

## THE BARRICADE

### 1 - THE SIREN / PRESHOW

A sound. A wail.

*Listen.*

The town pauses.

WAAAAAAAAAAAAA-----AAAAAAA-----AAAAHHHHHHH

*I think it's someone in pain.*

*I think it's someone in childbirth.*

*I think it's grief.*

*I think it's the tv.*

The wail grows. The wail is mechanical. This isn't a voice.

*It's the siren.*

The town looks up, looks around.

*I thought that siren was broken.*

*I didn't know we had a siren.*

*What does it mean?*

People offer tyres.

Tyres are for protection. Tyres are for stability. Tyres are just lying around.

Tyres are quite fun to play with.

Tricks. Stunts.

### 1a – THE SIREN – SHOW

Siren sound. WAAAAAAAAAAAAA-----AAAAAAA-----AAAAHHHHHHH

Emilie raises the alarm from the Foden.

*It's the siren.*

*What does it mean?*

*We should be afraid.*

*We must defend ourselves!*

### 2 - THE BARRICADE BUILDS

The tyres are heaved into place.

*Man the barricade!*

People fly in, and through, and around the barricade. No one knows where the danger is coming from. They pass provisions.

*Emilie: Now we are ready*

*All: CHEER!*

*Emilie: Now we are safe*

*All: CHEER!*

*Tiago: This is our barricade.*

*All: CHEER!*

But then the SIREN comes again.

WAAAAAAAAAAAAA-----AAAAAAA-----AAAAHHHHHH

Everyone falls, and everyone hides.

### 3. EVERYTHING IS FINE

Into this, a man arrives: Duncan on Foden  
He has a megaphone and an entourage in black coats

*Duncan: Do not be alarmed at the siren.*

He is translated into 3 languages.

*Duncan: I understand your fear.*

He is translated.

*Duncan: But this is all perfectly normal.*

He is translated

*Duncan: Everything is fine.*

He is translated

Duncan: (Still being translated)

*The siren has stopped now.*

*You can forget it happened.*

*The barricade can be removed.*

*We do not need the barricade. It is in the way.*

*Everything is fine.*

The people in black coats appear everywhere. They dismantle the tyre wall.

### 4. EVERYTHING IS NOT FINE

Some start dismantling the barricade.

But from a pile of tyres, Alice emerges with a newspaper.

*Alice: Wait!*

She is reading intently. Everyone looks.

*Alice: Have you read this?*

No one has. Everyone looks for a newspaper and reads.

*Alice: Everything is not fine!*

Panic

*The Man: Everything is fine.*

*Alice: Everything is not fine!*

*The Man: Everything is fine.*

*Alice: I have read the newspaper and everything is not fine!*

*The Man: Then don't read the newspaper.*

Bungee jump confiscation of the newspapers. Flying stormtroopers.

The papers are stolen, scrunched, shredded.  
And soon, no one has a newspaper anymore.  
Duncan says:

*I understand your fear.  
But there is no news.  
Everything is fine.  
Go back to your homes.  
Live your lives.  
Find your loved ones.  
And tell them:  
Everything is fine.*

## 5. GO HOME AND LIVE YOUR LIVES

The barricaders try to take their tyres home.  
Breakdancers and hiphop dancers block their path.  
Gymnasts block their path.  
Majorettes block their path.  
Everyone weaves in and out and gets in each other's way. An acrobatic  
journey of obstruction with tyres.

They remember the things they need to do. They weave in and out and get in  
each others way. A journey of obstruction with tyres and text.

As the chaos builds and flows. Two people on tyres swing towards each other  
(Alice and Ellis). The tyre obstacles become a staircase.

Annabel appears hula hooping. Others too.  
Annabel climbs the staircase while hula hooping.

Emilie:  
*Annabel wants to reach the top  
But some days..  
She feels she's running around in circles  
More and more steps to climb  
More and more plates to spin*

*Annabel is always smiling  
But it hurts.*

Others throw hoops. Annabel keeps them spinning.

And then suddenly, the siren again.  
WAAAAAAAAAAAAA-----AAAAAAA-----AAAAHHHHHH

## 6. WE MUST GET HIGHER

Everything stops.

*All: What is coming?*

*Massi: Felipe! Find out!*

*Felipe: No, no, I don't want to.*

*All: Come on!*

He is on top of the tower.

*Emilie: Felipe has trained five hours a day every day for ten years to be our lookout.*

*What can you see, Felipe?*

*Felipe: It's too high.*

*All: Go higher, Felipe, go higher.*

He goes higher. He handstands. He comes down.

*Emilie: Did you see an approaching army?*

*Felipe: No.*

*All: Then go higher.*

He goes higher. He handstands a second time.

*Emilie: Did you see an earthquake out to sea?*

*Felipe: No.*

*All: Then go higher.*

He goes higher. He handstands a third time.

*Emilie: Did you see a nuclear explosion*

*Felipe: No.*

*All: Then go higher.*

He goes higher. He handstands a fourth time

*Emilie: Did you see a deadly virus?*

*Felipe: No.*

*All: Then go higher.*

He goes higher.

*Emilie: Did you see a terrorist plot?*

*Felipe: No*

*All: Then go higher*

*Emilie: Only two people in the world can do this, and one of them is our lookout.*

He performs his last impossible handstand

*Emilie: What did you see?*

*Felipe: Nothing.*

Beat. Everyone.

*All: Let me see!*

Into:

## 7. WE ALL MUST GET HIGHER

Everyone climbs the ladders.

*We want to climb but its scary*

*We want to dream but its dangerous*

*We want to hope but its pointless*

*We want to trust but its hard*

Paul's ladder is spinning.

*No one is holding his ladder!*

## 8. THE MAN IN THE WIND

Paul spins.

Twists.

Hangs.

Flies.

And as he flies. The stormtroopers gather. And they watch. And they inhabit a wall in the barricade made of tyres. And it's between Alice and Paul.

And as Paul spins to finish. The siren is heard.

WAAAAAAAAAAAAA-----AAAAAAA-----AAAHHHHHHH

## 9. LET ME THROUGH!

Alice is blocked:

*Alice: Let me through.*

*Duncan: Everything is fine.*

*Alice: I need to get through.*

*Duncan: Stay where you are, everything is fine.*

*Alice: I won't stay where I am.*

*Duncan: This is for your own safety, everything is fine.*

*Alice: Everything is not fine!*

And on the barricade above:

## 10. THE RAGE

Emilie shouts at the stormtroopers, and at everyone, from her Chinese poles.

*They say it's fine but they hit us!*

She falls.

*They say it's fine but they kick us!*

She falls.

*They say it's fine but they throw us to the ground!*

She falls.

*They say it's fine but they burn our houses!*

She spins around her house.

*And it is not fine. We must fight!*

She gets out her sword and she fights.

And as she fights. The fires start. And everyone fights.

Ellis and Tiago must escape from their cell

There is a war.

And the barricade burns. Smoke. Tear gas.

## 11. THE END OF THE RAGE

And then everyone tires of the war. They don't know what to do.

It is cold.

*Alice: Did we win?*

Tiago clinging to the rigging and whimpering. Massi goes to his rescue.

*Massi: Everything is fine*

*Tiago: Everything is not fine*

*Massi: Everything is fine*

*Tiago: OK*

He falls, it's funny. He falls again. And again.

*Emilie:*

*Now the fires are out, my hands are numb, I cannot grip.*

*My feet are numb, I cannot climb.*

More business on the Korean cradle

*Duncan: There are coats. Big Coats. They are warm.*

Annabel finds a black coat and covers her.  
Others find coats and put them on.

*Duncan: The coats of dead soldiers.*

*Alice: Now we look like soldiers.*

*Duncan: Maybe we are soldiers.*

They skip, play, pretend to be bats.  
They play ball with a helmet.

Duncan finds a shred of newspaper. He scrunches it into a ball and throws it.  
A newspaper fight.

Alice and Annabel appear on the cloud swing.

A scrunched up newspaper fight. In the air. Duncan commentates.

A cloud swing duet

And then the siren again.

WAAAAAAAAAAAAA-----AAAAAAA-----AAAAHHHHHH

## 12. WELL IF WE'RE GOING TO DIE ...

They stand together and wait.  
Chris appears on the tightrope.  
He walks precariously across.

*Well if we're going to die.*

*I just wanted to apologise.*

*For the things I've done.*

*Sorry for the things I broke.*

*Sorry for the pain I caused.*

*Sorry for not making a stand.*

*I'm making a stand now.*

He drops from the wire.

## 13. SO NOW WE'RE READY

The siren again.  
The tightwire is taken down.

Everyone is ready. They dance.  
Ladders rise.

Emilie

*We don't know what's coming*

*But we're ready  
We might fall  
But we're ready.  
It might not be fine  
But we're ready  
The wind is always rising  
But we're ready*

*Are you ready for the storm?  
I'm ready*

The wind rises and becomes a siren.  
The people on ladders spin in the air.  
Shreds of newspaper dance around them.

#### 14. THE END

Everyone returns to the stage. Curtain Call.  
The Siren again  
They dance.  
Pyros.