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BETRAYAL IN WARTIME

by Motti Lerner

©

This play was written in response to various events that occurred during the Gaza war of 2023–2025. However, all the characters in the play are products of the playwright's imagination. They bear no relation to any real individuals, particularly to the officials who actually held these positions during the war. All the events depicted in the play are likewise fictional, although some of them were inspired by actual events.

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CHARACTERS

1. Eldad Talmon (60) - Former Director of the General Security Service
2. Orna (54) - His wife, an attorney
3. Shiri (24) - Their daughter, a student
4. Shachar (27) - Their son, an Israeli Air Force pilot
5. Brigadier General Nissani (45) - Head of the National Unit for International Investigations
6. Yossi (35) - An investigator with the National Unit for International Investigations
7. Orly (35) - An investigator with the National Unit for International Investigations
8. Amiram (52) - Current Director of the General Security Service
9. Emanuel Shoshani (60) - The Attorney General

THE PLOT

The play has three narrative layers:

1. The main narrative takes place in the present, during the first week of June 2024. It begins with Eldad's arrest and continues through his interrogation.
2. Flashbacks to Shachar's meetings with his family during March and April 2024, culminating in his suicide on May 5, 2024. These scenes are marked by #####.
3. Flashbacks to family scenes that take place during the second half of May 2024, following Shachar's suicide. During these scenes, Eldad passes classified material to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. These scenes are marked by *****.

THE SPACE

The space is abstract, allowing for easy transitions between the play's various locations. At the rear of the stage is a screen on which captions indicating the dates and locations of the scenes can be projected, helping the audience follow the narrative.

1. Early June 2024. Eldad's apartment. Midnight. The doorbell rings. Then it rings again. A moment later, Eldad enters in pajamas and opens the door. Orly and Yossi enter, both in police uniform. Orna and Shiri enter, also in pajamas.

Yossi: Good evening.

Eldad: Good evening.

Yossi: Eldad Talmon. Correct?

Eldad: Yes.

Orna: **(Sharply)** Has something happened? What's going on?

Yossi: My name is Yossi.

Orly: My name is Orly.

Orna: **(Angrily)** Why are you showing up like this in the middle of the night?

Yossi: May I see some identification?

Orly: **(To Eldad)** We have a warrant for your arrest.

Yossi: We're with the National Unit for International Investigations.

Eldad: May I see it?

Orly hands him the warrant. He gives Yossi his driver's license.

Orly: You're being arrested for questioning.

Orna: On suspicion of what? Under what section?

Orly: Section 113(a).

Eldad examines the warrant. Orna takes it from him and reads it.

Orna: **(To Eldad)** I know the judge who signed this. He didn't know it was you.

Yossi: He knew.

Orna: I'm his attorney. I want to speak to him in private.

Yossi: Not for another forty-eight hours. Here's the authorization signed by Brigadier General Nissani.

Orna: Have you lost your minds? Don't you know who he is?

Yossi: He's suspected of a national-security offense.

Eldad: There's no point arguing, Orna. They're following orders.

Shiri: What's Section 113(a)?

Orna: Disclosure of classified information by an unauthorized person.

Eldad: It's just for the record, Shiri. **(To Yossi)** May I get dressed?

Yossi: I'll come with you.

Orly: We'll also need your phone. And your computer.

Eldad: All right.

Orly: Do you have a gun?

Eldad: Yes.

Orly: We'll need that too.

Eldad and Yossi exit.

Orna: I don't understand how they could send you here tonight. We just lost our son. Tomorrow is the unveiling of his headstone at the cemetery.

Shiri: We can't think about anything else right now.

Orna: The Police Commissioner knows that. So does the Attorney General. Couldn't you have waited a few days?

Shiri: Hundreds of people are coming tomorrow. They'll ask where he is. What are we supposed to tell them?

Orly: I'm sorry, but we're following orders.

Orna: He isn't going anywhere. Come back tomorrow night.

Shiri: Do you have any idea what kind of day this is for us?

Orly: It wasn't our decision.

Shiri: **(To Orna)** Call that Nissani who sent them.

Orna: Nissani does what the Attorney General tells him.

Shiri: Then call him. What are you waiting for?

Orna picks up her phone and dials. There is no answer. She leaves a message.

Orna: Emanuel, this is Orna Talmon. Sorry to call so late. I'm sure you know that the police have just arrested Eldad. We have the unveiling tomorrow. Call me back immediately.

Shiri: Maybe you should call the Police Commissioner.

Orna: The Police Commissioner is Dad's friend. He won't interfere.

Eldad and Yossi enter. Eldad is now dressed and carrying a bag. Yossi is holding the computer, the phone and the gun.

Orna: Where are you taking him?

Yossi: I'm sorry. I can't tell you.

Eldad: Don't worry. I'll make it to the cemetery on time.

Orna: Take a change of clothes. Take a toothbrush.

Eldad: I did.

Orna: I'll be waiting for you at the courthouse in the morning.

- Shiri: **(Furiously)** I won't let you take him. He hasn't committed any crime. He knows the law better than whoever sent you.
- Eldad: Go back to bed. I'll be home before you wake up.
- Shiri: Do you have any idea what we've been through this past month? My brother's blood is barely dry. My parents have stopped working. I stopped going to classes. We're living on pills.
- Eldad: Enough, Shiri. Enough. We knew this would happen. We talked about it... **(Embraces Shiri and Orna)** Don't worry. I'll be fine. **(To Orly and Yossi)** No point wasting time. Let's go.

Meanwhile, Orly has filled out a form.

- Orly: **(To Orna)** This is the receipt for the computer, the phone and the gun.
- Yossi: **(To Eldad)** I have to cuff you now.
- Eldad: Are you sure that's necessary?
- Yossi: I hope not.

Yossi relents. Eldad, Yossi and Orly exit.

- Orna: Take a pill and go to sleep.
- Shiri: They'll probably question him all night.
- Orna: He knows what to say.
- Shiri: How are we supposed to go to the unveiling without him?
- Orna: I'll speak to the Attorney General in the morning.
- Shiri: Maybe you should try him again now.
- Orna: Enough, Shiri. I know what I'm doing. Take a pill and go to sleep.

Shiri: I took one an hour ago.

Orna: Take another one. **(Gives her a pill)**

Shiri: Do you think it's a coincidence they came tonight, of all nights?

Orna: No. It's no coincidence.

2. An interrogation room at the National Major Crimes Unit. Night. Eldad is alone. He has already spotted the camera in the wall.

Eldad: **(To the camera)** Hello? Can you hear me? You, in the control room. I'm talking to you. I've been waiting here for over an hour. **(No response)** Could I at least get a glass of water?

Nissani enters, carrying a cup of coffee. He hands it to Eldad.

Nissani: Hi, Eldad. Nissani. Remember me?

Eldad: I remember.

Nissani: I'm sorry we're meeting under these circumstances.

Eldad: Thanks for the coffee.

Nissani: We're very sorry about what happened to your son. I can only imagine what you've been through.

Eldad: Did you arrest me to offer your condolences?

Nissani: To question you. The Police Commissioner wanted to come here tonight, but...

Eldad: But he's not allowed to be involved.

Nissani: Those are the Attorney General's instructions.

Eldad: But you are?

Nissani: Our acquaintance was very brief. I've put it on the record. **(He takes out a document and reads from it)** The only meeting between the suspect and me took place on October 7, 2023, when I went down to the Gaza border area to assist in identifying the bodies of those who had been murdered. The suspect brought six bodies to me in his car. I identified myself, helped him unload them and questioned him about the circumstances in which he had found them. Are you willing to sign?

Eldad signs.

Nissani: Normally, investigations like this are conducted by the General Security Service. But since you were its director, the Attorney General was concerned that people from the Service wouldn't be able to investigate you, so he transferred the investigation to the police. Unfortunately, the Police Commissioner assigned it to me because I head the National Unit for International Investigations.

Eldad: Sounds reasonable.

Nissani: In the morning, we'll take you before a remand judge. We won't object to your release to house arrest. I hope you'll make it to the unveiling.

Eldad: Don't play games with me. Had you wanted me to make it to the unveiling, you would have waited another day.

Nissani: It wasn't my decision.

Eldad: You arrested me tonight, of all nights, to put pressure on me.

Nissani: You're wrong.

Eldad: Let's put our cards on the table. What do you want in exchange for my release to house arrest tomorrow morning?

Nissani: I'm glad we're getting down to business. I want complete secrecy. You don't tell anyone that you've been arrested.

Eldad: For how long?

Nissani: Until the investigation is over.

Eldad: And after that?

Nissani: We'll decide based on the outcome.

Eldad: All right.

Nissani: This won't be merely a gentleman's agreement between us. The judge will make it a condition of your release.

Eldad: I assumed as much.

Nissani: It would be in everyone's interest for this matter to be resolved quickly, before it grows into a scandal. We'll summon you twice a week for a few hours. If you cooperate, it will all be over in less than a month.

Eldad: I expect to be at the unveiling tomorrow at eleven.

Nissani: Don't worry. You will. We've made special arrangements for you, and you'll spend what's left of tonight in a room with a shower and a toilet.

Eldad: Thank you very much.

Nissani: One more thing. I know, of course, that you fought in the Gaza border communities on October 7, and that you saved dozens of civilians using a gun you took from a police officer who had been killed. That makes it very difficult for me to conduct this investigation. For the other investigators as well. I very much hope you'll cooperate with us. We want to bring this matter to an end without any unnecessary fuss.

Eldad: Unnecessary for whom?

Nissani: For all of us.

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3. A flashback to March 2024. Eldad's apartment. Night. Shachar enters, wearing an Israeli Air Force uniform. Eldad and Orna embrace him.

Shachar: Where is she?

Orna: In the shower. She got home a few minutes ago.

Shachar: Is she okay?

Orna: She looks okay. She hadn't showered in two weeks.

Eldad: How are you? How are you doing?

Shachar: Same as usual.

Eldad: What do you mean, same as usual?

Orna: Don't pressure him, Eldad.

Shiri enters, fresh from the shower.

Shiri: Shachar! **(They embrace)**

Shachar: **(Noticing a scratch on her forehead)** You've got a scratch here. What is it? How did it happen?

Shiri: It's nothing.

Shachar: What do you mean, nothing? Look, Dad.

Eldad: Goddamn it, that was shrapnel. That's the burn it left.

Orna: My God. You almost...

Shiri: Enough, Mom. I ran into something.

Eldad: You were very lucky, whatever it was.

Shiri: You're nagging, Dad. **(To Shachar)** How are you?

Shachar: You've grown up in the last three months.

Shiri: Thanks.

Shachar: Did you lose anyone in your company?

Shiri: Six.

Shachar: Six?! How many wounded?

Shiri: About twenty. Most of them only lightly.

Eldad: Her brigade commander says she's the best paramedic in the brigade. She saved lives under fire.

Shiri: I did what I could.

Orna: I don't know how you held up there.

Shiri: I went on autopilot. Like everyone else. You do what has to be done. Your friends get you through it.

Eldad: Don't sell yourself short, Shiri.

Orna: You're a real hero.

Shiri: **(To Shachar)** A friend of mine from university asked for your number. Should I give it to her? She's a third-year psychology student...

Shachar: We'll talk about it after the war. **(Firmly)** And you're not going back to reserve duty. You hear me? You've done enough. Get to India before they call you up again.

Shiri: I'm not sure, Shachar. I...

Shachar: Six soldiers died in your arms.

Orna: Enough, Shachar.

Shachar: Can't you see she's disconnected from what happened to her?

Eldad: She's not disconnected. She's coping.

Shachar: She can cope in India.

Shiri: They've already told us we're going back into Gaza in a month.

Shachar: Over my dead body!

Orna: That certainly isn't helping her.

Eldad: What happened, Shachar? Why are you so angry? Is everything all right?

Shachar: Yes.

Eldad: Are you sure?

Orna: Is it the same thing again?

Shachar: Stop it, Mom. I don't want to talk about it.

Eldad: Don't tell us to stop. Where did you strike today? Gaza City? Khan Younis? Rafah?

Shachar: Gaza City.

Eldad: What did you strike?

Shachar: We struck.

Eldad: What?

Shachar: A mosque.

Shiri: The Great Mosque in Gaza City? I saw the strike. They'd been firing at us from there all week.

Shachar: It collapsed. A fire broke out. They must have been storing ammunition there. Later I checked the intelligence report. More than two hundred civilians were killed.

Eldad: Two hundred?!

Shiri: Are you sure?

Orna: Didn't intelligence know they were there?

Shachar: **(Furiously)** Of course they knew. The mosques are full of civilians whose homes were destroyed.

Eldad: We've already talked about this, Shachar. We told you to go to your squadron commander.

Shachar: I did.

Orna: Go to him again.

Eldad: Do you want me to talk to him?

Shachar: No.

Orna: Maybe ask him for a few days off. Get some rest. Think about it.

Shachar: He won't give me leave now.

Shiri: Two hundred civilians?! Maybe those are their propaganda numbers.

Shachar: Those are our numbers. They'll probably find a few dozen more under the rubble tomorrow.

Shiri: Last week, my company commander accidentally killed a woman who came out to hang laundry, and he went to see the mental health officer.

Shachar: So did I. He doesn't understand anything.

Eldad: He doesn't understand that you're killing civilians there?

Shachar: He doesn't care, Dad. He was told to get me back in the air, so he says there's nothing wrong with me. These past few days, I haven't known what to do with myself.

Orna: What do you mean, you don't know what to do with yourself? You're not the one who chooses the targets. You can't check them before you take off, and you don't have to check them after you land.

- Eldad: Mom's right, Shachar. But it's good that you're talking about it. I'm going to try to do something anyway.
(Dials) Good evening, Miki. Can I speak to the Chief of Staff?... Tell him I called... Yes. It's urgent. Thank you.
(Ends the call) I'll call him again tomorrow. By the way, can you see from the air what we're doing in the Gaza border communities? We've begun rebuilding the homes that were destroyed. We have two thousand volunteers. Construction companies are donating supplies. Cement. Concrete blocks. Unfortunately, the government isn't functioning...
- Orna: **(To Shachar)** Tomorrow morning, you're going back to the mental health officer, and you're telling him you need a week off immediately. You hear me?
- Shiri: Tell him exactly what you told us.
- Shachar: What did I tell you?
- Shiri: That you don't know what to do with yourself.
- Shachar: I already told him.

4. A flashback to mid-May 2024. The office of the Director of the General Security Service. Night. Eldad is in the middle of a conversation with Amiram, the current Director of the Service.

- Eldad: The Prime Minister refuses to discuss the bombing policy?!
- Amiram: I've raised it with him several times. He keeps avoiding the subject.
- Eldad: You're the Director of the Service, Amiram. You meet with him two or three times a week. Corner him for a minute and explain what happened to Shachar.
- Amiram: I'm not sure I understand what happened to him. He was so proud to be a pilot.

- Eldad: But when the war broke out, he discovered that the Air Force wasn't operating the way we'd promised him it would.
- Amiram: I don't know what you promised him, but...
- Eldad: Shachar knew how many civilians were being killed in the bombing. He also knew he had played a part in it. During the shiva¹, we spoke to friends of his from the squadron. Most of them feel the same. The Air Force Commander must know.
- Amiram: He refuses to talk about it.
- Eldad: In a few months, they'll be discharged, and the whole world will hear what they have to say.
- Amiram: I warned the Cabinet about this months ago. But after our failure on October 7, the ministers don't want to hear from me. Once there are fewer targets, we'll be able to exercise greater caution.
- Eldad: And until then?
- Amiram: I don't want to drag the Service into a confrontation with them right now. You were always careful about that too.
- Eldad: Nothing on this scale happened during my term.
- Amiram: Other things happened. You can't wash your hands of them now.
- Eldad: I'm not washing my hands of anything. You're right. I wasn't always able to confront the government. That's why there are many things I regret. If you don't speak up, you'll have much more to regret.
- Amiram: Like what?
- Eldad: Keeping silent now.

Shiva: the traditional seven-day Jewish mourning period following a funeral ¹

- Amiram: I'm not keeping silent. I warned the Chief of Staff. I warned the Air Force Commander. The bombing has been approved by the army's legal department. The Americans know what we're doing there, and they're still supplying us with ammunition.
- Eldad: And that reassures you? You know the truth.
- Amiram: **(Angrily)** I'm not prepared to take such criticism from you.
- Eldad: I understand. Thank you. **(Turns to leave)**
- Amiram: Wait. **(Eldad stops)** You know how much I respect your opinion, but the government takes a different view. The ministers see tens of thousands of people leaving the country. They want to restore their sense of security and bring them back. That's why they're demanding a quick victory. That's why they won't accept any restrictions on the military.
- Eldad: What decent person would want to live here when this kind of killing is being carried out in their name?
- Amiram: I'm doing everything I can to prevent it.
- Eldad: I'm willing to help you. Bring me back into the Service. Put me in charge of assessing the consequences of this killing.
- Amiram: You know that's impossible.
- Eldad: Don't worry. I won't interfere in the running of the Service. You'll get all the credit for rehabilitating it.
- Amiram: The government won't approve it.
- Eldad: That depends on you.
- Amiram: The Prime Minister will accuse me of obstructing the military.
- Eldad: Explain to him that the bombing is harming us too. You saw how callously the Air Force treated Shachar.

Amiram: The Prime Minister will listen to me only after we win.

Eldad: Then you're leaving me no choice.

Amiram: What are you going to do?

Eldad: Shachar did what he did because I stayed silent. I can't stay silent anymore.

5. A flashback to mid-May 2024. Eldad and Orna's apartment. Afternoon. Eldad is on the phone with a senior journalist. Orna and Shiri listen to the conversation.

Eldad: I'm calling you because you don't report incidents like this... Look at the BBC. Yesterday they carried a live broadcast of a family screaming in Shuja'iyya. Tanks are firing at their house. Women and children are screaming in terror in the stairwell... Suddenly, a shell hits the house. The screaming stops. But the wounded father manages to describe what happened. Four women and nine children were killed... If you don't report it, who will?... You're a senior journalist. You can stand up to your editors... If you remain silent, you're complicit... **(Ends the call)** What a pathetic coward.

Silence.

Orna: Give up this fight already. You can see that no one is willing to listen to you.

Eldad: I'll keep trying until someone does.

Orna: Do whatever you want, but not here. These calls are driving me out of my mind. Rent an office. Go to a café.

Eldad: This is precisely when I need your advice.

Orna: I'm in no state to give advice. All I can think about is closing my firm and running away.

Shiri: Shachar wouldn't want you to run away.

Orna: Shachar is dead.

Eldad: That's exactly why I'm doing this.

Orna: You should have done it before he died.

Shiri: Enough, Mom.

Orna: But you were busy rebuilding the communities near Gaza. Recruiting volunteers to help the farmers...

Eldad: And you weren't busy with your firm?

Orna: He begged you to help him.

Eldad: He begged you too.

Orna: You could have done more than me.

Eldad: I did what I could.

Orna: It wasn't enough for him.

Shiri: I'm leaving. I can't take this anymore. **(Turns to leave)**

Eldad: Wait. **(Blocks her way)** Sit down.

Orna: **(Gets up)** I'm going for a swim.

Eldad: I want to talk to both of you.

Orna: We've talked enough.

Eldad: What do you want to happen here now? Do you want us to keep blaming each other until we lose our minds?

Orna: I want to die.

Eldad: Please, Orna. Stop!

Orna: Give me one good reason to go on living.

Shiri: I'm not a good enough reason?

Eldad: I said stop!

She sits. Silence.

- Eldad: You're probably right, Orna. None of our journalists will dare investigate the Air Force's bombing procedures. Over the past few days, I've thought about approaching a foreign journalist, but foreign journalists have very little influence here. I think we need to do something much more effective.
- Shiri: Like what?
- Eldad: This morning, I saw an appeal from the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague circulating online...
- Orna: The Prosecutor in The Hague?
- Eldad: He's asking for information about what we're doing in Gaza.
- Shiri: I saw that appeal.
- Orna: You want to give him information?!
- Eldad: Maybe he can still stop them.
- Orna: Have you lost your mind?
- Eldad: Do you have a better idea?
- Shiri: It's an excellent idea, Mom.
- Eldad: The appeal included a link for submitting material.
- Orna: What material do you want to submit?
- Eldad: What Shachar told us. What his friends told us. I can also collect material myself. Friends from the Service will help me.
- Orna: That could be a criminal offense. They'll arrest you. They'll put you on trial.
- Eldad: Good. I hope they do.

- Orna: That's out of the question, Eldad. This is a lost cause. I don't have the strength for wars like this now. We've just finished sitting shiva. We haven't even begun to come to terms with our grief. We haven't even put up a headstone.
- Eldad: Shachar wouldn't want us to wait.
- Orna: Don't speak for him.
- Shiri: I want to speak for him.
- Orna: **(To Shiri)** If Dad has to keep fighting, he should approach people he knows here.
- Shiri: Who's willing to listen to him here?
- Orna: Then he should try leaking the material to a foreign journalist. He can do that without leaving any trace.
- Eldad: On the contrary. I need to act openly. Precisely because of who I am and what I've done all my life. I'm also prepared to stand trial for sending this material to The Hague.
- Shiri: Have you already sent him anything?
- Eldad: I won't send anything before Mom approves.
- Orna: I'm not approving anything.
- Shiri: It's the best way to stop the bombing.
- Eldad: **(To Orna)** That's what we want, isn't it?
- Orna: We could all end up in prison. All three of us.
- Eldad: We have the best attorney in the country.
- Orna: I can't. I can't, and I don't want to. I've already paid enough because Shachar wanted to save the world. I'm not trying to save anything anymore.

Eldad: Shachar was prepared to do anything to stop the bombing. If it mattered that much to him, it has to matter to us too. **(Silence)** Deep down, you know that.

Orna: I must have lost my mind too. Send me the material you've collected.

6. Early June 2024. Eldad in a prison cell. Morning. Nissani, Yossi and Orly enter.

Nissani: Good morning. I heard you couldn't sleep.

Eldad: Why are you so late?

Nissani: Don't worry. We're leaving now. The hearing will be held in the judge's chambers. You'll be released within a few minutes, and we'll take you home.

Eldad: My wife is my attorney. I want to see her before the hearing.

Nissani: You're a security detainee. At this stage, we don't allow you to meet with an attorney.

Eldad: I'm a security detainee?

Nissani: Unfortunately.

Eldad: If I don't see her before the hearing, she won't know we agreed to keep this confidential, and she'll issue a statement to the press.

Nissani: I've already spoken to her. She knows that if she issues a statement, the hearing will be delayed, and you won't make it to the unveiling.

Eldad: I see.

Nissani: And of course, we'll have to ask the judge to keep you in custody until trial.

Eldad: Of course.

- Nissani: If you both agree to keep this confidential, you'll be released to house arrest.
- Eldad: How generous of you.
- Nissani: But you'll be subject to certain restrictions.
- Eldad: What restrictions?
- Nissani: You won't be allowed, for example, to contact your associates in The Hague. Or your son's friends from the squadron. I suggest you comply with these restrictions.
- Eldad: Thank you for the advice. By the way, you must have known I'd make arrangements in case you arrested me before the unveiling.
- Nissani: Of course.
- Eldad: Then you should know that if, for some reason, I don't make it to the cemetery by eleven, a statement will automatically be sent to the press from a remote computer.
- Nissani: That threat is unnecessary, Eldad.
- Eldad: Sounds like you're threatening me.
- Nissani: I'm trying to make your situation clear to you.
- Eldad: And I'm trying to make your situation clear to you.
- Nissani: I understand. Shall we go?
- Orly: Would you like to shower? Change your clothes?
- Eldad: I'll shower at home.
- Yossi: **(To Eldad)** I assume we don't need to handcuff you.
- Eldad: Not yet.

7. Early June 2024. The Attorney General's office. Day. Orna is sitting across from Shoshani.

- Shoshani: I'm so sorry, Orna. It's incomprehensible. Unthinkable. I was at his bris². When he was a month old, you brought him to our office at the Ministry of Justice. When you were busy, I fed him...
- Orna: About Eldad...
- Shoshani: When he was accepted into flight school, I was so happy for him.
- Orna: Thank you, Emanuel, but...
- Shoshani: I'm still in shock. Unfortunately, with all the pressure at work, I couldn't make it to the shiva.
- Orna: I know. But I still don't understand the way you're treating Eldad. If you don't let me see him before the hearing, I'll petition the High Court.
- Shoshani: I'm not sure that would be wise.
- Orna: The High Court knows perfectly well he's not a security detainee.
- Shoshani: I suggest you don't do anything foolish. The moment the High Court hears exactly what he...
- Orna: At this point, you're the one acting foolishly. You're the Attorney General, and you made every decision in this case. If you'd stopped to think for one more minute, you wouldn't have ordered his arrest. Certainly not the night before the unveiling.
- Shoshani: If he'd stopped to think for one more minute, he wouldn't have gotten himself into this mess.
- Orna: After everything he's done for this country, he deserves to have me beside him when he goes before the judge.
- Shoshani: I'm not sure.

A Jewish circumcision ceremony ²

- Orna: What aren't you sure about?
- Shoshani: I'm not sure you know exactly what he did.
- Orna: I know what he's done his entire life.
- Shoshani: I agreed to meet with you this morning because I've known you for thirty years. Because we worked together. Because I respect you. Because you've suffered such a terrible tragedy. But I also have to be careful. The suspicions against him are far more serious than you realize. The Prime Minister is furious. You're such an intelligent woman. How could you let him do something so foolish?
- Orna: The Prime Minister refused to speak to him.
- Shoshani: Because the government is acting within the law. The bombing is proportionate. It's directed at military targets. In residential areas, the residents are given advance warning.
- Orna: If you speak to Shachar's friends, you'll discover they stopped giving warnings a long time ago.
- Shoshani: I review the bombing constantly.
- Orna: I can imagine what these reviews look like. The moment the war began, you became a rubber stamp. You used to be a decent lawyer. Now you want a seat on the Supreme Court, so you're afraid to confront the government.
- Shoshani: You have no idea what you're talking about. I confront the ministers at every meeting.
- Orna: If you were as conscientious as Eldad, you'd make it clear to them what is allowed and what isn't.
- Shoshani: Eldad isn't as conscientious as you think. There is no justification for what he did.
- Orna: I'll explain the justification for what he did in court. But there is no justification for what you did. You knew we

were broken. That we were shattered. And you still decided to arrest him, even though we're going to the cemetery today. What did you think? That he'd run away in the middle of the night? I know you well enough, and I wouldn't be surprised if you ordered his arrest last night precisely because we're going to the cemetery today. No excuse is going to save you. You're going to call the police now and tell them to ask the judge to release him to house arrest. Do you hear me? With no restrictions.

She gets up and exits. Shoshani picks up the phone and calls Nissani.

Shoshani: **(On the phone)** She's on her way to court. You have to finish the hearing before she gets there... Don't argue with me, Nissani. She's a dangerous woman. She'll oppose the restrictions we're asking for. **(Ends the call)**

8. Eldad and Orna's apartment. Day. The living room is empty. Eldad enters.

Eldad: Orna? Shiri?

Orna and Shiri enter. They embrace Eldad.

Shiri: We waited for you at the courthouse. They wouldn't let us see you.

Orna: How are you?

Shiri: Why didn't you call?

Eldad: They didn't give me back my phone.

Orna: Did you get any sleep? Do you want something to eat? We're leaving in ten minutes. We have to pick up flowers on the way.

Shiri: The Chief of Staff and the Air Force Commander aren't coming.

Eldad: I assumed they wouldn't. But they'll probably send wreaths.

Orna: I hope his friends from the squadron come.

Eldad: The judge doesn't allow me to contact them. Especially not The Hague.

Orna: It's what the police asked for.

Eldad: The Hague needs to know I've been arrested.

Orna: You want to tell them? The police are watching you. They're listening to every call made from this house.

Eldad: Let them listen.

Orna: They'll arrest you the moment you call them.

Eldad: I have no choice.

Orna: This time they won't release you to house arrest.

Eldad: I'll survive. **(To Shiri)** Can I use your phone for a minute?

Shiri: Sure.

Eldad takes the phone. Orna stops him.

Orna: Didn't you hear what I just said?

Eldad: I heard you, but...

Orna: **(Firmly)** If you want me to defend you, you'll do what I tell you. We're going to the cemetery now.

Eldad: We still have ten minutes.

Orna: Then take a shower and change your clothes. Let us get through this day in peace.

Eldad: Don't you understand how important this is?

Orna: This is going to be a hard day, Eldad. We need you with us.

- Eldad: Someone broke into the Prosecutor's files in The Hague. It may have been the Mossad. They need to know.
- Orna: I don't care about them either. You've already sent them enough material.
- Eldad: What Shachar told us was only the tip of the iceberg.
- Orna: You're under house arrest. You're being investigated. We still don't know how this will end.
- Eldad: Don't worry.
- Orna: I want to come home from the cemetery and cry. I want you with me when I cry. I want to think about Shachar. I can't think about anything else right now.
- Eldad: I'm calling The Hague because I'm thinking about Shachar.
- Orna: You're calling The Hague because of your wars.
- Eldad: I'm calling because of his war.
- Orna: His war is over.
- Eldad: All right. I'll call The Hague tomorrow. Shall we go?
- Shiri: **(To Eldad)** Wait. Maybe I should call them now.
- Orna: You?!
- Shiri: Dad's right. The Prosecutor in The Hague needs to know that someone broke into their files.
- Orna: The police will arrest you.
- Shiri: Shachar wanted to stop the bombing. I'm not going to stand at his grave without doing something about it.
- Eldad: You'll do plenty more.
- Shiri: They planted a bug in here, Dad. They can hear us right now. The moment we leave the cemetery they'll arrest you so you can't make the call.

- Eldad: They won't arrest me in front of my friends.
- Shiri: If you don't call now, I will.
- Eldad: And go to prison in my place? Have you lost your mind?
- Shiri: **(Hands him the phone)** Then take it and make the call. Not only for Shachar. For his friends too - the ones still being sent to bomb every day.
- Eldad: **(To Orna)** What do you think?
- Orna: Let's just go.
- Shiri: We're doing what Shachar wanted, Mom.
- Orna: We're not going to do this in a rush. People are waiting for us at the cemetery. He's waiting for us there too. And the two of you are walking blindly into the trap the police have set for us. I'm leaving. If they arrest you, you'll have to manage on your own. **(Turns to leave)**
- Eldad: Wait. I want you to hear this call. I'm not doing it without you. There are only three of us left, and we're doing this together. For better or worse. Otherwise, I don't know what Shachar did it all for...
- Orna: He did it for nothing... For nothing...

Orna exits. Eldad hesitates for a moment.

- Shiri: Do you want me to call?
- Eldad: No. **(Dials and speaks)** Good morning. This is Eldad... I'm calling from my daughter's phone... Listen, I was arrested. The Mossad may have accessed your files. You need to be more careful... I'm under house arrest, but I'll try to send you more material... Sorry, I have to hang up... Thank you...

An impatient car horn sounds outside.

- Shiri: Shall we go?

They exit.

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9. A flashback to March 2024. Evening. A restaurant near an Air Force base in southern Israel. Shachar, in uniform, is waiting. Eldad, Orna and Shiri enter. Orna is carrying a bag of laundry.

Shachar: Sorry. They just called me from the base. I have to go back in a few minutes.

Shiri: Did something happen?

Shachar: Something's always happening.

Eldad: Sit down for a minute. We'll order you something to go. How are you?

Orna: We haven't seen you in ten days. You barely answer our messages.

Shachar: Everything's fine. A little pressure. Nothing serious. Stop worrying so much. **(Sits)**

Shiri: Actually, you look good. That friend from university I told you about asked for your number again. She's a wonderful girl. The best student in our class. And she's really beautiful. It's impossible not to fall in love with her.

Shachar: All right. Tell her to call me Friday morning. Maybe I'll come home that evening. **(To his parents)** Actually, don't order me anything. I'll eat at the base. It really is urgent... **(Gets up)**

Eldad: Wait a second. We want to see you. We want to hear how you're doing.

Orna: I brought your laundry. Do you want a hamburger?

Shachar: I don't want anything.

- Eldad: I saw the Al Jazeera report about the building they brought down in Gaza this morning. Their camera caught one of the planes too. It was your squadron, wasn't it?
- Shachar: We'll talk about it on Saturday. **(Turns to leave)**
- Orna: **(Firmly)** Sit down. I can imagine what you're going through. I'm not going to let you keep it all inside. **(He sits)** Was it really your squadron?
- Shachar: No. It wasn't my squadron. It was me.
- Orna: You?!
- Shiri: Just you?
- Shachar: Me and another pilot. We're filing a complaint against the intelligence officer tonight. That's why I'm in a hurry.
- Orna: You're going to get yourself in trouble with your friends.
- Shachar: I should have done it a long time ago.
- Eldad: The army spokesperson said there was a command post in the building.
- Shachar: That's what they told us too. Later we found out there was only a lookout on the roof. Someone in one of the tanks spotted him. Instead of hitting him, they decided to bring down the entire building. Twenty families. No warning.
- Shiri: Because of one lookout?
- Shachar: If they identify someone as a suspect, they're allowed to kill him even if dozens of other people are killed too.
- Eldad: Dozens?!
- Shachar: To take out a brigade commander, they're authorized to kill two hundred civilians.

Eldad: For a brigade commander, the limit is ten.

Shachar: That's how it used to be.

Orna: And the army's legal department approved that?

Shachar: That's what they tell us.

Orna: That can't be true. I'll speak to them.

Eldad: I spoke to the Chief of Staff yesterday. He says the army doesn't carry out a strike if the expected collateral damage is excessive in relation to the target.

Shachar: And you believe him?

Eldad: I've known him for many years.

Shachar: He's changed. The whole army has changed. You've been out for six years, and you don't see it.

Eldad: Did you tell your squadron commander? You can ask for a meeting with the base commander.

Shachar: I've already spoken to him.

Eldad: Then ask for a meeting with the Air Force Commander.

Shachar: Don't put this on me, Dad. I'm a young pilot. No one will listen to me. You were the Director of the Service. You have connections with the people at the very top.

Eldad: It isn't that simple. The Prime Minister thinks the volunteers I'm organizing in the communities near Gaza are an underground movement against him. But I spoke to the Chief of Staff...

Shachar: And you think that was enough?

Eldad: I'll speak to him again.

Shachar: You need to pound the table.

Eldad: You don't pound the table with the Chief of Staff. You try to persuade him. He's under enormous pressure from the ministers.

Shachar: When you want people to listen to you, you know what to do. But apparently what's happening in Gaza doesn't seem so terrible to you. **(Turns to leave again)**

Eldad: Wait. You're not going to throw that at me and walk away. What's happening in Gaza is terrible. It goes against all reason. Against my conscience. Against everything I believe. Tomorrow I'm meeting with the Director of the Mossad.

Shiri: Maybe you should speak to him now.

Eldad: Come on, Shiri...

Orna: **(Takes hold of Shachar)** Are you going to fly tonight? **(He doesn't answer)** I asked you a question. Are you going to fly? I want to know. Are you even capable of flying when you're this angry?

Shachar: Stop it, Mom.

Orna: **(Angrily)** Don't tell me to stop. You shouldn't be going back there at all. You've fought enough. The war will be over soon. You'll be discharged. You'll go to South America and forget everything that happened here. Do you hear me?

Shachar: I hear you. Thank you.

He pulls free from her and exits.

Orna: Your laundry! **(But he is already gone)** I'm terribly worried. I've never seen him this tense.

Shiri: He's right, Dad. You need to speak to the Air Force Commander.

Eldad: I left him a message yesterday.

Orna: I'm not letting him fly tonight. He's not functioning. He could make mistakes. I have to speak to him. **(Takes out her phone)**

Eldad: I'll call him.

He dials. There is no answer.

Shiri: He's probably screening your calls.

Eldad: I'll try the Air Force Commander. **(Dials and leaves a message)** Hi, Yuval. This is Eldad Talmon. I have to speak to you. It's urgent. **(Ends the call)** If he doesn't call me back, I'll try him again in the morning.

Shiri: What will you tell him?

Eldad: That he has to review the orders. For the pilots' sake. For his own sake too. He may pay a very heavy price for what the Air Force is doing there.

Orna: I want you to talk to him about Shachar. Shachar needs to be grounded.

Eldad: I'll ask him to give Shachar a few days' leave.

Shiri: Shachar won't agree. And I'm not sure that a few days' leave will be enough. He needs treatment. I saw soldiers in Gaza with that same look in their eyes.

Eldad: He saw the mental health officer.

Shiri: The mental health officer works for the Air Force. Shachar needs someone who works for him.

Orna: I don't understand how you can be so calm, Eldad. Why wait until morning? You don't see he can't fly tonight?

Eldad: He's a responsible person. If he can't fly, he won't.

Shiri: It's precisely because he's responsible that he'll do what he's told. **(As they speak, she calls Shachar. There is no answer)** He's screening my calls, too.

Orna: I'm going to his base. **(Turns to leave)**

Eldad: Wait. He knows what he's doing. He doesn't need you making a scene in front of his friends.

Orna: I'm not at all sure he knows what he's doing.

Eldad: If you go chasing after him now, he'll try to show his friends he's not a mama's boy anymore. Is that what you want?

Orna: I want him alive.

Shiri: I'll talk to him. **(To Eldad)** Give me the keys.

Eldad: What will you tell him?

Shiri: That he's proved himself enough. That he can ease up a little now.

Eldad: I'm not sure he'll listen to you.

Shiri: I'm not going home to wait for a knock on the door.

Eldad hesitates. Shiri takes the keys from him and exits.

10. Early June 2024. Eldad and Orna's apartment. Evening. There is pounding on the door and shouting: Police! Open up! Orna opens the door. Yossi and Orly enter.

Yossi: Where's Eldad?

Eldad: **(Enters)** Here I am.

Yossi: You're under arrest. **(To Orly)** Cuff him.

Orna: Why do you have to cuff him? He's not going to run.

Eldad: Don't argue with them.

Orna: What are you arresting him for? What offense?

Yossi: Violating a court order.

Orly: This time, it won't be over in one night. **(Hands her the arrest warrant)**

Yossi: And you should be grateful we waited until after the unveiling.

Orly handcuffs Eldad. Shiri enters and hands him a bag.

Shiri: Here's your bag. **(To Yossi)** There are some clothes in it.

Orly: He'll get clothes in prison.

Yossi: Come on. Hurry up. **(Shoves Eldad)**

Shiri: **(To Yossi)** You don't have to be such an asshole.

Yossi: I'm not sure you know who the asshole is here.

Shiri: I know exactly who it is.

Yossi: One more word and I'll arrest you too.

Eldad: I suggest you think before you threaten her.

Yossi: And I suggest you think before you threaten me.

Orna: **(To Eldad)** Don't answer him. **(Embraces him)** I'll be waiting for you at the courthouse tomorrow.

Yossi: He won't be getting there anytime soon.

Shiri: **(Takes a picture of Eldad)** Take care of yourself, Dad!

Orly: Give me the phone!

Shiri: Don't touch me.

Orly twists her arm.

Eldad: Let go of her. Let go of her right now!

Shiri: Get your hands off me, you piece of shit. Get them off me. By tomorrow, the whole country will know you've arrested him.

Orly tears the phone from her hand and releases her.

Shiri: **(Furiously)** Give it back. Give it back. You don't have a warrant. I'll file a complaint against you, if you don't give it back

Orly: Come to the station in the morning, if you want it.

Yossi: **(To Eldad)** Come on. Let's go.

Eldad: Shiri? Shiri?

Shiri: **(Pulls herself together)** I'm okay.

Yossi: Move.

Eldad: Are you sure? Answer me.

Orna: Do you want some water?

Shiri: I'm perfectly fine.

Eldad: She won't touch you again. **(To Yossi and Orly)** You should have taken my advice.

Yossi: Shut your mouth. Come on. Move. **(To Shiri and Orna)** One word about his arrest, and he goes into solitary.

He leads Eldad out. Orly follows them, with Shiri's phone in her pocket.

Orna: What got into you? We knew they were coming tonight. Can't you control yourself?

Shiri: I didn't think they'd do it like this.

Orna: Don't worry. Dad knows how to handle himself. They won't dare do anything to him. Why are you crying?

Shiri: I'm not crying.

11. Early June 2024. An interrogation room at the National Major Crimes Unit. Yossi and Orly are interrogating Eldad.

Yossi: I assume you're familiar with interrogation procedures. You have the right to remain silent.

Orly: You don't have to say anything that may incriminate you. But anything you do say can be used as evidence.

Yossi: Do you understand?

Eldad: Yes.

Yossi: On May 18, 2024, at 11:05 p.m., you logged on to the Prosecutor's website in The Hague and reported that the Air Force's bombing policy in Gaza allowed civilian homes to be bombed.

Eldad: Yes.

Yossi: And that pilots were authorized to kill hundreds of civilians in order to kill one senior Hamas member. Correct?

Eldad: Yes.

Orly: You also reported that Air Force Intelligence knew how many civilians might be killed in those strikes, and that those figures appeared in the target files. Do you admit that?

Eldad: Yes.

Yossi: And that, in many cases, pilots bombed wide areas and killed many civilians because intelligence didn't want to waste time identifying the precise target. Do you admit that?

Eldad: Yes.

Orly: On the second page, you provided a list of public buildings, offices, universities, mosques and residential towers that the Air Force struck in order to destroy civilian infrastructure and put pressure on Hamas. Do you admit that?

- Eldad: Yes.
- Yossi: And on this page, you list twenty-seven strikes on residential buildings across Gaza that were carried out under that policy, including the number of people killed. **(Shows him a document)** Do you admit that?
- Eldad: I do.
- Yossi: That's classified information. Don't you know you're not allowed to pass it on to anyone who isn't authorized to receive it?
- Eldad: It isn't classified. Hamas knows exactly what we bombed and when.
- Yossi: But it doesn't know the instructions given to the pilots.
- Eldad: Anyone who sees the results can understand the instructions immediately.
- Orly: Everything you wrote is a lie. The army doesn't attack civilian targets. Hamas operates from hospitals, mosques and schools and uses civilians as human shields. You left that out.
- Eldad: That's the official policy, but in practice, strikes on many targets are approved despite the collateral damage.
- Yossi: And you hold the Prime Minister, the Defense Minister, the Chief of Staff and the Air Force Commander responsible for those approvals.
- Eldad: Yes.
- Yossi: Do you understand the damage you've caused? I'm not talking about the politicians, the Chief of Staff or the Air Force Commander. I'm talking about the danger to the pilots. Because of you, every pilot will be considered a war criminal.
- Eldad: The danger to the pilots comes from obeying orders that are clearly illegal.
- Yossi: Are you calling on them to refuse?

- Eldad: The law says they have to refuse.
- Orly: Do you confirm that the information you sent to The Hague came from your son, the late Captain Shachar Talmon?
- Eldad: Yes. From him. What he managed to...

12. Early June 2024. The Attorney General's office. Shoshani, Amiram and Nissani are present.

- Shoshani: The court has imposed a gag order on the case. But Orna is unpredictable. She may leak it abroad.
- Nissani: We should arrest her. Maybe their daughter too. It'll be harder for them to leak anything from jail.
- Shoshani: She's his attorney. We can't arrest her unless we have evidence that she was involved in the offense.
- Nissani: He can't do whatever he wants. We made a deal. We shook hands. Within a day, he broke it. We should throw him into a jail cell and let him spend two or three days with some of the Arabs he interrogated in his basements...
- Amiram: That's enough, Nissani!
- Nissani: Do you know what kind of anarchy we'll have here if everyone starts leaking to The Hague?
- Amiram: I served under him for thirty years. I've never known a braver man. No threat will deter him.
- Nissani: With all due respect, he can't commit offenses like these.
- Shoshani: We're talking about Orna now. She was a senior prosecutor in the State Attorney's Office. The judges know her. No one will authorize her arrest.
- Amiram: After what happened to their son, she won't hold back. I wouldn't be surprised if she's already given someone a

document in a sealed envelope and instructed them to release it if she's arrested.

Nissani: That's exactly why we have to deter her. At the very least, we should launch an investigation into her.

Amiram: **(To Shoshani)** Absolutely not.

Nissani: My minister is putting pressure on me. He intends to ask the Bar Association to revoke her license.

Shoshani: Has he lost his mind? The whole world will be talking about it.

Amiram: The only way to end this affair is to reach an understanding with Eldad. If we succeed, she'll cooperate.

Shoshani: What kind of understanding can we reach with him?

Amiram: His interrogation has only just begun. We can explain to the investigators that there's no basis for criminal charges against him. Eventually, we can close the case and agree with him on a confidential commission of inquiry.

Shoshani: In other words, bury the investigation?

Nissani: Absolutely not.

Shoshani: I'm not sure the Prime Minister will agree to a commission either.

Nissani: There's no need to rush. First, we'll ask the court to keep him in custody until trial. After a few weeks, he'll break.

Amiram: Eldad was revered in the Service. He commanded hundreds of operations and was willing to go into places no one else dared to go. His arrest will turn too many people against us. Everyone who served with him will fight for him.

Nissani: So what?

- Amiram: So the Service will be damaged.
- Shoshani: I have to act within the law, Amiram. The only legal way to end this affair without collateral damage is to offer him a plea bargain.
- Nissani: Why a plea bargain? Because his wife is a friend of yours? Because he's a friend of the Police Commissioner? He's already confessed. We have evidence. My minister called me twice today. He doesn't understand why this man is being given special privileges.
- Shoshani: Because this affair could cost us dearly.
- Amiram: Let me talk to him, Emanuel. We're close friends. We've been through a lot together. I believe I can bring him around.
- Shoshani: Precisely because you're his friend, you shouldn't be involved.
- Amiram: If I fail, you'll go ahead with your plan.
- Nissani: We can't handle him with kid gloves. We have to find his weak spot.
- Amiram: What weak spot?
- Nissani: He spent many years in the Service. There's no way he doesn't have a skeleton in his closet.
- Amiram: I don't know of any skeletons.
- Nissani: Then we'll look for one.
- Amiram: Do you know what will happen to you if I tell the Police Commissioner what you just said?
- Nissani: Don't worry so much about me.
- Shoshani: **(To Nissani)** I don't want to hear suggestions like that. We're not a criminal organization. We have a government we need to protect from The Hague. I hope

that's even possible. **(To Amiram)** And we're going to do it as lawfully and transparently as possible.

Amiram: I didn't suggest breaking the law.

Shoshani: You suggested I bury it.

Amiram: I suggested you act wisely. With sensitivity. He's a bereaved father...

Nissani: That's why he's trying to take revenge on us.

Amiram: He isn't taking revenge. He's accusing us. One day, we'll have to answer his accusations.

Shoshani: We're a state, and we'll deal with this like a state. Otherwise, it won't stand up in court. Unless either of you has a better proposal, we'll offer him a plea bargain. If he rejects it, I'll file an indictment and demand a closed trial. I'd like to see a judge refuse.

13. Early June 2024. Eldad's interrogation continues at the National Major Crimes Unit.

Orly: On the list of strikes you sent to The Hague, there's a strike in Rafah on January 7 at 10:20 a.m. Did you hear about that one from your son, too?

Eldad: Yes.

Orly: That was the day he went to see the mental health officer. He didn't take part in that strike.

Yossi: So how did he tell you about it if he didn't take part in it?

Eldad: He attended the briefing that morning and read the report that evening.

Yossi: Unfortunately, we can't question him. But you can answer for him. We found the names of pilots on your phone who came to the shiva. Maybe one of them told

you about that strike. Maybe you're pinning it on Shachar to protect whoever told you.

Orly: I suggest you cooperate. Unless you tell us who it was, we'll charge you under Section 113(b). Aggravated espionage. Life imprisonment.

Eldad: If you're going to start threatening me, I'll stop cooperating.

Orly: I'm not sure that would be wise.

Yossi: Look, Eldad. We're not going to ground an entire squadron in the middle of a war. Give us one or two names. That'll be enough to deter the others. No one will know the names came from you.

Eldad: I don't want to deter them.

Orna and Nissani enter.

Nissani: How are you, Eldad? How's it going?

Eldad: Quickly. We could've finished a long time ago.

Orna: Hi, Eldad.

Nissani: Then perhaps the two of you can go home together tonight.

Eldad: I've already packed.

Nissani: As you know, a security detainee isn't entitled to meet with an attorney at this stage. But you're not an ordinary security detainee. You have half an hour. I hope that'll be enough.

Nissani, Yossi and Orly leave. Eldad and Orna embrace.

Eldad: How are you? How's Shiri?

Orna: We're both fine. How are you?

Eldad: I'm fine too. They're recording us.

Orna: I know.

Eldad: I suppose they asked you to bring me an offer.

Orna: The Attorney General did.

Eldad: What's the offer?

Orna: Are you willing to let them hear your answer?

Eldad: I want them to hear it.

Orna: He's willing to offer you a plea bargain. You'll plead guilty, be convicted, receive a two-year suspended sentence and be released. But only if you completely cut off contact with The Hague.

Eldad: So there won't be a trial.

Orna: Do you want a trial?

Eldad: It's an opportunity to talk about what's happening in Gaza.

Orna: They'll never agree to that.

Eldad: That's why I can't accept their offer.

Orna: It's a good offer, Eldad. Take another moment to think about it. Once a trial begins, you never know how it will end.

Eldad: How the war ends matters much more to me.

Orna: You're not responsible for those bombing. Shachar wasn't responsible either. The two of you have already done enough to make them reconsider.

Eldad: They'll reconsider when the Prosecutor in The Hague intervenes.

Orna: You've already sent him enough material.

Eldad: There's much more.

- Orna: You're dragging Shiri and me into this with you.
- Eldad: I know.
- Orna: And you're still willing to take this risk? There's a gag order on the case. They'll put you on trial behind closed doors. Lock you up in the X Wing. No one will even know you've disappeared.
- Eldad: I'm sure you won't let that happen.
- Orna: I can't do everything.
- Eldad: We have no choice, Orna.
- Orna: Don't be such a hero.
- Eldad: If we're afraid, then who's going to have the courage?
- Orna: I'm sure the Prime Minister and the Chief of Staff understand now that they have to be careful.
- Eldad: Why are you so sure? Has the bombing stopped?
- Orna: I assume they've limited them after you made it clear they could be prosecuted. If you accept the deal they're offering, you'll be able to put pressure on them from within the system.
- Eldad: It isn't only them. Everyone around us is silent. Most of them don't even want to know.
- Orna: If you had any chance of breaking through that silence, I'd stand with you. But I can see what you're up against. I'm not willing to let you sacrifice yourself the way Shachar did.
- Eldad: Shachar was alone. We're in this together.
- Orna: I don't know anymore.
- Eldad: What don't you know?
- Orna: Whether we are together.

Eldad: Have you lost your mind?

Orna: You decide on your own, and you act on your own. If you had listened to me, we wouldn't be here now.

Eldad: I listen to you all the time. I'm willing to accept anything you propose if it stops the bombing.

Orna: I don't care about the bombing now. I want you to come home.

Eldad: I'll come home. Even if it takes two or three weeks.

Orna: If you keep this up, you might never come home.

14. Early June 2024. Orna is in the Attorney General's office.

Shoshani: So he won't accept the plea bargain?

Orna: You heard the recording.

Shoshani: What recording?

Orna: Don't play innocent, Emanuel. He wants a trial.

Shoshani: Is that what he said? If he insists on a trial, I'll file charges so grave that he'll spend the rest of his life in prison.

Orna: That's an empty threat. We both know it.

Shoshani: I'm not sure you understand the full extent of his offenses.

Orna: I do.

Shoshani: Because you're involved?

Orna: Are you threatening me too? If this case isn't handled by the book I'll find a way around the gag order.

Shoshani: Now you're threatening me?

- Orna: Everyone in this country needs to know that Eldad has been arrested and why.
- Shoshani: **(Angrily)** You'll spend years in prison if you violate the gag order.
- Orna: Are you sure you'll be able to convict me?
- Shoshani: Enough, Orna. Let's stop here. We've known each other long enough to know that nothing good will come of this conversation.
- Orna: I'm listening.
- Shoshani: When Eldad accuses the government and the army of carrying out illegal bombing he's really accusing me of authorizing them.
- Orna: He's right.
- Shoshani: The entire legal system supports me. The High Court too.
- Orna: That shows what's happened to the system.
- Shoshani: Or maybe it shows that we're acting in accordance with international law, and that Hamas is the one operating from residential neighborhoods and using civilians as human shields.
- Orna: And in your view, that justifies killing on this scale?
- Shoshani: In my view, we're doing everything we can to prevent it. That's why Eldad's accusations are unfounded.
- Orna: He believes your interpretation of what international law permits is too broad.
- Shoshani: And I believe he's wrong. Even so, I'm willing to meet him halfway and offer him a better deal.
- Orna: What deal?
- Shoshani: We don't make this kind of offer to just anyone.

Orna: I'm listening.

Shoshani: The State Attorney's Office opposed it, of course. So did the Minister of Justice...

Orna: What's the deal?

Shoshani: Even so, I managed to persuade the Prime Minister to agree to it. I hope you'll be able to persuade Eldad.

Orna: **(Furiously)** Persuade him to do what?

Shoshani: Why don't you calm down for a moment?

#####

15. Flashback. April 2024. Eldad and Orna's apartment. Night. Shachar, Eldad, Orna and Shiri are present. The conversation is already underway. Shachar is extremely tense.

Shachar: **(To Eldad)** I waited outside his office for two hours. He gave me a few minutes and that only because you insisted.

Eldad: What did he say?

Shachar: That he commands a large air force and doesn't personally approve every strike by every squadron. I told him he approves the policy. So he said, "That's right. And my policy is not to strike a target if the collateral damage is excessive in relation to the military benefit."

Orna: That's exactly what the Chief of Staff said.

Eldad: Then how does he explain why the collateral damage in this war is so much greater than in previous wars?

Shachar: I asked him, and... **(Hesitates)**

Orna: And he avoided the question.

- Shachar: No. He said most of the targets are now selected by artificial intelligence. He said it's eighty-five percent accurate. Judging by the results on the ground, it's much lower...
- Shiri: Artificial intelligence?!
- Eldad: And there's no human oversight?
- Shachar: There is. But with thousands of targets, the oversight isn't effective.
- Shiri: Don't they know they're killing Hamas members together with their families? Their neighbors?
- Shachar: Of course they know. But someone authorized that program to kill them. When I went back to the squadron, I took a picture of a computer screen showing a report with the numbers of civilians killed. **(Shows them the picture on his phone)** Ninety-five here. A hundred and forty here. A hundred and ten here. And that's just one day. The Air Force Commander knows. The Chief of Staff knows. **(To Eldad)** I'm sending it to you. Now you know too.
- Eldad: I'll try talking to the Chief of Staff again.
- Orna: The Chief of Staff is covering his ass with approvals from the army's legal department. And they're not even ashamed to admit it.
- Shachar: That's why I'm talking to you. I want you to petition the High Court.
- Orna: The High Court?
- Shachar: Who else can I turn to?
- Shiri: That's an excellent idea, Shachar.
- Orna: The High Court doesn't run wars.
- Shachar: But maybe it can ask the Air Force how many children it's allowed to kill in order to take out one Hamas member.

- Eldad: You're a pilot, Shachar. If your mother petitions the High Court, the Air Force will come after you.
- Shachar: She'll file the petition in her own name.
- Eldad: The Air Force will immediately realize that this came from you.
- Orna: I'm willing to petition the High Court as soon as you leave the military.
- Shiri: Leave and get out of here. Australia, South America, India. As far away as you can get...
- Shachar: And give up?
- Eldad: I can ask the Air Force Commander to transfer you to headquarters. Maybe from there you'll still be able to influence the policy.
- Shachar: And until someone there listens to me, my friends will keep doing my share of this shit?
- Eldad: You'll try to influence the policy for their sake too. They'll thank you for it.
- Shachar: So that's your answer? I understand. Fine. If you won't petition the High Court, I'll do it myself.
- Orna: Let's think for a moment, Shachar. I'm not sure this is the right way. The High Court has changed in recent years. Even if it agrees to hear your petition, it won't intervene in the conduct of the war...
- Eldad: You'll have to present evidence. Operational orders. Intelligence reports. The army won't give them to you.
- Shachar: I can't keep flying like this.
- Shiri: Then stop.
- Shachar: I can't stop either. I have friends there. My commanders...

- Shiri: So how long are you going to keep doing this? Until you fall apart?
- Shachar: I'm not falling apart.
- Eldad: You can't fly in this condition, Shachar.
- Shachar: I'll decide whether I can fly.
- Eldad: **(Angrily)** If you don't leave the squadron, I'll ask the Air Force Commander to ground you.
- Shachar: If you do that, you'll never see me again. **(Turns to leave)**
- Shiri: Wait.
- Shachar: I thought you'd understand what's happening there. That you'd see what's happening to me. You talk and talk, and you don't do any more than the people who stay silent... **(Exits)**
- Shiri: Last week he met that friend of mine at a bar. He hardly spoke. She asked him why he was so quiet. He said that if he opened his mouth, she'd get up and leave. She told him she actually wanted to hear. He didn't answer. Later, she invited him to sleep at her place. He told her he had to go back to the base.
- Eldad: I'll speak to the chief military psychiatrist.
- Orna: Do you know him?
- Eldad: I'll find a way to reach him.
- Orna: And what will you tell him?
- Eldad: That Shachar is in distress and can't keep flying.
- Orna: Shachar has already seen their mental health officer.
- Eldad: He needs to be examined by someone who doesn't report to the squadron commander.

Shiri: I don't understand what you're doing. Shachar asked you to help him petition the High Court, and you're sending him to a psychiatrist?

Eldad: That's the most urgent thing right now.

16. Flashback. Late May 2024. Eldad and Orna's apartment. Orna enters and sits on the sofa. Eldad and Shiri come in from the hallway and approach her.

Eldad: You're closing the firm?!

Orna: Yes.

Eldad: You have thirty employees.

Orna: They're willing to buy it from me.

Eldad: And you're going to stop working?

Orna: I can't do it anymore. I don't think I'll ever be able to.
(To Shiri) And you're not going back to reserve duty next week. What happened to Shachar was enough. I'm not willing to risk so much as a scratch on you.

Shiri: I already told them I'm not coming.

Eldad: **(To Orna)** Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you discuss it with me?

Orna: I knew what you'd say.

Eldad: Working will make it easier for you.

Orna: I don't have the strength anymore, Eldad.

Eldad: You're a strong woman, Orna. You can't give up like this. Shiri and I need you to be strong too.

Shiri sits beside Orna and embraces her.

- Shiri: I'll move in with you, Mom. I already told my roommates. I also told the university I'm putting my studies on hold. I've already missed three exams anyway.
- Eldad: What the hell is going on here? You don't discuss things with me anymore either?
- Shiri: This is something I have to decide for myself.
- Eldad: You were in the reserves. Your brother was killed. You can take your exams in the summer.
- Shiri: I can't study now. I keep thinking about what Shachar...
- Orna: About what?
- Shiri: Dad and I want to continue what he started...
- Eldad: Wait a minute, Shiri. Don't put this on me. I didn't ask you to stop studying.
- Orna: What did Dad ask you?
- Shiri: We went over the screenshot Shachar sent us.
- Eldad: I'm dealing with that screenshot myself.
- Orna: And what did you find in it?
- Shiri: We found that...
- Eldad: That Shachar was right. The Air Force Commander and the Chief of Staff knew about the collateral damage caused by the bombing, and they approved them anyway. I have no doubt the Prime Minister and the Defense Minister knew too.
- Orna: And you want to send that screenshot to The Hague?
- Eldad: Yes.
- Orna: I'm not sure that's the right thing to do.
- Shiri: It's the only thing to do.

- Orna: **(To Eldad)** Until now, you've sent them information Shachar gave you that wasn't classified. You might still get away with that. But if you send a screenshot marked TOP SECRET, they'll charge you with treason. You'll spend years in prison.
- Eldad: I know.
- Shiri: Shachar wanted us to do something with that screenshot.
- Eldad: That's why he sent it to me.
- Shiri: And we're going to do what he wanted.
- Orna: He never talked about The Hague. He talked about the High Court...
- Eldad: If we'd sent it to The Hague in time, we might have saved him. Instead, we sent him to a psychiatrist.
- Orna: That was your idea.
- Eldad: That's why I owe this to him.
- Shiri: And that's why I'm going to ask his friends for more evidence like this.
- Orna: I won't be part of it.
- Eldad: We have no choice, Orna.
- Orna: I do. I'm running away. As far as I can. I don't want to hear about what's happening here anymore. I don't want to think about it. Maybe somewhere else I'll be able to live. **(To Shiri)** You're coming with me. Both of you are.
- Eldad: **(Angrily)** You're not going anywhere.
- Shiri: And I'm not going with you.
- Orna: Even if the Prime Minister and the Defense Minister are put on trial, it won't absolve us. We sent Shachar into the Air Force. We told him he'd be doing the most important work there. We promised him he'd be able to

live with himself. When the war began, he realized we'd lied to him.

Eldad: You're right. We sent him. We made him that promise. We lied to him. When the psychiatrist told us he was fit to fly, we went along with it, even though we knew he was wrong. So what do we do with that now? Even if we run away, it will haunt us wherever we go.

Shiri: We're not going to leave Shachar alone, Mom.

Eldad: **(To Orna)** If I don't send this, I'm silencing him.

He takes out his phone and types a message.

Orna: I'm warning you, Eldad. You're dragging all of us into this.

Eldad: We have no choice. We owe it to him. **(Sends it)**

17. Early June 2024. An interrogation room at the National Major Crimes Unit. Day. Yossi and Orly are interrogating Eldad.

Orly: **(Angrily)** You knew that the use of artificial intelligence to select targets was classified. And you still passed that information on to The Hague?

Eldad: That information wasn't classified. Senior intelligence officials discussed it publicly.

Orly: And it never occurred to you that it would be used as propaganda against us?

Eldad: I sent it so that every citizen here would know how killing like this is carried out in their name.

Yossi: **(Even angrier)** Who are you to decide what every citizen should know?

Orly: You're responsible for what happened in this war, just as much as the current Director of the Service.

- Yossi: I spent five months in the reserves in Gaza. We went into houses without knowing there was a tunnel under the floor. Dozens of soldiers were killed because your people failed to gather intelligence.
- Orly: My brother was killed in his kibbutz on the first day. My children and I have been living in a hotel ever since. They're starting to lose their minds.
- Yossi: And on top of all that, you pass material to The Hague?
- Orly: You know that's treason.
- Yossi: Over the years, I occasionally met people from the Service through my work with the police. I heard them talk about you. I envied them for working for a man like you... for having someone they could follow without question. I don't understand how you sank this low...
- Orly: Why don't you even try to answer us? Do you think we can't understand?
- Yossi: If you explain your reasons, maybe we can reduce the charges.
- Orly: And you won't be charged with treason.
- Eldad: I'd be very pleased if you charged me with treason.
- Yossi: What happened to you? Have you lost your mind?
- Orly: Don't you know the punishment for treason?
- Eldad: And what is the punishment for being silent?

18. Eldad and Orna's apartment. Early June 2024. Shiri is alone. She calls the investigator in The Hague.

- Shiri: Hello, this is Shiri Talmon. I'm Eldad Talmon's daughter. I'm calling from Israel... I found your number in my phone... I wanted to tell you that my father has been arrested again... We're not allowed to see him... I think you could help us by putting out a press release

about the material he sent you... Yes. As soon as possible... Thank you...

19. Early June 2024. An interrogation room at the National Major Crimes Unit. Day. Eldad's interrogation continues.

Orly: You're accusing us of being silent?! Silent about what? What do we deserve to be punished for?

Yossi: Precisely because I respect you, I suggest you stop playing games with us.

Orly: No matter who you are.

Yossi: You probably think that if we charge you with treason, the judges will throw the case out immediately.

Orly: You'll soon find out how strong our evidence is.

Yossi: For example, sending top-secret documents to an unauthorized party.

Orly: Knowing they were top secret.

Yossi: And knowing they might fall into enemy hands.

Orly: Did you send any such documents?

Eldad: No.

Yossi: Are you sure?

Eldad: Yes.

Orly: You didn't send even a single top-secret document to The Hague?

Eldad: No.

Yossi: Not even this one? **(Shows him the screenshot Shachar sent him)** Did you send this document to The Hague or not?

Eldad: I did.

Orly: And you didn't see that it was top secret? It says so right here at the top. You know the punishment for that is life imprisonment.

Eldad: The classification of that screenshot is merely formal. Hamas knows the number of people killed in our bombing better than we do.

Yossi: But Hamas doesn't know that we know.

Eldad: It's been reported in every major newspaper in the world.

Yossi: What's in the newspapers is just hearsay.

Orly: You're the best source they could possibly have.

Yossi: You understand that you're in serious trouble.

Eldad: Or that I exercised reasonable judgment.

Orly: We'll see what the judge has to say about this document.

Eldad: I hope the judge also considers what's written in it.

Amiram enters and turns to Yossi and Orly.

Amiram: Leave us alone.

Yossi: If you need any help...

Amiram: Thank you. Tell the control room to turn off the camera.

Yossi: That has to be entered into the record.

Amiram: Write down whatever you want.

Yossi: **(To the unseen controller)** Turn off the camera.

Amiram: Thank you.

Yossi and Orly leave. Silence. Amiram approaches Eldad. They embrace.

Amiram: Orna and Shiri send their love.

Eldad: I hope they're holding up.

Amiram: Bravely.

Eldad: You should keep an eye on them. Nissani may do something stupid.

Amiram: I'm in contact with them all the time.

Eldad: Thank you.

Amiram: We have to put an end to this affair, Eldad.

Eldad: It's about time.

Amiram: This is a small country. Rumors are already spreading. They cast suspicion on all of us. They make the Service look political. Some ministers are already questioning our loyalty.

Eldad: I'm not doing this for political reasons.

Amiram: I know. I'm not arguing with you. On the contrary, I respect you. But we have to minimize the damage.

Eldad: I assume you have a proposal.

Amiram: I heard you rejected the plea bargain Shoshani offered you. You were probably right. I'm not sure this affair should be resolved through the courts either.

Eldad: There's no other option now. I'm suspected of a serious offense. The court has ordered me held in custody until trial.

Amiram: The investigation is still underway. We can conclude it in a way that suits us and have you released.

Eldad: I actually want to stand trial.

Amiram: I know. This is where I come in. I oppose the massive bombing in Gaza just as much as you do. I'm willing to work with you.

- Eldad: How?
- Amiram: The Service isn't supposed to deal with this. But I'm willing to push the limits. We'll establish a team to review the consequences of the bombing for our national security. You'll lead it.
- Eldad: I suggested that to you two months ago.
- Amiram: You should understand that there will be some restrictions.
- Eldad: What kind?
- Amiram: When you complete the review, you'll be allowed to use it only within the security establishment. You won't discuss it with unauthorized parties. You won't give it to any journalist, here or abroad. Certainly not to The Hague.
- Eldad: I understand.
- Amiram: Later, I'll arrange meetings for you with the Prime Minister, the Chief of Staff and the Air Force Commander. They're the ones who make the decisions. You'll be able to discuss the bombing with them based on your review, not on what Shachar told you.
- Eldad: Has Shoshani already approved this proposal?
- Amiram: If you agree to it, he will.
- Eldad: So he doesn't know anything about it.
- Amiram: He'll know when the time comes. Do you want to think about it? Do you want to consult Orna?
- Eldad: I greatly appreciate the offer, but...
- Amiram: It's the best offer you're going to get, Eldad.
- Eldad: What you're really proposing is to keep this inside the system. But I no longer believe in that system. It doesn't need my review. It has known for a long time what the

bombing is doing. Without public pressure, it won't stop them.

Amiram: I'm sure you can persuade the Chief of Staff and the Air Force Commander to stop them.

Eldad: I have another goal. One that's just as important.

Amiram: What is it?

Eldad: Everyone who lives here needs to know what is being done there in our name. We have to ask ourselves whether we're willing to live with it. That's exactly the question that tormented Shachar so much. I'm willing to lead the team investigating the consequences of the bombing, on condition that the report is made public.

Amiram: We're the General Security Service, not the Ministry of Education.

Eldad: Is that your answer?

Amiram: You're my best friend, Eldad. You know I'll do everything I can for you, just as you always did for me. I'm reaching out to you, and you're rejecting me. Why? What the hell are you punishing yourself for? You're not responsible for what happened to Shachar.

Eldad: I wish I were as sure as you are. I deeply appreciate your offer, but the moment I consider it, I'm ashamed of myself for even thinking about taking part in this silencing.

Amiram: You know me better than my wife does. You know you can trust me. Even if you remain silent, your voice will be heard... **(Eldad doesn't answer)** Take care of yourself. I'm no longer sure I can protect you.
(Embraces him)

20. Eldad and Orna's apartment. Day. Shiri is sitting at her laptop, talking on the phone.

Shiri: I'm not recording you, I swear... I'm doing this for Shachar. You were his best friend in the squadron. I want to know what the two of you talked about during those last few weeks. I have to understand what happened to him... I'll meet you wherever you want...

Suddenly, the door opens. Yossi and Orly burst into the apartment with their guns drawn. Yossi slips the key to the apartment back into his pocket.

Yossi: Hands up. Hands up. Don't touch the computer. I'm warning you... **(Takes the laptop)**

Orly: Give me the phone too.

Shiri: I'm in the middle of a call.

Yossi: The call is over.

Orly snatches the phone from Shiri's hand and puts it in her pocket.

Orly: You're under arrest. Give me your hands.

Shiri: How did you get a key?

Orly: That's none of your business.

Shiri: Let go of me!

Shiri manages to pull free of Orly, but Yossi intervenes and slaps her across the face.

Yossi: Now you're resisting arrest too?

Shiri: **(Slaps him)** I'm not afraid of you. I'm not a criminal. I spent three months in Gaza. In the alleys. In the tunnels. Soldiers died in my arms. I treated the wounded under fire. I tried to resuscitate them. I saved some of them. Now I'm fighting for my brother...

But Yossi manages to overpower Shiri. Orly handcuffs her.

Orly: **(On her phone)** It's Orly. She resisted, but we've arrested her. She's a little hysterical. Make sure there's a doctor there.

21. An interrogation room at the National Major Crimes Unit. Eldad, Shoshani, Nissani and Orna are present.

Shoshani: You can't imagine how angry the Prime Minister is. He thinks you've lost your mind. After so many years in the system, you're stabbing us in the back? If he stands trial in The Hague, the damage to this country will be enormous.

Eldad: A trial like that could actually help us do some soul-searching, Emanuel.

Nissani: It'll brand us all as war criminals

Shoshani: I'm all for soul-searching, but within the law. Passing top-secret information to unauthorized parties is an extremely serious offense.

Eldad: I'd be glad to stand trial.

Orna: Hear him out, Eldad.

Shoshani: That's out of the question. We know who you are and how much you've contributed to our security, and we want to be lenient with you. We offered you a plea bargain. You rejected it because it involved a conviction and a suspended sentence. You were right. The Prime Minister understands that too.

Nissani: Keep in mind that we have enough evidence to convict you of treason in wartime.

Eldad: Then what are you so afraid of?

Orna: Don't answer him.

Shoshani: We're not afraid. But we don't take revenge or settle scores. I met with the President this morning. He knows about your family's tragedy. He attributes your offenses

to it. He also understands the damage that prosecuting you would cause the country, and he's prepared to grant you a pardon before trial.

Eldad: So there won't be a trial.

Orna: There won't be a trial. There won't be a conviction. You won't have a criminal record. You'll be released and sent home immediately.

Nissani: Subject to certain restrictions. And this time, I suggest you don't try to play games.

Eldad: What restrictions?

Shoshani: This affair is buried for good. No leaks here or abroad. You cut off all contact with The Hague. If you don't testify there, the material you gave them will remain nothing more than rumors. Is that clear? And you should thank Orna for persuading me to agree to this.

Eldad: Thank you very much, Orna.

Orna: Don't say no so fast, Eldad.

Eldad: **(To Shoshani)** And what about the bombing in Gaza? Has the government even examined whether it's legal? Has it examined their long-term consequences?

Shoshani: The bombing falls within the government's legitimate authority.

Eldad: And so far, you've approved every one of them.

Shoshani: I approved those that complied with international law. I made no concessions to the army. The civilians who were killed shouldn't have been there.

Eldad: I believe those civilians live there.

Shoshani: That's true, but...

Eldad: If that's your interpretation of international law, then you should stand trial too.

- Nissani: Who are you to decide who should stand trial? If you refuse this offer, you'll rot in prison for the rest of your life.
- Orna: **(To Nissani)** These threats aren't helping us right now!
(To Eldad) I think your criticism has reached the government, Eldad. It held a meeting early this week...
- Shoshani: At that meeting, I demanded another review of the bombing procedures.
- Orna: I want to believe those procedures will change now.
- Shoshani: You know me, Eldad. You know I'm on your side. Help me help you.
- Eldad: I'm willing to accept your offer on condition that the government appoints an independent commission of inquiry to investigate what happened in Gaza and determine who was responsible and should stand trial.
- Shoshani: You know that's impossible.
- Eldad: Then I'll go to The Hague.
- Shoshani: Is that your answer?
- Eldad: If those responsible aren't brought to trial, the killing there will continue.
- Nissani: Can't you see who we're dealing with?
- Shoshani: You're backing me into a corner, Eldad.
- Eldad: You're backing yourself into a corner. An independent commission of inquiry is the most transparent way forward.
- Shoshani: You, of all people, know that not everything needs to be transparent.
- Nissani: **(To Shoshani)** You don't have to beg him like this. He's forgotten who we're fighting.

- Eldad: You can redeem yourself in a single moment, Emanuel. Petition the High Court and ask for a ruling requiring the government to review the instructions given to the Air Force.
- Orna: And until then, you'll sit in prison?!
- Shoshani: I don't understand why you're being so stubborn. This is a war fought under extremely difficult conditions...
- Eldad: You're the one who should be stubborn!
- Shoshani: I know perfectly well what I can insist on. If you reject our offer, we'll deal with you under the Emergency Powers Law. Tomorrow morning, the Defense Minister will issue an administrative detention order against you for six months. The court will impose a gag order. You'll sit in prison until you come to your senses.
- Orna: Wait a minute, Emanuel. That threat is completely unacceptable.
- Shoshani: He's leaving me no choice.
- Orna: And you think I'll let you make him disappear? The moment you issue an administrative detention order, I'll petition the High Court. These days, you can't simply make a person disappear.
- Nissani: Should I remind you of all the people who have disappeared?
- Orna: I'm warning you, Emanuel. You don't want to face me in the High Court.
- Shoshani: It seems to me the High Court has changed somewhat in recent years. **(To Eldad)** I want your answer by tomorrow. **(Exits)**
- Nissani: You've made a serious mistake, Eldad. I wouldn't wait until tomorrow, but unfortunately, even the Attorney General doesn't understand the reality we're living in. I suggest you use the twenty-four hours you've been given to think carefully about your answer.

Eldad: I've already thought about it.

Orna: It's an excellent offer, Eldad.

Nissani's phone rings. He answers.

Nissani: Yes? Very well. Bring her in. **(To Eldad and Orna)** You have a visitor.

Yossi and Orly bring in Shiri. Her wrists and ankles are shackled.

Orna: Shiri!

Yossi: **(To Eldad)** She asked to see you.

Eldad: Are you all right?

Orna: What is she under arrest for? Why is she shackled like that?

Eldad: You're terribly pale. What did they do to you?

Nissani: Listen to her for a moment. She wants to ask you for something.

Shiri: **(To Eldad)** I'm not asking you for anything, Dad. They're using me to blackmail you. Don't worry. They won't break me. Don't make a deal with them.

Nissani: What's going on here?

Shiri: Do what Shachar wanted.

Yossi: **(To Shiri)** That's not what we agreed on.

Shiri: I spoke to The Hague. I told them you'd been arrested. I asked them to...

Nissani: Get her out of here!

Yossi and Orly try to drag Shiri out. She resists.

Shiri: They're going to release everything you sent them.

Orly: Shut your mouth. **(Covers her mouth)**

Eldad: Don't touch her.

Orna: Don't resist, Shiri.

Eldad: Why are you shaking like that? She needs to see a doctor.

Orna tries to pull Shiri away from Yossi and Orly.

Orna: I'm her attorney. Let me speak to her.

Nissani intervenes and grabs Orna. Yossi and Orly leave with Shiri.

Nissani: You're under arrest.

Orna: For what?

Nissani: Assaulting a police officer. You'll remain in jail until this affair is over.

Eldad: Have you lost your mind? Who did she assault? There are cameras...

Nissani: Get out. Come on. Out.

Eldad: **(In uncontrollable rage)** You're not arresting her, and you're not going to shout at her. She's my attorney. Release her immediately. You'll pay dearly for what you did to my daughter too. I saw the marks on her face...

Nissani: You're in no position to threaten anyone now.

Orna: Don't answer him, Eldad.

Eldad: They beat her.

Orna: If you accept Shoshani's offer, they'll release her. I don't know what they'll put her through under interrogation. Wasn't what happened to Shachar enough?

Eldad: Precisely because of what happened to him.

Orna: Please, Eldad, ease up a little. Do you want to spend the rest of your life in prison? If you reject the pardon, I won't be able to help you anymore.

Eldad: What the hell are you talking about?

Orna: You'll be on your own.

Eldad: That's out of the question, Orna.

Nissani: You heard her. The meeting is over.

Orna: If you're willing to spend the rest of your life in prison, then you must be giving up on us.

Eldad: Absolutely not.

Nissani: I said the meeting is over.

Orna: And if you're giving up on us, I'm not fighting for you anymore.

She turns to leave.

Eldad: Wait. I'm not giving up on either of you. I'm sorry I dragged you into this. I'm sorry I dragged Shiri into it...

Orna: If you're so sorry, accept the offer.

Eldad: Give me a day to think. I promise you. If Shoshani won't agree to establish a commission, we'll find another way to investigate what happened.

Nissani: You have twenty-four hours.

He takes Orna by the arm and leads her out.

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22. Flashback to May 5, 2024. Eldad and Orna's apartment. Late at night. Shachar is alone in the living room, recording a message for his family.

Shachar: Dad... Mom... Shiri... I want you to know... I want you to understand... This morning I struck a four-story building in Rafah. We were told there was a Hamas command post inside. I fired two missiles. The building

collapsed... When I got back to the base, I saw an Al Jazeera report about the strike... about the destruction... Then suddenly I saw a pack of dogs surrounding the body of a child. A little boy. Maybe six years old... His mother was wounded. One of her arms had been cut off. She was holding a stick in her other hand, trying to drive them away... I ran to my car and drove like a maniac to the Air Force Commander's office. "I murdered a child this morning," I screamed. "I murdered a child..." The military police threw me out... I spent the whole day wandering along the beach... I know how much pain I'm causing you... Please forgive me...

Shachar sends the message. He takes his gun and goes out onto the balcony. A moment later, a gunshot is heard. Eldad, Orna and Shiri rush in. Seconds later, they turn toward the balcony, crying out in horror.

23. An interrogation room at the National Major Crimes Unit. Day. Eldad is waiting. Nissani enters.

Nissani: I hope you had time to think last night.

Eldad: I did.

Nissani: Do you have an answer?

Eldad: Yes.

Nissani: What is it?

Eldad: I'm not accepting the Attorney General's offer.

Nissani: That's the best deal available under the law.

Eldad: I'm not interested in a pardon. I'm not asking for leniency. I have a counterproposal.

Nissani: I'm listening.

Eldad: First, you release my wife and daughter.

Nissani: Very well.

- Eldad: I'm willing to give up on having a trial. I'm also willing to cut off contact with The Hague.
- Nissani: Very good.
- Eldad: I'm willing to drop my demand for a government commission too. It would only clear the people who appointed it.
- Nissani: Excellent.
- Eldad: But I'll establish a commission myself.
- Nissani: You?
- Eldad: Yes.
- Nissani: A commission of inquiry?!
- Eldad: An independent one.
- Nissani: What is there to investigate? We were both in the Gaza border communities on October 7. We both saw the people who were murdered. The mutilated bodies. The children. How can you feel sorry for the people who did that?
- Eldad: I don't feel sorry for them. I feel sorry for us. **(Hands him a sheet of paper)** Read it. Five former senior officials who know how the system works: a former President of the Supreme Court, a former Defense Minister, a former Chief of Staff, a former Mossad Director and a former Director of the Service.
- Nissani: Once this affair is over, you'll be a free citizen. You can do whatever you want within the law. Anything else?
- Eldad: The commission will demand access to Air Force reports.
- Nissani: You won't get access to any reports.
- Eldad: We need those reports to understand what happened and how it happened. Would you prefer the investigation to rely on testimony from pilots? On testimony from Gaza?

Nissani: Your conclusions will have no legal significance.

Eldad: But they'll have public significance.

Nissani: So you're putting a gun to our heads again?

Eldad: The only person who put a gun to his head was my son.

Nissani loses his composure and tears up the sheet of paper Eldad gave him.

Nissani: And that's why the government is supposed to listen to you? You're no saint. We have a thick file on what you did during your years in the Service. Torture of Palestinians. Targeted killings. Violent interrogations of Jewish settlers. If you establish a commission, we'll leak one page from that file every day.

Eldad: By all means. Leak it. I'm willing to stand trial for everything I did.

Nissani: There won't be a trial. There'll be rumors. No one will agree to serve on your commission.

Eldad: The people I'll approach won't be swayed by rumors.

Nissani: **(Furiously)** I don't trust former senior officials. The moment they retire, their conscience wakes up and they're ready to sacrifice a Prime Minister – just to wash off the dirt that stuck to them while they served him.

Eldad: If the investigation confirms the suspicions against him.

Nissani: What suspicions? We were on the verge of defeat. Our very existence was in terrible danger.

Eldad: The investigation will determine whether the bombing of Gaza was really driven by that danger.

Nissani: The bombing was driven by the need to win. **(Takes a document from his file)** This is the agreement the Attorney General drafted. Your wife approved it. Are you signing it or not?

- Eldad: I want to hear the Attorney General's response to my proposal first.
- Nissani: I'm not going to pass it on to him.
- Eldad: Why?
- Nissani: Because he's naive, and he might agree to it.
- Eldad: You think I won't find a way to reach him?
- Nissani: You'll reach him only after you sign this agreement and promise to keep your mouth shut.
- Eldad: If I keep my mouth shut, I'll be complicit in what's happening in Gaza.
- Nissani: So you're not signing?
- Eldad: No.
- Nissani: Think again.
- Eldad: I have.
- Nissani: **(To the control room)** You in there. Turn off the camera and take a break. **(To Eldad)** I'm not sure you understand what will happen to you if you insist.
- Eldad: What will happen to me?
- Nissani: You're leaving me no choice. People collapse during interrogations. It's happened before. You know those cases better than I do. Even your wife will think you had a heart attack.
- Eldad: I take it you've already decided. Otherwise, you wouldn't dare say that.
- Nissani: You're the one who decided to die for a commission that won't be able to investigate a thing.
- Eldad: If I die because of it, maybe there'll be an investigation after all.

- Nissani: What happened to you? Is it worth your life?
- Eldad: I stayed silent once before. It cost me my son's life.
- Nissani: Think about what you're doing to your wife and daughter. You're destroying their lives too.
- Eldad: You're destroying them. You and whoever sent you.
- Nissani: Don't underestimate me. No one sent me.
- Eldad: So you came to kill me on your own?
- Nissani: I didn't come to kill you. I came to save you. But apparently you want to be a martyr.
- Eldad: I don't want to be a martyr. I want to save whatever can still be saved.
- Nissani: We're doing just fine without you.
- Eldad: I saw what you were doing there. Now I see what you're doing here. Shachar saw it before I did. If I'd listened to him, maybe he...
- Nissani: I want to save whatever can still be saved, too. That's why I'm telling you to sign.
- Eldad: If I sign, I'm burying him again.
- Nissani: You're only burying yourself.

Nissani exits. A moment later, Yossi and Orly enter. Orly cuffs Eldad's wrists, and Yossi shackles his ankles. He doesn't resist.

- Yossi: Your wife and daughter send their regards.
- Orly: They're together in the women's wing.
- Yossi: They hope to be released tomorrow.
- Orly: You could be too.
- Eldad: I know.

He walks out with them.

24. Eldad and Orna's apartment. Evening. Shoshani, Orna and Shiri are present.

Shoshani: He collapsed during the interrogation and was taken to the hospital, but it was too late. This is the autopsy report. **(Offers the report to Orna. She refuses to take it)** Sudden cardiac arrest. The autopsy found no connection between his death and the interrogation. The Police Commissioner has appointed an officer to investigate. He'll publish his findings within three days... **(They don't respond)** The government has decided to hold a state funeral. The heads of all the security agencies will attend. **(They don't respond)** It will take place tomorrow. In the military section. Next to Shachar. **(They don't respond)** One more thing. The Prime Minister would like to deliver a eulogy. I hope you have no objection...

Orna: Get out!

Shoshani: Orna...

Orna: Get out!

Shoshani exits. Silence.

END