



# *The Stolen Violin*

an episode from the Second World War

by Christian Lanciai (2011)

*The characters:*

Rudolf  
Max, his brother  
Alexandra, Rudolf's English wife  
the chairman  
Serapion  
Ansgar  
other members of the society  
Henry, Alexandra's former partner  
Carol, his wife  
Adolf Hitler  
Gudrun, Max' mistress  
a British officer  
Wilhelm Furtwängler  
Reinhard Heydrich  
Martin Bormann

Adolf Eichmann  
Czech partisans  
Ilya Ehrenburg  
Stalin

The Berliner Philharmonics

The action is in Germany, England, Czechoslovakia and Russia.  
from the First World War to the end of the Second.

*Footnote.* The whole preceding story to the friendship between "Henry" and "Rudolf" is told in the film "Life and Death of Colonel Blimp" (1943) by Emeric Pressburger and Michael Powell. The story of the brother Max is an entirely different story though.

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Act I scene 1. A beautiful home in Berlin.

*Rudolf* I am glad to see you alive, Max.

*Max* And I am glad to still see you married to an English woman.

*Alexandra* We have kept all national frontiers erased. I must insist on inviting you for some English tea and scones.

*Max* Who could resist such an invitation from the most exemplary of English ladies?

*Rudolf* The war has not infringed on our marital happiness. On the contrary. Now we could start working on reinstalling European unity.

*Max* Still, Germany is deeply afflicted and humiliated and has inevitably an abyss to work herself out of before she can avoid feeling awkward among her European neighbours again.

*Rudolf* How did you survive?

*Max* It was difficult. I owe my thanks to the Russian revolution for my liberation, but I stayed on in Russia on different missions and was able to observe their revolution from the inside. I fear that the tragedy and humiliation of Russia is worse than that of Germany.

*Rudolf* Tell me about it.

*Max* Russia was the leading country in the world up till 1917. It had unlimited resources, good economy, increasing welfare and since a hundred years an established stability, just like the British Empire. They vied about control of the world and were both equally prominent. What happened in 1917 was that the Russian condition was thwarted to the contrary. The Tzar, who had already embarked on democratic reforms and who planned introducing parliamentarism was overthrown and murdered, and

instead the cruelest autocracy in the world took over. Never has a war resulted in such a monstrous aftermath as the Russian bolshevik party. They are all murderers and keep accelerating their activity as mass murderers.

*Rudolf* Those are grave accusations. Their new state is after all acknowledged by the world.

*Max* The worst thing is, that those who are behind the imposition of the new regime in Russia are not Russians but foreign interests. I was never an anti-semite and never will be, but it concerns almost exclusively banks of Jewish influence. And almost all the leaders of the new Russian regime are Jews or partly Jews.

*Rudolf* I thought it was Germany who sent Lenin to Saint Petersburg in a sealed wagon for him to torpedo Russia from the inside.

*Max* That was just a detail of the scheme. The plot comprised an unsurveyable network of Russian Jews in the service of anarchy and terrorism, mainly monitored by international freemasons with Jewish influence of banks.

*Alexandra* Please, gentlemen, enjoy your tea, and the scones are quite warm and fresh. How do you know all this, Max?

*Max* From the inside. I can't confirm all the facts now, it will take generations of research to be able to establish the universal conspiracy, but I know what I know, and unfortunately we are most probably facing one of the most difficult of all times.

*Rudolf* Can't we do anything about it?

*Max* Yes, we can defend ourselves. We can muster preparations. The worst ordeal will afflict Germany, which since the 30 years' war always has been the centre of European crises, if you only except the French revolution, and at the moment we are at the bottom of a ditch in an unequalled and unfair humiliation by the unreasonableness of the peace of Versailles, which only could lead to the opposite.

*Rudolf* What is the opposite?

*Max* A total reaction against the Russian scenario. Karl Marx was a German Jew. Russia has fallen for his seduction into a dictatorship. Germany must not do that.

*Rudolf* A crusade against the bolsheviks?

*Max* It will be unavoidable. Or else they will take Germany and Europe. They imagine it is their duty to spread their inhuman revolutionary dictatorship across the world. We must stop them.

*Rudolf* How?

*Alexandra* Have your tea, gentlemen. The scones will not get warmer.

*Max* England must help us.

*Rudolf* All nations are tired to death after the war. Not even England is yet able to stand on her own legs.

*Max* But you have a good friend there with some influence. Get in touch with him. England must be informed about the danger of things to come.

*Rudolf* I robbed him of his sweetheart.

*Alexandra* Nonsense, Rudolf. I was the one who fell in love with you.

*Rudolf* He was grand enough to relinquish her, and we became the best of friends after a duel which sent us both to hospital when we furiously fenced ourselves out of a window and almost perished in the fall. At the hospital we became the best of friends.

*Alexandra* I nursed them both, one more bandaged up than the other. You should have seen them.

*Max* That was in the good old days before the war. Then any deadly enemies could become the best of friends. Now it is rather the contrary.

*Rudolf* Shall I ask him here?

*Max* It would be interesting to meet him again. What rank has he reached?

*Rudolf* Professional military, many decorations, a young colonel, a perfect gentleman.

*Max* Freemason?

*Rudolf* That's more than I know. It wouldn't surprise me.

*Max* See what you can do. Wonderful scones, Alix.

*Alexandra* Thank you. They are very British.

*Rudolf* I think they have some operations going on in Russia. Do you know anything about it?

*Max* They have all been sabotaged by countermanding orders, they were badly organized, they were too weak and got lost in the chaos. They couldn't do anything since their command was so ignorant about the real situation, which changed from one day to another. The bolshevik revolution was a hell of a chaos systematized by professional terrorists, whose only intention was to destroy the order of Russia and the world.

*Alexandra (sighs)* The only advice I can give you is to have some more tea. That at least will do you some good.

*Rudolf* You are the wisest of all of us, Alix.

*Alexandra* What good does it do to be wise if the world all the time is just getting more evil?

*Max* Exactly, Alix. We need stronger measures.

*Alexandra* Anything but not another world war.

*Rudolf* I don't think anyone wants that.

*Max* Tell your friend, Rudolf, that I would gladly serve as a spy for the English. I know both Germany and Russia too well.

*Rudolf* I will bring your message.

*Alexandra* Drink your tea now, gentlemen. It has almost gone cold. That is not very wise of you.

*Rudolf* Alas, my beloved, we are both stuck in the madness of the world and allow it to run off the rails with us, so that even the tea is getting cold, the most important thing of all.

*Alexandra* Never forget it, and you will manage.

*Rudolf* I abide by you, my darling. (*pours himself some more tea. They continue their tea party.*)

Scene 2. Germany. A secret society.

*Chairman* We are facing insolvable problems demanding extraordinary measures. No one wanted a world war, and yet practically everyone had a share in starting it – the governments of Austria, Germany and Russia launched it together although both the Tzar and the Kaiser wanted to stop it. No one wanted a French revolution in Russia, and yet it is a fact and has resulted in an even nastier reign of terror than that of France, and there is no Napoleon. The Versailles treaty enforced by Lloyd George forces Germany down on her knees with so heavy shackles that it seems impossible for her to ever rise again, while the Bolsheviks demand the same revolution in Germany as the abhorrent one in Russia with mainly mass murders, reign of terror, civil war, mass starvation and cannibalism as a result. Has anyone any ideas?

*Serapion* The money is in the American, British and French banks. Only by certain bankers giving their support for the subversive forces of Russia, the revolution could be implemented there. The same forces could be mobilized for a counter revolution, which would find excellent conditions here in this crippled, depressed, humiliated and dishonoured Germany.

*Chairman* Any suggestions?

*Serapion* I will talk with Ludendorff and Hindenburg.

*Max (enters)* Gentlemen, pardon my late arrival, but I have just been sitting through a number of meetings.

*Chairman* What do you propose, Max?

*Max* The situation is serious enough to demand extraordinary measures.

*Chairman* We are already aware of that, and we are eager to take measures.

*Max* The collapse of Russia is so total that it has turned into its own opposite. You can't imagine what is going on there. The active policy of the government is so unheard of that you could draw the conclusion of it that they methodically would execute the entire Russian people or at least the better half of it. They force starvation catastrophes to occur by expropriating harvests, they compel their citizens to report and spy on each other, the judicial system is out of order and anyone can be executed for nothing or a mere suspicion. The government only engage the worst scum and most brutal villains in their service and use these as executioners and slave-drivers. The foremost purpose of a government would be to serve the people with a workable administration warranting education above all, the only thing separating man from animalism, an education aiming at sustaining knowledge, competence and quality, but the new Russian regime aims at the contrary demanding blind obedience by mechanical discipline in the implementation of the most inhuman state that ever existed. And those monsters regard it as their duty and sacred mission to spread this barbaric revolution across the entire world, first of all to Germany.

*Chairman* And your conclusion?

*Max* Against such a threat all means must be allowed.

*Chairman* And?

*Max* We have to find a party capable of uniting the people in a determined resistance against the communist threat before the arrival of the crisis and attack.

*Chairman* Rosa Luxemburg was already murdered, and her resistance fighters only succeeded in making her a martyr.

*Max* I have found a man with the right idealism who I think could help us.

*Chairman* Who is he?

*Max* A decorated corporal by the name of Adolf Hitler.

*Chairman* What do you know about him?

*Max* An idealist, an artist and fan of the theatre and the opera, a rather crude and primitive nature, but he has the gift of the speech. He can spellbind an audience.

*Chairman* Is he politically involved?

*Max* He spoke to a small audience in a small unknown party called the National Socialist Workers' party. All in the audience were transported.

*Serapion* A small innocent party, perhaps 50 members. It is quite innocent. It could be worth waging on.

*Max* Whatever you may think of the man, who is both conceited and simple, the Hitler effect is still infallible. That's for sure.

*Chairman* Good, Max. We will examine our possibilities. It's good that you turned up. You always bring the right information.

*Max* That's the least thing I can do.

*Chairman* We adjourn the case until further to continue the discussions in private. (*hammers. The meeting is concluded.*)

### Scene 3. England.

*Henry* What kind of a fellow is your brother really? I heard the strangest reports about him.

*Rudolf* I don't know anyone who is more knowledgeable about the present development of world affairs.

*Henry* I asked Bruce Lockhart about him. They were together for some time in Moscow, but Lockhart never really could get the hang of him, as little as he ever could understand Sid Reilly.

*Rudolf* What did Lockhart have to say about him?

*Henry* "Find out what you can about him, but be prepared that the man is a labyrinth."

*Rudolf* Yes, that's rather a fitting description of my brother. I never got the hang of him either. But I think the dangers he is warning us about concerning Soviet Russia are real. That regime seems composed of a gang of lunatic murderers who regard it as their duty to spread their cataclysmatic revolution all over the world. Russia is closer to us than England.

*Henry* For the moment I consider Germany out of danger. The communists have failed there like everywhere outside Soviet Russia. Most people see them through as

the bolting political maniacs they are and want nothing to do with them. What is your brother doing now? He is as regularly orderly as yourself. Has he no family interests, like we have?

*Rudolf* He hasn't got the time. He considers it his duty to do what he can to help Germany out of the vicious circle of crises after the world war and work principally night and day.

*Henry* What is he doing?

*Rudolf* He seems to mostly take part in conferences, engaging himself in all kinds of secret societies and movements, not just freemasons and illuminati, but also extremely secret and clandestine occult societies that hardly can endure any spotlight.

*Henry* I don't think England can help him. We are too rational. The Rothschilds in Paris and adventuresome American bankers would be closer at hand. What do you think about the matter, Carol, you who are so wise?

*Carol* If it is as bad as it seems in Russia, that no one's life is safe, especially not if you have aristocratic ties or any academic education, then the whole world should really beware of Russia and its terror example.

*Henry* Churchill and Lockhart have confirmed Max' terrible exaggerations as no exaggerations at all, that Lenin even has introduced a system of concentration camps which are death camps in the long run for people who Lenin consider unsuitable for his kakistocratic society. Churchill did what he could to help the Tzar and Russia. There were supporting forces sent to Archangelsk and to the Czech free army and even to Ukraine, but everything petered out, and after the murder of the Tzar and his entire family with all their staff and even their lap dogs, everyone has kind of lost heart.

*Rudolf* That's what Max suggests as the greatest danger: to admit evil to be too strong and to resign.

*Henry* He is right. You must not give up. But I am sure the Rothschilds and Rockefellers will stand up to it. I believe the British bankers prefer to wait and see. We have our own problems with India for example.

*Rudolf* Thanks for inviting me. We have a long friendship as a solid base to continue working on, Henry. And your Carol is remarkably like my wife.

*Carol* We almost seem like sisters. Unfortunately I have so far never seen her, but Henry has told me much about her. She was after all my predecessor.

*Henry* You are like her elder sister, and Rudolf is like my younger brother.

*Rudolf* Thanks again.

*Carol* Welcome back.

*(They are having tea.)*

#### Scene 4. The society.

*Chairman* We thank you for your willingness to come here, Herr Hitler. Since we probably will further your movement we are interested in knowing a little more about you. For that reason we wish to ask you a few questions.

*Hitler* I am at your disposal.

*Chairman* Your political problem seems somewhat vague to say the least. You are a soul of fire in your German nationalism but don't seem very realistic. Still you have almost Faustian ambitions for the future of Germany which border on the dangerous area of hubris.

*Hitler* There were many who like me refused to accept the German defeat in the war, which struck us as a knife in our back although we consistently kept the war on foreign soil and never were driven back, and the treaty of Versailles is such a grotesque humiliation that no German could regard it as anything less than a personal disgrace.

*Serapion* Your hatred of Jews is of some interest. What is your reason for it?

*Hitler* The Jews have taken over Russia and transformed it into a grotesque dictatorship where the entire government consists of Jewish mass murderers headed by Trotsky, Lenin is part Jewish and only his instrument, and the Jews of Germany wish to do the same here. We must fight back. The Jews have always gathered together like a state within the state which has aimed at undermining the state in every possible way. Jews have always been subversive in every context. They have been suppressed, maybe especially in Russia, and consequently they now strike so cruelly against the entire population, like to be avenged with a vengeance.

*Serapion* Do you mean the Jews like Felix Mendelssohn, Gustav Mahler, Max Bruch, Bruno Walter, Otto Klemperer, Stefan Zweig, the house of Rothschild, Benjamin Disraeli, Albert Einstein, Rainer Maria Rilke and Hugo von Hofmannsthal also are subversive posing a danger to the state?

*Hitler* They are no politicians. I only mean political activists like Trotsky, Lenin, Karl Marx and the Jewish interests that are financing them.

*Chairman* Herr Hitler, we are convinced about your capacity to catch great audiences and gain many followers. You can convince and enthuse anyone. No audience or mass could resist your pathos. For that reason we intend to support your party. We have only one thing to ask of you.

*Hitler* I would gladly gratify your wish.

*Chairman* Don't let us down. Germany is crippled and annihilated by the world war and cannot endure a war of revenge, which only could end even worse. Therefore we ask you to listen more keenly and sensitively to the needs of the people than to your own wishful thinking.

*Hitler* I will gladly satisfy your wish.

*Chairman* That is our only condition. Has anyone else anything to add?

*Serapion* We have no right to lay down any conditions, if we give you our support it must be with all our hearts and consistent with no possible return. But Herr Hitler must be extremely aware, that the fact that we trust Herr Hitler purports a maximal responsibility.

*Hitler* I am willing to accept it.

*Chairman* Then we are satisfied. I declare this interrogation concluded. (*hammers. The meeting is finished. Several members congratulate Hitler.*)



Act II scene 1.

*Gudrun* You are an adventurer, Max.

*Max* No, an investigator.

*Gudrun* Of what? Politics? History?

*Max* Of people above all. It's they who after all run history and politics.

*Gudrun* Are they? I think they have always failed in that field.

*Max* They always did as well as they could. I admit they have often failed. Even the best have sometimes failed, which makes them the most interesting.

*Gudrun* And what are you? A pawn in the game, an observer or a guide who perhaps will fail?

*Max* We don't know that yet. We shall see. But I am also doing as well as I can.

*Gudrun* I think your party stinks. What is this SS all about?

*Max* A kind of special branch of the party for its protection.

*Gudrun* Are you blindly following the party, or are you running the party?

*Max* You could say it is a kind of mutual exchange. The party needs us, and we serve the party.

*Gudrun* I can't stand that Hitler. He is a monstrous fool.

*Max* I know. There is some unpleasantness about him.

*Gudrun* A vain conceited idiot, who has got the mad idea that he alone should be able to lead the world.

*Max* You are lucky that only I can hear you.

*Gudrun* Or else I would not say it aloud, and that you dare associate with a Jewess.

*Max* We are not married.

*Gudrun* We never should be, for the sake of both of us. You can denounce me any time, and I can disappear any time.

*Max* I love you.

*Gudrun* It could be your death trap.

*Max* I take that risk. I dislike Hitler's categorical condemnation of all Jews as much as you do. Therefore I have chosen you, as a kind of soul insurance.

*Gudrun* Our relationship must never appear in public.

*Max* Few know that you are a Jewess.

*Gudrun* I am assimilated and have never adopted my mother's religion. Even my parents are assimilated. We are only Jewish in our blood and only in part. That's enough to get caught by Hitler's condemnation.

*Max* Don't take him so seriously.

*Gudrun* No one takes him more seriously than himself.

*Max* That's his funeral and his folly.

*Gudrun* Could you govern him?

*Max* It is our duty to do so. We must. Therefore I accepted membership and accepted to join the SS. Most people under his command are accountable only to him, but my duties are also towards those who stand over both him and the party.

*Gudrun* Who is that?  
*Max* His sponsors. Those who have financed the party, especially foreign Interests.  
*Gudrun* I know you have good contacts with England.  
*Max* No, the main foreign interests in the cause of Hitler are American. They want to have a strong Germany on her feet again as a bulwark against communism.  
*Gudrun* Then Hitler will suit them fine like a hand in a glove. But what do they really know about him?  
*Max* Enough to dare wagering on him. They are impressed by the efficiency of the party. It could work miracles of recovery.  
*Gudrun* At the cost of what? The expropriated fortunes of Jews?  
*Max* Energetic determination above all.  
*Gudrun* I think America must be the most naïve nation in the world.  
*Max* But they have money.  
*Gudrun* Which Hitler gratefully accepts to fatten his vanity with.  
*Max* So far he has not shamed anyone's expectations.  
*Gudrun* Just you wait. If he turns out a dictator he will have a bad end.  
*Max* He is a dictator already, to everyone's delight and rapture.  
*Gudrun* So he will have a bad end.  
*Max* Consider it a game. He is a winning horse. Consequently the most powerful dare wagering on him, and he collects the winnings. As long as he continues like that, there is no problem. Come back when he loses his grip.  
*Gudrun* You are lucky to have me, Max, who can guide you when you guide the SS which guides Hitler. When they all fall you can always fall back on me.  
*Max* I am thankful for it, Gudrun. Let's now relax and make love.  
*Gudrun* A brandy?  
*Max* All right with me.  
*Gudrun* Tonight I am yours.

## Scene 2.

*Alix* I want us to leave Germany, Rudolf.  
*Rudolf* I can understand that.

*Alix* Are you with me?

*Rudolf* I can't.

*Alix* I will not leave you.

*Rudolf* You should. Things will get worse here in Germany.

*Alix* I am sure they will. It is already the worst autocracy in the world, worse than Italy. But the only thing that makes me want to leave Berlin is the harassment of the Jews.

*Rudolf* Yes, it is nasty and inhuman and totally unreasonable. The Jews of Germany are not to blame for the mess that the Jews of Russia have instigated.

*Alix* And your brother has joined the awful party.

*Rudolf* He is protecting us. By him we live in perfect security. SS is the protective force of the party.

*Alix* I am afraid of them. Black uniforms and death skulls. They give me the impression that they are capable of anything.

*Rudolf* They only do what they must.

*Alix* Can't you come with me? Henry and Carol would do anything for us in England.

*Rudolf* I am too much involved with the Abwehr. If all good people would leave Germany, which too many already have done, there would be no hope left. We have at least Canaris and others with a sense of responsibility. *(the door bell rings)* That must be Max.

*Alix* He is in time for tea.

*Rudolf (opens)* Welcome, Max. You are just in time for tea.

*Alix* Come in, Max. What horrible new tidings do you bring?

*Max* Albert Einstein has left Germany. Stefan Zweig has left Austria. Bruno Walter has applied for asylum in America. Toscanini refuses to conduct any more in Italy as long as Mussolini is still there.

*Alix* What else could you expect after the fire of the Reichstag.

*Rudolf* Alix wants to leave the country.

*Max* She is doing the right thing. You have an English wife and should follow her.

*Rudolf* I can't. You know. And we are not at war with England, are we?

*Max* Not yet.

*Rudolf* There is no probability that we will be, since that is probably the last thing Hitler wants.

*Max* If you want to leave Berlin, just let me know, and I will help you out.

*Rudolf* I serve under Admiral Canaris and want to give him and his Germany a chance.

*Alix* I will never leave Rudolf.

*Max* The main thing is that you keep aware of the dangers and the development. I will keep you informed.

*Rudolf* We thank you for that.

*Alix* As an Englishwoman I detest everything you stand for, Max, the party, SS and Hitler. But I believe in such men as Rudolf and Canaris. For their sake you are always welcome here.

*Max* I will keep you notified. (*rises*)

*Rudolf* No tea?

*Max* Not today. Some other time. (*breaks it up*)

*Rudolf* He is very busy. There is probably some important meeting.

*Alix* What secret society has he kept out of?

*Rudolf* Search me. I am not involved in any.

*Alix* Good for you. (*hugs him. They have tea.*)

### Scene 3. The society.

*Chairman* We have gathered here today to try to understand and get oriented in the development and if possible make some decision of how to give it a right direction. Brother Serapion.

*Serapion (rises)* As you all know I am fundamentally critical. Although all the indications are positive, I am not at all certain that we are on the right course. On the contrary. The more favourable the prospects, the better success and results, the greater optimism and future hopes, the greater the latent danger.

*Chairman* Brother Ansgar.

*Ansgar (rises)* We have definitely taken over the world leadership. The initiative is ours. Our leader has disposed of unemployment, stabilized the economy and turned it prosperous. The whole world is admiring us. The films of Leni Riefenstahl have documented and brought evidence of our spiritual and moral supremacy. Our leader has constantly pointed out the inevitability of a conflict with the bolsheviks, and their evil is so comprehensive and inhuman that we must regard this approaching conflict as a duty. War may be unpleasant, but it is unavoidable, and it is our duty to make it.

*Serapion* Our leader is committing the mistake of equalling bolsheviks and Jews. All our most prominent Jews have already left the country and offered their services to other countries, mostly America, scientists, doctors, writers, musicians, humanists and spiritual representatives. I regard this as an ominous mistake that could import fatal consequences.

*Ansgar* Amerika is our greatest provider. No one admires us more than America. Does brother Serapion mean that we have anything to fear of the Americans? We are far ahead of them in technology and development.

*Serapion* Not yet. But if the conflict with the bolsheviks really is inevitable, it must be avoided at any price that we once more get America on the wrong side of the war.

*Ansgar* War is the last thing America wants. They consider themselves scathed after the world war and are completely intent on isolationism. When the war comes we will neither have them as friend nor enemy. That is why we can make the war.

*Serapion* Brother Ansgar shares the general naïvety of optimistic faith in the future. I view the increasing extermination policy against an innocent group of people within our borders as a political cancer that could ruin everything.

*Chairman* I see that brother Max has arrived late at our meeting as usual. Has he heard the discussion? Has he anything to add?

*Max* Brother Ansgar is partly right. I have visited my friends in England and talked with Churchill, who is regarded by most as an exhausted political power, but he might know more than anyone else in England about the current situation. Roosevelt is worried about the information he gets about our campaign against the Jews. Albert Einstein, perhaps the foremost physician in the world, German and Jew, whom we scared off, has insisted on Roosevelt undertaking a program for the development of an atomic bomb, for he knows that we will accomplish such a bomb first if he doesn't. Our leading position in science is not at all self-evident, with such capacities as Einstein in America.

*Ansgar* The greatest ambition of America politically is isolationism. So far they have been supporting us.

*Chairman* Brother Max, what news from the opposite side?

*Max* Stalin has launched fake trials by which he methodically disposes of all his foremost and oldest collaborators to make his own absolute power more secure. He is completely paranoid, and in his further developed death camps inherited by Lenin, the death rate is now estimated at some million people every year.

*Ansgar* If he goes on like that we will need no war with Russia. Stalin is himself executing his own population.

*Max* We are agreed on that.

*Serapion* Stalin is still protecting his Jews though and have them in his efficient service to extend Soviet imperialism and terrorism, while we are persecuting our Jews. This makes a significant difference. I wish to point out the historical fact, that whenever Jews were favoured by a regime, that regime has flourished and reached great power, like in medieval Spain, Poland of the renaissance and the Turkish empire, just to mention a few examples. No power has ever gained anything by persecuting Jews.

*Chairman* This is not our field of responsibility. The party is accountable for its policies. We are only here to observe and discuss and if possible to act as guides. Thanks for your views and important contributions, gentlemen. We will resume our discussions at our next meeting. (*hammers. The meeting is concluded.*)

#### Scene 4.

*Henry* I am afraid that Rudolf is in peril and Alix even more so. They should have come to England long ago.

*Carol* How are they doing?

*Henry* Alix is ill. The Nazi nightmare is running amuck with the German society, nothing can stop it, and Alix is too sensitive to be able to bear it. Now she is ill, and it is more impossible for them than ever to get away.

*Carol* Poor Alix. What does Churchill say?

*Henry* He says that war is unavoidable. The Germans just go on provoking, getting more insolent all the time. The way they carry on, Churchill suggests, on a constant collision course, it must reach a bad end.

*Carol* Not another world war.

*Henry* That's what the whole world is saying.

*Carol* Can't even Churchill stop it?

*Henry* Hitler's red blanket is bolshevikism, which he confuses with the Jews. That's why he goes at the Jews in his country in the distorted prejudice that all Jews have to be subversive communists. The way he goes on there will soon be no Jews left in Germany. All have emigrated or been margined out of society.

*Carol* No wonder Alix gets sick.

*Henry* I hope she will make it.

*Carol* She made it through the entire world war as an efficient nurse. Then she will probably also even make it through Hitler's Germany.

*Henry* You are probably right. *(a rattle in the post box)* The mail. I hope it isn't any bad news.

*Carol (collects the mail)* A letter from Rudolf.

*Henry* Again. Then it's serious. Dare we read it at once?

*Carol* Could anything keep us from it?

*Henry (opens the letter and frowns)*

*Carol* What is it?

*Henry* The worst possible news. Alix has left us.

*Carol* No!

*Henry* A short period of intensive illness. She could not endure. Rudolf blames himself naturally. "Why didn't we leave while we could?" he writes. Now he is in despair. He will leave Germany as soon as possible.

*Carol* Better late than never.

*Henry* Yes, that's how we must take it. I just hope he will make it. Hitler's Germany is getting more and more like a bolting train constantly getting more difficult to jump off.

*Carol* He will surely make it. He does have his brother in the SS.

*Henry* I just hope they are still good friends.

#### Scene 5.

*Rudolf* No, Max, I can no longer regard this Germany as my home country!

*Max* I will help you to get to England. But it could take some time. You need patience.

*Rudolf* My wife had that unto her death. I will never be able to forgive myself.

*Max* She was too empathic, and the constantly more monstrous mass meetings made too strong an impression on her. The new monstrous Germany is no fault of yours, Rudolf. That was what killed her and not you.

*Rudolf* And how can you go on serving it?

*Max* I have to. You have abandoned Canaris, but I cannot abandon my post. My responsibility to the brotherhood and my superiors compels me to stay on, like it forces Canaris to stay on. We have to endure the unendurable no matter how unendurable it will get.

*Rudolf* I can't forgive the degeneration of Germany as the cause of my wife's death. I have to leave this monstrous society, which in its determined challenge of the Soviet dictatorship only has become a similar dictatorship.

*Max* Did we have any choice? Or else the communists would probably have taken over Germany.

*Rudolf* Are you defending them?

*Max* Politics is a rotten game about power which everyone is intoxicated with and corrupted by. What happened in Russia confirms that this game took over the control of the gamblers. It's the game and its destiny that now rules, and the players have been transformed into pawns, that now have to be sacrificed in the game. You will survive if you escape. It remains to be seen who will survive this game, but I fear it will shed more blood than the world war.

*Rudolf* So you think there will be war?

*Max* I know it.

*Rudolf* Poor Alix. She was also certain that a new war was inevitable, while I and Canaris imagined that peace could be preserved at any length. It's probably just a question of time now. How many years? One or two?

*Max* Hitler plans to annex Czechoslovakia and Austria. There will be no war until he goes on after that.

*Rudolf* With whose blessing? The American bankers? The Rockefellers and the Rothschilds? Your high protectors and brothers of the society?

*Max* We are all in the same boat. Hitler hasn't start rocking it yet. He is only talking about that he is going to do it. If he rocks it too violently we will have to remove him.

*Rudolf* It it's not too late then.

*Max* It is never too late to dispose of a dictator once he has broken his word. Until then it might be too early.

*Rudolf* What do you mean by 'too early'?

*Max* The greatest service you can do a dictator is to make him a martyr. Then he has won, and his cause becomes sacred and triumphs. If you wait until he has broken his word, you are on the safe side.

*Rudolf* You are more initiated than I. I am just deprived after the death of Alix.

*Max* Of course. I will get you to England. Take it easy in the meantime and grieve in peace.

*Rudolf* I will surely do so.

Act III scene 1.

*Chairman* This is on the verge of a crisis meeting. Everything is at stake. The situation is comparable with a gambler who has won everything on roulette and can't stop gambling but threatens to lose everything. You could call it the Queen of Spades syndrome. Our gambler is no one less than our leader, on whom not only all Germany depends but also Austria and Czechoslovakia. The big issues are whether we should move in to interrupt him by force or how great the odds are that he really would throw Europe into another world war. Brother Ansgar.

*Ansgar (rises)* Hitler has all the way aimed at settling with the communists and bolsheviks. He has always regarded it as his sacred duty to stop the Soviet Union from spreading its abysmal revolution. The problem is that Stalin is no fool but a very tactic analyst. He is as aware of the German danger to his empire as Hitler is of that of the bolsheviks. And both know, that he who strikes first has the greatest chance to defeat the other.

*Chairman* Between the Soviet Union and Germany there is Poland.

*Ansgar* I know from a safe source that our leader intends to conclude a bargain with Stalin about splitting Poland fifty-fifty.

*Chairman* Poland will never agree to that without a war.

*Serapion* And the allies of Poland are France and England.

*Chairman* Which means world war if Hitler implements such a plan.

*Ansgar* That is not at all for certain. Hitler is convinced that the English and French are not foolish enough not to see the same danger in the Soviet Union as he does himself.

*Chairman* You mean that England and France would let us have Poland like they allowed us Czechoslovakia without any measures.

*Ansgar* The Führer is counting on that for a certainty.

*Chairman* There is our gambler. What does brother Serapion have to say?

*Serapion* I have it from an equally certain source that England will not tolerate an attack on Poland without a resulting declaration of war. The same goes for France.

*Chairman* How certain is the information about a planned pact with Stalin?

*Ansgar* It is with all probability just a question of time.

*Chairman* So it is not certain until it happens. And it would of course only be a trick to give Stalin an illusion of security ahead of the approaching assault on Russia.

*Ansgar* If Hitler does not attack first, Stalin will.

*Chairman* Anything but not that. What do you say, brother Serapion?

*Serapion* I noticed that brother Max has just entered the circle. I suggest we leave the word to him.

*Chairman* Brother Max? Have you been able to follow the argument?



*Max* More than well. Assuming that you are all correct and discussing a perfectly realistic scenario. Assuming that Hitler and Stalin conclude a treaty, which insures Hitler against an attack from the east when he takes over Danzig. Stalin will then have free hands with eastern Poland and the Baltic states and perhaps even Finland, but we have since of old friendship ties with Finland. The pact would make it inevitable that Germany and Russia would find themselves on a collision course and at war with each other. But first of all, France and England would immediately react on an assault on Poland. Then world war would be a fact, and Hitler would only be able to handle France and England if he was free from any threat from the east. Brother Ansgar describes a conflict with the Soviet Union as inevitable. That is realistic. Just like the last time, that would mean a war on two fronts. Germany would manage it to begin with, just like last time, for perhaps three or four years, but not any longer. Germany would lose another world war, and the only outcome of Hitler's crusade against communism would be a stronger Soviet Union than ever and a completely devastated Germany.

*Chairman* Your conclusion?

*Max* We are not there yet. There is no pact with Stalin yet. But in the moment when there is one, if there will be one, Hitler is lost and Germany with him, unless we stop him.

*Chairman* So you mean he has to be stopped if he concludes a peace treaty with Stalin?

*Max* Yes.

*Chairman* Any objections?

*Ansgar* Suppose that we win the war.

*Chairman* Brother Ansgar, you are a gambler. You want to give the gambler a chance of winning even more or losing everything. But if he loses everything we lose everything with him.

*Ansgar* I can't consider it impossible that we could win the next world war. We are in technology, military and organization superior. We could win a world war if we do it quickly. France stands no chance against us, and we could bomb England to cinders.

*Chairman* And what about Russia and the Russian winter? I am thinking of Napoleon and Charles XII.

*Ansgar* That will be the only problem.

*Max* And what if America interferes, like it did last time?

*Ansgar* Both the Führer and I reckon that America will not be motivated to take part in another world war in another part of the world. The probability is minimal.

*Max* I have nothing more to say.

*Ordf.* Brother Serapion?

*Serapion* Even if France falls, England will never fall. It controls all the seas of the world after all and also the continents of Asia and Africa. They will never give in.

*Ansgar* Japan is on our side. Russia could also have a war on two fronts.

*Chairman* Shall we let the gambler loose or not?

*Max* Up to a possible pact with Russia, but no longer.

*Ansgar* Yes.

*Serapion* No.

*Chairman* Brother Serapion?

*Serapion* The general blind faith in the Führer scares me. His Jewish hatred should have warned us from the beginning against his liability. His entire mythological world of dreams is a bottomless pit in which he threatens to drag us all down. There is nothing to prove that the German race in any way is superior to any other human race. Racism is an absurdity. It started with the Jews with their only true god who had chosen them for a special people of his own as a curse to the world as the sect gradually spread across the world by Christianity and Islam with constant holocausts, genocides, persecutions, barbarity and the destruction of entire civilizations as a result. There is nothing evil in the old faiths, the German Aesir cult, the Celtic druidism, the Greek mythology or even the Indian universe of gods, but we must regard them as they are: symbolic ideologies, which never can be transformed into dogma or used as political ideologies. We should never have turned against the Jews and implemented the abominable crystal night, which perhaps already has turned the entire world against us, at least all Jews, who are found in exactly all countries, although they least of all could be defined as a race, since they are most mixed up of all peoples. If we had been wise we would never have lost Einstein, Stefan Zweig, Thomas Mann, Bruno Walter and other world leaders of culture.

*Chairman* Obviously you wish to eliminate Hitler directly with all the dangers connected with him. What do the rest of you think?

*Ansgar* Against this I wish to pose the fact, that Hitler enjoys a higher protection of what I consider as a supernatural kind. He is a survivor. How many assassination attempts has he already come through unscathed? He wouldn't have chosen the way he has led us into unless he was certain of his cause. He is a divinely gifted mystic and a master of the occult with a kind of magic in his control. How could he alone have brought such enormous crowds of people under his spell? No one else has a similar talent, not even Goebbels. He has proved himself practically invincible. The racial superiority did not start with the Jews, their racism is rather laughable, as brother Serapion so correctly pointed out, but our racism is more mystically religious. We learned our superiority from the real mystics, the Thule society, The Black Sun, the Illuminati, the prophets and leaders of the Freemasons, the Rosicrucians, the theosophic wisdom grounded in Hinduism, Buddhism and Tao and the revelation of the secret power of Vril, this is what we have to fall back on to support ourselves with and not on some old secterism like of the Old Testament with absurd megalomanias. Our leader has made it so far. I don't think we could stop him even if we tried.

*Chairman* I think that will be enough for today. I suggest a new conference on short notice and quite soon if the pact between Hitler and Stalin will take place.

*all* Agreed.

*Chairman* Our meeting is concluded. (*hammers. General resolution.*)

Scene 2. An internment camp in England.

*Henry* I am looking for a certain officer by the name of Rudolf Weldglück, who is supposed to be interned here.

*officer* Just a moment. (*disappears*)

*Henry* Interned almost like a prisoner of war for having had an officer's rank in Germany. What humiliation for a refugee. He escapes from a land stricken by destiny to in the name of freedom be punished for it. Is that the general fate of refugees?

*officer (returns)* He will be here directly, Sir. They have just recovered after a Brahms concert.

*Henry* Do you need to recover from that?

*officer* The melodies of home. Germans are sentimental. Their hearts bleed when you remind them of what they have lost. Here he is.

*Rudolf (slightly grey)* Henry. You found me.

*Henry* Of course. We must get you out of here.

*Rudolf* Do you think I want to? The country I escaped to has treated me as an enemy. Here I sit interned together with prisoners of war and other Nazis, as if I was one of them. Has even England fallen to the inhumanity and tendency of the times to reduce all people to pawns?

*Henry* You will come home with me at once. I will vouch for you so that no bureaucracy will pose any obstacles. If things get worse, I will have to turn to Churchill directly.

*Rudolf* It's my own fault. I escaped too late. I let our Alix die first. I can never forgive myself for that.

*Henry* You still have her as an ideal. The best part of her will never leave you.

*Rudolf* How is your wife?

*Henry* She does not like the war.

*Rudolf* For good reasons.

*Henry* Come, Rudy, we'll go to the canteen and have a beer. Be my guest. We have been through much together, but there is even more ahead of us.

*Rudolf* How did you find me?

*Henry* Your name turned up among other interned officers and prisoners of war. Since I have known many good Germans, I had every reason to study the lists carefully. Your name shone forth like a blackberry among the raspberries. – two double pints, Tim – Tell me now honestly. Rudy, how could Hitler be so mad as to think that we would not stand up for Poland?

*Rudolf* He thought you would be solidaric with his crusade policy.

*Henry* Against Poland?

*Rudolf* Against Russia. Poland was just in the way.

*Henry* The man is completely unrealistic. Didn't he know we were allied with Poland? Didn't we warn him?

*Rudolf* He blindly trusted his good luck, to the bad luck of Germany.

*Henry* Yes, you could say that again. Now he has got the world another world war for which the Germans again will have to pay dearly.

*Rudolf* I am afraid that you are right. But the Germans are victorious, which complicates the matter. France cannot hold.

*Henry* France should have taken the initiative at once and invaded as soon as the war was a fact. Their hesitation was fatal.

*Rudolf* Do you think England could endure being bombed to pieces?

*Henry* If they bomb us to pieces, we will bomb them to cinders. That's how simple it is.

*Rudolf* But if France falls we stand alone.

*Henry* Not for long. Roosevelt will never accept a German dictatorship over all Europe. It will not do. They have already sunk American ships by mistake.

*Rudolf* But the Americans financed both the Nazis and the bolsheviks.

*Henry* Fortunately we didn't. The adventures of American high finance backing up the Soviet Union and Hitler's Germany will at length prove the worst business deal in history. The Russians will never pay anything back, and the Germans will perish in bankruptcy again and again. They don't stand a chance. I hope I didn't disturb your concert.

*Rudolf* It was finished and only brought pain. It was a broadcast from Germany on the radio. Furtwängler and Brahms. There is nothing more beautiful and noble. And it is still there in Germany, in custody and isolated, kidnapped by a gang of criminals who will do their utmost to ruin all Europe. What did we do to get caught in such a totally misguided world, Henry, in which derailment none of us had any share at all?

*Henry* Good question. None of us can answer it, since we are innocent. The guilty will be brought to trial in good time. Perhaps they will then explain themselves and try to make their destructiveness comprehensible to us mortals.

*Rudolf* We will have to wait long for that day. Have we the patience to wait?

*Henry* I will not give up that easily and neither will England. You must never give up either. You are at last in England and in safe hands here. We will provide a new home for you here.

*Rudolf* You make it sound so easy.

*Henry* It is that easy. You will never have to return to Germany, unless you want it yourself.

*Rudolf* I could tell you a great deal about the worst scoundrels there. Perhaps one day I will be called to testify.

*Henry* To which camp does your brother belong? Is he with them or against them?

*Rudolf* We had a settlement before I came here. He is with them but still against them. He is active in secret conspiracies.

*Henry* Against Hitler?

*Rudolf* Who else? The German people did not want any war. Hitler has deceived them and failed them, and they are forced to follow him where they don't want to go.

Only the happy few like myself have had the possibility to get away. Most of them are stuck, like Furtwängler and Richard Strauss.

*Henry* Could a conspiracy succeed enough to stop the war before it has run off the rails beyond any control?

*Rudolf* That's why he stays on.

*Henry* What do you have against him?

*Rudolf* He is as mad as Hitler. He believes he might succeed. Unfortunately I think the war has already run off the rails beyond all possible control and with all sense and good judgement of our leader including any sense of proportions. He is possessed and can only lead the entire world to hell and regards it his duty to do so.

*Henry* How on earth could he end up the leader of Germany?

*Rudolf* American back-up but above all the economic disaster ten years ago. Germany had already crawled on her knees for years by the absurd reparations for war-damage enforced by the preposterous Versailles treaty, which Germany paid and succeeded in rising above, when the Wall Street crash came posing a prospect for Germany of fifteen more years of national misery down on her knees. Then came Hitler with promises to handle the matter, which he did.

*Henry* Until he started war.

*Rudolf* Yes. Now he is ruining his own life's work including that of all the Germans.

*Henry* You have to wonder how such a man could work.

*Rudolf* As I said, he is possessed.

*Henry (drinks)* I certainly hope your brother succeeds in having him killed.

*Rudolf* The damage he has done is already beyond repair.

*Henry* I hope you are wrong. Drink it up now, and then we'll go home to my place.

*(They drink. The mood in the canteen is like that of a pub.)*

### Scene 3. A dingy apartment.

*Max* Why does it take so long for her? What could have happened? Has the Gestapo taken her? This is the worst terrorist state that ever existed – I can't believe that Stalin's could be worse. There you just disappear – they collect you in meat vans and drive you off no one knows where to disappear, while here the terror is all in the open. We know what the Gestapo is doing, and we know there are plans for a total extermination of all Jews, only to satisfy the fixed ideas and irrational caprices of a mad dictator. He views himself as a crusader at war with all the communists in the world whom he thinks are all Jews, and so he directs the force of his crusade against Jews and misses the communists. But where is she? *(a sound)* At last! *(rushes up and welcomes her with a hug when she enters in a troubled state)* My love! *(kisses her tenderly)* What has happened? You have been crying! You are in despair! Have you been exposed to some harassment?

*Guadrin (in despair)* Someone has stolen my violin!

*Max* Where did it happen?

*Guadrin* In the metro! It was so crowded. I put the violin aside just for a moment to blow my nose and put my face in order, and when I looked up the violin was gone.

*Max* Still I am relieved. We can buy another violin. It could have been so much worse. I thought you had been taken by Gestapo.

*Guadrin* Don't you see the consequences? It was a genuine Amati, a family treasure! Now I can no longer play with the philharmonics. I will be missed, there will be questions, I get everyone's attention...

*Max* Don't worry. I will speak with Furtwängler.

*Guadrin* You will risk everything. Our relationship will then become known, and they know about my Jewish ancestry.

*Max* I don't care.

*Guadrin* You can't do that. Our relationship has lasted so long just because I could conceal it so well. If you buy me a new violin and speak with Furtwängler, that protection will be lost. And then you will probably get Himmler or some other monster over you to command you far away where we never will be able to see each other again...

*Max* Poor Guadrin. You worry too much. Furtwängler protects all his Jewish musicians. That's a known fact. He defies the party and can do it calmly since he never was a member. We will handle it smoothly. You will have a new violin tomorrow. You will go to the rehearsal as usual. If you just play on, no one will notice that you no longer have an Amati.

*Guadrin* One or other may notice it, but I could explain the matter away. I could say it needed repairs. It was my one pride. Everyone admired it. I will never be able to play with the same expression on another violin.

*Max* Just you wait. In a year you will have got used to it.

*Guadrin* The instrument you are playing on becomes a part of you. The way you play marks the instrument, so that it gets a personality of its own, which becomes unique for that instrument. A lost instrument is like a lost child.

*Max* Don't cry, my dearest. Let's make love instead, to make us both happy.

*Guadrin* And you with your terrible black uniform with death skulls and a reputation worse than Gestapo. What are you really doing at Wewelsberg with the other higher ranks? They say you practice human sacrifices in black masses worshipping the devil, where the victim should be a virgin. Are you all really satanists?

*Max* Martin Bormann is but few of the others. Our chief practice is meditation. Sometimes we have discussions. It is all in the open although we are a secret society.

*Guadrin* What do you think Himmler will say when he learns that you have a Jewish mistress? He must learn about it sooner or later. You have advanced too high in the ranks not to be guarded.

*Max* I know. I am aware of the dangers. It will work as long as it works. It has been worth the risk so far.

*Gudrun* Come then, my friend, and let's have another night of happiness together. You never know if it will be the last one.

*Max* Thus speaks my Gudrun. (*They proceed. The apartment is intimate, small and old-fashioned and worn but charming, with intimate lights.*)

#### Scene 4.

*Chairman* We have gathered here today to discuss a brother at risk, Obersturmbannführer Maximilian Weldglück, a prominent asset to the SS and one of its oldest and most trusted leaders. May I ask brother Ansgar to present the case.

*Ansgar* We have all known brother Max as long as we have been in the society. He has been one of its leading central guides and always made himself indispensable by proving to be ahead of us all in clear perception, judgement and conclusion. He always proved himself right. We always trusted him all of us and looked up to him, both Himmler and Rommel value him extremely highly, and he never raised any doubts until now.

*Serapion (rises)* May I ask what the reason may be? We know nothing. Will he himself be present at this inquisition? May he defend himself?

*Chairman* He is expected here within fifteen minutes. Go on, brother Ansgar.

*Ansgar* It has appeared that he since some time has had a relationship with a Jewess...

*Serapion (laughs)* Is that all?

*Ansgar* ...which might cause him some problems.

*Serapion* How many SS men have not had relationships with doubtful women? And how many of those are not concealed just because they involve Jewish contacts? How was he exposed? Did you spy on him in his intimacy?

*Ansgar* The Jewess in question happens to be first violinist in the philharmonics. She had the misfortune of getting her invaluable violin stolen in the metro, which was a catastrophe for her. Brother Max contacted Wilhelm Furtwängler to have his assistance in finding an equivalent violin for the Jewess. For the sake of her ancestry she dared not urge the matter herself. But we all know what Furtwängler thinks of the SS. He always refused to join the party. When Goebbels shook his hand with praises and thanks for his concert, Furtwängler afterwards washed his hands for hours. Brother Max' intervention to help the violinist troubled the conductor severely. He was angry and exclaimed, which many could hear, that SS had no right to try to sully his orchestra by interfering with the lives of his Jewish musicians. We all know that Furtwängler protects his Jewish musicians with great energy and defies the party in that aspect, which proves him brave enough to have the party respect him for that courage. But that caused brother Max to be exposed.

*Serapion* A trifle. A mere trifle.

*Chairman* I see that brother Max is entering. You arrive just at the right moment, brother Max. We have just started the discussion about your liability.

*Max* What is there to discuss?

*Ansgar* Brother Max, you are one of us, have always been so and will always remain so. The problem is not that you have a Jewish mistress. The problem is that your vow of fidelity first of all concerns us and our brotherhood. We are all under that oath. Mundane love must not come between any brother and the brotherhood. The faith and love of the brotherhood and its sacred covenant must always come first. It is this oath of yours which now has appeared doubtful and must be questioned.

*Chairman* What do you say, brother Max? The brotherhood or your Jewess?

*Max* Both. It has not been a problem so far.

*Chairman* Because you managed to keep it secret. The problem is that we can't save your Jewess.

*Max* Are you going to sacrifice her?

*Chairman* Unless we can get her out of the country. Her safe transfer to Sweden has already been organized. We have spoken with Doctor Furtwängler. He is in agreement with that being the best way. He sends his best recommendations with her.

*Max* And I?

*Chairman* You stay here. You can't leave the SS. You are needed here, we need you and Germany needs you.

*Max* And the SS needs me to be able to transform itself into an organization of mass murderers.

*Chairman* Is it that bad?

*Max* Reinhard Heydrich has worked out an end solution to the Jewish problem which proposes a methodical extermination of the entire Jewish race. It's the spike in the coffin for Germany forever. Germany will never be able to recover after such a crime.

*Chairman* This is indeed extremely serious. Has anyone else of you heard anything about this?

*Ansgar* I have heard rumours but I never believed any such thing could be carried through.

*Serapion* Honestly speaking I am not surprised. Our Führer has lost control most of all of himself. He must be put out of action immediately.

*Chairman* Don't you think we have tried? Already after the war broke out there was a massive bomb attempt at Munich which would have succeeded if the Führer hadn't left the building too early.

*Ansgar* That's what I've always said. He is out of reach.

*Chairman* We are sorry, brother Max, that it has to be like this. We beg of you though to try to brace it. We need you in the SS as a source of information about what the highest inner circles are up to. There must be constantly new opportunities for an attempt. Perhaps we all in time will find it best to sneak out of the country like your mistress before the Führer has brought us all the way to Götterdämmerung.

*Ansgar* The war is not lost yet.

*Chairman* According to Field Marshal Mannerheim in Finland the German armies in Russia are far too much spread out to be able to keep a front together. It has to crack



sooner or later by its own expansion. And Mannerheim knows what he is talking about as a former Russian officer with an expert knowledge of Russia.

*Max* Rommel is facing a difficult time in Africa. He has said so himself.

*Chairman* In brief, my friends, the situation is critical, not just for you and your mistress, Max, but is constantly getting more critical for all of us, while your heroine actually may be the one to get the quickest way out. Could you accept our decision?

*Max* I don't see any choice.

*Chairman* Good. The matter is settled. (*Hammers the conclusion.*)

#### Scene 5. In the orchestra.

*Furtwängler* I am surprised that you are still here, Gudrun.

*Gudrun* I hope you don't mind.

*Furtwängler* Of course not. We need every musician we can get. In these times the meaning and importance of music increases with the worsening of the world crisis. Every musician is indispensable, especially a first violinist.

*Gudrun* Thank you, Herr Doktor.

*Furtwängler* I am sorry for your loss of your Amati, but hardly anyone else will notice any difference except the other first violinists and I. A lost Amati should be traceable. The risk is that some Nazi has taken it just to put you to danger.

*Gudrun* I know. That's why I chose to stay on.

*Furtwängler* Thereby your life is also more in danger. You will have a safe conduct to Sweden at any time.

*Gudrun* You are staying on yourself although you would be welcome anywhere in the world.

*Furtwängler* I am needed here.

*Gudrun* You have decided to brace the crisis. I would not desert such a brave position.

*Furtwängler* Thank you, Fräulein.

*Gudrun* I am the one who owes you thanks for letting me remain.

*Furtwängler* As long as you remain no Nazi will touch a hair on your head. I will vouch for that. And we will trace your Amati violin until we find it. Your SS-friend will help us.

*Gudrun* Thank you, Herr Doktor.

#### Act IV scene 1. The crypt of Wewelsburg.

A company of Nazis and SS men of high rank have gathered,  
dressed up ceremoniously for a ritual.

*Max* I did not want to come here once more.

*Heydrich* You couldn't refuse. You are one of us. You joined SS for life. The only way out is by death, either voluntarily or by execution.

*Max* I know.

*Heydrich* What are you afraid of?

*Max* Nothing.

*Heydrich* Relax then. It's just the ordinary ritual.

*Max* They told me there would be something special today.

*Heydrich* Quite so. It's not the ordinary virgin this time. It's a Jewess.

*Max* Why?

*Heydrich* Martin Bormann wanted it so. He imagines that a beautiful woman of God's own people would be of greater worth and prestige to Satan than just an ordinary virgin.

*Max* Superstition. It makes no difference.

*Heydrich* That's the question. We shall see. We thought the sacrifice of a virgin would release the highest potential of Satanic power for the executioners, but Bormann believes the blood of a Jewess could be even more effective.

*Bormann (leads the ritual)* Everyone is not here, but we shall start anyway. All have not masked themselves, but we will execute the ritual anyway. To be masked is not obligatory, but only the masked will have access to the inmost of the sacrifice. Brothers Reinhard and Max, are you with us, or will you diverge?

*Ansgar* At least don your cloaks.

*Heydrich* We are with you. *(to Max)* Come on now, Max. You have seen it before. *(They don cloaks with hoods but don't mask themselves.)*

*Bormann* We invoke thee, Satan, the highest power and prince of the universe, to be present and receive our sacrifice, which we hope will please you, so that you may bestow more of your power and force on us. May the new bride of Satan be brought in.

*Heydrich (to Max)* No power is stronger than that of the blood when it is shed as a sacrifice to Satan, because then it will be Satan's own blood, which we all may drink to thereby become part of the eternal force of Satan, almost like vampires. Even if we don't share the mass rape we may drink of the blood. No one outside these walls will ever know about the secret of the ritual. Thereby we are all intimately initiated in the inmost circle of Satan's power forever. The close relationship will then only need to be maintained. *(Gudrun is brought in, naked, pinioned asnd gagged.)* What is it, Max? Do you know her?

*Max* She is violinist in the philharmonics.

*Heydrich* Was. I know. Someone found out she was a Jewess and stole her violin. She could then have left the country but chose to remain and go on with a new violin. Thereby she was served. It was just for us to kidnap her. But judging from your pallor she was a closer acquaintance of yours. Don't tell me she was your mistress. You don't answer. Control yourself. It's your only chance. Was she good in bed?

*Max* The best.

*Heydrich* I see. Then the sacrifice should bring better results indeed.

*(Gudrun is liberated but is bound on the altar on her back with her limbs stretched out.)*

Max Did you at least anaesthetize her?

Heydrich Only with stimulants. She must live when she is about to die.

Bormann Who will be the first one to have a taste of Satan 's supper? I abstain in the capacity of master of ceremonies. Only the unrecognizable with masks may enjoy her.

*(five or six masked participants approach.)*

Heydrich Don't be upset. They don't do it for personal satisfaction but only to raise the ritual status. Her despair, terror and suffering will constantly increase until it is time for the knife.

Max Who will apply it?

Heydrich Bormann of course.

Max If I put on a mask, may I act in his place?

Heydrich That is hardly proper. But put on a mask anyway. Your face will betray you. I am sorry that you knew her.

Max I am not.

*(The six SS-men in masks gangrape her, then Bormann puts on a mask and approaches with a knife. He cuts the heart out with surgical precision. There is almost no blood.)*

Bormann *(squeezes blood from the heart into a chalice)* Come and drink, all ye who are present, for this blood sacrificed to the power and glory of Satan is now transformed into Satan's own blood, who will give us eternal life and invincible power in Satan.

Heydrich This is the mightiest of all cults, Max, the oldest rite in the history of mankind, a sacrifice for the many for the increase of their power and life in the highest enjoyment of the surrender of an innocent human being to Satan. She will be a satanist in her next life and then a satanist forever like all the rest of us, she will never lose the glory and honour of having been sacrificed to Satan, and with this satanic blood power we take over the command of the world and the universe governed by Satan as his invincible legion.

Max No one has ever been able to sustain a rule by terror.

Heydrich Who said anything about terror? Only the victim has felt it, and she is dead. We lull the people in sweet illusions and give them only good news about the unstoppable progress and success of the third reich. Come down with me now and share the drink. You cannot escape it. This is your last chance to have a taste of her.

Max You can go ahead. I will join you. I will wait until the last one. *(Heydrich leaves.)*

*(alone)* As verily as I am alive, I will live for the rest of my life to avenge you, my Gudrun. Listen to me wherever you are. I will never let you go. You are with me forever, and the first one to pay for your stolen violin and life is Heydrich himself. I swear that in the name of Satan himself, if he exists. The rest of my life will be just one long act of revenge for the destruction of the German third reich and all who serve it. This I will never forgive my homeland.

Heydrich *(calls from below)* Come on, Max! The taste is good!

Bormann It is Satan's own life elixir for a guaranteed eternal life in the service of absolute power, the eternal ruling name of which is Satan.

*(Even Max raises the cup to his mouth.)*

*Gudrun('s voice)* I hear you, Max. I am with you. Today the end of the third reich is sealed.

*(Max listens but no one else.)*

*Heydrich* What is the matter? Are you seeing ghosts?

*Max* No, but like Siegfried as he drank of the dragon's blood and could hear the language of birds, I seem to hear the voices of ghosts.

*Heydrich* Good for you. Now empty the cup, and the ritual is concluded.

*Bormann* We thank you, eternal Satan, for your grace and inspiration for us to continue conquering the entire world. Sieg Heil!

*all (except Max with the cup in his hand by the corpse of Gudrun)* Sieg Heil!

*Bormann* Heil Hitler!

*all* Heil Hitler! *(Hitler salute and solemn exit march, Bormann as the last one followed by Heydrich and Max. The corpse is left untouched and bound on the altar.)*

*Heydrich* Forget her now. There will be a new one next week. *(pats him. They leave.)*

*Max (returns, regards the dismal scene with the body on the altar)* No, Reinhard, I can never forget her. You sacrificed her in vain. The end solution of the Jewish issue and the sacrifice of the love of my life is the suicide of Germany, but Germany is not yet aware of it, for that death will be interminably extended and endlessly painful. The way you have tortured Gudrun to death, so will I make sure that Germany is tortured to death.

*(removes his mask at last and leaves.)*

## Scene 2.

*Eichmann* But why was he so upset? She was just an ordinary Jewess.

*Heydrich* I don't know. Apparently he had had a relationship with her. Such things happen. Perhaps Bormann knew about it and wanted to test him, but none of the rest of us knew about it as far as I know. He is probably just high strung just like the Führer. Things are starting to get tough on the eastern front, and the world war is not so funny any more. England did never give up, and then we have this deplorable Rudolf Hess incident.

*Eichmann* Did he really think he could make England agree on a separate peace?

*Heydrich* Yes, that's how blue-eyed he was, a poor victim to his own idealistic wishful thinking. Even the Führer was once upon a time a blue-eyed idealist.

*Eichmann* That's why he became our Führer. But unlike Rudolf Hess he was never wrong. But do you think Max could sabotage our activity? It is after all just like an ordinary spring-cleaning. For thousands of years humanity has been suffering violations by the superstitious notion about one single all powerful god, when we have disposed of the Jews we should also root out christianity and islam, it's just a rational and correction of history for the better, a kind of reformation away from all secterism and superstition. Surely Max could have nothing against it?

*Heydrich* Ask him. Here he is. – Have you got over the shock, Max? You have a new one, don't you?

*Max* You don't know what you are talking about. You are a dead man, Reinhard.

*Heydrich (calmly)* How come?

*Max* I have learned that the Czech resistance intends to execute you. You are the number one target. Number two and three are then Himmler and Hitler.

*Heydrich* Allow me to smile. And when is this supposed to happen? Thanks for the warning. I am not afraid. In our position, Max, we will have to get used to constantly being the targets of assassination attempts. It's part of the job. How many didn't the Führer already happen to?

*Eichmann* I am just a bureaucrat who surely doesn't run the same danger?

*Max* No, Adolf, you are far down on the list.

*Heydrich* I hope you didn't take our black mass at Wewelsburg too badly, did you? Had I known that you knew her, I would have taken someone else.

*Max* Reinhard, what happened there in the crypt is to me a sign of alarm. You can never assume to have Satan in your power and be able to use it, the way Bormann does. It stinks of the highest level of hubris, and nothing could be more dangerous.

*Heydrich* My friend and brother, you don't mean to say that you take satanism seriously?

*Eichmann* Martin Bormann does, and he fixes everything.

*Max* I warned you, Reinhard. Don't get surprised when you are blown to pieces.

*Heydrich* Pity that I in that case won't live to also see Himmler and Hitler blown to pieces.

*Eichmann* The Führer has made it through too many assassination attempts without a scratch to worry about such matters. We are immune.

*Heydrich* Your next assignment, Max, will be Warsaw and Treblinka. We are getting the ghetto there into order.

*Max* Good. I need some change from Berlin and Prague.

*Heydrich* Is it too dull here so far from the war? Would you prefer the eastern front.

*Max* Not yet.

*Heydrich* That's good, Max. You are doing well. We rely on you. You are one of our oldest and most spotless characters, and your entire career has in fact been absolutely perfect until today. We all happen to stumble sometimes. I wish we all could have as exceptionless perfectly clear merits as you.

*Max* I am afraid you will never be rid of me.

*Heydrich (pats him)* That's good, Max. Carry on like that. (*Max leaves.*)

*Eichmann* He will not make trouble.

*Heydrich* That's lucky for him. He never did. He is absolutely cold-blooded and behaved perfectly at Wewelsburg. Still it feels as if we had lost him.

*Eichmann* Is he under surveillance?

*Heydrich* Who isn't? Come, Adolf, we have some details about Treblinka to discuss.

Scene 3.

*Partisan 1* Can we trust him?

2 You heard his story. They raped and butchered his sweetheart. Who could experience a thing like that without wanting revenge?

3 His case is waterproof. He actually wants to help us.

1 He takes an enormous risk.

3 He is used to it. He is after all in the SS.

1 So let him in then.

*(2 lets Max in, dressed as a civilian like another partisan.)*

2 Welcome here, comrade Max.

*Max* Thanks, my friends. I will be brief, for I have a minimum of time. I know who you are and what contacts you have. I am on your side against my own country for reasons known to you. I also wish to have contacts with Polish partisans, since I am going to Poland, and rather with the Russians as well. I know you stand in contact with the Russians.

2 Since a long time back. I was in Sid Reilly's Czech army in Moscow 1918. He could have overthrown the bolsheviks with some support, but his own Englishmen let him down. The opportunity went down the drain. We stand like one force with our Polish and Russian brothers against the Germans, communists or whatever.

3 You should get in touch with Stalin's minister of propaganda, Ilya Ehrenburg.

*Max* Gladly. Please act as intermediary for all possible useful contacts. I will not rest until all Nazi-Germany is in ruins.

3 I think Ilya Ehrenburg would be your man. His hatred of Germans is fanatic.

*Max* Sounds good. My code name is the Badger.

1 We will safeguard your incognito

2 It seldom happens that an SS officer turns into a spy and turncoat.

*Max* I have nothing to lose.

1 I propose some good Czech beer to confirm our collaboration. *(brings forth a bottle. They pour up, salute and drink.)* To freedom!

*all* To freedom!

Scene 4.

*Bormann* He is too efficient, that Max Weldglück. What is wrong with him?

*Eichmann* Ask him. Perhaps his lack is that he has no lacks.

*Bormann* He must have something to hide. We all have.

*Eichmann* Not even Heydrich could find anything on him to report.

*Bormann* The good Heydrich, blown into bits and pieces, but the Czech partisans will never make any more assassination attempts.

*Eichmann* But they are still there, and their free companies are increasing also in Poland.

*Bormann* That's what I wanted to discuss with Max. Why doesn't he come?

*Eichmann* He is always late. He always was. Here he is.

*Bormann* Welcome, Max. Have a seat.

*Max* What may I offer you?

*Bormann* Treblinka has been carried out to everyone's satisfaction. It was an experimental camp. Now we can proceed.

*Max* The Warsaw ghetto has almost been drained.

*Bormann* There are still millions of Jews left in Hungary above all. Eichmann here will take care of them.

*Max* To the point. What do you want?

*Bormann* I know that you have carefully been charting the resistance movements of Poland and Czechoslovakia. You know perhaps more than anyone else about the partisans of eastern Europe. You have also been in Russia and still have contacts there. And you have a brother, a former captain of Abwehr, married to an English woman and escaped to England. In brief, you have an intriguingly mottled web of contacts with our enemies. Who are you really?

*Max* One who neither acts as God or the devil but who is just an ordinary man and content enough with just that.

*Bormann* Who suggests that you act as God or the devil?

*Max* Hitler acts as God, and you act as the devil.

*Bormann* What gave you that idea?

*Max* If you know that much about me, Martin Bormann, you should also know that I had a Jewish mistress who was sacrificed on your altar in the crypt of Wewelsburg.

*Bormann* I wanted to test you.

*Max* What do you mean?

*Bormann* I wished to test your trustworthiness. The education of an SS man includes a dog of his own, an affectionate schäfer. It is part of the training that they should be each other's best friends. When the basic training is completed, the candidate is ordered to kill his dog. Not everyone can do that. You could see your own mistress being sacrificed.

*Max* Do you mean that it was intentional?

*Bormann* Completely. We knew about your relationship with the Jewess for years before we stole her violin to put you to the test. It was carried through, and you seemed to clear the test. Or did you?

*Max* I had no choice. I can never leave the SS. My duty is everything, and beyond that I have no life. But we are losing the war, and not even the SS can do anything about it.

*Bormann* I am aware of that possibility. The front is giving way both in Africa and Russia. Stalingrad is no success, and it is difficult to stop the news from there. Painful letters are coming from the front that we have to expropriate. And so on. If we are driven all the way back to Berlin there is only one thing to do. I am already working on a general plan of escape for all leaders in the party. It will include you also, if you hold out.

*Max* So far I had no problem with that.

*Bormann* Carry on like that. Carry on charting the movements of the Polish partisans. Find out what is going on in the Warsaw ghetto. There are some fifty thousand Jews left who appear to be organizing something as absurd as a desperate rebellion. We must defend ourselves, Max.

*Max* Is there any defence against truth?

*Bormann* What do you mean?

*Max* If Stalingrad is lost, can you keep it unknown to the German people? Can you at length keep the Polish concentration camps and what is going on there a secret? Can Hitler's madness be kept a secret?

*Bormann* You are going too far.

*Max* The truth always goes too far. You can't duck it or hide from it. It will only break in the stronger. I will do my job but refuse to use smokescreens or blinkers.

*Bormann* SS trusts you, Max. You are doing a great job.

*Max* I know. As an SS officer I am irreproachable and infallible. I can play God if I want, but there are too many highly advanced fools who are already doing that more than enough. Thanks for your offer of an escape route if needed, but I don't think it will be needed.

*Bormann* Keep in touch, Max.

*Max* Of course.

*Bormann* You may leave. (*Max leaves.*)

*Eichmann* Well?

*Bormann* He is completely reliable. We can trust him blindly. He will follow the party.

*Eichmann* And we need him.

*Bormann* Yes.

#### Act V scene 1.

*Ilya* Our badger in Warsaw brings absolutely sensational news about the Germans digging their own grave.

*Stalin* What is it about?

*Ilya* Their concentration camps for Jews. Their leader is obviously completely out of his mind. Rather than to prioritize transports to the eastern front suffering horrible needs, he reserves hundreds of trains for transports of Jews to Polish concentration camps.



*Stalin* Why?

*Ilya* That's the strangest thing of all. These concentration camps are actually extermination camps where Jews are being gassed by tens of thousands every day.

*Stalin* Why am I not surprised. Can we use it in our propaganda?

*Ilya* It's a godsend for our propaganda. The methodical extermination program for Jews of the Germans can and should be for their moral annihilation once and for all. With the constant awareness of this as their own sins they will never be able to rise any more.

*Stalin* Wait until we have taken the Baltic states, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria and perhaps also Berlin. Then we can hit them with this when they are lying down in abject humiliation.

*Ilya* You are tactic as always, Koba.

*Stalin* Wait until the enemy is beaten. Then you can utterly destroy him.

*Ilya* Good. I will keep the information secret until further.

*Stalin* Who is this badger?

*Ilya* Probably a Jew in a high position.

*Stalin* Don't let him out of sight. He could be useful.

*Ilya* Of course.

## Scene 2.

*Chairman* This is our last meeting, for we have failed in everything. It is with the deepest pain and melancholy that we meet once again to conclude our activity and dissolve our society. We are summoned to other tasks ahead of new times, where all our strength and capacity most of all will be demanded in the reconstruction of our utterly destroyed Germany. We gathered and founded our society after the first world war in an effort to overcome and atone for the damages of that war and exonerate our country, which unfortunately has only led us into an even worse and more complete annihilation. May I begin with posing a question: is there anyone here who knows what happened to our worthy brother Max? Brother Serapion?

*Serapion (rises)* He vanished in connection with the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto in April 1943. Many have been enquiring for him. Martin Bormann showed a particular interest in his case, and the efforts to trace him were never called off. According to certain sources he was kidnapped by Jews and turned over to the Polish resistance. Since then he is lost without a trace. I find it most probable that he is in Russian custody, in which case he could return.

*Chairman* Brother Ansgar?

*Ansgar (rises)* I share brother Serapion's conclusions completely. And what is more, I have heard that he is kept in safety.

*Chairman* Has he not been brought to trial?

*Ansgar* Not according to anything I have heard and at least not yet.

*Serapion* I can't see that he committed or took part in anything for which you could charge him. His mission in Poland was to chart the resistance movement. He had nothing to do with the concentration camps or with the demolition of the Warsaw ghetto.

*Chairman* Could he have passed over to the enemy, like so many did after the infamous liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto?

*Serapion* Impossible.

*Chairman* Brother Ansgar?

*Ansgar* Out of the question. He had no motive.

*Chairman* Then it's just for us to sum up our activity and to end it. We started as an idealistic mystic movement with our foundation in the most ancient esoteric movements in the world. We had freemasons, rosicrucians, illuminati, templars, theosophists, anthroposophists and representatives of all serious mystic societies among us. We had a particular interest in Tibetan Buddhism with its legends of Shamballah, about a surviving remnant of people who would have survived the fall of earlier civilizations, which Madame Blavatsky tried to spread some knowledge about, way up in Tibet from where they would have descended to the southern hillsides of the Himalayas, and there given rise to Hinduism and the oldest scriptures of the Veda. Adolf Hitler himself and many of his closest associates shared this interest, which served to increase our trust in them. We accepted the reincarnation theory from the start as something self-evident like the actuality of the UFO reality and even made efforts and research in trying to get in contact with higher developed extra-terrestrial beings. Some affirm success in that field by means of telepathy. We have considered ourselves an eternal brotherhood constantly returning time and time again in perpetually consistent continuity with the vital task of safeguarding interests of eternity principally confined to culture. The Nazis shared our idealism and therefore enjoyed our protection and sponsorship, but we specifically asked Adolf Hitler himself from the beginning not to let us down. He promised not to disappoint us, but that's what he did when he attacked Poland the first of September 1939. Everything that followed has just been a constantly worsened disastrous tragedy which almost has included all of humanity. Thereby our intentions for our time could not have been more of a failure. Has anyone anything to add?

*(Some mumbling, but no one wishes to speak.)*

Thereby I declare our society dissolved with the reservation, that if anyone learns anything more about our lost and almost leading brother Max, I ask him to get in touch. If he would return we might perhaps introduce a new chapter. Thank you, my friends and brothers. *(hammers. The last words are almost in tears. The lights are dimmed when the meeting is resolved.)*

Scene 3. England. Carol, Henry and Rudolf are having tea.)

*Henry (reads the paper)* Now all the leading Nazi villains are put to trial. They will probably execute a whole lot of them.

*Rudolf* Do you have the names?

*Henry* Göring, Himmler, Ribbentrop, Speer, Hess, Papen, Streicher, the worst are missing, and your brother is not there. Didn't he vanish into Russia?

*Rudolf* He was in Russian custody at the end of the war. He should have come back by now.

*Henry* Unless he is brought to trial in Russia.

*Rudolf* He had no share in the war. The Russians have no case against him. He should have got in touch.

*Henry* Unless his letters were intercepted or censored.

*Rudolf* For England? I wouldn't think so.

*(The mail box rattles.)*

*Carol* The mail. *(rises and goes for the mail)*

*Henry* Anything interesting?

*Carol (examines a letter)* A letter from Germany. For you, Rudolf.

*Rudolf* Could it be... *(received the letter)* It's him!

*Henry* Happy coincidence again. It seems to have happened before.

*Carol* Could you read it out?

*Rudolf* It is rather long and probably contains some sensational and controversial news. May I read it myself first?

*Henry* By all means, please do.

*Rudolf (rises, walks aside, reads quietly, but it is the voice of Max)*

"Dear Rudolf, at last I may communicate again. I am unfortunately alive. I have returned to Berlin and moved into Gudrun's old flat, here I live in sorrow and misery. I was one of the most brilliant SS officers in Germany until I changed sides in connection with the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto. Yes, I became a turncoat and had already been a spy for the Russians and helped the Czechs liquidate Reinhard Heydrich, the man who enforced the end solution to the Jewish issue, the most iniquitous death blow that ever was aimed at our country. Gudrun was half Jewish and was therefore murdered by the Nazis even if she was first violinist at the Berliner Philharmonics. Furtwängler tried to save her, but she declined and chose to take the risk of staying on. Now Furtwängler is brought to trial for having had something to do with people like me.

My closest associate in Russia became Ilya Ehrenburg, Stalin's minister of propaganda, and he was the one who then on my insisting ruthlessly exposed and aggrandized the horrors of the concentration camps and made sure the Russians behaved as brutally as possible in Germany. By his propaganda of hatred, where he blindly urged the Russian soldiers to destroy as much as possible and rape as many German women as possible, all Germans were driven out of Pomerania, Prussia and Silesia apart from Sudetenland, and transformed eastern Germany into a Soviet satellite state for plunder and exploitation together with the other east Europeans

states, which are now suppressed by Stalin. You can live in Berlin, but the Russians try to isolate their sector from those of the allies, which will cause some problems.

I have nothing to live for, nowhere to go and have nothing to do here in Berlin but to vegetate and consider the smoking ruins. Everything is lost, and they are taking down all the remaining trees of Unter den Linden and in Tiergarten since there is a screaming shortage of wood.

This was at least a sign of life out of the abyss of dejection. I hope to show some better cheer next time.

Your still no less affectionate brother, Maximilian."

*Carol* What is he writing?

*Rudolf* He is definitely back but in shambles.

*Henry* Could you get him over here?

*Rudolf* I don't think he would like it. I would rather go there and find him. It is a very melancholy letter.

*Henry* Nothing about any judicial consequences?

*Rudolf* Nothing.

*Henry* Thank heavens. Then we can help him.

*Rudolf* Give him time. He needs it.

*Carol* Of course, Rudolf. Now at last we have all the time in the world again.

*(They drink tea in silent contemplation.)*

#### Scene 4. Gudrun's sad apartment in Berlin.

*Max in decline, sits drinking, playing Schubert's unfinished symphony on a grammophone.*

*A quiet knock on the door, Max interrupts the music and opens at once.*

*Visitor (is not seen)* No, let it play on. Is it my recording?

*Max (backs down at once, almost overwhelmed)* Come in, Maestro.

*Furtwängler (enters)* Thank you. This must be Gudrun's apartment.

*Max* I had nowhere else to go. *(puts on the record again, with the volume lowered.)*

*Furtwängler* But you have made it. They won't leave me alone. I have a series of trials to look forward to, like poor old Richard Strauss, while Herbert von Karajan got away easily.

*Max* The worst criminals got away easily, like for instance Martin Bormann.

*Furtwängler* He had long since prepared a smooth escape for all the main leaders of the party if needed for South America over Spain and the Canary Islands.

*Max* Who escaped besides Bormann?

*Furtwängler* They don't really know. The Führer's body was never found although he is supposed to have shot himself and been burned. A private airplane appears to have landed on Unter den Linden and evacuated some company. Eichmann, Mengele, and many of the worst ones got away, while we are left in the ruins and being prosecuted for their sake. But you have not been charged. I think I understand why. You were angry with the party for having murdered Gudrun.

*Max* I changed sides and became the most hating enemy of Germany.

*Furtwängler* I can understand it. I misjudged you. When you contacted me to save Gudrun I reacted strongly against an SS man imposing on me. Only later I understood the situation, but then it was too late. I am sorry.

*Max* Is that why you have looked me up?

*Furtwängler* No, actually not. I am here on a mission. You see, I have actually brought something for you. *(brings out a violin case from his bag and opens it.)* Gudrun's Amati violin has been found. *(offers it to Max)* It was Martin Bormann himself who gave it over to me shortly before his exit and with sincere regrets for my loss of a first violinist. It is invaluable.

*Max (stutters)* I am no musician.

*Furtwängler* I think she wanted you to have it. You could at least keep it and preserve it.

*Max (sinks down, devastated, with the violin)*

*Furtwängler* I understand your emotion. Pardon me for having disturbed you and made you upset.

*Max (stutters)* Not at all.

*Furtwängler* Then I had better leave. My mission is fulfilled. Contact me at any time. I will leave you alone with the violin until further. I think her soul is contained in it.

*(retires in gentle discretion. Max remains seated, devastated and without moving. Then he cautiously plucks a few strings. Then he breaks down completely and breaks out in loud, bitter heartrending crying while he embraces the violin.)*

*Fade out.*

*The End.*

*(Joshimath-Kausani-Naini Tal, 5-12.11.2011,  
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