Experimental filmmaker Su Friedrich crafts an evocative personal film from her émigrée mother’s recollections of growing up in Nazi Germany. Questions and responses are etched onto the film emulsion and interleaved with black and white imagery. Poetic enactment, glimpses of her mother at work and leisure, and footage both of populist American patriotism and women’s activist protest alike convey the sense that mechanisms of survival and political resistance have been transmitted from mother to daughter across the divides of history and culture.

Friedrich takes up the camera again to document a new stage in family life. Her mother, Lore, again occupies the lead role, unhappily relenting to join an “independent living” facility. Together with her two siblings, the filmmaker struggles to come to terms with her mother’s resistance to this transition, employing both humour and compassion to comment on human frailty more generally.