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SANCTUARY

By

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Archbishop Nicholas Mueller: 50's. Powerful Archbishop, who must protect the Catholic Church, and his secret, at all costs.

Emil Jaeger: 20's. German architect who opposes his role in designing the Dachau death camp.

Father Michael Capek: 30's. Devoted, conniving assistant to the Archbishop.

Leah Ginsberg: 20's. Emil's defiant pregnant Jewish lover, and a Resistance member.

Major Joseph Vogel: 40's. Relentless yet ailing Gestapo officer who hunts Emil.

Karl Burgmuller: 50's. Resistance member who runs a safe-house.

Peter (Voice only): (Capek can double with voice change) Resistance group leader who trains Leah.

Sophie Mayer: 20's, Flirty Gestapo secretary.

Time: Munich, April 1941

ACT I, SCENE 1

FRAUENKIRCHE CATHEDRAL -
MORNING. Birds chirp and a church bell rings twice then fades. LIGHTS UP. A garden with a small cafe table and three chairs. Potted plants on stands and on the stage suggest the garden.

ARCHBISHOP MUELLER, enters taking long dignified strides. FATHER CAPEK follows him like an eager puppy holding a newspaper. MUELLER strolls to a flower stand and bows to relish a flower's aroma. He picks up a pair of clippers strolling among the garden as he speaks sniffing and clipping flowers, including roses. Mueller carries them to a stand. He carefully examines the flowers, choosing the best ones and arranges them in a vase.

CAPEK

Your Excellency, here's the morning paper.

MUELLER

(Holds up several roses to admire them.)

My roses are growing well after the last rain, Father Capek. This may be the best year for them. I think I'll plant some Sunflowers in that bare spot for a bold splash of color. Something different each Spring invigorates a garden. Gives it a new purpose. A garden worthy of God. Don't you agree?

CAPEK

Absolutely Your Excellency. The newspaper.

MUELLER

Do you have a favorite flower?

CAPEK

I've never thought about it.

MUELLER

Father Capek, you must like at least one flower. Perhaps the Gardena, it's fragrance is heavenly.

CAPEK

I'm sure it is, Your Excellency.

MUELLER

Maybe you're an Orchid lover. So delicate and perfect.

CAPEK

Maybe.

MUELLER

You have no clue about flowers, do you?

CAPEK

None.

MUELLER

Then I encourage you to take up gardening. It renews your soul and brings one closer to God. You grow something beautiful and meaningful that restores peace to the world.

CAPEK

Yes, Your Excellency.

Capek hold steps forward holding up the newspaper. Mueller waves him off.

MUELLER

I know what it says without reading it. Germany invaded Yugoslavia and Greece, while Great Britain is under siege. But what's not printed - war is imminent with Russia.

CAPEK

Maybe America could come to Europe's aid.

MUELLER

It's true President Roosevelt favors peace, so the United States will decide after the war, who is its ally.

CAPEK

If Russia defeats Germany?

MUELLER

Fear the worse. After the revolution, hundreds of bishops starved or froze to death in the Gulag.

CAPEK

Perhaps Britain could defeat Germany instead of Russia.

MUELLER

Then the Church's fate rests with that bad English painter Churchill. Hardly our best salvation. Yet His Holiness is clear on the war, the Church remains neutral, as always. Oh, when do I meet with our guest this morning?

CAPEK

Mr. Jaeger is waiting in the chapel. He visited the Cathedral several times this week.

MUELLER

Father, what does he want? I don't have time for a chat.

CAPEK

He insisted saying it's urgent.

MUELLER

Jaeger? Jaeger? Oh. He restored St. Michael's Church last year.

CAPEK

Yes, he's a gifted architect.

MUELLER

Bring him in.

Capek exits as Mueller stops arranging the flowers to admire them. (Several Beats). Capek returns followed by EMIL JAEGER, a young man dressed in a stylish suit. He looks a bit nervous clutching a roll of drawings.

CAPEK

Your Excellency, Mr. Emil Jaeger.

Capek steps back. Mueller flashes a smile, but Emil doesn't return it. He bows his head.

MUELLER

Hello Emil. I remember, you did an excellent job rebuilding the chapel.

EMIL

Thank you, Your Excellency .

MUELLER

So, does the Church still need repair?

EMIL

I couldn't say it better.

MUELLER

Really? I suspect we're not talking about the same issue. Have a seat.

(He walks to the table and sits. Capek sits beside. Emil sits opposite them.)

What's so urgent?

EMIL

My childhood dream was always to be an architect. In a few years, I've already designed schools and museums. Spaces for the living. Work that makes me proud.

MUELLER

This isn't the place to boast, remember the sin of pride.

EMIL

Your Excellency, I'm a German and a Catholic, but I'm not a soldier. The firm I work for received a contract for a new assignment for the Inspectorate of the Concentration Camps, the I.K.L. - at Dachau.

MUELLER

You have my blessing on your career, Emil.

(Mueller stands and makes the sign of the cross. Capek also stands.)

Nice to see you again. Good bye.

EMIL

I won't obey the order.

MUELLER

That's between you and your boss, not the Church.

Mueller turns to step away.

EMIL

I won't build a death camp to murder Jews.

Mueller stops and turns to Emil. Beat.

MUELLER

Father Capek, bring us some coffee.

Capek glances at Emil and then Mueller.

EMIL

Absolutely, Your Excellency.

Capek exits. Mueller slowly walks by Emil.

MUELLER

When did you last go to confession?

EMIL

On Saturday.

MUELLER

What did you confess?

EMIL

That's between God and ---

MUELLER

(Firmer and slower.)

What did you confess?

EMIL

I took the Lord's name in vain and cursed many times.

MUELLER

Any mention of your work?

EMIL

No.

MUELLER

Good. Still you confessed. An admirable gesture but a waste of time.

EMIL

All sins should be confessed to God, no matter how small.

MUELLER

Don't lecture me on sin. Father Capek said that he saw you in the Cathedral several times this week.

EMIL

I was praying for guidance.

MUELLER

You prayed for courage because you think this is heroic.

EMIL

It's necessary.

MUELLER

Another lecture. I know better than you what is necessary.

EMIL

Your Excellency, I came here ---

MUELLER

Why you came here is not as important as how you leave. God already knows of your sins before you confess them.

EMIL

Confessing makes me feel closer to God.

MUELLER

Yes, confession is good for the soul, but it shouldn't be misused.

EMIL

I don't.

MUELLER

Emil, there are many ways to misuse faith.

Emil holds up rolled drawings.

EMIL

These plans prove the Third Reich's ---

Capek enters carrying a tray with three coffee cups. He puts it on the table.

MUELLER

Ah, our coffee. Try it with some cinnamon.

(Capek sprinkles some in the cups, and hands one to Emil. Mueller and Capek take a cup and sit. Mueller stirs his cup while Capek copies him. They sip in unison. Emil sits but doesn't drink.)

You're troubled by your new work, but the Church remains neutral. We seek peace for the world.

EMIL

England signed a peace accord with Germany but it was broken.

MUELLER

Twenty million Catholics call Germany home, with millions more across Europe. Herr Hitler won't bother the Catholic Church because of the 1933 Concordat between Germany and the Vatican; it's not in his interest.

Mueller sips his coffee, Capek quickly sips his cup too. Emil ignores his cup.

EMIL

I want to believe it.

MUELLER

The Holy Father believes it. I believe it. Father Capek, do you believe it?

CAPEK

Absolutely, Your Excellency.

MUELLER

Emil, believe it.

EMIL

I don't know.

Mueller eyes Emil, then stands and strolls around.

MUELLER

Were you born in Munich?

EMIL

No, in Berlin.

MUELLER

Oh, a city boy. I'm certain you're family, especially parents, are proud of your success.

EMIL

My father drowned when I was a boy. Momma died from a fever soon after I graduated from university. I'm the only child with few close relatives.

MUELLER

May your parent rest in peace, My family's farm is about thirty miles south of Munich, I was the youngest of three brothers. It's dirty, exhausting work plowing, and planting. Yet digging into the soil connects with you in ways other work doesn't. It teaches you obedience and duty to something far greater than yourself.

(He walks a few feet, thinking.)

Emil, think that we're working in the fields. His Holiness is the farmer. As the workers, we must obey his orders to know which crops to plant and when, and how to care for them. Of course some crops will die, but our duty is to bring the remaining crops to harvest.

(Beat.)

This isn't the time for passionate action, but of thoughtful, careful restraint.

(Mueller sits. He and Capek sip their coffee.)

Your coffee is getting cold.

EMIL

(Slides his cup away.)

The Third Reich shows no thoughtful, careful restraint with its death camp plans.

MUELLER

That's the difference between the German Government and the Church. The Third Reich has been in power about a decade, but the Holy Catholic Church has survived more than one-thousand years. Restrain takes time.

EMIL

How much time? Synagogues are being closed in Germany and its occupied countries.

MUELLER

The German policy says no baptized Jews are deported. A triumph of the Concordat. The agreement implies no moral approval by the Church of the Third Reich's actions.

EMIL

In order for a Jew to be baptized as a Catholic, he must renounce his faith.

MUELLER

I know what it takes.

EMIL

Jews are arrested and sent to prisons and camps now. It'll increase when more camps, like Dachau, are built.

MUELLER

I've discussed this issue with Herr Himmler, but he stated the Jews imprisoned were not baptized or committed acts of treason, so the Church can't protect them.

Emil stands and lays the blueprints on the ground. Mueller puts his cup down, walks away turning his back to Emil. Capek stays seated. Emil kneels on the plans to point at them.

EMIL

Here are the plans for the new Barrack X at the Dachau Camp, only 10 miles away. It has a gas chamber to kill Jews, and beside it, a new crematorium to burn their bodies. Dachau is the model for future camps, and it's happening now.

Capek stands to look at the plans. He glances up and sees Mueller glare at him and quickly sits and gulps his coffee.

EMIL

Your Excellency, Look.

(Mueller finally turns to look at the plans.)

Over there are Numbers 26 and 28, called the Priest Barracks that opened before Christmas. Now priests are imprisoned for helping Jews and for resisting. How can the Church do nothing to save its own priests? They must feel abandoned.

MUELLER

I'm a priest and they're my brothers. You don't know how we feel.

EMIL

The world would listen to Pope Pius the Twelfth if he denounces this horror.

MUELLER

Now you're giving orders to the Holy Father. Add the sin of arrogance to your list.

EMIL

Murder is the ultimate sin.

MUELLER

True but your anger is misdirected.

EMIL

I only want to serve God.

MUELLER

You are not alone. What you are about to hear, doesn't leave the Cathedral, or there will be consequences. Understand?

EMIL

Yes, Your Excellency.

MUELLER

Father Capek, inform Emil of my recent actions.

CAPEK

(Stands.)

Last week, Archbishop Nicholas Mueller sent two baptized Jews from Munich to Sweden where they received new passports and safe passage to England.

(Sits.)

MUELLER

Some convents even allow Resistance members to set up small radio transmitters to broadcast secret messages. The Holy Catholic Church is doing what it can to help.

EMIL

I didn't know.

MUELLER

There is much you don't know. The Holy Father leads millions of Catholics during a time of great anguish. Of course, governments want his Papal approval and he is cordial to all, but courtesy is not approval.

EMIL

Courtesy is useless in war.

(Speaks in a polite tone.)

Please excuse me while I murder your family. So sorry for the mess.

MUELLER

Don't mock me and the Church.

EMIL

Your Excellency, forgive me.

MUELLER

I'll think about it.

EMIL

I'm trying to make my point.

MUELLER

But you refuse to understand mine. Emil, although you're not a soldier, your firm works for the German Government making your visit treason.

EMIL

It's my moral duty to disobey.

MUELLER

Then the sin of disobedience is the road to martyrdom.

EMIL

While anyone who stays silent enables murder.

MUELLER

(Shows his hands to Emil.)

Look at my hands. I've blessed newborns and comforted the dying with them. Are mine the hands of a murderer?

EMIL

Your Excellency, I don't know how Hitler serves a purpose to the Church. He's not doing God's work.

MUELLER

Listen to me, Germany is the only protection we have if Russia wins the war. The Holy Catholic Church must survive in order to do God's work.

EMIL

So, the Jews are sacrificed to save the Church?

MUELLER

Enough.

EMIL

Tell me what to do.

MUELLER

Obey.

Emil falls on his knees, on the plans, distraught.
Mueller helps him stand.

MUELLER

Emil, you're a good man. I know it. God knows it, and Father Capek knows it too.

CAPEK

Absolutely, Your Excellency.

MUELLER

I pray for all victims of this ghastly war. Now, I'll add your troubled soul to my prayers.

(Puts hands on Emil's shoulders and
draws him closer, like father and son.)

Son, you must make peace with this work to carry out your duty to God,
but you'll never discuss this issue with anyone again.

(Emil tries to speak, but Mueller raises his hand for silence.)

Never.

(He makes the sign of the cross. Capek and Emil also cross themselves.)

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Mueller extends his hand to Emil. He looks at it, and then at Mueller. He kisses Mueller's ring.)

LIGHTS DOWN

ACT I, SCENE 2

FRAUENKIRCHE CATHEDRAL
CONFERENCE ROOM - LIGHTS UP. A stain
glass window design on the back wall or scrim.
A conference table with four chairs. Another
table in front of it and one side with votive
candles on top, a water pitcher, several glasses
and a phone.

Capek enters carrying the flower vase and the
rolled plans. He puts the plans on the
conference table with the newspaper on top
partially hiding it. He puts the vase on the table
by the phone. It rings as he turns away. Capek
answers it.

CAPEK

Yes? His Excellency is in his residence. It's alright, I'll speak with the officer. Send him in.

Several Beats. MAJOR JOSEF VOGEL enters
wearing his immaculate uniform with razor
sharp starched creases. He gives the Nazi salute
and clicks his heels.

VOGEL

Heil Hitler. I am Major Vogel of the Gestapo's Central Command.

CAPEK

Hello, I'm Father Capek.

VOGEL

I need to speak with Archbishop Mueller.

CAPEK

His Excellency is in a meeting.

VOGEL

Then I'll wait for him.

CAPEK

It could be a while. May I help you?

VOGEL

(Coughs and reads from a pad.)

A young man was seen entering the Cathedral earlier today, nothing unusual. But he caught our attention when he paced before entering. He seemed nervous and had a roll of paper. Did you see him?

CAPEK

(Stunned but tries not to show it.)

People come here to pray, to find comfort.

VOGEL

I understand but did you see him?

CAPEK

There are many people in and out all day---

VOGEL

Father, did you see him?

CAPEK

Perhaps.

VOGEL

Yes or no?

CAPEK

Please describe him.

VOGEL

Age about 25, thin built, business suit, no hat and rolled paper.

CAPEK

I recall a young couple, he had a newspaper I think.

VOGEL

This man was alone. As you know, the Gestapo watches many important buildings.

CAPEK

No, I didn't know.

VOGEL

Now you know. We monitor people entering and leaving banks, government offices, and churches since spies and traitors are everywhere. This young man rushed out but without his papers. It sounds like he had a meeting here.

CAPEK

Maybe he forgot the papers and left them in a pew.

VOGEL

But his nervous behavior was out of the ordinary---

CAPEK

War is out of the ordinary under God's law. Murder is the ultimate sin.

VOGEL

Father---

CAPEK

The Holy Catholic Church offers a refuge of peace and security---

VOGEL

I'll simply wait to speak with Archbishop Mueller, unless you know this man's name.

CAPEK

(Several Beats.)

Emil Jaeger.

VOGEL

Jaeger?

(Capek nods yes. Vogel writes in his note pad.)

Did he meet with Mueller?

CAPEK

Yes.

VOGEL

Why?

CAPEK

Jaeger is an architect and made a routine inspection.

(Vogel coughs again, a bit deeper as
Capek quickly glances at the plans.)

VOGEL

What did they discuss?

CAPEK

Major Vogel, would you like a cup of coffee to soothe your cough?

VOGEL

No.

CAPEK

I smelled fresh strudel baking this morning. Come with me to the kitchen.

Capek takes Vogel's arm to lead him out, but
Vogel resists.

VOGEL

No, thank you. One moment.

(As Vogel reads his notes, Capek takes a
few steps to the table to block Vogel's
view of the plans.)

I was asking about Jaeger's visit.

CAPEK

Yes, his visit about---the work on St. Michael's Church.

VOGEL

(Writes in the note pad.)

When was the work done?

CAPEK

Perhaps a year ago.

VOGEL

Why was he here today?

CAPEK

He completed the routine inspection and reported his findings today.

VOGEL

I see. Obviously the plans are still here, because he didn't have them when he left.

CAPEK

(Sniffs the air.)

Smell that strudel. It's best fresh from the oven. Since we're done here, come have a piece.

VOGEL

It smells heavenly but I have a few more questions.

(Vogel glances about the room. He peers around Capek - a glimpse of the plans on the table.)

Are those Jaeger's plans?

CAPEK

What?

(Vogel points at the table.)

Oh, them?

VOGEL

Architecture interests me so I'd like to see them.

Vogel steps toward the table. Capek steps in front to stop him. Mueller enters.

CAPEK

Your Excellency, the meeting ended early. Major Vogel of the Gestapo just arrived.

Mueller smiles and nods at Vogel.

VOGEL

Good day, sir. I am here ---

CAPEK

I was telling the Major the reason for Jaeger's visit was about the chapel's work---

VOGEL

(Interrupts Capek)

Thank you, Father Capek.

(To Mueller.)

I need to know why Jaeger was here.

MUELLER

Is there a problem with his visit?

VOGEL

I hope not.

MUELLER

Like Father Capek said, it was about architectural work for the Church.

VOGEL

Go on.

Mueller motions for Vogel to follow.

MUELLER

But first let me show you something unique. Here are some roses I grow in a garden behind the Cathedral.

VOGEL

They are lovely. About his visit---

MUELLER

This one is a hybrid of two different roses. No other garden in Munich grows them. Come see. Please for a moment.

Mueller distracts Vogel. He leans to smell the roses. Mueller motions with one hand to Capek to push the plans behind him on the table. Then he stands in front.

VOGEL

Very nice. Now, I must ask about Jaeger's visit.

MUELLER

Emil Jaeger was the project architect for the restoration at St. Michael's Church.

VOGEL

What did he discuss with you?

MUELLER

Jaeger told me about a new problem he found.

VOGEL

What problem?

MUELLER

A small crack in the foundation.

VOGEL

(Writes a note.)

A serious problem?

MUELLER

Not at this time.

VOGEL

(Writes another note.)

Did he seem nervous to you?

MUELLER

No.

VOGEL

Thank you. It's all I need to know, for now. I may return with more questions.

MUELLER

There isn't anything more to tell you, Major Vogel.

VOGEL

Someone always remembers something.

(Beat.)

I told Father Capek architecture interests me. Before I go, I'd like to look at the plans.

Capek stiffens. Mueller chuckles a bit and puts his hand on Vogel's shoulder to turn him away from Capek.

MUELLER

Major Vogel, a crack in a wall isn't worth your time. It's rather dull. Father Capek, you'll need to return the plans to Jaeger. Wait in my office.

CAPEK

Absolutely, Your Excellency.

VOGEL

I'd really like to see---

Vogel coughs repeatedly. Capek collects the plans and quickly exits.

MUELLER

Major, that's a terrible cough. Please sit. Do you want some water?

VOGEL

No, it'll pass.

MUELLER

You should see a doctor.

Vogel takes a handkerchief from his pocket, wipes his mouth and puts it away.

VOGEL

(Smiles weakly.)

I have.

MUELLER

Come to Mass on Sunday, and I'll say a special prayer for you.

VOGEL

I'm not Catholic.

MUELLER

Would you like to convert? It's easier than you think.

VOGEL

(Chuckles a bit.)

No, thank you.

MUELLER

Have you ever prayed?

VOGEL

My wife---prayed.

MUELLER

One day bring her to meet me. Here take her one of my roses.

VOGEL

She died several years ago.

MUELLER

Oh. I am sorry. Any children?

VOGEL

No.

MUELLER

Perhaps one day God will bless you with children. Major Vogel---

VOGEL

Josef.

MUELLER

Josef. In Hebrew your name means God will increase.

VOGEL

I hope so.

MUELLER

You're an interesting man. I'll add you to my prayers.

VOGEL

But I'm not Catholic.

MUELLER

I pray for people of many faiths. I'll pray for your health to improve soon. Good bye Josef.

VOGEL

As you wish. Heil Hitler.

As you wish. God bless you.

MUELLER

Gives the Nazi salute and clicks his heels. Turns and walks out. Mueller sighs deeply.

LIGHTS DOWN

ACT I, SCENE 3

APARTMENT – A small room with a dining table and two chairs, a sofa with a pile of clothes on it, and an armchair beside it. A radio sits on a nearby end table. LEAH GINSBURG sits at the table reading a note. Then writes on another piece of paper. She finishes writing, folds both papers. She goes to the sofa, tucks the papers inside a pocket, and bundles the clothes with a belt. EMIL enters. He carries a paper parcel and flops on the sofa. She sits beside him stroking his hair, kisses him, but he pulls away.

LEAH
(Concerned and Loud.)

Emil, what happened?

EMIL
Leah, you must be quiet. The landlady thinks I live alone. She can't know you're here. No one can. Here's the laundry.

Hands her the package. Leah puts it aside. Gives him the another bundle.

LEAH
Here are clothes for the cleaners tomorrow.

EMIL
Why do I go to the laundry so often?

LEAH
You need to look nice in the office, since you're an important architect now

EMIL
No, I'm not.

LEAH
What's wrong?

EMIL

It's the new work assignment. The production schedules are tight. I don't know if I can do it. Maybe I should resign.

LEAH

What? Why?

EMIL

(Stands, walks away.)

I might do other work, designing homes again. Working on my own won't pay as much---

LEAH

That's crazy. Emil, no one will hire you if you leave government work during the war.

EMIL

The work is beyond my abilities. I can't do it.

LEAH

(Stands and goes to Emil.)

But your God-given talents---

EMIL

God-given? I don't know what that means anymore. Why does God give me talents as an architect to do this work?

LEAH

You've never talked like this. Maybe some music will relax you.

Leah goes to the radio, turns it on. A waltz.

EMIL

Turn it off.

(Shuts the radio off.)

That music is played to soothe German soldiers at camps. It sounds like death.

LEAH

I like your anger.

EMIL

You're the only one.

LEAH

Never lose it. I haven't lost mine.

EMIL

I'm sorry to keep you trapped here, but we can't take a chance with the baby due. I'll find a way to get you out of Munich.

LEAH

You stay, I stay.

EMIL

Leah, you must think I'm a coward for wanting to quit my job.

LEAH

No. We have another purpose.

EMIL

What?

LEAH

Survival. The Resistance taught me to survive. I should have done more... I should have. Three words that enable murder.

EMIL

You risked your life decoding messages for the Underground. You did more than other people. We have limits to what we can do.

LEAH

Enough talk about the war. Come and eat.

They walk to the table. Emil pours wine into his cup. He sniffs the air.

EMIL

Something smells wonderful.

LEAH

A treat for you.

(Uncovers a dish.)

Cinnamon rolls for dessert. It's your favorite spice.

EMIL

Not any more.

Emil slides it away. She looks at him, then puts two plates on the table. They sit and eat. Beat. A knock at the door. Startled, they rise.

EMIL

Hide in the bedroom.

They kiss. Another knock. Leah disappears. Emil exits, several seconds later he reenters with Capek.

EMIL

Father Capek, I'm surprised to see you again.

CAPEK

Emil, you forgot the plans. They almost fell into the wrong hands.

EMIL

I wasn't thinking when I left.

CAPEK

You didn't think at all.

Capek sits on the sofa and motions for Emil to sit too. Capek turns on the radio. Another waltz plays.

CAPEK

I love waltzes, don't you? The music will drown out our talk. Your visit today was foolish and dangerous. The Gestapo watches important buildings, like the Cathedral, so your nervous pacing drew their attention.

EMIL

The Gestapo?

CAPEK

Have you spoken to anyone at work about your opposition to the camp?

EMIL

No.

CAPEK

Written any notes, or in a diary?

EMIL

No.

CAPEK

Confided to friends or a lover?

EMIL

(Beat.)

No.

CAPEK

Good. Major Vogel from the Gestapo arrived after you left asking questions. His Excellency said you only discussed the Church's repair work. We hope he believed it; for a while.

EMIL

I'll repeat the story to the Gestapo, if they ask.

CAPEK

If? Vogel will find you, torture you and then kill you after you confess. His Excellency and the Church are in danger now.

EMIL

What a mess.

Capek stands and walks around the room. He stops at the table.

CAPEK

I see two cups and plates.

EMIL

Leftovers from breakfast.

Capek picks up a cup, sniffs it, sips it.

CAPEK

Wine for breakfast. You are a good Catholic. Emil, a Munich citizen who made a generous donation to the Church was going to Sweden tomorrow. But last night he died in a car accident. Tragedy is another name for opportunity. His new Swedish passport can be issued to another man.

Capek pours more wine, drinks it and puts the cup down. He goes to Emil.

CAPEK

His Excellency is certain a talented young architect can begin a new life in England or America. In exchange, you vow silence forever about this arrangement. Agreed?

EMIL

I don't agree and won't leave. It's the coward's way.

CAPEK

It's the only way, the smart way. Vogel will discover your treason. You'll be tortured to reveal collaborators and executed.

EMIL

There are no collaborators.

CAPEK

He won't believe it. I don't. Someone or something besides your guilty Catholic conscience compelled you to speak out today.

EMIL

I did it on my own.

CAPEK

Then you can disappear easily. In war, accidents leave victims in the morgues and some bodies are never claimed. Since you have no family, I will identify your remains.

(A noise from the bedroom startles him.)

What was that noise?

EMIL

Sometimes the cat in the bedroom knocks over a lamp.

CAPEK

We're leaving now. Get your coat.

EMIL

I can't leave....besides I must pack my clothes.

CAPEK

(Tosses Emil his coat.)

You're pack. It must look like you're killed in an accident.

EMIL

No, I won't leave Germany.

The noise reoccurs, louder.

CAPEK

That's not a cat.

EMIL

Father, please don't hurt her.

CAPEK

Show me who you're hiding.

Emil exits and returns cradling Leah.

LEAH

I felt dizzy and fell against the table.

EMIL

It's all right. Father Capek, she is Leah Ginsberg.

CAPEK

A Jew?

EMIL

She's carrying my baby.

CAPEK

A pregnant Jew?

EMIL

Once she worked in the Resistance movement.

CAPEK

A pregnant Jew who worked for the Resistance. Emil, what a mess.

LEAH

Don't speak like that to Emil.

CAPEK

Fraulein, I am Father Michael Capek, assistant to His Excellency, Archbishop Nicholas Mueller.

LEAH

I don't care. You can't come into our home making insults.

CAPEK

You must tell her what you've done.

LEAH

I love Emil regardless of his actions.

CAPEK

That's your misfortune.

LEAH

Get out.

EMIL

Father, she is innocent.

CAPEK

In war, everyone is guilty of something. There's no innocence only luck and today yours is as bad as mine. Once Major Vogel---

LEAH

Vogel?

CAPEK

You're heard of him?

LEAH

It's a common name known by the Underground. Emil, how do you know Vogel?

EMIL

Leah, there's nothing to worry about.

CAPEK

Leah, there's everything to worry about.

EMIL

There's so much I can't tell you.

LEAH

I know more than you realize.

EMIL

Father Capek, I'm ready to leave Germany with Leah.

CAPEK

There's only one passport for you. She complicates the plan. Let me think.

(He goes to a window, lost in the view.)

How beautiful. My favorite city. I was born here, just East of the City Hall. Munich is Germany, everything that's good about it... Shit. Vogel just pulled up in his car. He didn't believe us and wasted no time finding you. Is there another way out?

EMIL

Down the back stairs to the alley, but where can we go?

LIGHTS DOWN

ACT I, SCENE 4

FRAUENKIRCHE CATHEDRAL
CONFERENCE ROOM – Capek enters with
EMIL and LEAH.

CAPEK

It's dangerous to bring you here, but I saw no other choice.

EMIL

He found me so quickly.

LEAH

Vogel's Gestapo and he's hunting you.

EMIL

We must get out of Munich immediately.

LEAH

How long can we stay here?

CAPEK

I told the staff we're having a private meeting, so no one will bother us for several hours.

EMIL

Leah, we could be separated for awhile.

LEAH

I won't leave without you.

CAPEK

His Excellency is completing his afternoon prayers. I'll tell him what's happened. Don't leave this room.

Capek rushes out.

LEAH

I'm don't feel well.

Emil guides her to a chair, she sits.

EMIL

We'll leave after I speak with the Archbishop.

LEAH

What does he have to do with the Gestapo?

EMIL

It's a mistake.

LEAH

You're lying.

EMIL

Yes.

LEAH

When you're sleeping, I study your plans and read your work notes. I know why you want to resign.

EMIL

You're disappointed in me? Maybe ashamed.

LEAH

Never. Tell me what happened today.

EMIL

I told His Excellency about my work, the new construction assignment for the Dachau death camp. I also showed him a few preliminary plans.

LEAH

Emil, why? Why?

EMIL

He must know so he could convince the Holy Father to stop it.

LEAH

Did you convince him?

EMIL

No.

LEAH

No. Of course not. All you accomplished was exposing your treason. It was reckless and dangerous.

EMIL

It was necessary.

LEAH

The Archbishop will protect the Church, not you. Not the Jews. Emil, you risked our lives and the baby.

EMIL

And you risked everything working with the Jewish Partisan Group.

LEAH

Working with people who knew what to do. We were trained and had plans and followed orders, so we wouldn't made reckless decisions.

EMIL

I thought you'd understand.

LEAH

I do, but you changed everything.

EMIL

Apathy changed everything. Hate changed everything. Greed changed everything. The changes to the camp took shape on paper created in the minds of architects I admire. Fine men with families, who treated me like a son knowing my family was gone. They're great architects with God-given talents who taught me to love designing spaces for the living. That's our motto, we design living spaces. It's printed on the company's stationery. I was so proud to be an architect. When you see people walk through a home or a school you created from your imagination and that space comes alive in their eyes, on their faces...

(Beat.)

Leah, I had to do something, anything even reckless because none of those fine men objected. Just another government project to them with walls and a roof like any building. Everyday we met at the conference table sipping our coffee discussing the layout of the camp. (In jovial voices) Hans, instead of a playground for children here, we put ovens to burn their little bodies. Yah, yah Gunter and homes over there. Nein, that's for a mass grave. Ah, good idea. Oh, well time for lunch.

LEAH

You should have told me everything.

EMIL

I should have...three words. What I should have done was forced you to hide with the Resistance members in the country. Perhaps you'd be out of Germany now. Someplace safer.

LEAH

Jews are hunted like animals in the woods. I feel safe with you.

EMIL

Vogel doesn't know about you and is only after me. You have a chance to escape. I'd join you later.

LEAH

You're wrong, the Gestapo does know about me.

EMIL

How?

LEAH

I still do work for the Resistance group.

EMIL

Impossible. You left them when I found you.

LEAH

Resistance always finds a way.

EMIL

You promised not to leave our apartment. It was too risky.

LEAH

I didn't go out often and used the back streets. I recall a Resistance member worked in a city cleaner. He recognized me when I walked in. I slipped a coded note in the laundry offering to help. He sent intercepted German messages hidden in our laundry for me to decode. You returned my translation in the next pile of clothes.

EMIL

That explains all the trips to the laundry.

LEAH

Yet I've never told you of my undercover work. Emil, for a while I worked for---

Capek enters interrupting them.

CAPEK

His Excellency will join us soon.

EMIL

Father, do you think Mueller can help us?

CAPEK

He's a very influential man. Perhaps he can make some arrangements.

LEAH

As a Jew, I shouldn't be here.

CAPEK

You're a child of God in need. This is where you should be. Leah, are you a devout Jew?

LEAH

Yes. Why?

CAPEK

The only choice I see is for you to be baptized as a Catholic. Then your child will be baptized as a Catholic with a birth certificate. You and the baby will get more protection from the Church.

LEAH

No. I was born a Jew and will die one. My baby is Jewish. Emil, I won't renounce my faith.

EMIL

Father Capek, it's impossible.

LEAH

Living a lie is not salvation.

CAPEK

Think about saving your baby.

LEAH

I am.

Mueller enters.

MUELLER

Emil, I didn't expect, nor want, to see you again. You are Fraulein Leah Ginsberg. I'm Archbishop Nicholas Mueller. When is the baby due?

LEAH

In about four months.

MUELLER

You need to sit and rest. Father Capek, bring her a glass of water.

(Capek goes to the table, pours a glass of water and gives it to Leah.)

To this urgent problem. The Cathedral isn't a hotel. Father Capek should not have brought you here. I'll give you a meal, a little money and passage to anywhere in Munich. Getting out of the city will be difficult, especially in Leah's condition. If you're careful, you could make it to the edge of the forest outside town. Should the Gestapo capture you, I'll deny knowledge of the Dachau plans. Vogel knows we only discussed the repair work for the Church. That's all you will say to anyone, understand?

EMIL

Yes, Your Excellency

MUELLER

With more time, I could have made other arrangements for you.

EMIL

You couldn't have kept this from happening.

MUELLER

Finally we agree. Had you trusted me with the truth about your work, I would have told your boss to re-assign you to do Church projects. An easy solution to your problem. Instead you barged in to this house of God bringing chaos, treason and the Gestapo.

EMIL

Your Excellency, that easy solution fixed your problem, but not mine. I would still know about the camp.

MUELLER

Emil, sometimes we must live with solutions we hate.

EMIL

Think of me as you want, but please help get Leah out of Munich. I don't care what the Gestapo does with me.

LEAH

I do. Josef will...

EMIL

Josef?

Leah stops talking.

MUELLER

She's referring to Major Josef Vogel. He's the Gestapo officer chasing you. Do you know him, Fraulein Ginsberg?

LEAH

I've...heard of him. Vogel is known by the Underground.

MUELLER

Father Capek said you once worked with the Resistance.

LEAH

I did what I could.

MUELLER

You did it well.

LEAH

How do you know?

MUELLER

You survived.

The phone rings. Capek looks at Mueller, who nods yes to answers it.

CAPEK

Yes...one moment. Your Excellency, Major Vogel returned to see you.

MUELLER

Just as I feared, only faster.

(To Leah.)

Josef is here again. What do you think I should do?

Leah looks at him, then shrugs her shoulders.

Emil goes to her.

EMIL

I beg you don't punish her for my actions. Please, hide us and then get Leah out of the city.

LEAH

No, we stay together.

CAPEK

(Holds up the phone.)

Your Excellency?

MUELLER

(To Capek.)

Tell Major Vogel to come back later. I'm busy hearing a confession now.

Capek speaks on the phone. Mueller steps closer to Leah.

LIGHTS DOWN.

END OF ACT 1

ACT II, SCENE 1

FLASHBACK TO FIVE MONTHS BEFORE -
A DARK STAGE - SPOTLIGHT UP. LEAH
walks slowly on stage, looks around, she wears
a coat. Cautiously steps into the spotlight.

PETER

Leah Ginsberg?

Leah is startled and looks around.

LEAH

Yes, who is it? I can't see you.

PETER

For your protection, and mine, you won't see my face. Call me, Peter.

LEAH

Yes, Peter.

PETER

We're a Jewish Partisan Group of Resistance fighters. You know about us?

LEAH

A little.

PETER

People I trust said you can be trusted. I checked on your family's life and it's clean.

LEAH

I was trusted as a loan clerk in a bank for three years. That was until all Jews were fired
from banking positions.

PETER

We know your parents are in the Warsaw Ghetto.

LEAH

You've seen them and talked to them. How are they?

PETER

Calm down. I haven't seen them, but they're surviving.

LEAH

Can you get them released?

PETER

That's not the purpose of our meeting.

LEAH

I'll do anything to free them.

PETER

Are you fluent in German and Polish?

LEAH

Yes.

PETER

Good. We need someone with translation skills.

LEAH

If I help, will my parents be released?

PETER

Perhaps. First, realize how dangerous this work is for you.

LEAH

I'm a Jew. That's dangerous enough.

PETER

Then you are with us?

LEAH

Yes.

PETER

From now on, your name is Leah Hartmann. You will live in a safe house with one of our operatives, Karl Burgmuller, as his niece. Rose, his late wife, was known in social circles of German officers and their wives, including Kommandant Josef Vogel. He's your target.

LEAH

What kind of target?

PETER

The best kind, one with information. Let me hear you speak German.

LEAH

Er kann nicht ertragen, dass die schlechten, wird nicht das Gute zu sehen.

PETER

Clean with virtually no Polish accent. Good. Karl will introduce you to Vogel. He is hiring a new translator, and needs one fluent in German and Polish. There's no guarantee he will hire you but make yourself as irresistible as possible. Do you understand?

LEAH

Yes, but if I'm hired, what should I do?

PETER

Perform each task perfectly. Prove to Vogel you are dutiful, so he trusts you. Be aware of every detail. Who he meets with and for how long, try to hear any conversation, names and dates. Make no written notes. Memorize everything. Report it to me and no one else, not even Karl. Secrecy is vital. It protects us in case one is caught.

LEAH

And if I am not hired?

PETER

Make yourself valuable to him in some other way. Tell me if you can't do this work.

LEAH

I'll do it. Can you give my parents a message, please?

PETER

Maybe but I won't say that you're working with us.

LEAH

Tell them I love them and want to be with them.

PETER

You're better off with us. At least you are free.

LEAH

Free like a caged animal.

PETER

I'll teach you to use your cage. Other than Karl, you'll be alone. For some, it's the most difficult part.

LEAH

My loneliness can't compare to my parents.

PETER

You must focus on the work ahead. Now, Karl will give you a packet containing your new personal history. Memorize the information about your life then burn it. Your new code name is Shoresch. I'll call you only by this name.

LEAH

Shoresch is Hebrew for root.

PETER

Yes, like the roots of a tree that hold it firmly in place. Where did you learn the phrase you spoke in German?

LEAH

My parents said it often: Er kann nicht ertragen, dass die schlechten, wird nicht das Gute zu sehen. He that can't endure the bad, will not live to see the good.

Leah walks off as the spotlight fades. LIGHTS
UP on a living room set, a sofa and a small table.
Leah enters with KARL BURGMULLER.

KARL

Leah, have you memorized the information on your new life?

LEAH

Yes, then I destroyed the documents as Peter instructed.

KARL

Here's a test, where were you born?

LEAH

In Krakow.

KARL

Your father's profession?

LEAH

He was a civil engineer until he died a few years ago from a job accident. Momma is a teacher and I worked in a bakery.

KARL

You've learned well. Save the rest for Vogel. Let him ask the questions. Don't offer any information or you will appear too eager, making him suspicious.

LEAH

I understand...Uncle Karl.

KARL

No, no, more relaxed. Remember, you're my niece, so speak naturally, Uncle Karl. You see, relaxed.

LEAH

I'm nervous.

KARL

Of course, you are.

LEAH

Peter didn't tell me about you, Uncle Karl.

KARL

That's better. Leah, it protects you and me. We can't reveal what we don't know. Rose and I knew in some way we had to fight, but what could two old people do against the German Army? More than you think. So, through a connection, we offered our home to Resistance members. Peter trained us. He's a very brave man.

LEAH

Unlike the cowards of the Third Reich who murder. I hate them.

KARL

Don't hate. It clouds your judgment. Keep your emotions calm. Learn your enemy's ways and use what you learn against them. That's more powerful than hate.

(Karl gives her a handkerchief.)

My Rose told me a lady always has a handkerchief.

LEAH

Perhaps Vogel won't like me.

KARL

Then he doesn't have a pulse. I know Peter told you everything, but Vogel has a keen sense. He notices every detail, but don't mention his wife. He's sensitive about her death.

LEAH

I'll remember.

Karl takes out a ring and shows it to Leah.

LEAH

What a lovely ring.

KARL

It was Rose's and now it's for you.

LEAH

A gift for me.

KARL

No, it's a weapon. When you open the secret top...

(He opens the top and a small capsule falls into his hand.)

Cyanide capsule. Bite down on it to release the poison. Practice with a grain of rice as the capsule. Don't hesitate. Leah, only you will know when it's time to use it.

(Karl puts the ring on Leah's finger and kisses her hand.)

LEAH

Thank you, Uncle Karl. I couldn't do this without you.

KARL

What we do is for others. Take strength in that.

(A doorbell rings. To Leah.)

Are you ready?

Leah nods Yes. Karl exits and Vogel's voice is heard greeting him. They enter engaged in friendly chat.

KARL

What a pleasure to have you in our home. Oh, I said our home, again. It's still difficult to believe Rose is gone.

VOGEL

She left us too soon. Without her, Munich has lost much of its charm.

KARL

I always appreciated how you and Helene were good friends to her. Let me introduce my niece, Leah Hartmann.

VOGEL

Fraulein Hartmann, it is my...pleasure.

LEAH

(Replies in German.)

Es ist mir eine Ehre, sie kennen zu lernen, Herr Kommandant.

VOGEL

Your German is perfect. Perfect.

LEAH

Thank you, Herr Kommandant. My mother taught me.

KARL

Leah is visiting for a while. It's her first trip since childhood, long before you came here.

LEAH

I was born in Krakow. Do you know it?

VOGEL

Yes, but I don't recall asking.

KARL

She's a bit nervous to meet such an important man.

VOGEL

No need to apologize. I know your birth city. My wife and I spend our honeymoon there years ago.

KARL

Tonight, we only speak of good times to come. First, a toast.

Karl fills three glasses with wine, and gives one to Leah and Vogel, and takes one. They toast and drink. Then a bell is heard.

KARL

That's from the kitchen. Must be the cook. I'll return soon. You'll be fine.

Karl smiles and exits. Vogel motions for Leah to sit. He stands.

VOGEL

What do you think of Munich?

LEAH

It's a very beautiful city.

VOGEL

The forest is lovely for hikes, but right now we're having trouble with Resistance groups hiding in the woods.

LEAH

I didn't know.

VOGEL

Now you do. Don't go hiking alone until we capture them. They travel together like rats and come into the city to steal, assault people, businesses, and the Government, just to create chaos and fear.

LEAH

As you say Herr Kommandant.

VOGEL

In safer times, my wife and I took picnics in the woods...(Voice trails off.) Karl told me all about you.

LEAH

I'd like to think I still have a few secrets.

VOGEL

A woman of mystery makes the best dinner guest. Why are you in Munich?

LEAH

Since Uncle Karl is alone now, I'm staying to help him.

VOGEL

That's kind of you.

LEAH

Family is everything.

VOGEL

True.

(Sits besides her.)

I'm trying to remember a lovely park in Krakow by the university. Help me with its name.

Leah sips her wine, then wipes her mouth with the handkerchief.

LEAH

The Botanical Garden of Jagiellonian University, not far from Old Town.

VOGEL

It has many beautiful greenhouses.

LEAH

The Palm greenhouse was my favorite. Those colorful tropical flowers and trees in the middle of Poland. The garden is stunning in the spring, especially when the Magnolia trees are blooming.

VOGEL

You're good at remembering details.

LEAH

Thank you, Herr Kommandant.

VOGEL

Karl said you may be interested in working on my staff as a secretary and translator.

LEAH

I'd consider it an honor to work for you and the Third Reich, Herr Kommandant.

VOGEL

You have done this type of work before?

LEAH

Sometimes I helped my father at the engineering office when a secretary was ill.

VOGEL

What duties did you perform?

LEAH

Basic office work, filing reports and typing. I learned quickly and enjoyed it.

VOGEL

This job is more than filing. I need a good translator and secretary. Someone with a head for details. Are you interested?

LEAH

Yes, Herr Kommandant.

VOGEL

You seem sure of yourself, but it's not arrogance, more confidence.

LEAH

As you say, Herr Kommandant.

VOGEL

And you're agreeable.

LEAH

I try to be, Herr Kommandant.

Vogel stands, walks a few steps away - thinking. Turns back to Leah.

VOGEL

Yes, you could do the job with the proper training. Come to my office tomorrow morning.

LEAH

Thank you, Herr Kommandant.

Vogel raises his glass to Leah. She stands and they clink glasses, sipping and looking at each other. Then Vogel notices her ring.

VOGEL

That is a beautiful ring.

Leah is stunned but tries not to show it.

LEAH

Yes, um...it's lovely. A gift from Uncle Karl, it belonged to Aunt Rose.

VOGEL

I do remember she wore it all the time.

Vogel reaches for her hand to examine the ring, but Karl enters.

KARL

It's time for dinner.

Leah quickly pulls her hand away from Vogel.

KARL

Oh, I see you are getting acquainted. Wonderful.

LEAH

Yes, Uncle Karl, everything is wonderful.

Karl gestures toward the dining room and exits. Vogel offers his arm and Leah takes it as they exit.

LIGHTS DOWN.

ACT II, SCENE 2

VOGEL'S OFFICE - LIGHTS UP on a typical office with a desk, files and papers, a binder and several chairs. VOGEL enters followed by LEAH.

VOGEL

I've needed a translator and secretary for several months. You came to Munich at the right time.

LEAH

I won't disappoint you.

VOGEL

You will handle my memos, correspondence and filing. I have a specific system. My last secretary was an idiot, so learn fast and accurately.

LEAH

I'll try.

VOGEL

Try? I need results. Effort is worthless if you don't achieve results. Do you agree?

LEAH

Yes, Herr Kommandant.

VOGEL

I like people who are driven towards a goal. Do you have one?

LEAH

Yes.

VOGEL

What is it?

LEAH

A personal one.

VOGEL

I recall you're good at keeping secrets.

LEAH

Yes, I am.

VOGEL

Excellent. Secrecy and loyalty are qualities I demand from my staff. Keep all information confidential. Make no notes. Remember every detail. Do you understand?

LEAH

Yes, Peter...(Stops.)

VOGEL

What did you say?

LEAH

Yes, sir.

VOGEL

Leah, I'm taking a chance hiring you as my secretary and translator. You don't have much office experience, but you have other skills. Last night I tested on how well you remember details and facts.

LEAH

Herr Kommandant, I noticed.

VOGEL

You impressed me, and you're also Karl's niece.

LEAH

Thank you, Herr Kommandant. I'm very grateful for this opportunity---

VOGEL

This is not about gratitude but perception. You represent me to the staff and other Kommandants. Any mistakes reflect upon me. Working for my office isn't like the work for your father. We're doing serious government work, often confidential and secret. When you make a mistake, it could have severe consequences. I don't expect you to perform your duties perfectly, but accurately and thoroughly. That will eliminate many mistakes.

LEAH

I understand.

VOGEL

Major Kolbe's secretary, Sophie, will train you on office procedures. I have an appointment. Learn quickly because the war won't wait for you.

LEAH

I understand, Herr Kommandant.

Vogel exits. Leah goes to the desk and starts glancing at papers. Then SOPHIE MAYER enters. She is well-dressed, beautifully groomed, a bit glamorous for a secretary.

SOPHIE

Are you Vogel's new secretary?

LEAH

(Startled but calms herself.)

Yes. I was getting accustomed to the office. I thought I'd tidy Herr Kommandant's desk.

SOPHIE

Did he ask you to do it?

LEAH

No.

SOPHIE

Then don't. Only do what Vogel tells you.

LEAH

I'll remember.

SOPHIE

I'm here to train you.

Sophie looks at Leah and shakes her head.

LEAH

Is something wrong?

SOPHIE

You remind me of someone.

LEAH

Who?

SOPHIE

It's not important. I'm Sophie Mayer, and I work for Kommandant Kolbe down the hall.

LEAH

I'm Leah Hartmann.

SOPHIE

You're the new translator. Valuable skills that will make you popular with other Kommandants. Let them know what you can do.

LEAH

I want to do the best job for Kommandant Vogel.

SOPHIE

He's not the only one you could work for. Keep your eyes open to see which Kommandants get promoted and need secretaries. A girl like you could move up fast.

LEAH

It's new and exciting.

SOPHIE

Old and dull is more accurate.

LEAH

I see.

SOPHIE

My honesty shocks you.

LEAH

No.

SOPHIE

It's a job when jobs are few. The work is serious at times but not difficult. The thing to remember is don't make mistakes, especially for Vogel.

LEAH

He told me.

SOPHIE

You may work for him a few months, a year, then work for another Kommandant.

LEAH

That's a short time.

SOPHIE

Like I said, girls come and go quickly. I trained Vogel's last secretary, stupid and boring..

LEAH

I'll try not to be like her.

SOPHIE

You're not.

LEAH

Sophie, how many secretaries work on this floor?

SOPHIE

Four. You won't work often with them since their Kommandants work on different projects than Kolbe and Vogel. We'll work together closely.

LEAH

And how many departments in this building?

SOPHIE

(Looks at Leah intensely.)

You ask many questions on your first day.

LEAH

Herr Kommandant told me to learn quickly. The more I know about the work in all departments, the better I'll do my job.

SOPHIE

Maybe but I prefer to only know what I need to know.

LEAH

Why?

SOPHIE

When you know more, then you work more, that means longer hours. I like to spend time with my...friends.

LEAH

I understand.

SOPHIE

(Gives Leah the once over twice.)

No, Leah I don't think you do. I'm certain of it. It's been two weeks since I've had a good fuck, even a decent one. Unbearable.

(Beat.)

My honesty does shock, doesn't it?

LEAH

Yes.

SOPHIE

Good. Let's get started. I'll explain Vogel's system.

(Sophie goes to the desk and opens a binder.)

All memos are logged according to the subject. P-I-T-S, personnel, intelligence, training and supply. Pits.

LEAH

That's clever.

SOPHIE

That's Vogel.

Sophie chuckles a little.

LEAH

Did I say something amusing?

SOPHIE

Never mind.

LEAH

Please tell me.

SOPHIE

I see why he hired you. You look like his late wife.

LEAH

I had no idea. He said he needed a new translator and secretary.

SOPHIE

That's true, but he also hired one who looks like her.

LEAH

That's why he hesitated when he first saw me.

SOPHIE

It's natural when you see a woman that resembles your dead wife. That would make any man stop.

LEAH

What was she like?

SOPHIE

Frau Vogel was the type of woman every man wanted, and every woman wanted to be.

LEAH

I'm flattered.

SOPHIE

He hired you, not me.

LEAH

What happened to her?

SOPHIE

She came to the office several times a week. Then she died suddenly. Pretend you don't know about her.

LEAH

I noticed it at dinner when he mentioned her, and then stopped talking about her immediately.

SOPHIE

(Shocked.)

You had dinner with the Kommandant?

LEAH

My Uncle Karl introduced me to him last night when he came to our home. Their wives were good friends. We talked about Krakow and my previous work, then he offered me this job.

SOPHIE

Besides dinner, what else did you do to get hired?

Leah locks eyes with Sophie.

LEAH

Only dinner. Does my honesty shock you?

SOPHIE

Pits.

(Sophie flips through the binder as Leah looks on.)

LIGHTS DOWN.

ACT II, SCENE 3

LIVING ROOM - LIGHTS UP on living room set. LEAH and KARL sit on the sofa.

KARL

After several weeks, you seem to be earning Vogel's trust. I knew you would do well.

LEAH

Better than I expected.

KARL

You're getting along with the other staff too.

LEAH

Vogel's staff pretty much ignores me except when they need coffee or do an errand for them. Otherwise I work strictly for him.

KARL

Vogel is your boss and target. Let the staff get their own coffee and do errands. Tell them you're too busy working for him. Stay in the office as much as possible so you can see and hear everything.

LEAH

I will, but I have a concern about Sophie, Kommandant's Kolbe's secretary, who trained me.

KARL

Why?

LEAH

She's honest and direct.

KARL

So, she's a different type of person.

LEAH

Oh, yes Sophie is very different.

KARL

Learn her ways, and when necessary, use them against her.

LEAH

She said I looked like Vogel's wife. That caught her attention.

KARL

Do you think Sophie is suspicious of you?

LEAH

I don't know.

KARL

Watch what you say and do with her. Be respectful but careful . It could be nothing, or perhaps she's jealous since you're the new secretary.

LEAH

Uncle Karl---

KARL

You see, natural, Uncle Karl. You learned well.

LEAH

Tell me about Vogel's wife.

KARL

Helene Vogel, was a very fine lady. Cultured and intelligent. Rose and I liked her, although we're trained not to like our targets. She and Rose were almost inseparable shopping and attending shows together, and planning parties.

LEAH

(In a mocking, pleasant tone.)

Just two German ladies out for an afternoon lunch, then off to see a show, enjoying normal daily life while thousands die in the ghettos.

KARL

(Rising Anger.)

No, Leah. My Rose didn't enjoy her life. She risked it with Vogel's wife listening and trying to get information you do . I feared for her every time she went with Helene, afraid she would say the wrong thing. Rose was ready to take that Cyanide pill , just like you. Our work is as dangerous as yours. Rose died a heroine. We sacrificed everything to stay in Munich when we could have escaped but the work is here, the fight is here. We stayed to help those like you.

When your assignment ends, you'll leave for someplace, maybe escape Germany and Europe. I'll be here working with the next agent. Waiting for my end. Waiting to join Rose.

LEAH

Uncle Karl, I'm so sorry. I didn't mean---

KARL

(Holds his hand up for silence.)

You asked if you resemble Helene. You do.

LEAH

Peter didn't tell me, or you. I should have known.

KARL

Leah, we hoped Vogel would tell you. Then you'd be surprised, adding to your charm. Perhaps Vogel would start to see you in a personal way, trust you more, then tell you things he wouldn't tell his secretary.

LEAH

Was I recruited because I look like her?

KARL

In war, everyone is a weapon.

LEAH

Tell me about Helene, so I can use this weapon against him.

KARL

Helene Vogel was not snobby like other military wives, nor fat. She always had a handkerchief and ran it through her fingers in a playful way. She had a subtle beauty, not too much makeup, like you, and was witty. Her nature was pleasant, charming but fragile. She became ill easily.

LEAH

She sounds lovely.

KARL

Helen and Josef made an ideal couple. Both married later in life, yet they acted like teenagers. They seemed to live in another place and time.

LEAH

What happened to her?

KARL

She died from a stroke caused by her pregnancy.

LEAH

How sad.

KARL

The strain of the baby was too much for Helene. I never heard anyone cry as much as Josef. That was until Rose died, then he comforted me. But never reveal you know about her.

LEAH

Uncle Karl, I'm good at keeping secrets.

KARL

Tell me about him as a boss.

LEAH

Efficient, organized and extremely hard working, but ...

KARL

Yes?

LEAH

He made a visit to a doctor this week. I saw on his calendar it was the second one in a month.

KARL

Unlike Josef, I've not known him to be ill.

LEAH

Vogel has a cough too. Sometimes I hear him coughing when his office door is closed.

KARL

Odd. Still, pass on every detail to Peter regardless how small.

LEAH

It's not important.

KARL

You noticed it. Tell Peter. Don't protect Vogel.

LEAH

I'm not. Just a cough.

KARL

I like Josef, but he is a Gestapo officer and the enemy. Never forget it.

LEAH

I don't forget anything. My new job is to remember.

KARL

No, your only job is to survive. any way you can.

Karl kisses Leah on the forehead and exits.

LIGHTS DOWN. SPOTLIGHT Up. Leah steps into it.)

PETER

All Kommandants will receive stationery this week with a new watermark. It will make it easier to distinguish a forged document to catch spies, like us. We can issue memos with the new water mark paper, so they appear official documents. There is a limited time to use it before they change it.

LEAH

How many sheets?

PETER

Two . Kommandants only receive 50 sheets at a time, taking more may draw suspicion. Shoresh, I tell you what you need to know, in case you are---

LEAH

Captured.

PETER

You've thought about it.

LEAH

I try not to, or get nervous.

PETER

Fear is a useful tool. If you are in a difficult situation, talk your way out of it. Think quickly and stay calm.

LEAH

Uncle Karl gave me the ring .

PETER

It's the last option.

LEAH

Peter, how long will I work for Vogel?

PETER

Until he's transferred or something happens that made it's too dangerous for you to stay.

LEAH

When I'm stressed, I imagine something else, something happier.

PETER

Seeing your parents again.

LEAH

How did you know?

PETER

We all imagine life before the war. Shores, I see a lot of me in you. One day you could be giving the orders.

LEAH

Then you would be---

PETER

Don't worry about me, just bring the stationery. How are you getting on with the staff?

LEAH

I assist them occasionally, but Sophie, the secretary who trained me, said I resembled Vogel's dead wife. Uncle Karl confirmed it was the main reason I was recruited. Peter, you should have told me.

PETER

I tell you what you need to know. Watch, listen, stay calm and lie. You're doing well, Shores. I speak about you to my commanders. You're impressed us.

LEAH

You and Uncle Karl taught me, Peter.

PETER

We've played our part, but you're taking the risk. Anything else you've noticed in the office or with Vogel's behavior?

LEAH

Vogel's behavior?

PETER

You see him every day, so you'd see changes, even small ones.

LEAH

(Beat.)

No changes.

ACT II, SCENE 4

VOGEL'S OFFICE - LIGHTS UP. Leah enters, goes to his desk and looks through papers, opens a drawer. Takes out some stationery, and removes several sheets, then returns the paper to the drawer. She put the paper in a folder as Sophie enters.

SOPHIE

What are you doing in here?

LEAH

Kommandant Vogel asked me to find a memo.

SOPHIE

You shouldn't be looking through his desk.

LEAH

I'm doing my job.

Leah starts to walk out but Sophie blocks her.

SOPHIE

Give me the folder.

LEAH

It's a secret memo.

SOPHIE

I can read any memo in this office.

LEAH

No, you can't. Sophie, I don't answer to you.

SOPHIE

There's something about you that's not right. I felt it immediately.

LEAH

I felt the same about you.

SOPHIE

Resembling Vogel's wife is---

LEAH

A coincidence, nothing more. Excuse me.

Leah steps forward but Sophie nudges her back.

SOPHIE

Now I catch you in his office with a secret memo.

LEAH

Sophie, you're right, there is something about me.

SOPHIE

What is it?

LEAH

My refusal to fuck the other Kommandants, like you.

SOPHIE

I serve the Third Reich---

LEAH

Between your legs.

SOPHIE

I should---

LEAH

But you won't. I've seen how you act with Herr Kommandant. You would do anything to get me fired. Hoping to get this job, but I'm here to stay.

Leah tries again to walk past Sophie, who pushes her back, harder.

SOPHIE

Who are you? What are you?

LEAH

I'm Leah Hartmann and you are not Herr Kommandant.

Vogel enters.

VOGEL

But I am.

SOPHIE

Herr Kommandant, she should not be looking through your desk. I must report this to---

VOGEL

Me and you have done that, so you may return to work, Sophie.

SOPHIE

Let me speak with you alone, Herr Kommandant, to tell you everything I've discovered about her.

LEAH

Herr Kommandant, I should hear her allegations then I can explain my side.

VOGEL

Very well. Sophie, what have you've discovered about Leah?

SOPHIE

These are private matters I need to tell only you.

VOGEL

I don't have time. Return to work.

Sophie is stunned. She glares at Leah then exits.
Vogel walks to Leah, holds out his hand, and she gives him the folder. Vogel opens it, pulls out the stationery.

VOGEL

Blank stationery?

LEAH

I wanted to write a letter to my mother telling her about my job.

VOGEL

Use the ordinary office paper.

LEAH

Yes, Herr Kommandant but I thought it would look nice on the good paper.

VOGEL

This paper is for official business.

LEAH

I'm sorry, Herr Kommandant.

VOGEL

Buy good paper for your private letters.

LEAH

Yes, Herr Kommandant.

Vogel coughs repeatedly.

LEAH

Your cough has worsened.

Vogel searches his pocket for a handkerchief.
Leah hands her handkerchief to him. He takes it,
wipes his mouth.

VOGEL

It's none of your concern. Return to work.

Leah turns to leave, takes a step.

VOGEL

Wait. Come here.

Leah stops, turns and walks back to him. Vogel
opens his coat, reaches inside and pulls out a
wallet. He removes cash, gives it to her.

VOGEL

Buy some good stationery.

LEAH

No, I can't take it. This is too much.

VOGEL

It's an order. Use the rest as you want.

Leah reaches out her hand. Vogel grasps it as she takes the money.

VOGEL

I know blank official stationery sells for a lot of money on the black market. Do you know what I could do to you, should do to you?

LEAH

Herr Kommandant, I beg you not to report me. I need the extra money for food. My salary and Uncle Karl's pension are barely enough for us.

VOGEL

Rose came from a family of means. I thought she left Karl everything when she died.

LEAH

Yes, she left all her debt. Aunt Rose was a wonderful woman, but she spent it on jewelry and dresses for parties. He sold those things, and when the money was gone, he asked my mother to let me come to Munich. It's why he asked you to hire me. Herr Kommandant, I'm sorry.

VOGEL

Never betray me again.

Vogel looks at the handkerchief and folds it, then returns it to her. LIGHTS FADE. Vogel exits. SPOTLIGHT UP. Leah steps into it.

PETER

Where is the stationery?

LEAH

Vogel caught me, but I talked my way out of it. Nothing will happen.

PETER

How do you know?

LEAH

He said that I'm too valuable. I was surprised how easy it was to lie.

PETER

You saved your life to fight another day. Shores, you've learned well. Here is a new assignment. We are planning an attack on the Gestapo in early December.

LEAH

Peter, it's the start of the holiday season.

PETER

The Nazis kill year-round. General Wolff, Gestapo Kommandant for the Ninth Army is coming to Munich. He and his wife will host a party at a hotel. We can seriously damage the German high command with an attack on them.

LEAH

What are my orders?

PETER

Do nothing, act shocked and supportive when it happens. It's an excellent time to hear information, because the Gestapo will need to reassign officers when Wolff is dead. You may work for another Kommandant.

LEAH

Oh.

PETER

Yes?

LEAH

It's nothing.

PETER

Your nothing is always something.

LEAH

I know how Vogel likes the work done in the office. He trusts me, and I'd have to start again with a new Kommandant.

PETER

Vogel likes you.

LEAH

No.

PETER

He caught you with the stationery but didn't punish you.

LEAH

Vogel knows that he can't replace me. It's all business with him, not personal.

PETER

So, you like him.

LEAH

It's impossible.

PETER

It's unfortunate, but not impossible. Shoresh remember, Vogel is the enemy.

LEAH

Peter, I remember everything.

SPOTLIGHT FADES. LIGHTS UP as Vogel enters office and sits behind the desk. Leah walks to the desk and sits in front of it. She takes a pad ready for dictation.

VOGEL

A memo to Nuremberg, Gestapo Headquarters, Attention Colonel Schwitzer, regarding Operation Black Cross ...

Vogel studies her as she writes. He stops and leans forward. Leah looks up.

LEAH

Yes, Herr Kommandant?

VOGEL

You seem different lately.

LEAH

I don't know what you mean.

VOGEL

There's something unusual about you.

LEAH

I don't know what it could be. I dress the same, comb my hair. Too much lipstick? Tell me, Herr Kommandant, I'll change it.

VOGEL

Just different. Back to the letter. Attention Colonel Schwitzer, regarding Operation Black Cross ...

Vogel looks at her, again. She looks up.

LEAH

Yes?

VOGEL

It must be your new promotion.

LEAH

Promotion?

VOGEL

Your name is on the list of secretaries re-classified Level Two with an increase in salary. It'll help with food and stationery costs.

Vogel hands Leah the memo.

LEAH

It doesn't say if I stay or go to another office.

VOGEL

You can stay as my secretary at the modest increase, or I'll speak with Kommandant Kruger, who needs a new secretary. He was promoted to Colonel, so you would earn more working for him.

LEAH

I like the work here. Herr Kommandant, I thought you couldn't replace me.

VOGEL

I can't but if it's a better opportunity for you, and the Third Reich, take the job with Kruger. I'll find another secretary, but not Sophie; never Sophie.

LEAH

Herr Kommandant, I'll remain working for you.

VOGEL

A chance like this one doesn't happen often.

LEAH

I know but you helped Uncle Karl after Rose died. He spoke well of your kindness.

VOGEL

It wasn't kindness, but two men who shared the same misery. No one should suffer alone. Don't stay out of loyalty.

LEAH

I'm staying out of respect for you, Herr Kommandant.

VOGEL

Very well.

(Vogel looks at his watch.)

You can leave early to get ready for the party.

LEAH

Party?

VOGEL

I'm invited to General Wolff's party at the hotel at the last moment. Colonel Schwitzer is in Nuremberg ill. I want you to be my guest tonight.

LEAH

Herr Kommandant, I have errands.

VOGEL

Do errands another day. I'll need your translation skills since his wife is Polish.

LEAH

Yes, Herr Kommandant.

VOGEL

I'll pick you up at seven. That's all.

LEAH

What about this letter for Operation Black Cross?

VOGEL

I'll finish it tomorrow.

LEAH

It would be better to complete it now.

VOGEL

Tomorrow is soon enough.

LEAH

Herr Kommandant, I don't like leaving work undone.

VOGEL

But I do?

LEAH

Oh, no Herr Kommandant. I didn't mean that.

Vogel picks up a file and starts to read it. Leah stands to go, takes a few steps, pauses and takes the handkerchief from her pocket. She turns back to Vogel.

LEAH

Herr Kommandant?

VOGEL

Yes.

LEAH

May we have drinks before the party?

VOGEL

We'll have them when we arrive.

LEAH

I mean privately.

VOGEL

Why?

LEAH

(Slowly pulls the handkerchief through
her fingers.)

To celebrate my promotion. We can have a quiet celebration at your home, before the party, so I can thank you.

LIGHTS DOWN. Vogel exits. SPOTLIGHT
UP. Leah steps into it.

PETER

The bombing was a success. Wolff died in the explosion and wounded two other officers. The Third Reich must reassign officers to fill the gap. It's a blow to their organization.

LEAH

A great victory for us.

PETER

Do you know why Vogel arrived late at the party?

LEAH

At the last moment, I had to join him. Vogel started dictating a letter about a new mission, Operation Black Cross. I tried to get him to finish it, but he wanted to complete it the next day. I didn't know if he, or I, would survive the attack.

PETER

What happened?

LEAH

I convinced Vogel to have drinks with me before the party. We arrived after the explosion missing it a few minutes.

PETER

How fortunate. Tell me about this mission.

LEAH

Operation Black Cross is a military campaign, a major change against England.

PETER

Where? When?

LEAH

I don't know. That's all Vogel told me.

PETER

It's vital you find out about it.

LEAH

There's so much confusion with Wolff dead. Vogel's consumed with the reorganization.

PETER

I need dates, times, names. Get the information from Vogel. I don't care how. Shoresh, do whatever it takes.

LEAH

I already did.

PETER

Then do it again.

Leah sighs, and rubs her face with her hands. (Several Beats.) Leah walk away as Sophie enters from the shadows. Leah's shocked, stops. Sophie slowly walks into the spotlight, smiles, chuckles - she caught a rat in a trap. She stops in front of Leah. Sophie kisses Leah. Smiles quickly then her smile is replaced with a look of hate. She slaps Leah.

SOPHIE

I knew it. Just needed to follow you to find out what you're hiding. Shoresh, I can smell a spy, especially a Jew. The Third Reich will promote me and Vogel will marry me.

Sophie laughs tilting her head back. Leah opens the ring's top and tosses the Cyanide capsule into her mouth. Sophie gags, so Leah closes her mouth shut. Sophie chews it and swallows. Leah grabs Sophie by the throat, as she struggles.

LEAH

Go ahead, fight, struggle. The poison will work faster. Just die. Lie down and die.

The women struggle. Leah forces Sophie to the ground, straddling her. Sophie tries to scream but Leah covers her mouth with one hand and strangles her with the other. Sophie's struggle lessens. SPOTLIGHT TO HALF, about 15-seconds to denote time passes. Sophie's body goes limp. SPOTLIGHT TO FULL. PETER steps out of the shadows behind Leah, still over Sophie's body. He's close to the spotlight but his face is still hidden.

PETER

Shoresh, she's dead.

(Peter's voice stuns Leah. She climbs off Sophie's body, turns and steps to him. Peter puts up his hand to stop her.)

Stop. You can't see me.

LEAH

(Stops.)

Why didn't you help me?

PETER

I was prepared to kill her, but had to see how you handled it.

LEAH

You made me into one of them. I'm like them.

PETER

Quiet. Stay calm. The war made you into a killer, not me.

LEAH

What do we do?

PETER

I'll get rid of her body. You return to work tomorrow as usual.

LEAH

People will ask about Sophie, she'll be missed.

PETER

For awhile. Say you don't know about her disappearance. Go before someone comes.

LEAH

Peter, I can't do this work anymore.

PETER

We need you.

LEAH

Peter---

PETER

Shoresh, stay calm, think, lie, survive.

LIGHTS DOWN.

ACT II, SCENE 5

FRAUENKIRCHE CATHEDRAL
CONFERENCE ROOM - Leah sits beside Emil
and Capek. Mueller slowly paces.

LEAH

When Sophie didn't show up at work, the S.S. officers questioned the secretaries. I didn't know anything about her life. The Police and officers searched for her, alive or dead, but never found her. After a week, everyone assumed she ran away with a boyfriend. No one really missed her.

MUELLER

And Vogel?

LEAH

Josef and I became lovers.

MUELLER

What else?

LEAH

I found out about Operation Black Cross and told Peter, but it was a lie. The S.S. planted the news to catch Resistance members. They captured Peter and tortured him cutting out his eyes but he didn't say anything. I found out my parents died in the Ghetto. I told Karl I was leaving and hid with other members. They taught me to decode messages.

EMIL

I found Leah hiding in a school basement I was renovating.

LEAH

The others fled but after my parents died, I didn't care what happened to me.

MUELLER

Does Vogel know you are carrying his child?

EMIL

It's my baby.

MUELLER

Emil, don't be a fool. Leah, that's why you left.

LEAH

Josef wanted to marry me.

Vogel suddenly barges in.

VOGEL

Your Excellency, excuse the interruption ...

(Sees Leah.)

Leah, Leah.

Vogel approaches Leah but Emil blocks him.

EMIL

Touch her and I'll kill you.

MUELLER

Emil don't become what you hate.

(To Vogel.)

Major Vogel, we have a dilemma.

Vogel cough severely.

MUELLER

Josef, you're very ill.

Vogel starts to recover.

VOGEL

Leah, why did you leave?

EMIL

Don't talk to him.

LEAH

You would have found out I am a Jew.

VOGEL

I decide who's a Jew.

EMIL

Today, I am one.

VOGEL
You're only a traitor.

LEAH
So is my baby.

VOGEL
What baby? Is it mine?

Vogel coughs, again. Mueller guides him to a chair.

MUELLER
Father Capek, call my doctor.

EMIL
Don't help him.

VOGEL
No doctor can help me. It's Cancer.

Leah gets closer to him, but Emil protests.

EMIL
Leah, he is a murderer like all of them.

LEAH
Josef, there must be some way to help you.

VOGEL
Come back with me.

EMIL
Your Excellency, we wish to stay here with God.

VOGEL
You'll see him soon enough.

MUELLER
What did you say?

EMIL

We seek sanctuary .

VOGEL

Come with me. Leah, you'll be safe, I promise.

MUELLER

Major Vogel, Emil has requested sanctuary .

VOGEL

I don't care.

MUELLER

I do, I'm a priest and must grant it.

VOGEL

No more Church nonsense.

MUELLER

Silence. It's the word of God. Let me inform you of Matthew Twenty-Five, Thirty-Five, "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you gave me shelter."

VOGEL

I must arrest them for treason.

Vogel steps forward. Emil shields Leah.

EMIL

Help us.

MUELLER

(Blocks Vogel.)

In the name of God, stop. Sanctuary is granted to those who fears persecution and injustice from a government. They are in this house of God with the complete protection of the Holy Catholic Church. Their request deserves respect. I deserve respect.

VOGEL

The laws of the Third Reich order me.

MUELLER

Major Vogel, your laws have no power here. Get out. The Church orders you.

VOGEL

Don't interfere with my duty.

MUELLER

How dare you interfere with mine.

VOGEL

Leah, I'll let Jaeger go. I only want you and the baby.

EMIL

It's my child.

VOGEL

I don't care. Come with me.

Vogel reaches for Leah, but Emil pushes him away.

LEAH

I can't.

VOGEL

Shoresh, I love you. Return with me.

LEAH

How did you know?

VOGEL

It doesn't matter. I'll protect you. Karl is safe too. You're my family now.

EMIL

He's lying.

VOGEL

I only have a little time left. Then you will be free to do anything you want.

EMIL

How many Jews begged for their lives before you killed them?

VOGEL

I'm not one of them. I was never one of them. I just want my family.

(Vogel coughs severely, falls on his knees.

Leah kneels beside him. Vogel clutches her hand and slowly regains his composure. She holds him.)

You can end this before it goes too far, and I can't help you.

LEAH

I can't.

Vogel looks at Emil and Mueller. Vogel regains his military composure. He brushes off his uniform, and stiffens as if the creases penetrate his body. Vogel steps closer to Mueller.

VOGEL

Your Excellency, hand them over to me, and I'll tell Reichfuhrer Himmler of your cooperation. I'm sure he'll thank you in some way.

MUELLER

No.

VOGEL

You're making it more difficult than necessary.

MUELLER

I decide what is necessary here.

VOGEL

A man who commits treason is an enemy of the Third Reich. Anyone who aids him, is a part of his crime. Can the Catholic Church afford to be an enemy of Germany?

MUELLER

The question to ask is can the Third Reich, with twenty million Catholics in Germany, afford to be our enemy?

VOGEL

Are you threatening the Reich?

MUELLER

Major Vogel ... Josef, I don't threaten, occasionally warn, as I do now.

VOGEL

A priest's authority can be overruled by a higher Church power. However, you are no ordinary priest. The Pope himself is the only Church authority that can overrule you.

MUELLER

If he overrules me, it would take days, weeks, months if ever. His Holiness is very busy. I won't press him for a decision on a minor issue. It's better for you to forget them.

VOGEL

I'll make them examples useless defiance. The request to the Vatican will come directly from Reichfuhrer Himmler. It'll take hours not days. You and your staff can perform your normal duties, but I'll post guards outside.

MUELLER

Major Vogel, don't underestimate the Holy Father. He must overrule my decision. *My* decision. His Holiness and I have a deep friendship of many years. We were ordained together. We are...brothers.

VOGEL

Perhaps you underestimate him, because the Pope has friendship with the Third Reich for many years.

Vogel looks at Leah, then exits. LIGHTS to half.
Mueller exits followed by Emil and Leah.
LIGHTS UP. Capek stretches and paces as Emil re-enters.

CAPEK

How is Leah? I'm concerned the stress will be too much. We can have a doctor look at her.

EMIL

I checked, she is resting in a room down the hall. Perhaps later a doctor can see her.

Mueller enters.

MUELLER

Where is Vogel?

CAPEK

Your Excellency, he returned to his office. Guards are posted at all the entrances. There's no way to get out.

MUELLER

Emil, you must find a way to convince Leah to be baptized. I can grant her, and the baby, more protection.

EMIL

She won't renounce her faith.

Vogel enters. Mueller goes to him.

MUELLER

There's no decision yet. I told you it would take days. We'll contact you, if necessary.

Mueller waves him off but Vogel steps forward.

VOGEL

Even if sanctuary is granted, they will be prisoners here.

MUELLER

Better here than Dachau.

VOGEL

Why do you risk so much protecting traitors?

MUELLER

I'm protecting children of God resisting evil. But it's what you risk that concerns me more.

VOGEL

What?

MUELLER

Damnation. Josef, you're not Catholic but I'll hear your confession, so God can forgive your sins. Then you can join your wife for eternity. It's your only salvation, my son.

Mueller puts his hand on Vogel's shoulders. He almost breaks but stiffens and steps away.

VOGEL

Let's see who ends up in hell first.

Leah enters. Vogel sees her, but turns away.
Emil goes to her and leads her to a chair.

MUELLER

How do you feel, Leah?

LEAH

Better after I ate and slept.

MUELLER

Get accustomed to your new home. You're be here a while.

The phone's ring. Mueller nods at Capek, he
answers it.

CAPEK

Yes? Your Excellency, it's the Vatican.

Capek hands the phone to Mueller and steps
back. He crosses himself then takes the phone
and listens. He pauses after each reply.

MUELLER

Yes, Your Holiness. Of course. I understand, Your Grace. Thank you, Holy Father.
(Slowly puts phone down.)

Sanctuary is denied.

VOGEL

In the name of the Third Reich, both of you are under arrest.

Mueller grabs Leah.

MUELLER

Leah, do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth?

Leah is scared, confused. Capek steps to her.

CAPEK
Say, "I do believe."

LEAH
I can't.

EMIL
You must.

VOGEL
You are under arrest.

CAPEK
Leah, say it.

VOGEL
I've wasted too much time on this shit.

MUELLER
Silence, you bastard. Leah, it will save your life, and the baby. Say it.

VOGEL
(Pulls out a revolver.)
Step aside priest.

Mueller ignores him and steps to Leah.

MUELLER
Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth? Leah?

LEAH
(Shaky Voice.)
I do believe.

VOGEL
(Points the gun at Mueller.)
Step aside.

Muller confronts him. Vogel lowers the gun.

MUELLER
Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

LEAH
(Firmer Voice.)

I do believe.

MUELLER
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was born and who suffered

LEAH
Yes, I do believe.

MUELLER
Do you believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

LEAH
I do believe.

Mueller makes the sign of the cross on her
forehead. Capek and Emil cross themselves.

MUELLER
I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Leah Ginsberg is now baptized as a Catholic and protected by the Holy Catholic Church.

VOGEL
Fuck you, priest. I'll kill them here.

Vogel raises his gun. Emil pushes Leah behind
him. Mueller lunges and pushes Vogel offstage.
A struggle...then two shots are heard. A long
pause. Mueller re-enters holding the gun.

MUELLER
(To Capek.)
Listen to me, I acted alone. You had no part in it. They had no part in it. Understand?

CAPEK
No, no, no.

EMIL
The Gestapo will throw you in Dachau with your priests.

MUELLER

I didn't expect the Holy Father to overrule...not my brother.

(Beat.)

Father Capek, disguise Emil and Leah as staff. Go to the basement, on the North wall is a wooden lever. It opens a door to a tunnel that leads to a church warehouse a block away. Have my driver meet you there. The Church's plane is waiting at the airport, it'll take you to Stockholm. The Bishop can get passports for all of you to England. Tell the guards Vogel and I can't be disturbed. That'll give you time to escape.

CAPEK

I won't leave you.

MUELLER

Michael, I trust only you. Do as I say, my son.

EMIL

You must come with us.

MUELLER

My place is here.

LEAH

We won't leave you.

(Leah grabs for Mueller, his cloak opens, reveals a silver chain with a medal.)

A Star of David?

MUELLER

Forget you saw it.

LEAH

Why do you wear it?

MUELLER

I'm a Jew. My parents let a Catholic family adopt me as a boy. Some Jewish families did it to protect their children. I thought if I became a priest, I'd be safe.

LEAH

You didn't abandon me, I won't leave you.

MUELLER

Go. (Loud.) GO. (Louder.)

Capek and Emil pull Leah away. They rush out.

LIGHTS DOWN on the set. SPOTLIGHT UP
A moonlight glow. The sound of a few birds
chirping. It's the garden again. Mueller strolls
into the moonlight, admiring it all, smells the air.
Inhales deeply.

MUELLER

The night air.

(Beat.)

Yes, this is a very good year for my roses.

(Beat.)

Forgive me, Father for I have sinned.

(Kneels and recite Mourner's Kaddish.)

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba. B'alma di v'ra chirutei, V'yamlich malchutei,
B'chayeichon uv'yomeichon Uv'chayei d'chol beit Yisrael Baagala uviz'man kariv. V'im'ru:
Amen.

SPOTLIGHT DOWN - A GUNSHOT.

THE END