



RUSSIA

**ISLE
OF SALVATION**

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parallelozero



THE GREAT LIBRARY CONTAINING SOME 350,000 BOOKS.

A QUIET AND HIDDEN COMMUNITY WHICH IS HARD TO NOTICE IT WHILE DRIVING ON THE BUSY ROAD THAT FROM MOSCOW LEADS TO YAROSLAV: THERE'S NOT A SIMILAR SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL CENTRE ANYWHERE ELSE IN RUSSIA.

FOUNDED IN THE EARLY 90'S OF THE LAST CENTURY BY AN ORTHODOX PRIEST, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BECOME A CONFRATERNITY OF ABOUT THIRTY PEOPLE, AIMING TO LIVE TOGETHER ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF GOSPEL AND OF THE ORTHODOX HOLY FATHERS. DURING TIME IT BECAME A PROPER COMMUNITY, NOW HOSTING 300 KIDS AND YOUNG ADULTS, MOST OF THEM WITH RELATIONAL OR PERSONAL PROBLEMS. THERE'S NO TV, INTERNET, MOBILE PHONES NOR MONEY, CONSIDERED EVILS OF SOCIETY: HERE PEOPLE CULTIVATE THE LAND, STUDY AND DANCE, TRAINING THE BODY AND NURTURING THE SOUL.

THE SUPREME VALUES ARE GOD AND HOMELAND: AN EDUCATIONAL UTOPIA AWAY FROM NOWADAYS WORLD BUT STILL IMMERSSED IN HISTORY, WHERE A SHARED COMMITMENT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL CHANGE AND A BALANCED GROWTH KEEPS HOPE ALIVE.

DURING THE HOLY MASS.





THE FALLS' DANCING PARTY.



FALLS DANCING PARTY. THE GIRLS HAVE SEWED AND MADE THEIR OWN DRESSES.



A PANORAMA OF THE VILLAGE.



INSIDE THE COMMUNITY AREA AROUND 30 HORSES ARE KEPT UNDER CUSTODY.
EVERYDAY CHILDREN CAN RIDE THEM.



A WINTER NIGHT.



MANY ANIMALS LIVE IN THE GYMANSIUM PREMISES.
CHILDREN MUST LEARN HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THEM.



A WINTER SUNDAY. TWO DRUM PLAYERS RUN FOR THE MORNING MUSTER.

KIDS BUILDING UNWINNABLE FORTRESSES.
THE GAME NEEDS CREATIVITY AND MANUAL SKILLS.





THE COMMUNITY CHURCH, RE-BUILT IN THE 90', WAS ALMOST DESTROYED DURING THE SOVIET ERA.



MARIA, BORN IN SIRYA, AFTER THE WAR HAS GONE BACK TO RUSSIA WITH HER FAMILY AND NOWADAYS LIVES WITH HER BROTHER IN THE COMMUNITY.



BLESSING OF THE WATERHOLE,
THE ONE AND ONLY WATER RESOURCE IN THE VILLAGE.



ON JANUARY 19TH EVERYBODY CHALLENGES THE LOW TEMPERATURES TO DIVE IN THE FREEZING WATER PURIFYING THE BODY AND THE SOUL FROM THE DEVIL.



UNDER THE SUMMER DINING HALL TENT.



JUST AS IN THE OLD SOVIET ERA, GIRLS MUST KNOW HOW
TO ASSEMBLE AND DISASSEMBLE A KALASHNIKOV.



DASHA PLAYS GAMES AFTER SCHOOL WITH HER FRIENDS.



SOME KIDS DOING SOME MAINTENANCE WORKS IN THE PARK DURING AUTUMN.
BUT THEY ARE DISTRACTED SOON BY THEIR OWN GAMES.



THE AFTER DINNER COUNTING IN THE DINING HALL OF THE BOYS
ENROLLED IN THE COMMUNITY MILITARY ACADEMY.



IN THE ORTODOXE RELIGION IT IS NECESSARY TO BECOME A MONK OR, ALTERNATEVELY, TO GET MARRIED BEFORE ACCESSING PRIESTHOOD. VLADIMIR GETS MARRIED WITH VITTORIA. BOTH OF THEM HAVE LIVED IN THE COMMUNITY FOR SOME TIME.



INSIDE THE GIMNASIUM PREMISES DURING A MORNING BREAK.

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FATHER PIETRO HAS CREATED A MUSEUM WITH SOME ARCAEOLOGICAL,
NATURALISTIC, HISTORICAL AND TRADITIONAL RELICS.



UNDERNEATH THE CHURCH, DURING DAY AND NIGHT,
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE PRAYING.



A COSSACK OFFICER, INSTRUCTOR TO THE INTERNAL MILITARY ACADEMY,
IN FRONT AT THE CHURCH AND AT THE SMALL GRAVEYARD.

MARIA AND ALEXANDRA ARE NOW BEST FRIENDS.



ON SUNDAY MORNING PREPARING FOR A HORSE RIDING DAY.





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