

MRS. BE : Hello.

MRS. HALBESTADT: Your Honor, this is Mrs. Bertholt. This is His Honor, Judge Haywood . . . Mrs. Bertholt . . . this was her house . . . she came to get some of her belongings from the basement. I didn't know she was coming tonight or—

MRS. BERTHOLT: It's my responsibility, Mrs. Halbestadt. [To Haywood.] I have just been storing some things in the basement until I could get a room big enough to keep them. I hope you don't mind.

HAYWOOD: No. No not at all.

MRS. BERTHOLT: You can check what I have here if you like.

HAYWOOD: No. No. Of course not.

MRS. BERTHOLT: Thank you. I'll just take these out. Thank you, Mrs. Halbestadt.

HAYWOOD: Let me help you with that.

MRS. BERTHOLT: It's perfectly all right. I can manage. It's full of books and pictures and I don't know what. Things that mean nothing to anyone except to me.

HAYWOOD: Tell the driver to take her home.

MRS. HALBESTADT: Yes, Your Honor. I'll take it Mrs. Bertholt.

Halberstadt, Bertholdt,
Haywood

[Mrs. Halbestadt exits with boxes.]

MRS. BERTHOLT: Thank you. I hope you are comfortable here.

HAYWOOD [*awkwardly*]: Yes, I am. Very.

MRS. BERTHOLT: My favorite spot was always the garden. Remind Mrs. Halbestadt to take good care of it. You'll get a great deal of pleasure out of it in the summer. Good night.

HAYWOOD: Good night.

[Mrs. Bertholt exits. Mrs. Halbestadt returns.]

HAYWOOD: Mrs. Halbestadt, you worked for Mrs. Bertholt. Didn't you?

MRS. HALBESTADT [*warily*]: Yes, Your Honor.

HAYWOOD: How long did she live here?

MRS. HALBESTADT: Mrs. Bertholt and her family have lived here for generations, Your Honor.

HAYWOOD: Thanks.

MRS. HALBESTADT: Your Honor, you came in here for something.

HAYWOOD: Yes I was going to make myself a sandwich.

MRS. HALBESTADT: I'll make it for you, Your Honor. I'll make anything you want.

HAYWOOD: No. It's nothing. I always did it for myself back home.

MRS. HALBESTADT: What would you like? We have some ham and some tongue and some liver sausage.

HAYWOOD: I'll try that liver sausage.

[Mrs. Halbestadt starts preparing the sandwich.]

That's very kind of you. What was it like to live under National Socialism?

MRS. HALBESTADT: What was it like?

HAYWOOD: What was it like day to day? You're just like people back home. You're good people, I know that. What was it like for you to live under Hitler?

MRS. HALBESTADT: We were not political. I am not political.

HAYWOOD: I know, but you must have been aware of some of the events that were going on. A lot of things were going on. There were parades going on. Hitler and Goebbels used to come here every year. What was it like?

MRS. HALBESTADT: We never attended meetings. Never.

HAYWOOD: I'm not putting you on trial, Mrs. Halbestadt. I just would like to know.

[Mrs. Halbestadt finishes making the sandwich and places it before him.]

Thank you.

MRS. HALBESTADT: You're welcome, Your Honor.

HAYWOOD: For instance, there's a place just 80 miles from here called Dachau.

MRS. HALBESTADT: We knew nothing about it. Nothing about it. How can you ask if we knew anything about it? *[She is on the point of tears.]*

HAYWOOD: I'm sorry.

[He starts to eat the sandwich.]

MRS. HALBESTADT: Is the sandwich all right, Your Honor?

HAYWOOD: Yes, it's fine thank you.

MRS. HALBESTADT: Your Honor, we are just little people. I lost a son in the war. I lost a daughter in the bombing. We went hungry during the war. It was terrible for us.

HAYWOOD: I'm sure it was.

MRS. HALBESTADT: Hitler did some good things. I won't say he didn't do some good things. He gave more people work. I won't say he didn't do some good things. But the bad things—the things they say he did to the Jews and the rest. We didn't know about such things. Very few Germans knew. [Pause.] And if we did know, what could we do?

HAYWOOD: But Mrs. Halbestadt. You said you didn't know. [Pause.] Mrs. Bertholt. What was Mrs. Bertholt's reaction to all of this?

MRS. HALBESTADT: Mrs. Bertholt is a very fine woman, Your Honor.

HAYWOOD: What about her husband?

MRS. HALBESTADT: He was in the Army.

HAYWOOD: Oh? What happened to him?

MRS. HALBESTADT: He was a defendant in the Malmedy Case, Your Honor.

HAYWOOD: General Bertholt? Karl Bertholt.

MRS. HALBESTADT: He was executed, Your Honor.

HAYWOOD: Yes, I know that.

SCENE: THE PALACE OF JUSTICE—COURTROOM

COLONEL PARKER: "The seamstress Anni Meunch, daughter of Wilhelm Meunch is to be sterilized. It is therefore requested—"

ROLFE: Your Honor, Defense objects to introduction of these documents. According to the ruling of the first Tribunal, such documents are not admissible unless supported by independent evidence of their authenticity.

HAYWOOD: Objection sustained.

COLONEL PARKER: Your Honor, may I ask the Defense a question? Would evidence on sterilization be acceptable if there were a witness.

[Pause.]

ROLFE [apprehensively]: Yes. It would.

[Colonel Parker abruptly throws documentation in front of Rolfe. Rolfe continues reading documentation through Peterson's testimony.]

COLONEL PARKER: Prosecution calls the witness, Rudolph Peterson.

[Rudolf Peterson is in his thirties. Suit worn but carefully pressed. Hair carefully combed. He seems to be holding himself together with difficulty.]