BOULLER
Please sit down, Herr Professor. Make yourself comfortable. Please, if you wish to smoke, be at ease to do so.

HALDER
Thank you, Over-Leader. I don't smoke.

BOULLER
Before we begin, I wish this to be clearly understood. Everything that is discussed between us in this room is absolutely top secret. This is understood?

HALDER
Absolutely, Over-Leader.

BOULLER
Apart from knowing something of your work and your record since you joined us, your superiors have recommended you without reservation as a person of total loyalty to the state and National Socialism. Would you consider this an accurate description of your position and commitment?

HALDER
I've written about this, Over-Leader. I am committed to use whatever abilities and talents I might have for the betterment of the lives of the people around me.

BOULLER
Are you warm, Herr Professor? It's a hot day.

HALDER
Slightly. Yes.

BOULLER
Please . . . take your jacket off. Make yourself comfortable. We have called you here in the role of a consultant . . . a comrade who we can trust and who is, at the same time, something of a figure in the academic world. We have been reading your novel. As you see . . . about life in a home for the aged . . . You raise very interesting moral questions in it, Herr Halder. Some of your conclusions . . . fascinating . . . profoundly . . .

HALDER
It was a subject close to me . . . at the time . . .

BOULLER
I have coffee at two-thirty. Would you like coffee?

HALDER
Please . . . yes.

BOULLER
I'll arrange to have an extra cup brought in. In the meantime, this is a letter I would like you to read. It was sent direct to the Chancellory for the attention of The Leader. It's from the father of a deformed child. Even your wife, Herr Professor . . . not a hint of what is discussed here must be communicated to even your wife . . . not a word . . . this is a direct order from the top leadership. You understand this?

HALDER
Fully, Over-Leader. Yes.

BOULLER
Halder, would it surprise you if I said Doctor Goebbels himself had suggested your name to us? He drew our attention to your novel . . . he was profoundly moved by it . . . "objectivity," he said, "combined with compassion and humanity." You read the letter?

HALDER
You read the letter? I've read it. Yes . . . moving.

BOULLER
The Leader himself has looked over this. Do you know that? Would you like to read his comment? Look . . . in his own writing . . .

HALDER
God forgive me . . . The human bloody being! The surge of pride in me! Reading that scrawled sentence in Adolf's shaky hand. It said: "Written from the heart!"

EICHMANN
Sit down, Herr Professor. I've just been going through your papers . . . joined us in nineteen thirty-three . . .

HALDER
Early nineteen thirty-three, Over-Leader.

EICHMANN
And been an excellent comrade, Halder, since your first days . . . as an officer and a university man. I think we can all work well together . . . the ingredients are all there . . . for an excellent working relationship. What do you think?

HALDER
If the leadership believe we can.

EICHMANN
You haven't written specifically on the Jewish question . . . Halder?

HALDER
My field, as you'll see, is German Literature.

EICHMANN
I mean on the question from a racial point of view. At the same time, some of your papers here . . . and reports on some of your lectures . . . This paper on the reactionary, individual-centered emphasis of the Jewish influence on Western literature . . . very good, true, deep comment . . . first class.

HALDER
I have to warn you, Over-Leader, I have had very little personal contact with Jews.

EICHMANN
There's a note here referring to some kind of friendship with a Gluckstein . . . Maurice Gluckstein.

HALDER
Mainly a professional relationship . . . as a doctor.

EICHMANN
That's right . . . he was a doctor . . . I have it down here. But your paper on the corrupting influence on our literature . . .

EICHMANN
Basically, your usual, clear, objective reports . . . that's what we want from you, Halder . . . on leadership, morale . . . amenities . . . the general situation of the camps I've listed. I'll follow this up by a personal visit.

HALDER
This order, Over-Leader, to resettle all the Jews by the end of the year . . .

EICHMANN
Sooner, if possible . . .

HALDER
Since we're going to be working closely together . . . could I ask you how you feel about this direction of resources . . . personally . . . I'm thinking of us fighting the war on so many fronts . . .

EICHMANN
Russia, we'll soon finish off . . . that'll be one front less . . . in any case . . . that's our orders . . .

HALDER
I was curious about the need for such urgency . . .

EICHMANN
Your point about fighting the war on so many fronts . . . all the more reason to keep the enemy within under tight control . . . you can see that, can't you . . . from the question of security alone . . . You'll make the arrangements then . . . You'll need to base yourself in Berlin during your assignment with me . . .

HALDER
I'll make the arrangements . . . yes.

EICHMANN
The leadership, of course, have ordered me that on no account are you to cut yourself totally off from your university. Some sabbatical is being arranged for you . . . but it is vital you are in Berlin within the next week . . . I look forward to us working together.

HALDER
I'll put some more coal on the fire. Are you soaked through? Take my dressing gown.

ANNE
I don't mind being wet.

HALDER
I'm going to give you some cognac. Will you take it?

ANNE
Yes, please. Thanks.

HALDER
Frau Halder's gone to bed. That doesn't mean you're late. She goes to bed early. One of her pleasures is reading in bed.

ANNE
Frau Stagl kept me back. She had an accident . . . nothing much. She burned her arm . . . cooking. I took her to the hospital to get it dressed. She's fine now, but it took up all the evening . . . waiting around.

HALDER
Would you like some smoked ham . . . and bread? I was going to have some myself . . . just before you came.

ANNE
Actually, I am hungry. Please . . . shall I help you?

HALDER
I've got everything here . . . Listen, you can't go all the way back to your digs tonight. It's still pouring. I'll bring you down some blankets. That couch is very comfortable. I've slept on it myself.

ANNE
Herr Doctor, I couldn't sleep *here*.

HALDER
And a pillow . . . We haven't got to the core of the problem yet, anyway.

ANNE
You see, I don't believe in evil. Not like Goethe seems to. Do you?

HALDER
That's what we have to talk about. It could be a way into Faust for you.

ANNE
If you get me the blankets . . . I'll make up the bed, Herr Doctor.

HALDER
Yes . . . I'll get them for you. Do you like two pillows or just one?

ANNE
I'd like two, please.

ANNE
John . . . relax . . . all right, love?

HALDER
I had the picture in my mind, out there in the garden. Germany's been turned into one great prison. You don't think we should run away? It mightn't be too late . . .

ANNE
Too late for what? Run away where? Why do you have to make such a dramatic thing out of everything?

HALDER
No . . . just sometimes I panic. In the garden, after Bok went off, I had this wave of panic and guilt . . . I'd destroyed your whole life.

ANNE
How have you done that? If it is destroyed . . . the words you use, love! If it is, I did it myself. It was my choice. You . . . I wish you hadn't a wife and family that keep pulling you from me . . . but you have. I love you. It would've been easier if I loved somebody without all these weights on them . . . but I love you. What exactly are you going to do tonight? Think about it . . . you are going out on a police action. That's all. You're not going to shoot Jews . . . do any violence to them. Your orders are to keep things under control. Stop people burning down Frankfurt . . . that's all, for God's sake . . . Just try and think calmly about what you are really doing . . .

HALDER
I am. You've got a good, logical mind. That's good. You're right.

ANNE
Somebody in the family needs to have one. Are you going to stop beating your breast now about things you don't need to beat your breast about? You've got plenty of real things to feel guilty about.

HALDER
You're right. What real things?

ANNE
In any case, for God's sake . . . if I was Jewish, I'd have got out of here years back . . . the first year Hitler was in power. Any Jew with sense is out by now. The ones that are left must be utterly stupid or desperate to hang onto their property . . . What are they doing staying in Germany?

HALDER
Listen. You're so clever. You're right. Everything you say is so logical and true.

ANNE
You look lovely in that uniform! I think Elizabeth is after you. Do you know that?

HALDER
So we won't run away, then? To California.

ANNE
All right. We'll run away. I'll pack and you can phone your children and tell them you'll write to them every week.

HALDER
I'd better go.

ANNE
Is the revolver loaded?

HALDER
I think so.

ANNE
I'll see you when I see you, love.

HALDER
I love you.

ANNE
I love you . . . And no prisons or yawning chasms in front of you.

HALDER
God, I love you, sweetheart.

ANNE
I know you do.

FREDDIE
I'm going to let you into this to show you I trust you, Johnnie. Both of us . . . our records . . .we don't need to goosestep around the square, shouting "Heil Hitler," to prove we're good party people, do we? Look, here, there's an order come through for you. I'd rather we didn't make it an order . . . you know that . . . this particular order especially . . . because I can understand how you'll feel about it . . . we all have our vices . . . our private secrets . . . not a man hasn't something he doesn't want anybody else to know about . . .

HALDER
If it's an order, give it to me. It's all right, Freddie.

FREDDIE
I'm letting you into my vice! Grammophone records . . .

HALDER
Grammophone records?

FREDDIE
That's right.

HALDER
Military marches.

FREDDIE
That's what it says on the labels.

HALDER
Jazz . . .

FREDDIE
I changed all the labels. Took we weeks. You know the party line on decadent Negroid swamp jungle music. Opium . . . I tell you something . . . I know this for a fact. The Great Man . . . up in Berlin . . . you know his favorite film . . . Jew Charlie Chaplin . . . watching Charlie Chaplin till midnight . . . every night. I can't help it. I've been playing jazz since I was called up . . . used to have a sergeant in my squad . . . got killed in Verdun . . . he played the fiddle . . . he played that . . . St. Louis Blues . . . soothed me.

HALDER
I'm trying to listen to the music.

FREDDIE
Soothes me, that music . . . Christ knows you need soothing in this bastard job at times. Building a country from fuck all.

FREDDIE (cont'd)
What did those Social Democrat shits leave us? A fucking shit heap . . . I'm sorry . . . I don't usually talk like that . . . but it's true.

HALDER
It's a nice tune . . . What else can you say?

FREDDIE
I haven't any real friends. I haven't . . . have you? . . . apart from your woman, I mean. Between you and me . . . most of the comrades . . . they're good lads . . . but they piss me off, after an hour or so . . . only one who doesn't seem to piss me off's you . . . probably because you're educated . . . I don't know. At times, you piss me off, too, of course.

HALDER
Mutual.

FREDDIE
I know I piss you off. No question about that. That's the list.

HALDER
Oh . . . I like him . . . I like everybody . . . it's just books . . . it's a list of books. I see . . . I'm ordered or organize the book-burning at the university.

FREDDIE
When the order came through, you see . . . I said to myself, "Johnnie's got deep feeling about books and this is going to cut him badly" . . . I know that.

HALDER
Long list . . . Thomas Mann . . . Remarque . . .

FREDDIE
I read that. All Quiet on the Western Front. Don't ask me why they've done a downer on that. That's exactly how it was at the front, wasn't it?

HALDER
[Aside] There's a positive aspect to all this. You've got to make a supreme effort and look positively. One of the basic defects of university life is learning from books. Not from experience . . . life . . . involvement . . . commitment . . .

FREDDIE
Mind, I can see what they're getting at, burning Freud's filthy shit. Pervert, isn't he? Tried to make out everybody's as twisted and perverted as he is!

HALDER

[Aside] If you look at it from the philosophical standpoint, that the burning is symbolic of a new healthy approach to university learning . . . Man does not live by books alone.

FREDDIE

All right, Johnnie? Can I leave that to you?

HALDER

As long as I can keep my copies, Freddie.

FREDDIE

I've got my jungle music, haven't I?

HELEN
Darling, I want to talk to you seriously. Your mother phoned, very disturbing. And my father, we had a long conversation. I hate nagging you, and pushing you, but really you can't hang on any longer. You'll have to shake yourself out of this apathy.

HALDER
WILL YOU HAVE IT AT THE FIRE, IF I CLEAR THE NEWSPAPERS AND SCORES? I THINK I CAN GET DOWN TO THE CARPET. I QUITE LIKE EATING ON THE FLOOR.

HELEN
I had Mother pick up the children from school and take them home for a meal.

HALDER
SHOULD WE TRY A MAID ONCE MORE? I KNOW YOU FIND IT HARD HAVING STRANGERS LIVING WITH US.

HELEN
Johnnie . . . I'm useless . . . I spent all afternoon trying to play these triplets against duplets in that Beethoven sonata . . . my whole life . . . everything . . . Look at the state this house is in. I didn't even clean my teeth this morning. I'm a slut. I've no idea why you love me. Do you, love?

HALDER
Yes, I love you.

HELEN
John, I'm sorry . . .

HALDER
Why should you be sorry? I don't mind living in chaos. It's all right. The children are used to it.

HELEN
You come back from a hard day at work, and I overwhelm you with self-pity.

HALDER
Yes.

HELEN
You shouldn't stand this. Me turning your house into a shithouse, Johnnie.

HALDER
Tell you what. After tea, we'll clean it up.

HELEN
I wish you wouldn't buy pastries anymore. It's just indulging my greed and making me fat.

HALDER
Don't eat them.

HELEN
For Christ's sake, why do you love me?

HALDER
I don't know why I love you. Have you got to?

HELEN
I can't even look after your bloody kids . . . Father phoned . . . He wants to speak to you. Tonight. He says the time is long past for being pure and self-righteous. For the sake of your children and me . . . you must make a definite decision to join the National Socialists . . . with your army record, they'll welcome you with open arms . . . Actually, he heard from somebody very high up. Goebbels has read your *Faust and Goethe in Weimar*.

HALDER
I was thinking about Hitler, on my way home.

HELEN
He's right. You'll get nowhere in the university now, unless you join the party, Johnnie. Father says you could even lose your lectureship . . .

HALDER
Listen, you are not to leave me. You understand. Whatever it is. You and the kids. They're the whole basis of my life.

HELEN
Yes. I know . . . I know that, dear. I'll never leave you. You'll never leave me.

HALDER
I thought I'd tell you that.

HELEN
I'm sorry . . . I'm tired, Johnnie.

HALDER
I'll come up soon. I'm waiting for this student . . .

HELEN
I love you.

HALDER
I love you.

HELEN
I woke up and couldn't get to sleep again. Did I wake you?

HALDER
That student turned up, last night. Soaking wet. It was pouring. So she's downstairs. In the lounge. I gave her some blankets.

HELEN
That's all right. Will she be warm enough?

HALDER
I gave her some blankets. Helen, I want to talk to you. I've decided to join the party. I had a long talk with your father. He's right. Basically . . .

HELEN
You told me that. Who's going to give her breakfast?

HALDER
I'll give her breakfast. I didn't tell you about my decision.

HELEN
I assumed, in the end, you'd be sensible.

HALDER
I'm doing it because I love you . . . you know that. If it was just myself, I'd take a chance. I'm not one hundred percent sure about Hitler . . . you understand that . . . I love you and the children ...

HELEN
I know that.

HALDER
That's the whole foundation of my life.

HELEN
That's good.

HALDER
I'll never leave you.

HELEN
Why should you?

HALDER
You won't leave me?

HELEN
Why should I?

HALDER
Plenty of people leave each other.

HELEN
Plenty of people get knocked down by buses.

HALDER
That's a good observation.

HELEN
Well, they do. I'm glad. Father'll be glad, you joining the party. It's a real commitment. You're not just joining to keep your job or get on in life.

HALDER
Am I not?

HELEN
You see . . . I don't do anything well . . . do I? I'm useless.

HALDER
You're a good wife.

HELEN
I don't think I am.

HALDER
You are. You're the best wife in the world. I love you.

HELEN
Do you?

HALDER
You're my sweetheart, aren't you?

HELEN
Am I?

HALDER
You are. What are you?

HELEN
Your sweetheart.

HALDER
I'm standing in the square by the fountain, paralyzed. Not physically. Whatever part of me is responsible for decision-making. That seemed to have gone out of action . . . on my way to join the party.

HITLER
Understandable. Totally understandable. You make a deal with yourself one minute, you totally repudiate the next. Quite right. Absolutely naïve to think you can guarantee the minute you set yourself on a course that you're going to hold it over the next sixty seconds. The complexity of the human central nervous system alone. All the forces playing on the human organism . . . Basically, what have we in a human being? A complex electrical network. No. Even more complex . . . a complex electrical and chemical network. Can you have chemical networks?

HALDER
He's a victim of the failure of the Social Democrats. What the Socialists promised the workers, the Nazis gave them . . . society needs them.

HITLER
Man does not live by bread alone.

HALDER
I'm not sure about that.

HITLER
I'm not sure about anything. That's the human condition. "Man, you are born to uncertainty. You can be sure of nothing." For the first time in my life, I am breaking free from the emotional umbilical cords that tied me to my mother. Breaking through to manhood. Completing myself as a human being . . . establishing new emotional umbilical strands with a woman I have chosen in my manhood. Yes. I'm being pretentious and heavily profound. But it does happen. From time to time, you are confronted by profundities. I have to get out of this . . . apologizing for any profound universal statement that comes to me . . . watching my thoughts and language so that they're continually muted, tied to the earth . . . when you fly, you fly . . .

HALDER
When you walk on the earth . . .

HALDER and HITLER
. . . you walk on the earth.

HITLER
But now I am moving to a soul union. What the fuck else is it, for Christ's sake? That's what it is. That's what I'm looking for. A soul union. Now I am moving to a soul union.

HALDER and HITLER
Joining the Nazis is no longer a simple case of my own electrical and chemical state.

HITLER
It is hers, too.

HALDER
That's what I'm telling you. I have to see Anne, first. Before I can make a definite decision.

HITLER
Yes. Now, I understand why I have to see her.

HALDER
Do I?

BOK
Herr Professor . . . it's Bok.

HALDER
I'm here . . . out in the garden

BOK
What a house you've got. A mansion. Look at the garden. Acres. You deserve it. I'm delighted for you. Do you know that? That you've got a good woman like Frau Halder . . . and a house like this.

HALDER
I've got some beer. Would you like some beer, chilled in the fridge?

BOK
They sent me up with orders for you. I've got them here. I wouldn't mind a cold beer.

HALDER
If they won't let me alone, they won't . . .

BOK
It's a big show tonight. You heard? The Jew cunts murdered Von Rath.

HALDER
Was he a friend of yours, Bok?

BOK
I like that, that's to the point, isn't it? That's a wonderful thing about you, Herr Professor. You can get it straight up the hole . . . Who gives a shit for Von Rath. You're right. It's the idea of a Jew having the cheek to shoot a German.

HALDER
Your beer all right? We move into action three p.m. this afternoon.

BOK
That's the orders. You should see the excitement in the university. The students are making banners . . . organizing torches . . . nobody's doing a stroke of work.

HALDER
I was looking for a peaceful day in the garden. I wish they'd get these bloody Jews out of their system. Why didn't they all get to hell out of here years ago, while they still had a chance.

BOK
Get the cunts out now, Professor.

HALDER
Would that make you really happy, Bok? When there is not a single Yid left in the universe?

BOK
I'll put it to you this way. Hitler, now . . . he comes up with this stuff about the Jews. He's thought about it, worked it out. The Jews are sucking the fucking lifeblood of the country . . . Now . . . look at us . . . now . . . he's begun to shake the cunts out. Everybody's got jobs . . . holidays . . . couple of years time and everybody'll have their own cars . . . ordinary workers. Some people used to say he doesn't know what the fuck he's talking about, Hitler . . . just farts out of his mouth instead of his arsehole. What do they know? He's delivered the goods, hasn't he? He knew what he was talking about all along. Herr Professor . . . you didn't like living in a Jew Germany . . . did you? Now . . . you walk about in the streets. And you feel it . . . you know. This is our place now . . . don't you? He's got us back our own country . . . Look at you, if you don't mind me saying. You're laughing now, Professor . . . you've taken over that Jew shit Mandelstam's job . . . big house . . . the whole university's back to a German university . . . You've got no complaints, what Hitler's done for you . . . have you?

HALDER
I am very happy . . . I am . . .

HALDER

In the morning of the Night of Broken Glass . . . I didn't have to go into the university . . . I went to the garden to dig the last of the potatoes. The air was sharp and all the scents of autumn were still fresh to me. Giving me the feeling I was in a different country . . . The last few days, my stomach's not be right . . . state of my stomach's always going up and down. When my stomach was bothering me . . . it didn't look good. This Jew operation tonight. It weighed on me . . . along with the food I couldn't digest properly . . . I enjoyed the duck . . . at the same time . . . I am very happy. I love her. She loves me. I've got enough money. People recognize me for the brilliant man I am . . . *[To MAURICE]* You're quite right . . . listen . . . this Jewish operation tonight . . . If you try to look at it in perspective. Yes . . . of course . . . it's not a good thing . . . for tonight . . . and next week . . . coming down on a racial group like arresting Jews . . . breaking into their houses and synagogues . . . no doubt . . . I'll be honest with you, Maurice . . . kicking in quite a number of Jews' teeth and balls . . . You know what the roughnecks in the party are like . . . excesses are bound to happen . . . I am not deluding myself . . . am I? Maurice? This is a regime in its childhood . . . It's social experiment in its earliest stages . . . You know what a child is like . . . self-discipline isn't formed, yet a large element of unpredictability . . . it could be . . . if the Jews stayed here much longer . . . You see what I'm getting at? Some of the extreme elements in the regime could get out of hand . . . Christ knows what they would do to the Jews next . . . I see tonight . . . as a basically humane action . . . it's going to shock the Jews into the reality of their situation in Nazi Germany . . . tomorrow morning . . . they'll be running for their lives out of the country. A sharp, sudden shock . . . that is going to make those who still delude themselves they can stay here in peace to face reality . . . and . . . Keep out of it . . . as much as possible. You can do fuck all about it. Tonight . . . what can I do about it? All over the country, they'll be marching against the Jews. It's a bad thing. No question about it. Work it out . . . me . . . if I died. That would worry me . . . the idea of being snuffed out . . . If I got cancer. That would worry me. Or if they stuck me in one of those concentration camps and one of Himmler's perverts got at me . . . that worries me . . . If Anne stopped loving me and ran off with another man . . . that would worry me. I've got a whole scale of things that could worry me . . . the Jews and their problems . . . yes, they are on it . . . but very far down, for Christ's sake . . . way down the scale. That's not so good, the Jews being so low down on my anxiety scale. Emotionally. Intellectually . . . as an intellectual concept it's fairly high as a moral problem. The thing is, I am fundamentally a happy person . . . that's what it is . . . That's the problem. I'm a happy person . . . absolutely

MAURICE
Listen . . . if you're terrified . . . fucking say so.

HALDER
I am not consciously aware I ever knew that tune.

MAURICE
What's all this roundabout evasive shit for?

HALDER
Just now, at this moment of time, Maurice . . . going to your house . . . how can I go to your house, Maurice?

MAURICE
So how does the cat get over the water? I can't come to your house!

HALDER
Worse . . . coming to my house.

MAURICE
It's cold in the park . . . meeting in this stupid fucking park.

HALDER
You should've put on a warm sweater.

MAURICE
Listen, Cunt . . . Are you going to get me these tickets to Switzerland?

HALDER
How can I go to the station and ask for five one-way tickets to Switzerland, Maurice?

MAURICE
Ask for returns.

HALDER
Or returns . . . I'm a bloody officer in the S.S.

MAURICE
I can't understand that . . . that is the whole foundation of the party . . . racialism . . . anti-Semitism. What's the matter with you, Johnnie, for fuck's sake?

HALDER
You're panicking, Maurice. There's no . . .

MAURICE
I'm talking to you.

HALDER
Is that somebody coming? Feed the pigeons, Maurice.

MAURICE
Nobody's coming.

HALDER
There is somebody coming.

MAURICE
Yes . . . they're coming to listen to your band. It's an unusual attraction for winter in the park. Will you stop feeding those fucking birds?

HALDER
I'm saying . . . there's no problem . . . you said so yourself . . . after the first year or so . . . the Nazis have got to come to terms with reality.

MAURICE
You want to rent my cottage?

HALDER
You only use it for holidays . . . and odd weekends, anyway.

MAURICE
To live with your lady friend. You want to wander over the carpet of pine needles, hand in hand. In the dawn . . . it's a nice picture.

HALDER
It's difficult . . . getting the right place, Maurice. I'll pay you a good rent . . .

MAURICE
Listen . . . when I go away . . . take it . . . I won't need it in Switzerland, will I?

HALDER
I don't want you to go away. You don't need to go away. You know that.

MAURICE
Listen, you Nazi cunt . . . I'm sorry. I don't see you as a Nazi cunt . . .

HALDER

[Aside] I love Jews . . . I'm attracted to their whole culture . . . Their existence is a joy to me. Why has it got to be a bloody problem to everybody? *[To MAURICE]* If you just relax, Maurice . . . Don't make yourself conspicuous . . . for the time being . . . that's all.

MAURICE

Keep my prick undercover at all times . . . go and hide in my cottage in the forest.

HALDER

You could do that.

MAURICE

Where will you go with the love of your fucking life? Listen . . . What's coming over me . . . I don't go in for these obscenities.

HALDER

You know how complicated my life is with Helen and Anne.

MAURICE

You've got your own psychiatrists now. You don't need a decadent Jewish pig like me. You've got your own Nazi school of psychiatry. Go to your behaviorist father-in-law. He'll organize you getting up to fucking *Deutschland Uber Alles*.

HALDER

Maurice . . . calm down . . . for a minute . . .

MAURICE

It's a basic biological drive, you see, Johnnie. When people come after you with machine guns . . . you start running. Listen, I'm calming down . . . I'm looking at it coldly and rationally. The cunts want to crucify me.

HALDER

I can't see Hitler surviving more than a year. *You* can't. Once the country is functioning again . . . capitalism starts working . . . they'll throw him out. Capitalists are realists . . . the driving force is profit . . . business. They can't afford to have a mystic idealist like that running the country. Think about it.

MAURICE

Yes . . . I'm thinking about it.

HALDER

At the beginning, you need something like that . . . with the country in the state it is . . . to get the program off the ground. Get everybody moving in one direction. But once it's moving . . . they've got to throw him out. They threw out Roehm, didn't they?

MAURICE

You don't listen to people. I'm telling you . . . There is legislation coming up in the next day or two . . . today . . . maybe yesterday . . . against men without any foreskins . . . I know that . . . laws . . . you see? I know . . . I've got hard information. Now, will you get me five tickets to Switzerland, you Nazi cunt . . . no, you won't . . . you're not interested in what happens to me . . . understandable . . . all right . . . fuck off, then.

HALDER

Did you buy me some cheesecake?

MOTHER
Johnnie. Listen to me. Get me out of here. Another day, and I'll go out of my mind. Get a chair for Helen. Helen, have pity on me.

HALDER
Helen's not there, Mother.

MOTHER
Will you get your wife a chair? This isn't the time or place for jokes, son.

HALDER
Mother, you're imagining it. She's not there.

MOTHER
She's not standing beside you?

HALDER
It's just you're confused, just now. That's all.

MOTHER
Listen, are you trying to make me mad altogether? Helen, tell him. He has to get me out of here. Have pity on me.

HALDER
You've been in a coma, Mother. A thyroid deficiency . . . one of the effects . . . you see things.

MOTHER
Helen's not there? Are you not there, Helen? Wait a minute. Do you think I'm going out of my mind? If I'm going out of my mind . . . that's a bad business.

HALDER
It makes you confused. That's all.

MOTHER
Wait a minute. Last night. Did that happen? You were drunk . . . and banging away at the door all night to get in?

HALDER
Imagination.

MOTHER
John . . . come closer to me, a minute. Is anybody listening to us?

HALDER
No one is near us.

MOTHER
You're not a Communist?

HALDER
You know that. I could never accept Marxism. Parts of it . . . yes.

MOTHER
I'm talking to you, son. You're not a Communist and Hitler's not going to put you in prison. Your trial's this afternoon.

HALDER
For God's sake, Mother!

MOTHER
Oh, thank God! Thank God! You're not?

HALDER
Mother!

MOTHER
Listen. I'm going out of my mind. Johnnie, I've got to go home.

HALDER
You can't see, Mother.

MOTHER
What about your house?

HALDER
With the children and Helen . . . I couldn't cope with you, Mother. I would . . . but how can I ask the children and Helen . . .

MOTHER
Listen. Is that my imagination, too? This place, it's a front. Men come up here to go with the women. That sister, there . . .

HALDER
This hospital's a front for a brothel?

MOTHER
Is it not? Johnnie, this is a bad business. I'm going out of my mind.

HALDER

I could cope with you for a week, Mother. We'd like to have you for a week or so. But you know what Helen's like. She can't even organize the house with just us in it. You wouldn't be happy. You never are there . . .

MOTHER

The best thing is to take twenty or thirty of my pills and finish myself off once and for all.

HALDER

You could do that. It's against the law, but . . .

MOTHER

What have I got to live for? I can't see. My eyes are finished. Nobody wants me. I'm better out of it. What have I got to live for, for God's sake!