

# **LOVE AND WAR, A POLITICAL LOVE STORY**

**Or what happens when enemies fall in love?**

**By Phillip W. Weiss**

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**This story is a work of fiction but contains dramatic references to actual political organizations, places and nations. All characters, places and events depicted in this play are entirely fictional and any resemblance to any actual persons, places or events is unintentional and entirely coincidental.**

**WARNING: This work contains adult content not suitable for minors.**

**NOTE: This play takes place in Israel and involves characters whose primary languages is not English but speak English for literary purposes only.**

## **Synopsis of**

### **LOVE AND WAR, A POLITICAL LOVE STORY**

**Victor Mordecai is a decorated veteran of the Israeli Defense Forces, Sofia bin Amin a Palestinian woman and the daughter of a high ranking official in the Hamas government. Mordecai and Sofia meet under the most improbable circumstances and fall in love. However, their love is soon put to the test as others question their motives. Will their love survive? Or will it become just another casualty of war?**

## **Characters**

**CAPTAIN VICTOR MORDECAI – Company Commander, Special Forces Battalion, Israeli Defense Forces.**

**SERGEANT JASON GREENBERG – Non-commissioned officer, Special Forces Battalion, Israeli Defense Forces.**

**SOFIA BIN AMIN – Palestinian woman.**

**MAJOR ADAM LEVINE – Prosecuting attorney, Israeli Defense Forces.**

**CAPTAIN RICHARD SOLOMON – Defense attorney, Israeli Defense Forces.**

**ABDUL BIN AMIN – Sofia’s father and an official in the Hamas government.**

**THE JUDGE**

**COURT OFFICERS, SOLDIERS, PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS**

**This is a one-act play consisting of nine scenes.**

**Song: “Mordecai” sung by SOFIA.**

**Scene 1**

*Time: The present.*

*Place: A situation room at an Israeli Defense Forces facility close to the West Bank. Two soldiers, in uniform, are inside the room. One is standing, the other sitting. The standing soldier is about 35 years old, well-built, and very handsome, The sitting soldier is a few years younger and somewhat plain looking. A map of the West Bank is on the wall.*

**STANDING SOLDIER**

*(speaking in an authoritative tone)*

Sergeant Greenberg, according to intelligence, the terrorists are hiding in the West Bank village of Shuhari. *(Points to a place on the map.)* We have been ordered to go into the village, find the terrorists and destroy them. Any questions?

**GREENBERG**

Captain Mordecai, how many terrorists are hiding there?

**MORDECAI**

We're not certain of the exact number, but there could be upward of 15 to 20 who we suspect were involved in that recent attack in Tel Aviv. Does that answer your question, Sergeant?

**GREENBERG**

Do we have their names and exact locations?

**MORDECAI**

We have some names and addresses, but we're going to have to conduct a house-by-house search.

**GREENBERG**

That means we'll be vulnerable to snipers and IEDs.

**MORDECAI**

True, but we'll be going in with a lot of firepower, enough to keep the residents at bay while we do our sweep.

**GREENBERG**

How long will this mission last?

**MORDECAI**

As long as necessary to eliminate the murderers who killed our countrymen, Let me remind you that we of the special forces battalion are sworn to search for and destroy all terrorists cells that pose a threat to the state of Israel and nothing, I repeat NOTHING, will stop us from performing our duty.

**GREENBERG**

But it seems that no matter how often we hit these maniacs, more of them pop up.

**MORDECAI**

But we have no choice but to keep attacking because the alternative is the destruction of the State of Israel.

**GREENBERG**

Do you really believe that constantly beating up on the Palestinians is the way to achieve peace?

**MORDECAI**

Who's talking about peace? That's for the politicians to deal with. What I'm talking about is conducting a military operation to infiltrate and neutralize terrorist cells that are using civilian cover to conduct their operations, operations, I wish to remind you, that have already cost the lives of hundreds of Israelis and is meant to undermine our morale and destroy our country.

**GREENBERG**

I understand that, but the fact is that world opinion does not support us and that every time we conduct military operations against the Palestinians it is Israel and not the Palestinians who are accused of heightening tensions.

**MORDECAI**

I don't give a rat's ass about world opinion. Nobody likes the state of Israel and nobody likes the Jews. We have to defend ourselves and depend on ourselves alone to ensure the survival of our country and our people.

**GREENBERG**

I agree with you about wanting to ensure the survival of our country, but still we cannot go at this alone. We have to contend with the entire Arab world and cannot afford to alienate those who still support us.

**MORDECAI**

*(scoffing)*

What the heck are you talking about? Jews have always been hated. That's just the way it is. You think that by kissing up to other countries that will make us stronger? Do you really believe that we can reach an accommodation with our enemies who want to exterminate us?

**GREENBERG**

We have to reach some kind of accommodation, otherwise we may not survive!

**MORDECAI**

*(screams)*

You stinking defeatist! People like you are worse than the Arabs. What the hell are you doing in the Army anyway? Either you are willing to fight or get the hell out of here and peddle your defeatist crap somewhere else.

**GREENBERG**

Wait a minute Captain. I'm no defeatist, I'm a realist who loves my country as much as you do and I'm willing to fight if necessary to defend our country, but picking a fight with the Palestinians is not the way to achieve peace.

**MORDECAI**

You are such a stinking stupid idiot. In 1988 my brother was killed in a terrorist attack and as far as I'm concerned there's no room for talking. They hit us and we hit back ... period. There is no other way. If you think that the Palestinians are interested in talking, then you're dumber than I thought.

**GREENBERG**

First of all stop calling me names ....

**MORDECAI**

Watch you tone of voice with me. I'm still your commanding officer.

**GREENBERG**

I didn't mean to be disrespectful but frankly Captain you don't seem to have too much respect for me and I don't like you calling me names.

**MORDECAI**

I can't help calling you names when you spew all that wishy-washy crap. You're just another one of these wimpy Jewish suck ups who will do anything to appease our enemies.

**GREENBERG**

Wait a minute! You have no idea what you're taking about! I'm a victim of terrorism too. Remember that blast in Haifa a few years ago? My sister was killed and I sure didn't like it, not one bit. I wanted to go and kill every Palestinian I could get a hold of, I mean wring their necks and kick them in their asses and burn their mosques and herd them into camps and just get rid of them once and for all, but afterwards I calmed down and thought it over I asked myself what they hell would beating up on the Palestinians accomplish? Wouldn't it be better if we tried to talk out our differences?

**MORDECAI**

You are a sentimental moron. The Palestinians have no more ability or willingness to talk to us than the Nazis did. All they want to do is to drive us into the sea and reclaim Israel and tell us and the rest of the world to go to hell. So that is why we have to hit them and hit them hard and why we are conducting yet another operation into Palestinian territory to teach these Palestinian maniacs a lesson in the only language they understand ... force!

**GREENBERG**

You are so jaded and so angry and so wrong.

**MORDECAI**

*(screams)*

I'm jaded? I am doing what I've been ordered to do and nobody is going to stop me or dissuade me from carrying out my orders. Do you read me sergeant? Or do I have to spell it out to you another way?

*(MORDECAI picks up his rifle)*

**GREENBERG**

*(beginning to become alarmed)*

Hey Captain, I'm not the enemy.

**MORDECAI**

I don't know about that. How do I know that you're not a Palestinian spy posing as an Israeli to undermine the army?

**GREENBERG**

Come on now Captain. You know better than that. We've known each other since we've been kids. I'd feel better if you'd put down that rifle.

**MORDECAI**

*(slowly puts down the rifle and stares directly at GREENBERG)*

I know that, but you have changed. Once you were the most gung-ho fighter in my outfit who would do anything to get the job done, but now you're just a useless second guessing excuse for a man who doesn't want to fight. Frankly I don't trust you and I don't know if you should even go on the mission tomorrow.

**GREENBERG**

Just because I don't agree with you doesn't mean I won't do my duty.

**MORDECAI**

This has nothing to do with whether you agree with me or not. This has to do with whether I can trust you to cover my ass when the things get hot and whether you still have the guts to do the job in the field.

**GREENBERG**

How many missions have I gone out on with you already Captain? Did I ever let you or the unit down?

**MORDECAI**

There's always the first time and my gut feeling tells me that I can't trust you anymore.

**GREENBERG**

You do remember that I saved your life.

**MORDECAI**

Yes, I remember. You blew away that Palestinian sniper who was about to shoot me and did your duty well. I expressed my gratitude and my family wept with joy, but that was eight years ago and since then you have changed.

**GREENBERG**

No I haven't. I'd do it again in the split of a hair. It's just that I think going on these missions has become a pointless exercise in futility.

**MORDECAI**

Well tell that to my brother's widow and his orphaned kids. Ask her if you think this just some kind of pointless exercise in futility. Ask her and every victim of terrorism whether they think that fighting to defend ourselves is a waste of time.

**GREENBERG**

The problem, Captain, is not going after the terrorists who I despise just as much as you do, but that inevitably we wind up hurting and killing innocent civilians.

**MORDECAI**

There are no innocent civilians. They're all in it together, the terrorists and their families.

**GREENBERG**

Does that go for little babies too? For the elderly?

**MORDECAI**

Now you listen to me and listen to me good! Every Palestinian is our enemy. They hate us, they teach their children to hate us and if we don't go after them then they will come after us and I would prefer the former to the latter. Do I make myself clear?

**GREENBERG**

Loud and clear, Captain. But what are we going to do when we bust into some Palestinian's home and find a bunch of little kids hiding under the bed? Shoot them?

**MORDECAI**

*(screams)*

You are such a pathetic fool, such a simple-minded little piece of dung. Those little kids could be rigged with bombs. And besides, since when have the Palestinians started caring about their kids? I don't think the Palestinians even have feelings. Sometimes I wonder if they're even human.

**GREENBERG**

Hold on a minute Captain. Listen to what you're saying. This is the same bunk that the Nazis used to justify trying to exterminate the Jews.

**MORDECAI**

Here we go again, comparing us to the Nazis.

**GREENBERG**

Well maybe it's true.

**MORDECAI**

*(angry)*

**SHUT YOUR TRAP!!!** We are not Nazis. In Europe, Jewish children were never taught to hate. Not even when the Germans were systematically gassing our people and shoving them into ovens. But here the Palestinians preach to their children the vilest things about us and have no qualms to use them as human bombs, including young school-age kids. How sick is that? How much more depraved and jaded can those people get? And you think that we can negotiate with these benighted people. Who are you trying to fool?

**GREENBERG**

You're wrong Captain. Not every Palestinian wants us dead and some actually want to co-exist with Israel.

**MORDECAI**

That's pure trash. Didn't the election of Hamas teach you anything? What more proof do you need to open up your eyes to the fact that every Palestinian wants us dead?

**GREENBERG**

I know all about the election. Hamas does not represent the entire Palestinian people.

**MORDECAI**

Hamas may not represent the entire spectrum of Palestinian opinion, but they're in power now and you know what Hamas wants to do to Israel, don't you?

**GREENBERG**

I know what Hamas has vowed to do, but that doesn't mean that every Palestinian feels that way.

**MORDECAI**

When are you going to take your head out of the sand? The Palestinians want us dead ... period. It doesn't matter which one of them's in power. So we have to them and hit them hard because if we don't hit them they will hit us and not just with terrorist attacks but with an entire army, backed up by every Arab and rabble rousing jew-hater on this planet and I'm not about to let that happen.

**GREENBERG**

All I'm saying is that there's still room for negotiating a settlement with the Palestinians.

**MORDECAI**

And all I'm saying is that you're in fantasy land and I'll be keeping an eye on you while we're on the mission tomorrow.

*(Lights Out)*

**Scene 2**

*Place: A house in the refugee camp of Shuhari in the West Bank.*

*Time: Night*

*(Several soldiers break into the house, led by Captain Mordecai and Sergeant Greenberg. Inside the house are a group of old women and young children, cowering in the corner, crying and screaming.)*

**MORDECAI**

Okay men, search this house! The terrorists are here somewhere!

*(The soldiers run throughout the house, breaking furniture and making a lot of commotion.)*

Greenberg, find anyone yet?

**GREENBERG**

Not yet Captain, but we're still looking.

**MORDECAI**

Keep looking! We're not leaving until we find out where those crazy murderers are hiding. If we have to, burn the house the down!

**GREENBERG**

*(stops what he is doing and faces Mordecai)*

Captain, let's not go to that extreme. Women and children are living here.

**MORDECAI**

I don't care who's living here! If we have to burn this house down, then it will burn! Do you read me!

**GREENBERG**

I read you Captain, but let's keep searching first. I'm sure we'll find someone.

**MORDECAI**

*(Approaches the women and children cowering in the corner and starts screaming questions at them.)*

Where are they? Where are they hiding? And who the hell are YOU?

*(The women are now wailing and the children screaming. MORDECAI continues to berate them.)*

I repeat: where are they? You know where they are and we're not leaving until we find them. All you Palestinians are the same. When confronted by us, you start crying, trying to gain our sympathy. But that won't happen today. No way. You're talking with Captain Mordecai and your crying and carrying on don't fool me, not one bit. As soon as I turn my back on you you'll probably toss a bomb at me, but I'll blow you up first, so you better tell me what I want to know and tell me now or kaboom! This house will be history and you can rot on the street for all I care. Or maybe I should just take out my gun and blow you away right now. *(Mordecai reaches for his handgun fastened to his ammo belt. The women and children are now hysterical.)*

**GREENBERG**

For God sake, Captain, what the hell are you doing? They don't know anything!

**MORDECAI**

*(Turns to Greenberg, angry)*

Who's in charge of this operation? Me or you? They know everything. Just keep on looking. *(The soldiers continue rummaging through the house. MORDECAI turns about and faces the women and children again and towering over them screams)* Where are they? You, old lady, tell me where they are? You're not going to get away with this! You're not going to fool me with your crying! You people hurt my people and now we're here to take care of business! I bet you were laughing and dancing when your terrorist murderer friends were killing Israelis.

*(An old woman, holding an infant, slowly gets up. Mordecai pushes her back down and she crumples to the floor. The others are now silent, paralyzed with fright. MORDECAI turns to GREENBERG)*

Greenberg, find anything yet?

**GREENBERG**

No Captain, but we're still searching.

**MORDECAI**

Put these people under arrest and take them to the detention center for further interrogation, at once.

**GREENBERG**

Was hitting that old woman really necessary Captain? They're just a bunch of terrified civilians. What's the point?

**MORDECAI**

First, I didn't hit the old woman. I just pushed her down for her own protection. Second, don't argue with me! Just obey! Get them out of here and you get out of here too. I'll continue the search myself. I don't need you or anybody to find those murderers and I know that somebody's hiding in here so get out of my way so I can do my job!

**GREENBERG**

Captain, conducting reconnaissance operations without adequate support is against regulations. I urge you to reconsider.

**MORDECAI**

**SCREW THE REGULATIONS AND SCREW YOU!!!** You should be helping me, you stupid ingrate. Instead, all you do is complain. Where do you think you are and who do you think you're talking too? These people hate us and will do anything to protect their so-called soldiers. Don't you understand that? Can't you see that I'm right? You're just in my way.

**GREENBERG**

Captain, I beg you, don't stay here alone.

**MORDECAI**

Listen, Greenberg, I'm doing you a favor. I may do things that you may not want to witness, so get the heck out of here before I throw you out, and don't make me have to do that, and take those clowns (*pointing to the women and children still cowering in the corner*) with you.

**GREENBERG**

Alright Captain, I'll obey but I still think you're wrong.

**MORDECAI**

*(screams)*

Get out of here! NOW!!!

**GREENBERG**

*(To the cowering Palestinians)*

Let's go. Get up.

*(The Palestinians slowly get up from the corner, still shaking with fear, and exit the stage, accompanied by GREENBERG and the other soldiers. MORDECAI is now alone.)*

**MORDECAI**

*(speaking loudly)*

Okay, I know you are here, so come on out and you won't be hurt. *(Several seconds pause. Silence)* I know you are here, so come out right now and I promise I won't hurt you. *(More silence)* Okay. That's the way you want to play? Then have it your way. *(MORDECAI grabs a piece of paper, takes out a match and puts the paper on fire.)* I'm going to count to five and if you don't come out I'm going to burn this house down and then shoot you all while you're trying to escape. *(Pauses for a moment)* Five ... four ... three ... two ...

*(A YOUNG WOMAN enters the stage. She is in her early twenties, has shoulder-length black hair, olive complexion, very pretty, casually attired in slacks and blouse, slim but voluptuous, calm and self-assured)*

**YOUNG WOMAN**

*(looking directly at MORDECAI)*

Are you looking for me?

*(MORDECAI freezes and stares back at her, totally mesmerized. Transfixed, his jaw drops, he slowly glances over at the burning paper, extinguishes the fire, walks directly toward the woman, gazes directly into her eyes, embraces her in his arms and gives her a long, passionate kiss on the lips to which the woman responds by wrapping her legs around his waist and emitting moans of passion. They slowly drop to the ground as the lights go out. While the stage is dark, sounds of sexual moaning and groaning can be heard.)*

Scene 3

*(Lights go on. MORDECAI and the YOUNG WOMAN are getting dressed. It is apparent that they had sex.)*

MORDECAI

*(sounding exhausted)*

Oh baby that was great! *(reaches over and caresses the woman)* By the way, what's your name?

YOUNG WOMAN

Sofia bin Amin

MORDECAI

You're a Palestinian?

SOFIA

Yes I am. Are you shocked or disappointed?

MORDECAI

I don't know what to think. I don't know what came over me.

SOFIA

I don't know either. All I know is that you were acting kind of crazy before which actually turned me on.

MORDECAI

What do you mean crazy? I'm trying to get rid of terrorists, so how is that crazy?

SOFIA

Threatening to burn homes? Bullying old people and babies? Don't you think that's being a little bit extreme?

MORDECAI

That's extreme? After the way you people throw bombs at us?

**SOFIA**

You think I'm one of those people?

**MORDECAI**

Listen, I don't know who you are. All I know is that something happened to me and it's like you put a spell over me, and now I'm caught in your web and don't know what to think.

**SOFIA**

Do you think I would blow you up? Do you think I would harm you? After what we just did?

**MORDECAI**

*(caressing Sofia)*

I just don't know what to say. All I know is that I want you .., and I don't know why.

**SOFIA**

*(laughs)*

You really don't know why?

*(SOFIA put her arms around MORDECAI who kisses her and then pushes her away)*

**MORDECAI**

My God! What am I doing? You're the enemy!

**SOFIA**

I'm the enemy? Me?

**MORDECAI**

*(regaining his composure)*

That's right. I'm talking about you.

**SOFIA**

Don't be silly. If I was your enemy you would have been dead along time ago. Isn't it better that you're still alive and that we made love?

**MORDECAI**

Of course I'm glad I'm alive, but where does that leave us?

**SOFIA**

Anywhere you want to be. You're the soldier, I'm just a lowly Palestinian booty, that you just used.

**MORDECAI**

I think you wanted it too.

**SOFIA**

*(laughing)*

Stop being so confident

*(SOFIA playfully slaps MORDECAI on the butt.)*

**MORDECAI**

Hey, stop that!

**SOFIA**

What's the matter? You don't like to play?

**MORDECAI**

You keep doing that and I may want to play some more too.

*(MORDECAI embraces SOFIA and caresses her breasts)*

**SOFIA**

*(now provocative, enjoying the caresses)*

Well come on soldier boy and show me what you got!

*(SOFIA reaches down and grabs MORDECAI's crotch as the lights go out.)*

Scene 4

*(Lights go on. SOFIA and MORDECAI are dressed only in their underwear.)*

**MORDECAI**

I have to get dressed and get back to my unit.

*(MORDECAI begins to gather his clothing and starts getting dressed. Soon SOFIA does the same)*

**SOFIA**

What's the hurry? Why not stay here tonight?

**MORDECAI**

Because my unit will be looking for me if I don't show up and if I'm found with you, we'll both be in trouble,

**SOFIA**

Why is that? Is it against the law for an Israeli man and Palestinian woman to make love?

**MORDECAI**

No it's not, but I'm an officer in the Israeli army and there are those who would question why I spent time with you.

**SOFIA**

You mean they would want to know if you spilled the beans to a Palestinian?

**MORDECAI**

Some might ask that.

**SOFIA**

Well, did you spill the beans?

**MORDECAI**

No, but I did spill something else.

**SOFIA**

*(playfully)*

Ooh you're nasty.

*(MORDECAI and SOFIA kiss)*

Then what are you afraid of? That people will make fun of you for sleeping with a Palestinian?

**MORDECAI**

They might, but I don't feel that way about you.

**SOFIA**

So what's the problem?

**MORDECAI**

It's just that in my position I just can't say that I slept with the enemy. My commanders may misunderstand.

**SOFIA**

*(angry)*

About you being with me? You just did me ... twice. Your seed is inside me. I could become pregnant and if I do, I'll have your baby, then what?

**MORDECAI**

What about having an abortion?

**SOFIA**

*(screams)*

You stupid ignoramous! Have an abortion!?! Are you out of your mind?

**MORDECAI**

Hey, you're the one who brought up having a baby, not me.

**SOFIA**

Typical man. He gets his way and then acts like nothing happened.

**MORDECAI**

Already we're fighting.

**SOFIA**

Because you're sounding like a jerk.

**MORDECAI**

If I wanted to I could take you into custody right now.

**SOFIA**

You mean like you did with my aunts and little cousins?

**MORDECAI**

Oh, so they were related to you?

**SOFIA**

What do you think? You think I just happened to be passing by when you were threatening my family?

**MORDECAI**

So you live here?

**SOFIA**

Yes. I was visiting my aunts. I live in Jordan.

**MORDECAI**

What were doing in Jordan?

**SOFIA**

Going to school. I'm studying to be a social worker.

**MORDECAI**

To help the underprivileged? (*Sarcastically*) How noble.

**SOFIA**

There are innocent people suffering in this world and somebody has to help them.

**MORDECAI**

What a bunch of crap. You really believe that junk?

**SOFIA**

Yes I do. Look around you. Nothing but deprivation. Is this fair?

**MORDECAI**

I don't know what's fair. All I know is that this village harbors terrorist cells that must be destroyed, and nothing is going to stop me from doing just that.

**SOFIA**

Is that why you were here? To go after terrorists? Do you think I'm a terrorist?

**MORDECAI**

(*uncertain*)

Of course I don't ... or at least I don't think you are.

**SOFIA**

You don't THINK I am? Did you find any metallic objects in my pussy? Did I toss a bomb at you while we were doing out thing? Did I try to kill you while you were sleeping? What are you talking about?

**MORDECAI**

Just calm down. I'm not accusing you of being a terrorist, but that doesn't mean that they're not here.

**SOFIA**

Well I'm not hiding any terrorists.

**MORDECAI**

If you were would you tell me?

**SOFIA**

Now you want me to be a snitch?

**MORDECAI**

Do you know something I need to know?

**SOFIA**

Maybe I do.

**MORDECAI**

Don't play games with me.

**SOFIA**

I'm not playing games. This is no game. You were about to burn my aunt's house down. What would that have accomplished?

**MORDECAI**

It would have taught your people not harbor terrorists.

**SOFIA**

You really think that by burning down houses you will defeat terrorism?

**MORDECAI**

Yes I do, especially when we destroy houses that the terrorists use for cover.

**SOFIA**

But what about if you burn down the wrong house?

**MORDECAI**

There are no wrong houses.

**SOFIA**

No wrong houses?

**MORDECAI**

That's right because as far as the Israel is concerned, every Palestinian village is a safe haven for terrorists and so any house we destroy is one less place for the terrorists to hide.

**SOFIA**

That's a pretty nasty policy.

**MORDECAI**

It may seem nasty but it's necessary in order to teach our enemies that their aggression has a price.

**SOFIA**

So by burning down my aunt's house you would have taught us a lesson.

**MORDECAI**

That's right and it would be a lesson you would never forget, and besides we didn't start this war. Israel wants to live in peace with its neighbors.

**SOFIA**

Well we do too, but not while we're being subjected to intimidation.

**MORDECAI**

It is Israel that's been the target of intimidation.

**SOFIA**

I don't see it like that at all. In fact, I think you got the situation backwards.

**MORDECAI**

You're not going to tell me that Israel is the aggressor, are you?

**SOFIA**

You said it. You attacked us, we didn't attack you.

**MORDECAI**

Try telling that to any Israeli who's lost a relative because of a terrorist attack.

**SOFIA**

Why are you so set against the Palestinian people?

**MORDECAI**

Because for as long as I can remember all I have heard from your people is how they want to destroy the state of Israel and eradicate the Jewish people, and I have dedicated my life to stop that from happening. My parents helped found the state of Israel in 1948 and I'm not going to let anyone undo all the work they did to ensure that Jews have a country of their own. Also, my brother was killed in a terrorist attack.

**SOFIA**

Look, I'm sorry about your brother. That must have been rough. But remember, while your parents were founding the state of Israel they were disenfranchising thousands of Palestinians who were forced to leave their homes, like my grandparents who were chased out of their homes and forced into a refugee camp in Jordan. That wasn't right. That's why I live in Jordan, where I'm not even considered a citizen. I also want a country, a place that I can call home. My aunt is forced to live in this hovel. She deserves better. Can't you agree with that?

**MORDECAI**

Don't make me cry. What's your story anyway?

**SOFIA**

What do you mean?

**MORDECAI**

What were you doing here in the first place?

**SOFIA**

I told you. I was visiting my aunt.

**MORDECAI**

Where are your parents?

**SOFIA**

I rather not discuss it.

**MORDECAI**

Sofia, don't keep secrets from me. Just because we made love doesn't mean I won't get nasty with you.

**SOFIA**

Are you threatening me? You're like a programmed machine that cannot be switched off.

**MORDECAI**

I didn't mean to sound pushy but nevertheless I would like know about your parents.

**SOFIA**

Okay, since you're asking more politely I'll tell you, but you may not like what you hear.

**MORDECAI**

Just get to the point.

**SOFIA**

My mother died in a refugee camp when I was a little girl leaving my father to raise me all alone. Maybe you've heard of my father. His name is Salim bin Amin?

**MORDECAI**

The name sounds familiar. Who is he?

**SOFIA**

He's the deputy minister for finance in the Hamas government in Gaza.

**MORDECAI**

Wait a minute. Salim bin Amin ... Isn't he the guy who once said that every Jew is lower than a pig and that every Jewish woman is a whore and called the Jewish religion food for swines? Please don't tell me that creep's your father.

**SOFIA**

I told you that you wouldn't like what you heard.

**MORDECAI**

Well where's your father now?

**SOFIA**

He's still in Gaza.

**MORDECAI**

I wonder what he would say if he found out about us.

**SOFIA**

I don't know what he would say, but I don't plan to tell him. As far as I'm concerned it's none of his or anyone's business. We made love and that's all there is to it.

**MORDECAI**

You know that your father is a wanted criminal in Israel and that I may have to report his current whereabouts to my commanders.

**SOFIA**

*(alarmed)*

Are you crazy? You think that your commanders will be pleased that you slept with a criminal's daughter? And then they will come after me and my mother and my cousins and *(starts crying)* I will be thrown in jail where I will die! *(SOFIA is now wailing inconsolably).*

**MORDECAI**

*(embraces Sofia)*

Okay, Okay baby. I won't do anything to hurt you.

**SOFIA**

*(stops crying)*

Oh thank you! I thought you were about to do something very stupid.

**MORDECAI**

Yeah, maybe, but I don't like the idea of covering up information, especially concerning wanted criminals.

**SOFIA**

Stop calling my father a criminal.

**MORDECAI**

Well that's what he is. He's repeatedly preached nothing but hatred towards the Jews and someday he's going to pay for that.

**SOFIA**

The only thing you know about my father is what you hear and read in the news. My father is actually a very nice man and if you met him you would probably like him.

**MORDECAI**

Well, I remember watching your father on TV screaming for Jewish blood, so I hope you understand if I tell you that I find what you just said hard to believe.

**SOFIA**

You have to understand that my father is a politician so a lot of things he says in public are part of an act.

**MORDECAI**

Even if you're right, the fact is that he said those things and riled up a lot of people and caused a lot of problems which is partly the reason why I'm here in this village now. If your father really doesn't mean what he says then maybe he should just shut his mouth.

**SOFIA**

**Don't talk that way about my father. You don't know him like I do.**

**MORDECAI**

**Listen, Sofia. Your father has caused a lot of problems and whether he's really a nice guy is not the point. It's what he's done that counts and for years he's beat up on the Jews. In my book that makes him just another rabble-rousing Neo Nazi anti-Semitic creep, and I have no use for anti-Semites.**

**SOFIA**

**While you Israelis were consolidating your occupation of Palestine my parents were struggling to survive in a refugee camp in Jordan. My father was forced to flee Israel as a little boy and had no formal education, no medical care and had to fend for himself. The only thing that saved him from total oblivion was the PLO which gave him a job, a position of authority and an education. Everything he has he owes to the PLO and now to Hamas. And don't you ever again call my father a creep. How would you like it if I called your parents names?**

**MORDECAI**

**My parents don't go around preaching hatred, so you have no cause to call them anything.**

**SOFIA**

**Oh really? What about the term invader, or occupier, or racist, or usurper? Don't those terms maybe apply?**

**MORDECAI**

**Typical Palestinian talk. I really thought you may be different Sofia, but you're not. You're just like all the other Palestinians, full of hate but just a little sweeter.**

**SOFIA**

**Oh, my dear darling Mordecai. You are so wrong, about me and about my people. You believe your own propaganda, but I know that you can change once you know the truth.**

**MORDECAI**

What are you talking about?

**SOFIA**

About us, you silly deluded fool.

**MORDECAI**

(dubious)

What about us?

**SOFIA**

Isn't it obvious? Us? Being together? Being close? Or does all of this mean nothing to you?

**MORDECAI**

I don't know what to say. I'm all confused. I didn't expect this to happen.

**SOFIA**

I didn't expect it either, but it did, and I saw in your eyes that you're not the neo-fascist martinet that you pretend to be, that there is a goodness in you that would have stopped you from burning down this house.

**MORDECAI**

Sofia, I've been a soldier since age 18, almost half of my life. I've been involved in more military operations against the Palestinians than I care to remember and I've done some pretty nasty things, none of which I regret, so whatever you saw in my eyes is something I don't want to hear about.

**SOFIA**

Mordecai, there's a sweetness in you that you are covering up. There's nothing wrong with being honest with yourself and with your feelings.

**MORDECAI**

Stop with that psychobabble garbage! All you're doing is trying to catch me off guard and make me weak so I'll stop fighting and then you'll be able to control me and maybe even turn me against my own people!

**SOFIA**  
*(laughs)*

You are so silly when you're angry. Do you ever wonder how you sound? Do you really believe that I am trying to manipulate you?

**MORDECAI**

At first I didn't give it a thought but as we continue to talk I have to wonder if you have any ulterior motives. For all I know you're a Palestinian agent or maybe even a terrorist plotting the next attack against Israel.

**SOFIA**

Your paranoia is fascinating. If what you say is true, I would have been screaming rape and by now there would have been fifty Palestinians in here beating the crap out of you.

**MORDECAI**

I did not rape you. You wanted it as much as I did ... and still do.

*(MORDECAI and SOFIA embrace and kiss)*

**SOFIA**

So what are we going to do now?

**MORDECAI**

About what?

**SOFIA**

About us.

**MORDECAI**  
*(defensive)*

What about us?

**SOFIA**

Aren't we going to see each other again?

**MORDECAI**

Baby I'd love to, but under the circumstances that may be a problem.

**SOFIA**

What are you talking about?

**MORDECAI**

I'm not a civilian and if I'm caught cavorting with a Palestinian I could be in deep shit and I don't want that, either for me or for you.

**SOFIA**

Don't worry about that. We can continue to see each other. What's the big deal?

**MORDECAI**

You don't get it, do you?

**SOFIA**

*(laughs)*

I already got it and I want to get some more.

**MORDECAI**

That's not what I mean. Seriously, I want us to go forward, but for us to get together again will require a lot of planning, almost like a military operation.

**SOFIA**

Well you're an expert in that so this should be easy.

**MORDECAI**

Not as easy as it sounds. First we have to deal with the check points, second, I can't afford being seen with you in public, third ... *(pauses)* ... my G-d! What am I saying? Now you're pumping information from me! I think you're a spy!

**SOFIA**

**That's crap! I'm no spy. You were about to burn down my family's house and I had to do something to stop you and that's what I did.**

**MORDECAI**

**So all this between us was nothing but a ploy to distract me from completing my mission?**

**SOFIA**

**Don't be an idiot! What happened between us was ... and still is ... special, at least to me.**

**MORDECAI**

**But what's to stop you from getting on the phone right now and telling your father about us and getting me into a lot of trouble?**

**SOFIA**

**You'll just have to trust me.**

**MORDECAI**

**But how can I trust you? You're a Palestinian and you've been taught to hate me.**

**SOFIA**

**(Tenderly)**

**Do you really believe that I hate you? That I could hurt you?**

**MORDECAI**

**Come over here and look into my eyes.**

***(SOFIA goes over to MORDECAI and they stand face-to-face, totally focused on each other.)***

**Now tell me that you swear that you will never hurt or betray me and I'll swear the same.**

**SOFIA**

*(slowly and solemnly)*

I, dear Captain Mordecai, swear that I will never hurt you or betray you.

**MORDECAI**

And I, dear Sofia, swear that I will never hurt or betray you too.  
*(They kiss)* Now you're my woman.

**SOFIA**

*(softly and tenderly)*

And now you're my man.

*(SOFIA and MORDECAI embrace as the lights go out)*

Scene 5

*(Time: Next day)*

*Place: The Situation Room*

*MORDECAI and GREENBERG are standing.*

**GREENBERG**

Captain, where were you last night?

**MORDECAI**

What are you talking about?

**GREENBERG**

You know damn well what I'm talking about. You were gone for ten hours and we had no idea what had happened to you. You had us worried.

**MORDECAI**

Worried over what? That I was gone for a few hours? So what? And watch your tone of voice with me. I AM your superior officer.

**GREENBERG**

*(persisting)*

So what!? Are you joking? Not only did you violate protocol by not returning with your unit, by staying behind in that house you put yourself and the entire mission in jeopardy and in the process put yourself at risk of being taken hostage.

**MORDECAI**

*(angry)*

Who do you think you're talking too? Stop lecturing me.

**GREENBERG**

Listen, Captain, you may not believe this but you are in deep shit, up to your neck and maybe even higher. People are asking questions. Your failure to return last night has caused a lot of discussion which has filtered up to the highest levels, and I'm telling you this as a friend.

**MORDECAI**

What friend? I don't have any friends. You're certainly not my friend. I'm a soldier, I do my duty, and being in the army is my life.

**GREENBERG**

That's all well and good, Captain, but I'm telling again that your unauthorized absence has been duly noted by the higher ups and they don't like it.

**MORDECAI**

How do you know all this?

**GREENBERG**

Because while you were away the Colonel called an emergency meeting to figure out what to do and he was pissed off, especially at me for having left you in that house.

**MORDECAI**

Didn't you tell him that I ordered you to leave?

**GREENBERG**

I sure did, but he didn't care about that. He wanted to know what was going on to cause you to want to stay behind and accused me of having deserted you.

**MORDECAI**

So what did you tell him?

**GREENBERG**

I told him the truth, that after we removed the detainees from the home you ordered me and the entire unit to leave the house while you were conducting further operations.

**MORDECAI**

Did the Colonel buy it?

**GREENBERG**

No way. He got even more pissed off and screamed at me again for having left you alone and said that this matter would be reported to the general. He also threatened to court martial me for dereliction of duty which caused me a lot of distress.

**MORDECAI**

Didn't you tell him that I was preparing to burn the building?

**GREENBERG**

I didn't know what you were going to do. All I know is that you ordered us to leave, which we did, and we didn't hear from you again until you returned to the base.

**MORDECAI**

So why didn't anybody send out a search party?

**GREENBERG**

Because by the time we returned we had lost the element of surprise so sending in a search party would have been too risky.

**MORDECAI**

So, in other words, I was considered expendable.

**GREENBERG**

Wait a minute, Captain, I didn't say that. Nobody ever said that. We just couldn't take the risk of losing more men.

**MORDECAI**

So I guess when one of us get stuck behind enemy lines he's on his own.

**GREENBERG**

What are you talking about, Captain? Nobody got stuck behind enemy lines. You wanted to stay. Isn't that the truth?

**MORDECAI**

What are you driving at, Greenberg? Are you saying I did something improper?

**GREENBERG**

*(nervous)*

Captain, I'm not accusing you of anything. I'm just telling you what came down after we returned without you.

**MORDECAI**

Who told you to talk to me?

**GREENBERG**

Nobody, Captain. I'm just trying to be a friend.

**MORDECAI**

*(screams)*

And I told you already that I don't have any friends, so stop talking to me like I'm a fool and level with me!

**GREENBERG**

I swear, Captain, that I'm here right now because I know you're a good soldier and I want to support you.

**MORDECAI**

*(angrier)*

I don't need your support! In fact I'm just about ready to physically throw you out of here if you don't shut up.

**GREENBERG**

*(almost sobbing)*

Captain, please, I'm just trying to help! We've known each other since we've been kids. My god, when I was a little kid you were my hero. I remember the day you joined the army. The whole neighborhood was so proud of you. Your parents were beaming with pride, and then you became a national hero after you single-handedly destroyed that vicious terrorist cell in Gaza. As far as I was concerned you could do no wrong and I still feel that away.

**MORDECAI**

**(calmer)**

Well all that's in the past, and now is now and I don't know what to think.

**GREENBERG**

Captain, what none of us understand is why it took you ten hours to get back to base when it should have taken you no more than twenty minutes. What were you doing?

**MORDECAI**

**(defensive)**

That's none of your damn business!

**GREENBERG**

Maybe it's none of my business but it's sure the Colonel's business and he's gonna want some answers.

**MORDECAI**

Who's going to inform the Colonel? You?

**GREENBERG**

No, Captain. YOU!

**MORDECAI**

Why? Because I continued to reconnoiter the area? Or ran into some unanticipated obstacles? Or encountered some enemy activity that I had to neutralize?

**GREENBERG**

Is that what happened?

**MORDECAI**

Sergeant, stop this interrogation, right now.

**GREENBERG**

I'm not interrogating you. I'm just talking.

**MORDECAI**

Well it's time for you to stop your talking, so get the hell out of here and leave me alone! Now!

(MORDECAI pushes GREENBERG out of the room as the lights go out)

Scene 6

*Time: 24 hours later*

*Place: Sofia's house*

*SOFIA is alone. She sitting in a chair reading a book. Suddenly MORDECAI enters the home. He is dressed in civilian clothes.*

**SOFIA**

*(Surprised. Puts down the book and gets up from the chair)*

Mordecai! What are you doing here?

*(MORDECAI goes over to SOFIA and kisses her)*

**MORDECAI**

I thought I pay you a visit.

**SOFIA**

How did you know I be here?

**MORDECAI**

I didn't, but I asked myself, where else would you be?

**SOFIA**

I could have been anywhere.

**MORDECAI**

I thought you live here.

**SOFIA**

I said I was visiting.

**MORDECAI**

What's the difference? You're here now. That's what counts.

**SOFIA**

**Where are my aunts and cousins?**

**MORDECAI**

**They're still in custody.**

**SOFIA**

**Have you seen them?**

**MORDECAI**

**I've seen them and they're being well cared for.**

**SOFIA**

**Who's caring for my little cousins?**

**MORDECAI**

**We have a day care center at headquarters. Don't worry, everything is okay with them.**

**SOFIA**

**When will they be released?**

**MORDECAI**

**Soon. That's all I can tell you.**

**SOFIA**

**I think it's ridiculous that old women and little infants are being held in custody. They have done nothing.**

**MORDECAI**

**I don't want to argue right now. We have other problems.**

**SOFIA**

**WE have other problems? Don't you mean YOU?**

**MORDECAI**

I mean WE have other problems.

**SOFIA**

This doesn't sound very good.

**MORDECAI**

Well, it isn't .

**SOFIA**

*(alarmed)*

Oh my god! They've found out about us?

**MORDECAI**

Not quite, but my unit's been asking questions about my whereabouts and eventually they may find out about us.

**SOFIA**

You vowed never to betray us! You made a solemn promise to be true!

**MORDECAI**

I haven't violated out vow and I never will, which is why I'm here to prepare for the worse.

**SOFIA**

Why would anyone be questioning you? Aren't you one of Israel's heroes?

**MORDECAI**

In these situations that doesn't count for anything. Nobody really cares about that.

**SOFIA**

What kind of country do you live in?

**MORDECAI**

A valiant country that is fighting for its survival.

**SOFIA**

You mean an aggressive country that questions the credibility of its own heroes.

**MORDECAI**

No matter how we feel about each other, it seems that our political differences just keep getting in the way.

**SOFIA**

What political differences? You have a country while I don't. In fact I can't even visit my own father. That has nothing to do with politics.

**MORDECAI**

That's not my fault, but if you want I'll see if I can pull some strings to arrange a visit with your father.

**SOFIA**

You could do that?

**MORDECAI**

I could try.

**SOFIA**

*(disparaging)*

You could try? I can try to fly but that doesn't mean I can do it.

**MORDECAI**

Hey, I'm just one of the soldiers.

**SOFIA**

That's right, so don't make promises you can't keep or say things that you know you don't mean.

**MORDECAI**

Listen, I mean everything I say. I wish you'd believe me.

**SOFIA**

I want to believe you, but I just can't, not when it comes to my father.

**MORDECAI**

Well may be you'll believe me when I tell you that we're considering launching an attack on the Gaza.

**SOFIA**

Okay, now what am I supposed to do with that information?

**MORDECAI**

Keep it a secret.

**SOFIA**

Okay I will, but when do you plan to attack?

**MORDECAI**

I can't say, and if I knew I wouldn't tell you.

**SOFIA**

What are trying to do, tease me?

**MORDECAI**  
*(nonchalant)*

I'm just making idle chit chat.

**SOFIA**

Some chit chat. Who's the woman here, me or you?

**MORDECAI**  
*(laughs)*

If you can't figure that out by now, then maybe we do have a problem.

SOFIA

*(laughs too and puts her arms around Mordecai)*  
You really wouldn't tell me?

MORDECAI

I wish you'd stop that.

*(MORDECAI pushes SOFIA away)*

SOFIA

You are such a phony.

MORDECAI

No I'm not. I just can't share information with you.

SOFIA

You just did and now you're holding back on me.

MORDECAI

*(anguish)*

What do you want me to say?

SOFIA

The truth, which is that you really don't care about me.

MORDECAI

**NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE!!!!** I do care about you, enough to be here with you now. If I didn't care about you, you would have never seen me again and this house would have been reduced to ashes.

SOFIA

Things are okay while I'm putting out for you but if I stop ... poof, there goes the house. So I guess I'm your whore now.

**MORDECAI**

Oh my G-d, what's come over you?

**SOFIA**

G-d has nothing to do with this. It's you who has changed.

**MORDECAI**

Since yesterday?

**SOFIA**

Yes, since yesterday.

**MORDECAI**

Cut the garbage! You don't know what you're talking about.

**SOFIA**

I know exactly what I'm talking about. Yesterday I thought you were someone special, not your typical Israeli soldier.

**MORDECAI**

What do you mean by that?

**SOFIA**

Being pushy, nasty, mean, vicious and above all arrogant.

**MORDECAI**

Oh, and you Palestinians aren't that way too, calling us names and trashing our religion and calling us infidels? Is that where you're at?

**SOFIA**

No that's NOT where I'm at. That's where YOU'RE at, Mister Captain Israeli soldier!

**MORDECAI**

So you're upset at me because I'm an Israeli soldier?

**SOFIA**

No, because you're a manipulative jerk and who doesn't mean anything he says.

**MORDECAI**

Women. I can never figure them out.

**SOFIA**

That's because you're an idiot.

**MORDECAI**

Stop calling me names.

**SOFIA**

*(contemptuous)*

What are you going to do, arrest me?

**MORDECAI**

You got me all wrong. I love you.

**SOFIA**

If you love me than show it by trusting me enough to tell me when Israel plans to attack Gaza.

**MORDECAI**

Baby, I can't do that. That is a military secret.

**SOFIA**

Then maybe I have to reconsider our relationship.

**MORDECAI**

Well, maybe you'll just have to do that because I can't tell you what you want to know and no amount of pressure from you will change that.

**SOFIA**

*(mocking)*

You think you're hot stuff, don't you? But I know better.

**MORDECAI**

You don't know anything.

**SOFIA**

I know how to get under your skin and make you nervous.

**MORDECAI**

What makes you think I'm nervous?

**SOFIA**

You're sweating like a pig and you smell like a goat. Next thing you'll be mooing like a cow.

**MORDECAI**

What do you mean mooing like a cow? I'm a bull and you're a tramp. You've probably screwed so many guys that you've lost count.

**SOFIA**

*(Angry. Slaps MORDECAI hard on the face)*

You son of a bitch! You have no idea how I feel about you!

*(SOFIA starts crying. MORDECAI rubs his cheek, then starts kissing SOFIA repeatedly and rapidly on her face and neck and starts unbuttoning her blouse when several soldiers burst onto the stage, led by GREENBERG. MORDECAI and SOFIA stop kissing, and are surprised and amazed. SOFIA screams.)*

**GREENBERG**

Okay, Captain the jig is up. Both of you are under arrest. You, bitch, be quiet. *(Sofia continues screaming)*

*(GREENBERG slaps SOFIA in the face. She stops screaming but continues to whimper. Then to the soldiers)*

Arrest them!!! Now!!

*(The soldiers separate MORDECAI and SOFIA from their embrace and place handcuffs on them both. SOFIA offers no resistance. MORDECAI struggles.)*

**MORDECAI**

Leave us alone! This is outrageous! What are YOU doing here?

**GREENBERG**

The question is what are YOU doing here? After you left the base again we followed you and you led us right to house, the very house that you were supposed to destroy, and now I see why you were being so evasive. You're nothing but a traitor who's been conspiring with a spy who's been using you to get information to hurt our country. How could let yourself be so compromised?

**MORDECAI**

You don't know what you're talking about and get your hands off me!! And leave her alone!! We've done nothing wrong.

*(MORDECAI is struggling to free himself. Then one of the soldiers punches MORDECAI in the stomach; MORDECAI collapses onto the floor.)*

**GREENBERG**

The more you fight us, Captain, the worse you make it for yourself.

**MORDECAI**

*(crouching on the floor)*

Screw you, Greenberg. I knew you were a weasel and a Judas. I bet you'll get a medal for this.

**GREENBERG**

Captain, you're in no position to lecture me. From what I can see you're nothing but a shameless hypocrite who's been cavorting with the enemy while at the same time ragging me for being soft on Palestinians. And maybe I SHOULD get a medal for this, you traitor.

**SOFIA**

Mordecai, are you alright?

**MORDECAI**

*(slowly getting up)*

I'm okay. What about you?

**GREENBERG**

*(screams)*

**SHUT YOUR TRAP!!! NO MORE GARBAGE FROM EITHER ONE OF YOU!!** *(To the soldiers)* If anyone of them offers any further resistance, you will hogtie them and physically carry them out of here. Do you understand?

**THE SOLDIERS**

*(in unison)*

Yes, sergeant.

**GREENBERG**

*(to MORDECAI and SOFIA)*

Don't cause me anymore problems otherwise things will only get worse for you. Okay?

**MORDECAI**

When this is finished, I'm going to kick your ass.

**GREENBERG**

Captain, you're not kicking anybody's ass. It's your ass that's gonna be kicked and I may do some kicking myself if you keep on making a fuss.

**MORDECAI**

So this is how you treat a friend?

**GREENBERG**

Oh, so now we're friends. I thought you didn't have any friends.

**MORDECAI**

Don't be so smart, birdbrain.

**GREENBERG**

Oh yeah? You're the birdbrain, not me, putz.

**MORDECAI**

Look who's talking. (to *SOFIA*) Just keep quiet. Everything will be alright.

*(SOFIA and MORDECAI are dragged off the stage as the lights go out.)*

## Scene 7

*Time: One week later*

*Place: a military court room. Seated at a table is a judge, who is middle-aged man with a stern expression. SOFIA, MORDECAI and an attorney are seated at the defendant's table. The attorney is a young, rather handsome man. The prosecutor is seated at another table. The prosecutor is also man, around 40 years of age, slightly balding. Except for SOFIA, all are attired in military uniforms. SOFIA is conservatively but neatly attired.*

**THE JUDGE**

Captain Victor Mordecai, you are hereby charged with treason, espionage, conspiracy to commit treason and espionage and resisting arrest. How do you plead?

**MORDECAI**  
(stands)

Not guilty, sir. (sits)

**THE JUDGE**

Miss Sofia bin Amin, you are charged with the crimes of espionage and sabotage. How do you plead?

**SOFIA**  
(stands)

Not guilty, sir. (sits)

**THE JUDGE**  
(to *THE PROSECUTOR*)

Major Levine, is the prosecution ready to proceed?

**LEVINE**

Ready, sir.

**THE JUDGE**

Then call your first witness.

**LEVINE**

The prosecution calls Sergeant Jason Greenberg.

*(GREENBERG enters the stage and sits in the witness box.)*

Sergeant Greenberg, tell the court what happened on the night you went on the mission to Shahuri.

**GREENBERG**

A special operations unit, led by Captain Mordecai, conducted an incursion into a Palestinian refugee camp to destroy a terrorist cell operating there. During this incursion we entered a house where we found enemy combatants who were taken into custody. After a thorough search of the house, Captain Mordecai ordered all of us to leave and told me that he was going to do things that he did not me to witness.

**LEVINE**

At that point, what did you do?

**GREENBERG**

I urged the Captain to reconsider. He did not, so I obeyed and we left, leaving the Captain behind.

**LEVINE**

When did you next see the defendant?

**GREENBERG**

Approximately ten hours later.

**LEVINE**

And where was that?

**GREENBERG**

In the situation room on this base.

LEVINE

And what transpired?

GREENBERG

Captain Mordecai and I had a conversation during which time I told him of the command's concerns regarding his unexplained absence.

LEVINE

What did the defendant say?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Objection, sir. Hearsay.

THE JUDGE

Overruled, Captain Solomon. You may continue, Sergeant.

GREENBERG

He became evasive and refused to explain his actions.

LEVINE

Then what happened?

GREENBERG

The Captain became very agitated and threatened me with bodily harm and finally threw me out of the room.

LEVINE

When did you next speak with the defendant?

GREENBERG

Approximately twenty-four hours later.

LEVINE

And where did this discussion take place.

**GREENBERG**

In Ms. Amin's house in Shuhari.

**LEVINE**

Why were you there?

**GREENBERG**

I was ordered to track down and apprehend Captain Mordecai after he was found missing from the barracks. Given the Captain's previous unusual behavior ...

**SOLOMON**

Objection! Subjective characterization.

**THE JUDGE**

Sustained.

(to GREENBERG)

Please refrain from injecting your personal opinions.

**GREENBERG**

Sorry, sir.

(to LEVINE)

What was the question?

**LEVINE**

Why were you in that house?

**GREENBERG**

Colonel Roth ordered me to find Captain Mordecai and return him to the base. I first went to his home, but no one was home. Then I decided to look for the Captain in Shuhari.

**LEVINE**

Why there?

**GREENBERG**

Because I suspected that the Captain was involved in some kind of activity there and so may have returned there.

**LEVINE**

Did you have any solid evidence to substantiate your hunch?

**GREENBERG**

No I didn't. I was acting strictly based on the Captain's recent behavior and statements to me.

**LEVINE**

When you got to Shuhari where did you go?

**GREENBERG**

To Ms. Amin's house.

**LEVINE**

And what did you observe?

**GREENBERG**

I observed the Captain and Ms. Amin in what appeared to be a romantic embrace. I then placed them under arrest.

**LEVINE**

Why?

**GREENBERG**

Because the Captain was absent without leave and was fraternizing with an enemy agent.

**LEVINE**

By enemy agent you mean the woman sitting at the defendant's table?

**GREENBERG**

Yes, I do.

**SOFIA**

*(jumps up and screams)*

That's a damn lie!! He's lying!!!

*(Two court officers grab Sofia and force her to sit back down)*

**THE JUDGE**

The defendant is ordered to cease and desist from any further outbursts. If this happens again you will be found in contempt of court and could be removed from this room.

*(To LEVINE)*

You may proceed.

**LEVINE**

Thank you, sir.

*(Continues his direct examination to GREENBERG)*

What caused you to believe that she was an enemy agent?

**GREENBERG**

According army regulation twenty one dash three, subsection six, all civilians found in hostile territory are to be treated as enemy agents unless and until proven otherwise, so based on that authority, I made the arrests.

**LEVINE**

How did the defendants react?

**GREENBERG**

Ms. Amin was cooperative but Captain Mordecai was resistant and had to be forcibly subdued.

**LEVINE**

*(to THE JUDGE)*

I am finished with this witness.

**THE JUDGE**

**Cross-examination, Captain Solomon?**

**SOLOMON**

Yes, sir.

*(to GREENBERG)*

Sergeant Greenberg, did anyone ever threaten you with punishment for having left Captain Mordecai alone?

**GREENBERG**

Colonel Roth warned that I could be subject to court martial but never followed up on it.

**SOLOMON**

I didn't ask you that.

*(to THE JUDGE)*

I ask that the last part of the witness's answer be stricken.

**THE JUDGE**

So ordered.

*(to GREENBERG)*

Just answer the questions.

*(to SOLOMON)*

You may proceed.

**SOLOMON**

So you were under some kind of cloud, weren't you?

**GREENBERG**

What do you mean?

**SOLOMON**

You were in trouble with Colonel Roth, is that correct?

**GREENBERG**

I guess I was.

**SOLOMON**

Well were you or weren't you? The question requires a yes or no answer.

**GREENBERG**

Yes I was.

**SOLOMON**

So when you went on that mission to find Captain Mordecai you already had some animus toward him. Isn't that correct?

**GREENBERG**

That's not correct. I still consider Mordecai a friend.

**SOLOMON**

But that didn't stop you from abusing your friend. Isn't that right?

**GREENBERG**

I was just following orders.

**SOLOMON**

Which were?

**GREENBERG**

To find the Captain and return him to the base.

**SOLOMON**

So why was it necessary to arrest him and beat him?

**GREENBERG**

Because he became combative while in custody.

**SOLOMON**

Is beating up someone the way you normally treat a friend?

**GREENBERG**

No it isn't.

**SOLOMON**

So maybe Captain Mordecai wasn't your friend.

**GREENBERG**

He is my friend. He's just got himself into trouble.

**SOLOMON**

What trouble?

**GREENBERG**

He failed to complete his mission and got involved with a spy.

**SOLOMON**

Says who?

**GREENBERG**

According to my commanders, Miss Amin is an agent for Hamas.

**SOFIA**

(screams)

That's a lie!!!! A damn lie!!!!

*(SOFIA then lets out a loud shriek)*

**THE JUDGE**

*(angry)*

Quiet!! I will not tolerate any further attempts to disrupt these proceedings.

*(To SOFIA)*

Now you control yourself or I will have you removed from this room. Do you understand?

*(SOFIA stops screaming. To SOLOMON)*

Proceed.

**SOLOMON**

Yes, sir.

*(Continues his cross examination of GREENBERG)*

Now when you returned to Shafuri and found Captain Mordecai, what was he doing?

**GREENBERG**

He was associating with Ms. Amin.

**SOLOMON**

How was he associating with Ms. Amin?

**GREENBERG**

They were kissing.

**SOLOMON**

Anything else?

**GREENBERG**

They were holding each other tight.

**SOLOMON**

So from that you concluded that Captain Mordecai had to be detained?

**GREENBERG**

Yes, not because of what he was doing but with whom he was doing it with.

**SOLOMON**

Oh, so you acted based upon some information you were already provided, not on what you actually saw?

**GREENBERG**

I don't understand what you're saying.

**SOLOMON**

You were out to get Captain Mordecai, no matter what. Isn't that true?

**GREENBERG**  
*(indignant)*

Absolutely not.

**SOLOMON**  
*(scornfully)*

I'm finished with this witness.

**THE JUDGE**  
*(to GREENBERG)*

You're dismissed.

*(GREENBERG gets up and leaves the witness chair. As he leaves the stage, both MORDECAI and SOFIA stare at him. GREENBERG looks away.)*

**LEVINE**  
*(to THE JUDGE)*

I'd like to call my next witness.

**THE JUDGE**

Call your next witness.

**LEVINE**

I call Abdul bin Amin.

*(SOFIA and MORDECAI abruptly stand up, shocked)*

**SOLOMON**  
*(loudly)*

I object!

**THE JUDGE**

First, tell your clients to take their seats and second, on what grounds do you object?

*(SOLOMON motions to SOFIA and MORDECAI to sit down, which they do, shaking their heads, still in shock.)*

**SOLOMON**

*(to THE JUDGE)*

On the grounds that the prosecution failed to provide sufficient notice.

**LEVINE**

Sir, until five minutes ago we had no idea that the witness would be available to testify and his testimony is absolutely critical to proving the charges.

**THE JUDGE**

On what matters germane to this case will the witness testify?

**LEVINE**

The witness will corroborate the charge that his daughter, the defendant Sofia bin Amin, was in fact a spy for Hamas.

**SOFIA**

*(screams)*

That's not true! I wasn't spying for anybody! What have you done to my father?

**THE JUDGE**

*(to SOFIA)*

I warn you, young lady, one more outburst and you're out of here!

**SOLOMON**

*(to THE JUDGE)*

Sir, this is crap! The defense is being blindsided!

THE JUDGE  
(to SOLOMON)

Watch your language.

(Pauses)

Objection overruled. Witness may testify.

LEVINE  
(to COURT OFFICER)

Bring in the witness.

*(COURT OFFICER exits the stage and then returns, escorting a middle-aged man neatly attired in a suit, projecting an aura of confidence and self-assurance. He is man who is not easily intimidated. The man takes the witness chair. To the witness)*

You've already been sworn in. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS

Yes.

LEVINE

What is your name?

THE WITNESS

Abdul bin Amin.

LEVINE

Are you here voluntarily?

ABDUL

Yes I am.

LEVINE

Are you currently being detained?

ABDUL

No, I am not.

LEVINE

Are you related to the defendant Sofia bin Amin?

ABDUL

Yes, Sofia is my daughter.

LEVINE

Is she in the court room at this time?

ABDUL

Yes she is.

LEVINE

Please point to her.

*(ABDUL points to SOFIA.)*

What do you do for a living?

ABDUL

I am the deputy minister of finance for the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip.

LEVINE

Prior to today, when was the last time you had contact with the defendant, Ms. Bin Amin?

ABDUL

Last night.

LEVINE

By what means did you have contact with the defendant?

ABDUL

By telephone. She called me.

LEVINE

What did you talk about?

ABDUL

My daughter was very upset over having been arrested and denied being a spy.

LEVINE

Did you believe her?

SOLOMON

I object. Pure speculation.

THE JUDGE

Objection overruled.

ABDUL

I didn't know what to believe.

LEVINE

How often do you and the defendant have contact?

ABDUL

Approximately once a week.

LEVINE

What would you discuss?

ABDUL

The situation in the West Bank and the middle-east in general.

LEVINE

So the defendant was active in mideast politics?

ABDUL

Not active. Interested.

LEVINE

Just interested?

ABDUL

Yes, nothing more.

LEVINE

Isn't it true that the defendant was once a member of the Hamas Youth League?

ABDUL

Yes she was, but that was several years ago.

LEVINE

And doesn't the Hamas Youth League preach hatred toward Israel?

ABDUL

That is pure fabrication.

LEVINE

*(persisting)*

Isn't it true that the Hamas Youth League promotes terrorist acts targeted against the state of Israel?

ABDUL

*(defensive and annoyed)*

That is categorically untrue! In fact I must protest my daughter's incarceration. She is innocent and is being held hostage to extort concessions from my government!

MORDECAI

*(jumps up, yells at LEVINE)*

No way!!!! That's a lie!!! Sofia and I love each other and she's no spy. Don't listen to him!!!

**SOFIA**

*(jumps up, screaming)*

**Don't say anything else, father. This trial is a joke, a sick, perverted joke which is trying to frame Mordecai and me and discredit Hamas.**

***(COURT OFFICERS rush over to restrain SOFIA and MORDECAI. A fight ensues. There is pandemonium. MORDECAI hurls his chair at THE JUDGE. ABDUL rushes over to SOFIA and punches one of the COURT OFFICERS. There is screaming and yelling and cursing as the lights go out. THE JUDGE can be heard repeating screaming "Order in the court!" ABDUL can be heard screaming "Long live Hamas!" and "Death to the Zionist pigs!" SOFIA is screaming. The commotion escalates as the lights go out.)***

## Scene 8

*The place: The court room. Order has been restored. Both SOFIA and MORDECAI are shackled, with guards standing behind them. LEVINE and SOLOMON are also in the room at their respective tables.*

## THE JUDGE

This trial is over. The disturbances that occurred yesterday were an affront to the Israeli judicial system. The defendants deliberately tried to disrupt these proceedings for political purposes, but they did not succeed. *(Pause, then reading from a paper)* After considering all the evidence, I find that defendant Victor Mordecai and defendant Sofia bin Amin are guilty of all charges and I hereby sentenced each defendant to twenty years imprisonment without the possibility of parole. However, in mitigation of defendant Mordecai's distinguished military record I order the sentence to be suspended and further order the defendant to be discharged forthwith from military service, said suspension to be revoked immediately if he again violates the law. As for defendant Sofia bin Amin, in consideration of the emotional factors in this case which may have clouded her judgment, the court orders that her sentence be suspended and further that the defendant be immediately deported to Jordan and further that the defendant be barred from return to Israel or any regions currently under Israeli jurisdiction for ten years, said suspension to be revoked immediately if she again violates the law.

*(To the COURT OFFICERS)* You may unshackle the defendants.

*(THE JUDGE bangs the gavel on the table, gets up and leaves the court room. MORDECAI and SOFIA are unshackled and the COURT OFFICERS leave the court room. SOFIA and MORDECAI embrace each other and then embrace SOLOMON. LEVINE is gathering up his papers and shaking his head, signaling disbelief and disagreement with the court's verdict.)*

## MORDECAI

Well, I'm out of job. I don't know what I'm going to do. The army was my life.

## SOFIA

I have to go back to Jordan. I have nothing for me there.

## MORDECAI

But at least we have each other.

*(MORDECAI and SOFIA embrace and kiss while LEVINE and SOLOMON look on)*

**LEVINE**

Ms. Amin you have one hour to get on the bus that will take you back to Jordan. If you miss that bus, you will be arrested and charged with contempt of court will immediately begin serving your sentence.

**SOFIA**

*(alarmed)*

One hour! My god I have nothing! How will I survive? I left Jordan because I had nothing there! No job! No family!

**SOLOMON**

Don't worry. I have some friends in Amman who will be able to help you. Also, there is a bunch of reporters waiting outside to get your stories. *(Laughs)* By the time they're finished with you, you'll probably wish you were in jail.

**LEVINE**

*(leering, to SOLOMON)*

Some friends in Amman you said?

**SOLOMON**

Here we go again.

*(to LEVINE)*

You think I'm a spy too?

*(LEVINE smiles but says nothing)*

**MORDECAI**

*(to SOFIA)*

I'll join you in Jordan.

**SOLOMON**

*(to MORDECAI)*

That may not be a good idea. An ex-Israeli soldier may not be well received in Amman.

**MORDECAI**  
**(to SOLOMON)**

Listen, I'm not leaving Sofia, and if she has to return to Jordan I'm going with her.

**SOLOMON**  
**(to MORDECAI)**

Jordan may not grant you a visa.

*(SOFIA begins to cry. MORDECAI embraces her.)*

**MORDECAI**  
**(to SOFIA)**

Don't worry. Let's get out of here. We'll figure something out. Nothing will stop us.

*(MORDECAI and SOFIA leave the court room, hand in hand, followed by SOLOMON and LEVINE, as the lights go out.)*

## Scene 9

***SOFIA and MORDECAI appear alone on the stage and address the audience. Both are wearing t-shirts displaying American flags.***

**MORDECAI**

***(upbeat, happy mood)***

**If you're wondering whatever became of Sofia and me, well, good news! We lived happily ever after. After that farce of a trial Sofia never went back to Jordan. We decided to take our chances with being caught and going to jail by staying in Israel. For a while we stayed in Tel Aviv incognito and after things cooled down and we got our paperwork together and greased a few palms and Sofia strategically flashed her cleavage at some clerks in the U. S. embassy, we managed to get visas to immigrate to ... where else? ... the good ol' U S of A where we opened up the first restaurant in the United States specializing in Israeli-Palestinian cuisine. We call our restaurant, and hold onto hats when you hear this, Sofia's Place. I know the name doesn't sound very original but we like it and besides Sofia does the cooking. I didn't know that she was such a great cook. Her specialty is a combination falafel knish with a lot of spice. The customers love it. As for me, I'm the maitre d and handle the take out orders. So things have worked out well for us. But more importantly, our relationship has survived which is a testament to the power of love, and good sex, to keep a relationship going strong and which has inspired me to write this poem that I now want to read to you. The title of this poem is Voluptuous. *(Takes a paper out of his pants pocket and reads)***

**A woman is called  
voluptuous.  
What does it mean?  
What does it stand for?**

**Is it a compliment?  
Or is it a put down?**

**The word evokes feelings  
of sensuality and sex,  
of opulence and  
physical pleasure,  
of basking in the sun  
and reclining on a divan,  
like the ancient Greeks and Romans  
depicted in Hollywood movies,  
all senses being gratified.**

Pleasant thoughts, indeed.

But the woman is more  
than just a source of pleasure.  
She is more than what she is  
conditioned by society to be.

She is a lioness, a tigris,  
an eagle and a hawk,  
whose life transcends the  
quest for creature comforts  
as she strives ever-forward  
in her search for knowledge,  
breaking free from those  
constraints  
that relegate her to the status of  
a silly fool  
who is meant to  
give pleasure without question and  
dutifully respond  
to the whims of others  
who wish merely  
to satisfy their primeval lust.

**SOFIA**

*(also upbeat, happy)*

What a beautiful, charming poem. Mordecai, you really are a lady's man and that's why I love you.

**MORDECAI**

The feeling comes from the heart (*pats his chest*), and also from my hormones, which is what got us into trouble in the first place. And besides (*glances at SOFIA'S chest*) you do have marvelous bazooms.

*(SOFIA giggles).*

**SOFIA**

Well, thank you, you big hunk of a man. I've composed something special too, a song inspired by you, that I will now sing.

Mordecai oh Mordecai  
 I love you more than I can say.  
 Mordecai oh Mordecai  
 I love you in so many ways.  
 I love you because I'm a woman,  
 I love you because you're a man,  
 I love you because I am lonely  
 And because you got inside my pants.  
 Oh Mordecai oh Mordecai  
 Together we'll love and we'll live,  
 Oh Mordecai oh Mordecai,  
 Together we will always have bliss.

### MORDECAI

What a wonderful song! (*Addresses the audience*) And to all the bureaucrats and politicians who've done their utmost to mislead the public, screw up the world, rip us off and make life hard for all of us,

*(MORDECAI and SOFIA in unison yell)*

UP YOURS! (*they both give the "the bird" salute*) and to all of you in the audience, good night.

*MORDECAI and SOFIA reach into their pants pockets and take out small Israeli and Palestinians flags which they enthusiastically wave as the lights go out.*

The end

