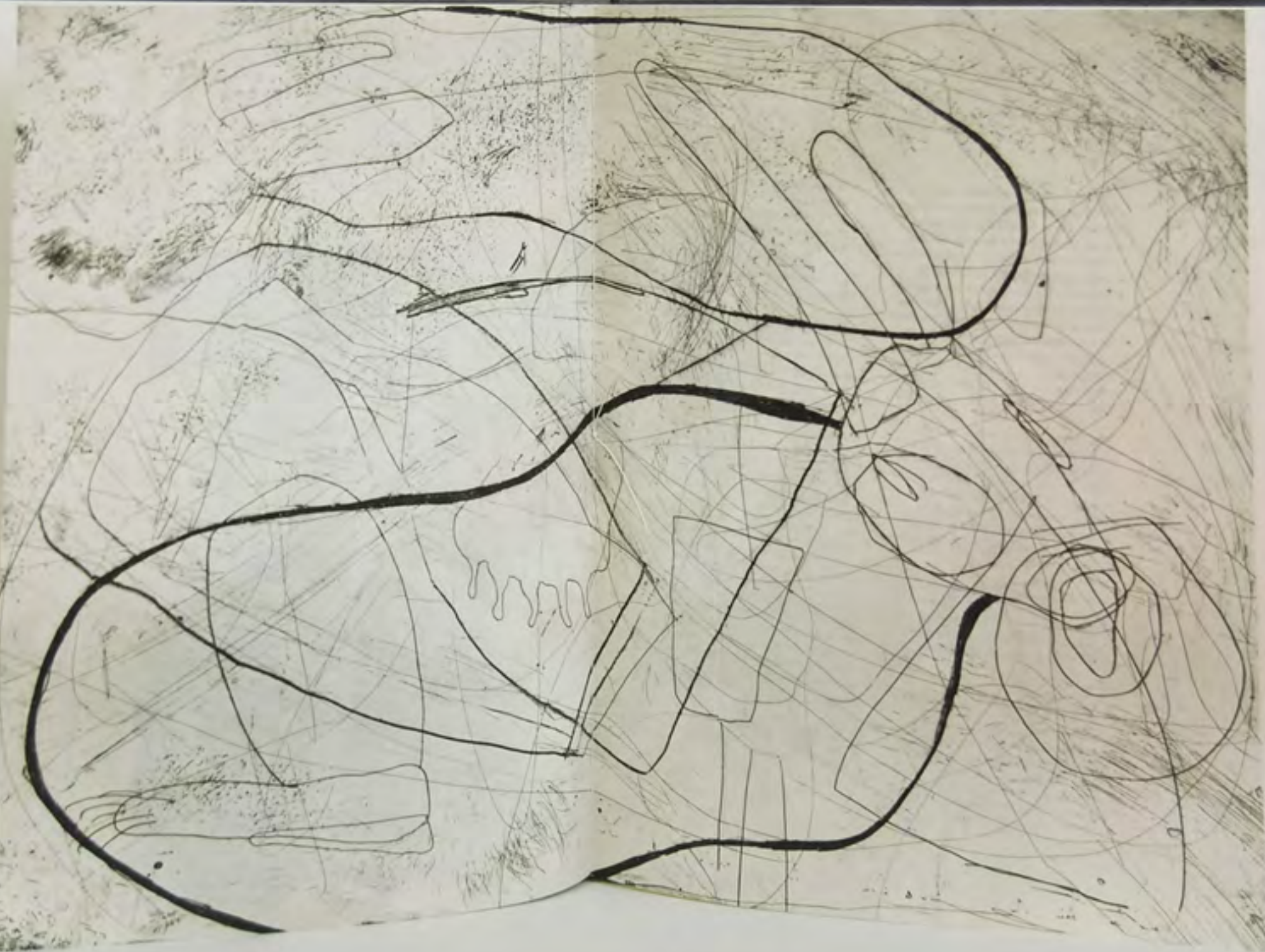
Fall 1976  
Western Negev, Kibbutz Ein Hashlosa

AERIAL SHOT:  
sand fields   sand streets   sand-colored flat buildings



The Scapegoats are nursing in the aluminium barn  
The Daughters play tag on the bomb shelter  
Charlotte A collects morning dew  
Aaron J hauls pipe to the watermelon field







Room in the plane? They could see for themselves. No, there wasn't much room. For a night, if they squeezed a bit; perhaps even for two. But the three of them would be uncomfortable. Leonid spoke rapidly in Yiddish to Mendel: they could settle the question quickly, without wasting any time. No, Mendel answered, not moving his head or changing the expression on his face; he didn't feel up to killing the man, and if they drove him away, he might report them. And anyway, a crashed plane was not an ideal or a definitive solution.

"I've done too much killing already. I won't shoot a man for a place in a plane that won't fly." "Would you kill a man if the plane did fly? If it would take you home?" "What home?" Mendel asked: Leonid didn't answer. The Uzbek hadn't understood the dialogue, but he had recognized the harsh music of their Yiddish.

"Jews, are you? It's all the same to me: Jews, Russians, Turks, Germans." Pause. "One eats as much as another when he's alive, and one stinks as much as the other when he's dead."

The rabbit was now skinned. The Uzbek put the skin aside, cut up the animal with his bayonet, leaning on a stump, and started roasting it on a piece of metal from the plane's body, which he had bent into the shape of a pan. He had put no fat or salt on it.

"Are you going to eat it all?" Leonid asked.  
"It's a skinny rabbit."  
"Could you use some salt?"  
"I could."  
"Here's the salt," Leonid said, taking one packet from his knapsack.  
"Salt for rabbit: a fair trade all around"

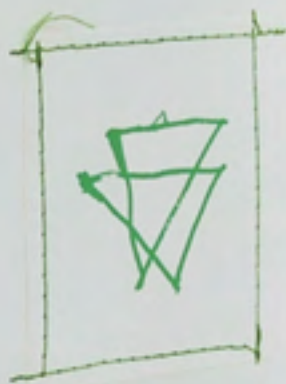
They negotiated a long time as to how much salt half a rabbit should cost. Peiam, though he remained calm, was a tireless bargainer, always ready to adduce more arguments: trading entertained him, like a game, and excited him, like a tournament. He pointed out the fact that, even without salt, rabbit is nourishing, whereas salt with out rabbit is not nourishing. And his rabbit was lean, and therefore of high quality, because rabbit fat is bad for the kidneys. And though he was out of salt at the moment, salt was cheap in the area, there was plenty of it, the Russians dropped it by parachute to the outlaw bands. The pair of them shouldn't take advantage of his temporary lack; if they were heading for Gomel, they'd find salt in every ize, at disastrously low prices. And finally, simply out of cultural interest and a natural curiosity about other people's customs, he enquired.



"Do you eat rabbit? The Jews in Samarkand won't eat it: for them it's like pork."

"We're special Jews," Leonid said, "hungry Jews."





INTERTITLE:  
She ate the learning provided and it became her body.





Six deer are gathered in a flat field  
they discuss the frigid weather  
the locations of food  
and the coming of spring ticks

Summer 1978  
Transfer of Mia and Lisa

SCENE 5

Ben Gurion Airport is busy with fanatics:  
Hasidic Jews  
Muslim Extremists  
Women in Suits  
Peach Fuzz Militia

The daughters run to Aaron J  
he stands still with open arms  
the pupil of his left eye is a silver mirror

It is Shabbat  
he will prepare a meal and they  
will sing blessings over the wine  
at sundown



SCENE 1  
434 Midgard Road, Columbus, Ohio

Charlotte A is sitting  
on the edge of the tub  
in a windowless bathroom  
taking too many Diazepam

SCENE 2  
Departure

Charlotte A is stumbling  
through the terminal  
Mia is on her left hand  
Lisa is on her right

SCENE 3  
Gate 8

The daughters board the jet plane

SCENE 4

Take off  
Lisa pukes into a bag  
Mia watches  
then they play with paper dolls  
and discuss color



SCENE 6  
Dizengoff #3c

The daughters are in one small bed  
under a yellow sheet  
eyes closed

Aaron J is in the kitchen doing dishes  
he leaves the water on

dries his hands  
grabs his wallet off the kitchen table  
and exits

SCENE 7

The jet-lagged girls get up  
search the apartment  
go out on the balcony  
look down to the street  
spot him

Lisa and Mia (together)  
Papa!

Aaron J turns, looks up, and points  
showing the woman on his arm  
these are my daughters  
the woman stumbles over her heels

Aaron J (shouts)  
Go to sleep now!

Lisa grabs Mia and heads for the  
paper dolls



Christmas 1995  
Barcs, Hungary

Lisa meets Mia at  
the train station  
She is carrying a  
heavy duffel bag  
She has gained weight  
and  
looks like her bag.

VOICE-OVER 1

Barcs is a small town  
in the South.  
There are no Jews  
left in it.

In 1943 Primo Levi's  
partisans hid in its  
forests.

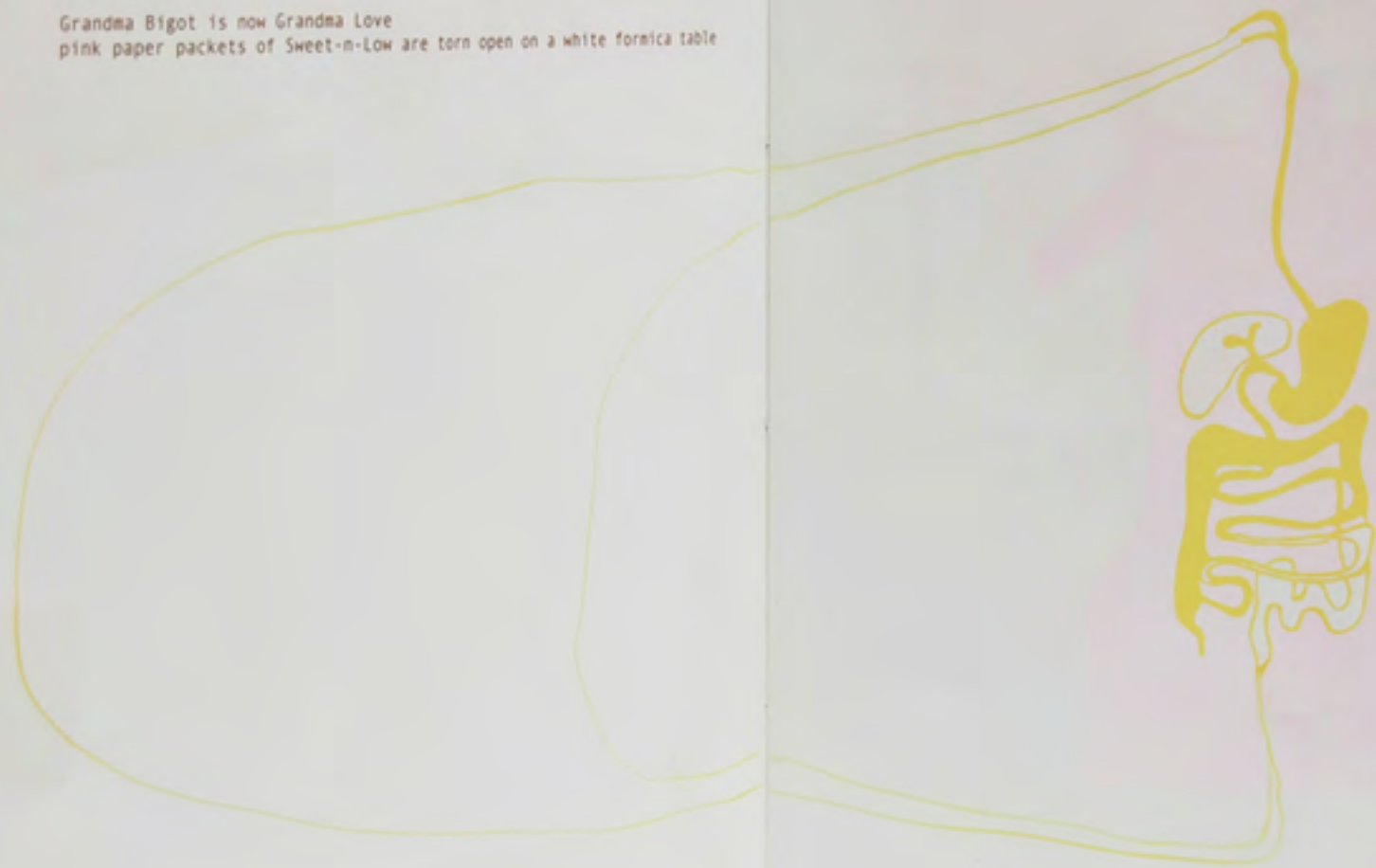
VOICE-OVER 2

The daughters are  
teaching English as a  
Second Language  
at the high school  
and they  
are not good at it.

For nine months  
in a row they sit  
on Lisa's dirty  
yellow couch and  
drink red wine.

SCENE 18  
Winter 2000 Miami

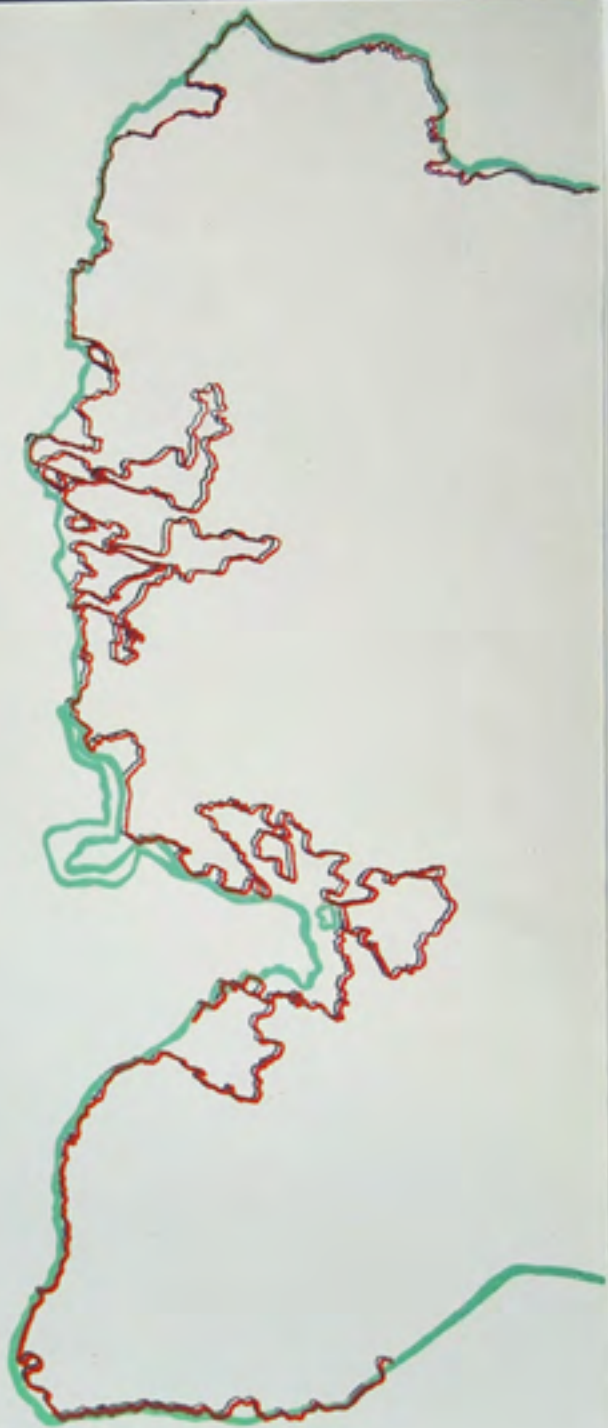
Grandma Bigot is now Grandma Love  
pink paper packets of Sweet-n-Low are torn open on a white formica table



She is in the den  
wearing her jungle animal nightgown  
watching the Wheel of Fortune  
while she writes a letter  
to her ex-shiksa-daughter-in-law  
about the price of milk and the size of the daughters



INTERTITLE:  
The constructors of the Separation Barrier  
have crossed the green line;  
they have gone offside.  
The funders of this open sky prison  
deserve a red card.









יונתן שאבירא אחدى مؤسسين كومبتانتس للسلام،  
قاد مجموعه من الطيارين الاسرائيليين الحربيين  
لتوقيع عريضه ترفض المشاركه في شن غاره  
جويه على اراضي فلسطينيه. قال: " نحن ننادي  
بمعارضة هائله للحكومه الاسرائيليه التي تستمر  
بهذا الاحتلال المجنون. كيف باستطاعتكم من جهة  
البكاء على قذائف تستهدفكم انتم وعائلاتكم بحيفا،  
بالعفوله، بقرية شمونا ومن جهة اخرى ترفضون  
ايقاف اطلاق النار؟

Yonatan Shapira, co-founder of Combatants For Peace, initiated a group of Israeli Air Force pilots to sign a declaration refusing to participate in aerial attacks on the Palestinian territories. He says, "We call for massive pressure against the Israeli government that continues this occupation. It's insanity. How can you, in one hand, cry about missiles that are attacking you, your family, in Haifa, in Afula, in Kiryat Shmona, and, at the same time, refuse to cease fire?"

באסאם עראמים – חבר לשעבר בפתח  
ריצה שבע שנות מאסר לאחר שנעצר  
בחברון כשהיה בן 17. הוא אמר: "יש  
לנו את העקרונות המרכזיים של  
הקבוצה שלנו: להשתחרר מהמתנחלים  
והחיילים והחומות והמחסומים,  
ולהחליף את שפיכות-הדמים בפיוס  
בין שני העמים. אנחנו שותפים,  
וממשלת ישראל צריכה להפסיק להגיד  
שאין לה שותף/פארטנר.

Bassam Aramim, former member of Fatah, served a seven-year prison sentence after being arrested in Hebron when he was 17 years old. He says, "We have the main principles of our group: to be free from settlers and soldiers and walls and checkpoints; and to replace bloodshed with reconciliation between the two peoples. We are partners. And the Israeli government must stop saying that there are no partners."



Eight deer are standing on a concrete knoll

This book could not have been done  
without the help of many people.

Thank you:

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Orailb Toukan

Anita Wietzel

Caitlin Wheeler

Erin Woodbrey

Woody Woodruff

Notes:

The excerpt about the rabbit and the salt is from Primo Levi's book  
*If Not Now, When?* published in 1985 by Simon and Schuster.

The photograph of the boy riding his bike next to the Separation Barrier  
was taken in Anata by Yonatan Shapira. When the wall is completed, the  
15,000 Palestinian residents of Anata will be surrounded on three sides.  
On the fourth side, an Israeli-only road is being constructed.

The map of the Separation Barrier in the West Bank is based on the  
September 2006 map drawn by BTSELEM, The Israeli Information Center  
for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. The green line represents  
the 1949 Armistice Line, which is the legal border. The red and black  
lines represent the Separation Barrier which is either under construction,  
completed or a route requiring further approval. For more information about  
the relationship between the lines, see *A Wall as a Weapon* by Noam  
Chomsky, published in the *New York Times*, February 23, 2004.

The quotes by Yonatan Shapira and Bassam Aramin are from a radio  
interview with Amy Goodman aired July 24, 2006 on Democracy Now!  
"Combatants for Peace: Former Israeli and Palestinian fighters talk about  
why dialogue, not war, will solve the Middle East crisis".

*Skim Milk and Soft War*

was published during a residency at the  
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