

The System

By Nava Zuckerman

Translation: Leanne Raday



The System, translated by Leanne Raday

All rights reserved ©

The singer is singing on the stage. Mitler appears, stops her singing and announces Adam Reicher's arrival

Genius: *(Carefully examines the audience)* And still you came... You're intrigued, curious? You cancelled, rescheduled, paid for your parking... you made a real effort. Have you come to sneak a peek? You've come to inspect!
(pause)
You look at me and ask yourselves: What does he want? Who is he anyhow? What is his motive? What are they trying to sell? What's so novel about it? Can there still be anything truly novel?
You want to know!!!
We shall deliver the goods. We shall show you what we do – we have nothing to hide. Our work speaks for itself.
(Raises his hand) We are putting an end, an end to the bitter end! To the sacrificial air, the mediocrity, the filth, the distress and the awful mood of hopelessness. This is a promising, new beginning...
Our system has no name, no organized doctrine. It happens from one moment to the next. It is being written this very moment, right now. No specialized knowledge is needed, it has nothing to do with money, society or religion. The system will carry away any age, any society and any religion. There are no admission requirements. Whoever has decided it is time to live – sign up here!
The strong ones will survive, as in nature, but plenty of hard and rigorous work awaits them.
The System wants to bring back the free and magnificent wild beast, so that it glistens in your eyes. Do you know what we have forgotten? Our bodies! Our smugness has eaten away at it! The body holds the secret of power. That is where our true nature can be found.
The System wants people with goals, with a savage and unrestrained desire to accomplish, a society of winners.
They ask me if I want to get into politics, to take over, if this is a new sort of corporation and I answer is that I am one of the people.
It has already been said before me: history does not make great people, great people make history.

Natasha come out of the audience singing Happy Birthday, Lenny brings him flowers and spits into the microphone "Congratulations, Adam"

Genius: Is this what I need? They're waiting for me around the corner...
I need headlines about my system not my birthday!

Lenny: "We love Adam Reicher", is that a bad headline?

Genius: Take care of it.

(Mitler blocks both of them and pushes them inside)

Mitler: Not now... not now...

Lenny takes the microphone and addresses the audience

Lenny: This is a special day for me. The surprise we prepared for Adam surprised him a little too much. We are excited but that is beside the point. Because as you can see, quite a number of people are gathered here... more join every day... and for good reason. The era has been awaiting a strong man with a vision. He might seem controversial now, but Adam is the next thing. He has something to offer everyone... Adam's outlook touches on all the different areas in life. It is imperative that he be heard; it is imperative to join us. I am proud to stand by his side... I do not want to talk of myself, but I have a deep relationship with Adam and with his worldview. He is hypnotizing... That is why anyone who crosses him out is making a big mistake. No one will succeed either. It is too strong. It is alive, happening, talking. The fact is that you are all here. I am Lenny. I am the media and documentation supervisory for Adam-System. I can only say that I left a successful career and took the camera into the service of the System.
(Starts walking away)
We are not some sort of insignificant phenomenon, we are a living fact.
We are not a passing trend, we are *the* trend.
That's enough.
No comment.

Singer: *(On her way out)* Did you have to sing? I'm the singer here...!

Mitler takes people into the tent where Miko is giving a performance in honor of the birthday.

Mitler: If you please, a touch of culture in honor of Adam Reicher.
Faust by Goethe, a piece Reicher is especially fond of...

Genius observes the event.

Miko: *(As Mephistopheles)*
Pardon, high words I cannot labor after,
Though the whole court should look on me with scorn;
My pathos certainly would stir thy laughter,
Hadst thou not laughter long since quite forsworn.
Of sun and worlds I've naught to tell worth mention,
How men torment themselves takes my attention.
The little earth-god still persists in his old ways.
Ridiculous as ever, as in his very first days.
A pity 'tis thou shouldst have given the fool, to make him worse,
A gleam of light from heaven.
Reason he calls it, using it to be more beast than ever beast was yet.
No sir! The earth's as bad as it has always been!
I really feel quite sorry for mankind;

Tormenting the myself's no fun, I find
I am Mephistopheles, charmed.
(Goldman reacts as though Miko is speaking to him)
You took my liking, I hope we soon become good friends.
To lift your spirits, ever so slightly,
I came in a red frock fastened tightly.
Look how I have spruced up! And the hat?...
Never mind the... *(exposes his gun)*
I have some advice for you: take a look at yourself, be bold and dare!
Begin life anew.
Have you ever tried to kill yourself?

Goldman: *(in alarm)* Me?

Miko-Mephistopheles becomes aware of Goldman's reactions and decides to use him in the performance. He puts a beard on his face and continues as though he were part of the scene.

Miko: And yet death never is a wholly welcome guest.

Goldman: What are you doing?

Miko: *(getting carried away with the scene)*
That night, it was almost as though... almost as though...
Stop feeling sorry for yourself!
(walks sneakily behind his back)
I shall with pleasure, without further ado,
Wholly devote myself to you.
You shall have my company and if satisfied,
I shall be your servant, always at your side.
(whispers the lines to Goldman)
"And what is your reward for this to be?"

Goldman: And what is your reward for this to be?

Miko: Much time will pass before need think of that.
You soon will see what I can do.
No man has ever known a spectacle so rare.
I will let you have all this wonder! *(Whispers the text to Goldman)* I agree...

Goldman: I agree...

Miko: Ladies and gentlemen, art is lengthy and time is short. Congratulations!

Mitler brings the audience into the hall. Goldman waits. Mitler takes notice of him once in a while.

Mitler: Come in please...

Goldman: Where is Adam Reicher?

Mitler: Follow me! (*to the audience*) Elderly up front, youngsters on the sides. The second row is for short people and let the shortsighted approach too. Turn your cell phones off – reality has nothing new in stock for you! I'd like to ask you to open your bags for a moment, so you can see that what you already know hasn't changed, it's good.

Goldman: May I speak with Adam Reicher?

Mitler: Stand here. (*Continues talking to the crowd as he walks up the slope*)
I'd like to ask the audience to be present with out any disturbances.
We are struggling to continue.
Some are very jealous of us.
This is actually good, because we are good.
They are threatened, because we are threatening.
That is also good.
If we do not hear you that would be good too.
We are not forgetting you.
Anyone who is here is good, it is added strength
(*moves back to the center*)
There is an emergency exit on the right and an emergency exit on the left.
Body wastes are straight ahead – two booths, no separation between men and women.
If the toilet paper is finished, shout out: Paper!
I take care of it myself. All right? Very good.
Diagonally on the right there is water for sensitive people.
The place is liable for nothing.
Be and be silent; we shall do the talking.

Goldman: May I speak to Adam Reicher?

Mitler: (*Moves up the slope. Speaks to Goldman who is waiting in the centre*)
Stand right here!
(*Moves further up*)
So you want to meet Adam Reicher?
What else do you want?
Why should I give you what you want?
Why do people think that what they want should happen? Perhaps we want something else? You don't seem to have the slightest idea what that might be or interested...
You've seen for two minutes and listened for one more and you want already?!
We also want to see you!
(*to Goldman*) Stand right here (*points to a spot on stage*)

The spotlight blinds Goldman once he is alone on stage. Mitler orders the music on (Wagner). It is like a horn blowing in the factory, ordering everyone back to work. All the characters run while getting dressed and holding on to glasses of water. Once

dressed, they stand at the emergency exits. Goldman is at the centre of the stage blinded by the spotlight.

Goldman: Just a second, is this still part of the play? Am I still on stage? I'm no actor. Enough... enough... Hey there... is there anyone behind the light? That guy, what's his name, he told me to wait. I'm waiting for Adam Reicher.

Thinking that they might be suspicious of him and expecting him to identify himself, he starts pulling things out of his pockets and taking his clothes off to prove that he is not carrying any weapons or drugs

Goldman: I have nothing to hide!

Genius sneaks in and stands close behind him

Genius: I was told you had asked to see me. Is there anything I can do for you?

Goldman: You're Adam Reicher.

Genius: Yes

Genius starts going through the items taken out of the pockets. Picks up a banknote.

Goldman: That's for Falafel (*giggles awkwardly*) I like it and it's cheap too.

Genius looks at the passport

Goldman: I don't have an identity card. I'm thinking about changing my name, so I'll have to get a new identity card (*talking about the photo in the passport*) I'm not like that now, like in the photograph.

Genius looks at a business card.

Goldman: I'm not sure if that's the right address. He's a serious man. He knows me. Do you know who he is?

Genius: Rich

Genius picks up a photo from a nightclub

Goldman: The bitch. She wanted me, but I didn't want her.

Genius: (*Picks a booklet up with the title: "Hear, O Israel..." and reads out loud*) "Hear O Israel! The lord is our God and he alone... (*scrutinizes Goldman*)

Goldman: Searching.

Genius: (*Turns to look for Mitler and asks Goldman from the exit*) For what?

Goldman: Meaning.

Genius: *(Walks back to Goldman)* Meaning, aye? *(Lifts his shirt up to see where it was bought)* “Made in India”...

Goldman: From New York.

Genius: It’s wise to manufacture there. They’re slaves. It pays off. *(Looks at the ticket on the trousers)* “Made in the USA”...

Goldman: I got it in India...

Genius: You are truly international, Goldman. You’re Goldman, the son of... Goldman? And the son of Goldman is thinking of changing his name? The son of Goldman is searching for meaning? Life isn’t peachy, is it, Goldman? Lots of rubbish out there, piles of rubbish. *(Looses his temper)* It’s all rotten, Goldman!
(Relating to him and his father) Spoilt, bourgeois brat! You’re rotten! Your daddy’s rotten!
(Speaking in general) When things are rotten you have to clean up! You have to uproot them. Where is Mitler?

Goldman: Where is Mitler?

Genius: Would you like to start anew Goldman? Persuade me!

Faith places a glass in Goldman’s hand. Mitler seats Goldman on a chair and places all his possessions in an “accused bag”. The various characters pour water into the glass all through the monologue and every time Goldman raises the glass to drink, Genius cries: No! Miko keeps misleading him and not pouring the water.

Goldman: I’ve heard a lot of good things about you and I would like, if possible, with your assistance, to join you. I’m not from here, I was in another place *(Faith)*, I was even more lost there than I am here. *(Miko)* I’ve recently come back, because of you, because of the new thing happening here. *(Singer)* The system, the system, the system. I’d like to be a part of something *(Natasha)*. I’d like people to be part of something great, important, massive. I’m willing to learn... I’d like to learn. *(Singer)* I tried killing myself *(Miko)*, once with pills another time with... I’ve never found anything to go all the way with *(Singer)*. I had a tall, gorgeous wife... I don’t want that anymore, I want to rid the world of love *(Natasha)*. I don’t want to feel anymore. It used to hurt. I’ll beat everyone *(Everyone)*. My father died very early on. I was eight, he was fed up. Mum lost it, Mum lost it because Dad was gone *(Singer)*. If you give me a part, I promise you... I can’t be alone... *(Miko)* Please! If I have to spend one more day alone, I’ll die. I have nowhere to go.

What, would you like me to dance for you? I hate dancing, I don't dance well (*the movement gradually turns into a dance*) I can get money (*Mitler and Genius whisper something to each other*) I know everyone: Rosenthal, Freedman... everyone.
I have family, my father's rich.

Miko: I don't buy it!

Mitler walks up to silence him.

Genius: It's all right, let him speak...

Miko: He's only selling, can't you see? There's nothing for the upper class here. Let's see his money... Let him bring his money... he was born with an interest spoon in his mouth! There's nothing for him here, the liar...

Goldman: I'm not lying. I may be many things, but I'm not a liar... Today we are at the most focal point in the history of humankind.

Miko fills Goldman's glass. Genius signals to Mitler. The characters stand in a circle around Goldman.

Genius: "I am here of my free will."

Goldman: I am here of my free will

Genius: Drink!

All the characters drink then crush the cups in their right hands and start marching. Mitler hands the robe over to Goldman and he joins the march.

Genius: You are after all that which you are.
Put a wig of curls on thy head
And great big shoes as you tread
One step-two step,
You are always that which you are.

Goldman: Put a wig of curls on thy head
And great big shoes as you tread
One step-two step
In the end...
You're incredible, incredible...

Genius: It's not me...

Goldman: I know, it's Goethe, poet.
They said you were in trouble outside.

Genius: Who is "they"?

Goldman: It means that you have power...that you're getting more and more powerful... they don't like that... that you...

Mitler pushes Goldman back into line

Genius: *(Grabbing Mitler)* I'd like you tell me exactly how we reach the public and quickly. Don't tell me that you don't know – just do it!

The unnerved Genius tries to instill his people with the vision for the future he intends for them through the System. The characters start walking in slow-motion while Mitler marches them with a whip.

Genius: You are the future of the System! You are the faces that will determine the future. We will draw the unique talent out of each and every one of you and turn it into an alluring trademark.
Not only will no one uproot us, but for every wall that is taken down we shall build two!
(To Lenny) I want you to really get their faces on camera, I want their voices to be heard, so that whoever sees them sees the faces of people who have really began to live.

*They approach Lenny's camera one by one while the others continue marching. Once they finish speaking Mitler takes them back into **the line** and walks the next character to the camera*

Natasha: Natasha Levi. I'm from the north, from the inferior suburbia of the northern metropolis.
I was about to get married... It's personal.
I was lucky enough to hear Adam Reicher on the radio.

Lenny: Marvelous! I'll need you again later.

Natasha: *(comes back to the camera immediately)* Don't want to be like Mum with the shameful eyes, the swollen hands, the broken back. I want success!
I am preparing for a victorious homecoming.

Miko: Miko Ben David. I could live for the glory of the country and live off the Ministry of Defense. But I pass on the national symbol; won't hit the floor again. Adam Reicher knows how to turn the world into a success. Everyone here is equal. I'm here to become a trademark of success. *(whispers to Lenny)* Should I tell about what happened to me in the army?

Lenny: That won't be necessary, I have enough material.

Faith: Faith Abramson. I am a woman of God. My family is a good family. They live in Jerusalem. Here they will tell you what is worthy and

what is unworthy. One can always reform. I have gone astray, sinned, desecrated, betrayed.
I was shaven.
I have a child.

Lenny: No, I don't need that (*turns away*).

Faith: I'm here so that I get the chance to care for my child with dignity.

Goldman: Joshua Goldman. I ran far away. Adam Reicher is the only reason that I'm standing here. I was born... I learnt...
I was born with a golden spoon in my mouth. I want to start over. I'm here so that I can be in my own right.

Lenny: Tell us about your family...

Goldman: (*interrupting Lenny*) I can't go on being alone any longer!

Lenny: Shit!

The singer walks to the audience. Mitler distributes graffiti spray.

Genius: Spread out! Cover all the streets and crossroads, so that people get up in the morning to huge signs saying "The System – a meaningful organization fighting for the future", "Want to live? The System is the solution"

The characters spray the air with the graffiti spray like gunshots. Mitler uses the spare time to dictate a poem of his to the Singer. The singer sings his words.

Mitler: "I know that a miracle will happen some day
There is no compassion now
There will be peace again
Things will quiet down
There will be peace again
People will eat, love, live."

The Singer sings. Genius continues talking while she sings in the background.

Genius: Talk with the people. Tell them that the System knows the direction in which humanity is headed. We are at the lowest point because we have reached decay. The cleansing will start from within us. The System is building a society where the successful win while the weak and parasitical ones disappear. Like in nature.
This will have an effect on our strength, our identity. This is why we must work hard before we can live well. Tell the people this.

Genius leaves. The characters follow him. The singer goes on singing. Miko walks in determinedly. Reaches the singer, silences her aggressively, sprays the walls violently and then turns to the audience.

Miko: What are you doing here? Why are you here?
I'll tell you why I'm here: this place is my last chance. I need it. To be seen for once. Look at me!

Natasha walks in and turns to look for someone in the audience. Miko catches sight of her.

Miko: You're so beautiful...

Natasha: What do you want from me?

Miko: I want you to see me...

Natasha: I don't believe you. Have you seen Reicher?

Mitler walks in. the moment they see him they spray twice in the air. Lenny walks in with the camera. She speaks to them and they leave.

Lenny: I don't care who you are, just what I can make you out to be. I need to capture a strong face, so that anyone who sees it will see the face of a person who has began to live.
Can't stand the ugliness of fear on a face... You'll be beautiful...
sexy...
Reicher! You're a Genius! (*starts walking up towards him*) Old age is non-existent by your side... **You are the point where the sky and earth meet**. Maybe that's how I should start my film...

Genius: Where were we five years ago?

Lenny: We were burning with ideas and booze.

Genius: And three years ago?

Lenny: In Mitler's basement.

Genius: And a year ago?

Lenny: There wasn't a wall in town without your face plastered on it...

Genius: Photos you took. And why must I know all this now?

Lenny: I don't know (*leaves*).

Genius: (*speaking into his tape recorder*) It's happening again. Every time they start with the character assassination, I have blackouts. All the headlines in the newspapers today say: "Adam Reicher is a Crook". Me? A crook? I'm the only one who can see the truth. What to do? What to do? Talk... Go on talking... Sort things out.
So, we are an existing fact and we've even gone up a notch, OK.

Blasted with requests to join us, OK.
We got plenty of TV coverage and anyone who is anyone wants to take a picture with me, OK.
“Adam Reicher is a crook” – who is that? Who is that worm who wants to destroy me? It’s winter... there are many of them... Why am I thinking of that now? I’m putting up the volume of the music.
“Adam, who’s right, me or Daddy?
How can I save you? A five year old child...
No sinking. Saving is the thing.
Going from one person to the next, penetrating the guts of all the people, so that they know that there is a real solution to their lives.
From one person to the next,
From one to the next.
So that the whole world knows.
I need people with influence. The Goldman boy, have to check him out...

Genius is upstairs, Natasha comes in, leans against the wall and speaks to him from below.

Natasha: Congratulations.

Genius: What for?

Natasha: Its your birthday.

Genius gestures towards her in dismissal.

Natasha: Did you like my singing? (*Genius does not respond*). I’d like you to know that I can see you’re having a hard time.

Genius: I wonder when a woman’s is lying. What else can you see?

Natasha: I’m not lying, I can see you.

Genius: That’s my job. Don’t touch my job.

Natasha: What about your woman?

Genius: Who? (*he starts coming down towards her*)

Natasha: Lenny.

Genius: She’s not my woman, she’s Lenny, she’s fine.

Natasha: I wonder when a man lies. (*Genius stumbles on her lips. Natasha is amazed. Genius walks out*) I love you...

Genius: Don't unload the baggage of the past, which you've been carrying around, on me. It's not relevant anymore. Memory... who needs it? It just sets you back. Carry on Natasha, the System wants the best in you!

Natasha: *(left alone)* Bastard. You're the saddest bastard in the world. The most powerful, the most gifted. You will be my bastard!

On her way out Mitler surprises her and chases her around as though they were in a ring.

Mitler: What did you talk about?

Natasha: Has nothing to do with you!

Mitler: Everything has to do with me. Do you want me to get out of you or out of him? Your call. Does he seem worried to you? Really? Do you think? What do you think?
Don't imagine that being all over each other for a moment gives you the liberty. Wipe it off. Wipe it off.
What do you want to get out of it?

Natasha: What do you want?

Mitler: *(changes his tone)* I'll make you famous *(walks up to her then immediately exits to the storage room)*

Natasha leaves and Genius enters

Genius: *(to himself)* Where is Mitler? Where is Mitler? *(to the audience)* "Adam Reicher is a Crook", who isn't?

Mitler walks in with buckets and turns to someone in the audience.

Mitler: What were you talking about? What were you talking about?
Everything is my business, it all has to do with me!

Returns to the centre of the stage, signals to begin the music. The characters walk in, take the buckets and start painting. Mitler steps on Genius's silhouette.

Mitler: *(screaming, struggling against the music)* For every wall that is taken down we shall build two. The System – a meaningful organization fighting for the future!
(to the characters) What do I know about you? Nothing! Stop! I want a list of contacts from all of you, people you are close to, their phone numbers. You are not to talk with friends or family, only when and what we tell you to talk about...
(to the audience) That's understandable isn't it...

Singer: *(to Mitler)* How serious is this threat? How terrible is it, what's happening out there?

I'm not going back to the bars.
You promised that we were on our way up from now on.
What do you want of them? They're good on the whole, poor and good. When are you coming? *(to fuck)*

Mitler: *(to the singer while pulling out a magazine photo)* This is how I want you! *(to Miko, Goldman and Natasha)* Carry on. *(to Faith)* I want the religious one...

Mitler and Faith go to the shower. The rest go on painting.

Mitler: Get in... I'm the rabbi here, get in!
I need you. I'll make a person with character out of you.
You're going to bring all the perplexed here. You'll bring anyone who wants a leader to Reicher. We will give them everything they dream of. Bring all the religious boys here.
God isn't petty. He actually has a few marvelous ideas, your God: Women care for the family, men should be free! Wise... He's wise that God of yours. It's simple, you have a uterus, so it's your job. If I had a uterus, it would be my job. But I don't.

Faith: *(eagerly)* Excuse me, and like to present a special request... I'd do anything for Adam Reicher... You have influence, bring my child back to me...

Mitler: It's good that he's gone. He was the child of sin. You'll have a fresh start! I want plenty of clean children for the System.

Mitler exits. The focus is back on the three painting the wall. Natasha feels faint, Miko catches her.

Miko: I don't want to get involved in your crash, but I can see.
You want to die, is that what you want? No. You haven't decided yet.
You're tired. Tired of crying.
Hey, can you see me? Tell me that you can see me, tell me...

Natasha: *(coming down from the scaffoldings)* I'm not going to take any part of this! Stay away! Don't touch! No! You'll ruin my place in the System! Don't spoil everything. NO!

Natasha pulls away from him and circles the ring shouting: "NO!" Lenny runs in front of her and takes her picture

Lenny: *(perhaps to someone in the audience)* Did you see that... did you see? That woman will survive. The cry of an animal. That's the force.
(Painfully to the camera) No man can save a woman from her tears.

*The focus is back on Faith, who is imagining many imaginary children and trying to feed them all. Her imagination takes over her.
Now the focus is back on Miko and Goldman.*

Miko: Now it's only us and the wall.

Goldman: Do you hate me, Mephistopheles?

Miko: No!

Goldman: Do you love me?

Miko: No, I'm attracted to you.

Goldman drops his brush.

Miko: Shall I tell you why?

Goldman: No!

Miko: Good, so I'll tell you. I'm dying to see you. To see what you have there, underneath your disguise.

Goldman starts singing the "House Song" in hysteria. Genius walks in and turns to Mitler.

Genius: (*referring to Goldman*) I want the new one. We'll start with him.

Mitler bring a chair. Genius sits on it. Genius and Mitler blend into Goldman's wall painting rhythm.

Genius: How are you feeling up there?

Goldman: Not bad.

Genius: Are you nervous, Goldman?

Goldman: Not nervous.

Genius: Carry on. Don't look down. Be thorough Goldman... You're not being thorough enough (*no response*). Are you smart?

Goldman: I'm not stupid.

Genius: Not good enough. How smart are you?

Goldman: Smart enough...

Genius: What are you good at? Coming for just a moment and then clearing off? Go then! Have you come to mess around? How conniving are you, Goldman? What do you want? From what I can see... you're not that much of a success.

Goldman: I'm a good lover.

Genius: Interesting. So, have you come here to get laid? to find a bride? This is not the place.

Goldman: *(enjoying the topic of conversation)* There was a Pilipino girl my mother hired. I used to make her a cup of tea every time and it worked *(laughs)*, it worked... I know how to handle them. They like it when I'm **feeble** or devoted or when I play the money card with them. That always works.

Genius: So you have a vocation: lover.

Goldman: I've retired.

Genius: *(surprises him)* What have you come to check here?

Goldman: What?

Genius: What else have you retired from Goldman?

Goldman: Everything.

Genius: It's a young age to retire, Goldman, a privilege of the rich... How is your father?

Goldman: Fine, thank you *(he drops the paintbrush. Mitler returns it and starts painting along with him)*

Genius: It's enough just to mention your father and everything falls out of your hands... All right then, so you're not stupid, a good lover and you've retired from everything. What do you want with us? *(pause)* With your father's money, you could buy anything. What do you want? *(They stop painting for a second)*

Goldman: I want you... I want you to... I want you to find me a reason, I want you to give me something. I want you to tell me why...

Genius: I want the truth Goldman...

Aggressively, Mitler gets him back to his painting job.

Goldman: Don't touch, don't touch! You know what your problem is? That I'm two heads taller than you. *(Mitler throws him down)*

Genius: Very **smart/observant**... What's my problem then?

Goldman: You know what your problem is? That you have no problem.

Mitler sits on the chair.

Genius: Goldman, why does a rich boy suddenly appear one day (*signals to Mitler to take out the chair and bring the mirror*), turn around to me and say: "I'm with you". Who are you? (*Genius puts him in front of the mirror*) What do you see?

Goldman: Nothing.

Genius: You're lying. Just one good thing... (*The game with the mirror begins*) How are you in business Goldman?

Goldman: Very good.

Genius: If you're a very good businessman, then you know it's all a matter of give and take. If I give you meaning what do I get out of it? (*The mirror turns*)

Goldman: What do you want?

Genius: Whatever you have to offer.

Goldman: I'll tell you what I want. To close a deal on the world.

Genius: What's the give and what's the take? (*Turn of the mirror*)

Goldman: All my money.

Genius: All your father's money.

Goldman: All my money in return for all the emotions people have (*the mirror is turned and then flattened*)

Genius: That's the thing, there is one thing you cannot buy with your money... (*The mirror draws away*)

Goldman: And you?

Genius: Who are you to say "And you..." to me? I'm not your friend, I'm nobody's. I haven't been "of" for quite a while now... I'm no longer... So I haven't got a problem! I haven't got a problem!

Mitler: Enough already!

Genius pushes Mitler aside and attacks Goldman with the next question.

Genius: What are you willing to pay?

Goldman: Tell me what you want.

Genius: I'll tell you what I want. I want you. I want you to come to me and ask me to touch you so that you have meaning. I want you to tell me

something you've never told anyone before, want you to put sentences together that never came out of your mouth before. I want Goldman's truth and nothing but the truth. That's what I want, Goldman.

Goldman: I want to die.

Mitler: *(holding him by the straps of the robe as if they were stirrups, Mitler turns him around and leads him to the mirror)* Is this what you came for? What am I an idiot? You shit! You little shit! Look at yourself and tell the truth!

Goldman: My dad...

Genius: What about Dad...?

Mitler: What's the secret with your Dad?

Goldman: Dad used to...

Genius: Yes Goldman, Dad used to what?

Goldman: Dad used to... he used to. He used to screw me, all right?

Genius: *(remembering a childhood trauma)* Enough! Enough! Enough! No! Enough! Enough! No! *(Drawing Goldman close to him)* We have a deal.

Genius walks up to Lenny who is dancing in her space.

Lenny: What do I see?

Genius rushes at Lenny and they are all over each other until he breaks in her hands. He come out of her and stays against the wall.

Genius: He killed me *(Lenny stops)*
He killed me, Lenny.
She fought so that he wouldn't kill me
But he killed her too.
He killed us, my father

Lenny turns around to him and they embrace.

(in a dry voice) That Goldman, there's something about him. He reminds me of... me. That's never happened to me.

Lenny: Your eyes Genius. Sometimes I think I stick around only for that look.

Genius: Where did "Genius" come from?

Lenny: From your being a genius.

Genius: Say that again.

Lenny: You're a genius...

The focus moves to Goldman and Miko. Miko jumps down and starts dragging Goldman across the floor

Miko: Well played Goldman (*Mitler runs from the storage room to behind the mirror*) You look terrible... How far will you sell? Mother, father...
I'll get the truth out of you.
Is there such a thing with rich people?
Why are you here?
I'll tell you why I'm here.
This place is my last chance. I need this.
Fop them to finally see me...
And you won't spoil that for me...

Lets go of him and walks towards the exit.

Goldman: (*shouting after him*) 1:0 to you!

Goldman gets up and "talks to his father" facing the mirror. Mitler is behind the mirror.

Goldman: Dad (*hesitantly, in a whisper*)
You'll be hearing about me soon.
I'm a friend of Adam Reicher.
You know who that is? How couldn't you.
He loves me, Reicher. He needs me.
If you happen to need any contacts, you'll have to talk to me.
To see me.
Maybe even bribe me.
And I'll kill you Dad.

Mitler walks out from behind the mirror.

Mitler: So his father fucked him and you too and him too.
Behind every man is a father who screwed him.
So now it's time to fuck life, to fuck the world like we want to.
The system needs (to Goldman: Go away!) people who are in love with their own misery.
I don't care about the truth, only about the effect, the impression.
Idiots, a world of idiots...
(*to the singer*) Why won't you do anything? Kiss me! Why won't you kiss me?! (*Fucks her against the wall*)

The focus is back on Lenny and Genius.

Genius: Lenny, remind me. I've forgotten everything...

Lenny: You're an artist, Adam. You sculpt the world into a success story (*gets up and leads him to dance*) That's your gift! That's the thing I love and hate about you most – it takes you away from me. It's true, now you have many enemies. They're afraid of you because you're good. Go now, be even better.

Genius signals for the Wagner music to start.

Genius: We have no time. It is the time for the wild beast to talk. Fight ruthlessly for your place, for your existence, for the system!

Mitler stands at the centre of the stage. The characters take robes and stand in their places. Each couple walks by Mitler in the center. He makes them fall and they get up. Each character comes back to the center to "squash" a character left behind. After each exchange the characters moves up until they reach their initial positions. The characters circle Mitler quickly. Mitler grabs each character and throws him or her aside. Faith comes in and shouts to the character: "Pray!" They start wrestling in the ring.

Mitler: Blood, what I beautiful liquid. I want to see blood!

Mitler grabs Goldman and bring him into the center.

Faith: Pray...

Goldman: I spit on him, do you hear? Spit on him.
What happens to the divine providence when a mother leaves a child?
Where is the divine providence when a gun blows through a baby's skull?
Whores!

Faith: Adam Reicher watches over us.

They split into couples: Natasha and Goldman, and Faith and Miko.

Miko: (*to Goldman*) You're spoilt Goldman, you're a rich boy. You're a disgrace to the system! (*They rub mud*).

Natasha: (*to Miko*) You anti-Semite! (*walks into the centre of the ring. They fall back into the circle*) (*to Goldman*) The decay must be uprooted. Are you as weak in bed? Be a man, fight! You little bourgeoisie...

Faith: Pray, pray!...

Miko: (*talking to the characters and the audience*) You and you and you and you and you and you have a corpse outlined across your foreheads. Come close, come closer, I can give it to you in a minute. (*Everyone charge him*)

Natasha: Anti-Semite!

Miko: Bitch! The system can't change what you have under your skirt.

Faith is prying in ecstasy in the centre of the ring

Natasha: *(talking about Faith)* Shut her up! *(ring)* She's taking me back to when my grandmother overdosed on Judaism, to where my father was almost killed thirty years later by Zionism. Enough! *(the characters pause)* Where's your God when a man leaves you?

Mitler grabs them and turns them the other way round. The focus is back on Lenny and Genius who are watching the wrestling.

Genius: Look at them.

Lenny: I want them all like you: beautiful, straight and with an uncompromising character – for the world you are sculpting. Demand it of them!

Genius: I want an oath! *(a rope is lowered down and they fight over it)*

Faith: I'm here!

Natasha: I'm here!

(Goldman and Miko fight over the rope)

Goldman: I'm here!

Miko: I'm here too!

Genius comes down the slope approaching the characters.

Genius: You've got it, the sparkle in your eyes. You've proven determination and the fortitude of a wild beast leaping at its enemy.

Mitler comes in with a tray of meat.

Mitler: *Specialité de Mitler...*

Genius: Help yourselves, it was made especially for you. You deserve it, you've earned it.

Sequence of sentence, movement, eating begins.

Mitler: A person has to know his meat. Females are only good for milk and calving. This is a male. It's delicious! Delicious until they reach eighteen months, than you can just throw them away...

Genius: Each and every one of you will become a trademark of success. The Madonna of tomorrow! (*The Wagner music starts again*)

Mitler: The most important thing is not to let the meat dry up while cooking. The whole thing depends on that marvelous juice: blood!

Miko: Could you change the music? (*The characters slow down*)

Genius: Why? Wagner. Sexy. Wagner is a sexy man. (*conducts the music*) Don't you think?

Miko: Yes.

Genius: You don't have to agree with everything I say.

Miko: Yes, yes...

Genius: The German culture, Berlin, the cradle of civilization. As it should be. A masculine society, a wild and unrestrained desire to act. Strong, beautiful, ruthless. Your mother's name is Rachel?

Miko: Yes.

The singer starts singing loudly

Genius: (*to the singer*) Shut up!

All the characters walk back. Mitler removes the tray and signals to all the characters to exit.

Genius: It's perfect, it's powerful.

Miko: Yes, my company commander loved classical music. He liked driving around the streets of Gaza in his jeep and playing Wagner loudly to piss everyone off.

Genius: (*laughs*) Wagner in the Kasbah... And you're afraid of women?

Miko does not respond.

Genius: Whoever's man enough goes to the army, right Miko?

Mitler and Genius start circling Miko while keeping eye contact with him.

Miko: Yes.

Genius: And a real man goes to an elite unit.

Miko: Yes.

Genius: You... were in an elite unit, Miko... a real man. What are you good at? What does a real man do?

Miko: Kill.

Genius: I look at you, Miko, I've been observing you for quite some time now. Your dick, Miko, which you use all the time, it dangles sometimes, we both know that. And then: Poof! There is no Miko... There's a scent of sweat – you stink of fear.

Miko: My resumé includes 34 men, 8 women, a cat and one family that was guilty of nothing. Deheisha... winter, rain, pitch dark. You're shaking all over. You can't be not sure if it's from heat, or cold, or fear. *(Mitler places a whip in his hand. The movement with the whip begins.)* You're high-up so you're in charge. We're late going into the house, as usual, I'm the last one in. A mother and two girls shout and I: "Calm down! Everything's all right! Mistakes happen! Everything's all right!" I turn around and accidentally point my weapon on a kid, his father jumps at me and I pin him to the wall with my hand, I'm so scared I can't see *(Mitler covers his eyes)*, a friend comes over and smashes his face with his rifle butt. Seven minutes later he's dead. I have a thousand stories like that for you two, day and night. Bethlehem, Christmas morning, we go into the church. Suddenly I hear a woman shouting and turn around. We're playing it cool. My friend gets two bullets in his leg and falls over. I call for backup, and we all go into the church. The moment we go in, I'm the first, a beginner's mistake, I fall over and dislocate my shoulder *(he bends over with the pain. The rope falls out of his hands, Mitler takes the whip from him)* And then I got caught for the first time... I got caught!!! *(Miko holds his hands behind the pole as if they were tied)* They tied us up, blindfolded us and throw us into the corner of the room. Every so often someone passes by and kicks you in the ribs, just for the fun of it. For the fun of it... a party... Christmas! *(Mitler unties him and pushes him into the centre)* And all the time I keep thinking, I could have been in college now, in Australia... And then, for the first time, I thought: I wish I was dead. Please Mum, I wish I was dead. Everything was all over and I came back home, dead. She left quietly, elegantly *(crawls across the floor)* Mum, you don't know anything. You signed, you shouldn't have signed!... What were you afraid of? That your son would be faggot if you didn't sign? What's worse a queer son or a body?

Genius: *(Removing the blindfold from Miko's eyes, he speaks to him while he is still lying on the floor.)* So you've driven all the women away from you. You have a glorious and rotting past. You have the power to change this and fuck whoever you like. They'll be standing in line for you. You'll be selling dreams to people.

Genius exists. Mitler rolls Miko out and exits with him. The focus moves to the singer reading a hair dying pamphlet in French.

Singer: He wants me blonde. What can I do? Does anyone here know French?
(Starts walking towards the audience)
This is how he wants me! (holds up the magazine picture she got from Mitler) And I don't now what to do!
Will blonde suit me?

Lenny approaches to take a photo of the singer.

Lenny: Stop whining. Smear some paint on and sell hope. Do you think it's any different for me? The way he touched me that moment is already a memory. Poof, and he's gone.
He might come back, might not...
That's what the camera's for.
He won't marry me, I know.
I won't have a child either.
I want him larger than life.
Perhaps I'm not a real woman.
But no one will ever forget either of us.
I'm dying to become part of history...
Let me tell you something about love (the singer puls the camera down) I have no idea what it is, just who I love, and that's enough.

Lenny exists and Mitler appears on stage slamming the door behind him.

Mitler: What were you talking about? Why should you talk to her? I don't want you to talk to her! I forbid you to talk with anyone!

Singer: Why are you like that?

Mitler: Like what?

Singer: Like shit.

Mitler pushes her up the slope and pins her against the wall. Genius comes in and speaks to Mitler and the singer disappears.

Genius: Good things are happening, Mitler, the system is working. I've taken over another man. I have an understanding of the human weakness. I have the power to help (takes Mitler and dances with him) I want a party, to celebrate and celebrate. You have to cherish the moments of success, it reinforces you when you have enemies.

Natasha, who has been eavesdropping on them, comes in.

Natasha: May I join you?

Genius: No.

Mitler takes her to dance in an exterior circle. Genius circles them.

Natasha: Adam, I've come to give you the best in me.

Genius starts dancing with Natasha.

Genius: What happened between us is like a sip of beer to me. You're blonde, Natasha. I have no time to waste on blondes. You're from the suburbs Natasha, not from a **Boulevard** or from LA. You won't bewilder me and I have no time to waste on this!

Genius hurls Natasha towards Mitler and they dance in the inner circle.

Natasha: (to Genius) **Waste time** on what?

Genius: What did you come here for? To find a groom?

Natasha: Me? Find a groom? What are you talking about? I'm counting divorces, counting all the cheques I've handed out. It's too bad about the money though. I'm leaving (*on her way out Genius catches her*) You think you have an understanding of the human weakness? You can't accept the fact that you are loved.

(Genius hurls her over to Mitler)

When I was five year old, blonde – what can you do? We're blonde even when we're only five – I saw *Little House in the Prairie*, and before Laura went to sleep Charles Ingalls said to her: "I love you". I went up to my father and asked him: "Why don't you say 'I love you' in Hebrew to me?" (*Throws Mitler aside and stands facing Genius*)

So he said: There are some things you don't have to say and here you don't say things like that. (*Initiates a dance with Genius*) Twenty years later, Audi asked me to marry him. I asked him: "Why don't you say 'I love you'?" He said that you don't have to say it, that here you don't have to say those kind of things. (*Lets go of Genius and moves to the centre*) And I waited so long for that moment of love for **that pissing together**.

(Genius and Mitler start "playing catch" with Natasha while dancing, moving her from side to side. Natasha stops them)

You know what kind of scent you have? Men's scent. A musty scent. One day before the wedding I walked into our boutique: European Fabrics LTD, mine and Audi's boutique, I can still smell it. I came in to ask whether he remembered to order the flowers for our wedding. I walked in and there was no one there, so I walked into the back room and saw them, her and Audi, lying on the big table where we cut the fabrics.

(Genius and Mitler start waltzing around her)

My best friend and my fiancée. They didn't even see me. Cowards, why won't you say anything? I'd like to see you standing there quietly in front of something like that. I wanted to pick up the scissors and kill them, but instead I just stood there without making a sound, watching Audi's socks. I couldn't stop looking. He was wearing one blue sock and one black one. It wasn't a pair. And I'm standing there and

thinking that it isn't a pair and how could I not have seen it before. Betrayal is when it is not a pair. How could I have missed it? (*sits on Genius's knees*) What do you want? (*Genius rolls her over in Mitler's direction*)

Genius: I don't know, nothing much... To cry at weddings, to go to the supermarket with her, to pass out from the sight of blood (*whispers to himself*) to live...
Where's Lenny?

Mitler: Very good, Natasha, the System will wipe out everything. You are deserving, you'll get a new dress... You'll shape people's lives, you'll become famous...

Miko and Natasha are on the floor. They lift each other up and talk while walking.

Miko: What did he do to you?

Natasha: What did he do to you? What are we going to do?

Miko: I have no other choice.

Natasha: I have no other choice. I have nowhere to go.

Miko: He's strong. He'll give it to us.

Natasha: And then?

Miko: Maybe it will be different. (*Miko throws-up*) This is Miko Ben David, that which you see. Covered in my own shit. I came her from the floor. Didn't know whether it was six in the morning or in the evening, lying there in the shattered glasses of the mirror I broke, cut up.

Natasha: You're so beautiful...

The focus moves to Genius who is talking into his tape recorder.

Genius: Blacking out again. I have to put things in order. Don't panic! One thing at a time. Smile! (*tries smiling*) No go.
I've started making mistakes, I'm becoming sentimental. Should confer with Mitler. There's no one to confer with, he's out of control. What about the people? I need them not to think. The only good thing about them is that they have no alternative. I'm at a critical point, either become great or be wiped out.

*A **patrol** between Mitler and Goldman begins. In the background, we see Faith in an emotional trance, feeding imaginary children. It seems as though Mitler is looking desperately for someone. Goldman escapes him until Mitler exits the stage. Goldman find Miko, who is still with Natasha and walks up to him.*

Goldman: Miko, may I speak with you?

Miko: Yes. (*He leaves Natasha and they sit down*)

Goldman: First lieutenant Miko, from the elite unit... a killer. Be careful not to find yourself back there.

Miko: You're thorough Goldman. It's not too bad, your research. Joshua Goldman, rich boy. Never going back there.

Goldman: Do you want an ordinary life?

Miko: Eight to four, sports news, barbeques on the beach in summer, barbecues in the forest in winter? In between popping over to the gym to burn the fats. Fucking depending on her moods? No. I want the streets where fates are determined. And you?

Goldman: Don't even know what it means. A Pilipino, a driver, Dad coming in and out, disappearing. Mum in bed with migraines and sedatives, everyone want you to lie and you lie. Families are a danger zone, Miko, Families are what people like you do – kill. I want meaning.

Miko: I have this recurring nightmare. I'm sitting by this huge table, alone. There are lots of people around the table. People I've killed. They have holes instead of eyes and I'm alone.

Goldman: I have this thing where I'm drowning and then I wake up sweating and...

Miko: And...

Goldman: And breathe in and out... in and out...

Miko: We could have been...

Goldman: I'm going to do what I'm thinking of doing, I have to. And you will probably go on letting people like me do what they are going to do.

Miko: You know that if I have to choose between you and the System, you'll get the bullet.

Goldman: Or the bullet will.

The singer starts singing.

Miko: 1:1 (*The singer raises her voice.*)

The singer is singing a sad song to herself, while Genius walks around the space in agitation.

Mitler: Silence! How dare you sing that song? I don't want anyone to hear your whining!

He presses her against the wall until he notices Genius walking around nervously and addresses him.

Mitler: The System cannot tolerate relationships. All this mutual affection kills the System. You are killing us! You are betraying the system! Go to the supermarket, go cry in a couple of weddings, just know that I'm carrying on without you. What's wrong with you? Why are you so in love with this Goldman? We haven't seen anything of him yet. Why are you going around kissing that broad? And Lenny can't stand her, I want to kick her out. What is she doing dictating our image to us? Everything happened between the two of us. I went with you all along, covered your ass, took your shit, and now you've turned into a doormat?

Genius: What do you have to show for yourself without me? Being a pimp? The national champion of steaks? What are you without me? Nothing. You're rich, distinguished, every broad wants to be by Mitler's side. Because of your wonderful personality? Because of me, me! You're the traitor. You yapped about me to the newspapers, told them that "Adam Reicher is a Crook". It was you, you liar!

Mitler: Paranoid bastard.

Genius: Mobster.

Mitler: Pervert.

Genius: Illiterate cunt.

Mitler: Useless brownnoser.

Lenny: We have an audience. They're waiting for us. *(The three of them turn around and wave to the audience, while Wagner is played in the background.)*

Mitler: *(Talking to the characters at the exits)* Go get dressed! It's time to sell. I want an alluring, sexy show! So that people see what we see, so that they think what we think. The future according to the System – there is no alternative! Success is the name of the game.

A song by Madonna takes the place of Wagner. Miko, Natasha, Goldman and Faith come in wearing their best clothes. They walk up the slopes and undo the rolled up red carpets. In turn, they walk down to the centre of the stage and speak into the microphone.

Natasha: I'm the system's logo. Look at me now! I'm here so that you start looking. The eye does not lie – I am all the answers. Natasha: redesigning life.

Miko: One cannot hijack a plane without boarding it. We have to change things from within. As the Italian Gramsci said: I'll direct your life like a film. What is there out there besides the dream? You don't have to be rich, you just have to listen to me. With me and under my guidance, life will be like an opera without soap.

Faith: I have nothing to hide. I betrayed the Almighty. He (*referring to Adam*) reformed me. And all this happened why? So that I could stand here today and tell you this my friends: It is very evil to transgress the path of the righteous, but slipping up is half way to being even more righteous.

Goldman: I'm rich, but I'm still here. I'm rich and not rich. Paradoxical? No! The System encourages the pursuit of money and provides that which money cannot give. The system **straightens you out.**

*The characters **repeat his last word** while walking around the ring.*

All the characters together say the following sentence together while circling the ring.

Everyone: Go to sleep good people all is well. The unemployed are miserable because they have no work, the employed are miserable because they do. Sleep quietly, take Prozac and most of all, don't ask any questions! But if you change your minds we are here!

The characters talk into the microphone and push each other from it when their turn comes.

Natasha: I'm in charge of your cultural, spiritual and aesthetic world. I'll tell you what not to read, what film to see, what music to listen to, how to dress and who not to invite to your party.

Miko: (*pushing Natasha aside*) I'm all for the pacifists, tolerant with the religious, **I say let everyone live.** Forget about innocence, it is not a required quality nowadays. I'm done for – we have that in common, you and I.

Goldman: (*pushing Miko aside*) We are approaching a magnificent era, ladies and gentlemen. The states will soon be replaced by factories. We shall no longer be citizens of a state, but live in brandnames. We shall have Microsoftia and McDonaldland. We will all be the Kelvin Kleins of paradise!

Faith: (*pushing Goldman aside*) We have addresses of adoption agencies. We give a better price. So buy a prayer book and a talisman.

The characters start pushing each other away from the microphone, fighting for it. Every time one of them reaches the microphone, they say their lines.

Natasha: I'm the system's logo. Look at me now! I'm here so that you start looking. The eye does not lie – I am all the answers. I'm offering you the chance of a lifetime. In order to live you need to act, how simple. I'll put your minds at rest, you will not have to make an effort with me. I'm in charge of your cultural, spiritual and aesthetic world. I'll tell you what not to read, what film to see, what music to listen to, how to dress yourselves and who not to invite to your party. Your new life starts this very moment. Behind every man stands a woman and I would like to add: next to him too, and in my case: in front of him also. That is what it is all about!
Natasha: redesigning life.

Miko: One cannot hijack a plane without boarding it. We have to change things from within. As the Italian Gramsci said: I'll direct your life like a film. What is there out there besides the dream? You don't have to be rich for it, you have to listen to me. With me and under my guidance, life will be like an opera without soap. Stick with me and you will know today what you will want tomorrow. You will race over to the malls to buy what I offer you. You will love it. You won't be bored with me. With me, every woman is a star and every man a giant. I know how to do my job. I am honest, direct, I say it all. I'm all for the pacifists, tolerant with the religious, **I say let everyone live**. Forget about innocence, it is not a required quality nowadays. I'm done for, we have that in common you and I.

Faith: I have nothing to hide. I betrayed the Almighty. He (*referring to Adam*) reformed me. And all this happened why? So that I could stand here today and tell you this my friends: It is very evil to transgress the path of the righteous, but slipping up is half way to being even more righteous.
Your husband cheats on you, right? Keep clean! Put some lipstick on! Don't let him know you know!
Pray four times a day and ask him: How are you?
Nothing else! Everything will work out eventually.
Are you jealous of a friend for being more successful than you?
Always remember that everyone die the same height: 1.20 m.
So buy a prayer book and a talisman.
Do you have a barren womb, poor girl? We have addresses of **adoption agencies**. We give a better price.
Talk to me later.
Have no fear my friends, pray to God and keep in touch with me.

Goldman: I'm rich, but I'm still here. I'm rich and not rich. Paradoxical? No! The system **straightens you out**. The system encourages the pursuit of money and takes care of that which money cannot buy. We are approaching a magnificent era, ladies and gentlemen. The states will soon be replaced by factories. We shall no longer be citizens

of a state, but live in brandnames. We shall have Microsoftia and
McDonaldland. We will all be Kelvin Kleins in paradise.
Come and live the good life with us.
Wear the right clothes,
Buy the right product,
Go to the right place,
Talk to the right people,
Believe in the right thing.

In the cacophony, voices of the demonstration against Adam Reicher outside are heard:

“Adam Reicher come out!”
“Adam Reicher is a crook!”
“Bring Adam Reicher to trial!”
“Reicher is a public enemy!”
*“He has robbed people of their money,
Exploited the weak!”*
“Foul play!”
“Silencing witnesses by use of force!”

Genius: *(to the demonstrators)* Liars! Scoundrels!
I have power! I have truth!
What’s wrong? Cat caught your tongues? Shout!... Shout, why don’t
you!... I’ll silence you like nothing you’ve ever seen, The ultimate
silencing! I offered a solution! I brought life!
(to the trademark characters) And you, what do you have to give me?
Show them... show them... *(starts taking off their clothes and wigs.
Mitler follows after him and orders them to expose their body parts)*
(to the audience) I am your hope, I’m the architect of the era! There is
a geriatric scent here, you’re too afraid to get yourselves off your asses,
trying to keep things as are.
(to the trademark characters) You’re not worth me! You’re all dead
ducks. You stink of fear. You’re not enough for me! Bring me new,
younger ones. Fresh blood!
(to himself) One day they’ll understand... No one understands me...
Lost... all lost...

*Mitler picks Genius up and orders the characters to the shower. Lenny follows Genius
and Mitler and reads out a press statement explaining Adam Reicher’s condition. The
four characters are standing in the shower exhausted and weak.*

Miko: Dead ducks. Well, that’s just wonderful.
Reicher, I’ve rehearsed death so many times that I have no more fear
left in me.
They saw me today. Their eyes are my life insurance.
You can’t kill me anymore.
I need a few more seconds with them.

Natasha: God, I suddenly need you.
I'm sorry for being so angry at you all these years.
I believed you, Reicher, God how I believed you!
"The memory, Natasha, wipe it out!"
I hate you Adam Reicher.
Don't want to wipe out!
I'm Natasha from the north, from the inferior suburbia.
I want to go home.

Singer: *(running upstairs, falling to the ground and talking to Mitler)*
Look at me! For once, look!
Am I also going to be singled out now?
What are you going to bring over? A young **girl**? Fresh meat?
Where are you?
I gave you my youth,
I took all your crap,
I sang all the stupid words that you wrote down.
I ate my solitude alone in the dark.
At least tell me that I'm your woman, not your slut.
(banging her shoes against the wall)
Tell me!
My heart!
What's waiting for me?
Who's waiting for me?
My heart!

*Faith runs from the shower to the wall, **into the shoes.***

Faith: Let me tell you about how the heart works in our community.
You're not allowed to love,
We have matchmaking.
But I loved someone else.
My belly grew because of him.
They sent the baby to adoption,
They shaved my head,
They mourned me as if I were dead and gone.
(The singer interrupts the sequel and hugs Faith)
I'm dying... I'm dying...

Singer: Take me away from here...

Goldman: *(coming out of the shower)* Where is Reicher? Where is Reicher?!

Mitler: I hear you, I hear everything! A bunch of pussies with no balls!
Get back in the shower!
I know what you need? You need **someone to give you a nice anal screw**...

Goldman and Mitler become violent. Miko runs out of the shower to help Goldman – he grabs Mitler and pushes him aside.

Goldman: Where is Reicher? (*Genius comes in and Goldman grabs him and throws him on the floor*)
(*to Genius*) You only hug so you can screw me over.
You step all over me! It hurts! It hurts, you bastard!
You and my father are of the same kind, my fucking father.
I'm sorry Reicher, you're a great man,
But I need this and you're through anyway.
From now on – it's me.
That's the deal!
That's the deal!

Goldman sees Lenny coming down with a grey wedding dress. He leaves to give them that moment.

Lenny: (*to Genius who is lying on the floor*) Look, I wore a grey dress for you. Now is the time. Reality offers the best photos when it's grey outside. A paradox.
I used to think that twenty years of silence would come rushing out when the time came for me to talk to you, but I suddenly have nothing to say. Marry me. Afterwards, we shall go to the beach.

Genius: You're leaving with me?

Lenny: I am (*she picks him up and they walk towards the exit*)

Genius: We could have had a child.

Lenny: Yes, but his father already used the whole story up.

Genius: The water will be cold.

Lenny: It will be cold at first and then it will be quiet. (*They leave*)

Natasha: You're lying and your woman believes you. Lenny, I don't envy you. Your love has made you blind. I want to love. I forgot what a hug is, a kiss, how it all started...

Goldman comes back wearing Genius's coat.

Goldman: Where is Mitler? Where is Mitler?!

Mitler comes in, takes a bottle of whiskey out of his pocket and fills Goldman's glass.

Mitler: You shall have my company and if satisfied,
I shall be your servant, always at your side.
Very enlightening... (*They clink glasses*) Goethe, *Faust*.

Goldman: I know.

Miko: You did it Goldman. *(to Natasha)* We're leaving... I want to feel what I feel and to say what I think. Not to be afraid anymore. Goldman, you are on your own from now on.

Goldman gives Genius's opening speech to the audience outside.

Goldman: You look at me and ask: what is his motive?
I'll deliver the goods.
Time is short and art is lengthy.

Miko comes out of the shower and stands beside Goldman. Goldman goes on with his speech. Mitler is beside him. Faith also comes to stand by Goldman's side.

Goldman: We are putting an end, an end to the bitter end! To the sacrificial air, the filth, the awful mood of hopelessness. Whoever is strong enough will survive, like in nature. The System wants to bring back the free and magnificent wild beast, so that it glistens in your eyes. It has already been said before me: history does not make great people, great people make history.

The end