

DR. KRITZINGER'S 12 O'CLOCK

By Jim Snowden

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Dr. Kritzinger's 12 O'Clock
A Play in One Act
by
Jim Snowden

Dr. Kritzinger's 12 O'Clock

Characters:

⌘ Personnel

- General Reinhard Heydrich, Head of RSHA
- General Otto Hofmann, Head of RSHA Race and Settlement Office
- General Heinrich Mueller, Head of the Gestapo
- Colonel Karl Eberhard Schoengarth, ⌘ Liaison to the General Government (Poland)
- Lt. Colonel Adolf Eichmann, Aide to Heydrich, Head of Office of Jewish Affairs
- Major Rudolf Lange, Assistant Director of ⌘ Special Task Forces in Latvia

Government Officials

- Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm Kritzinger, Permanent Secretary of the Reichs Chancellery
- Dr. Wilhelm Stuckart, State Secretary of the Interior Ministry
- Erich Neumann, State Secretary for the Office of the Four Year Plan
- Dr. Roland Freisler, State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice
- Dr. Gerhard Klopfer, Permanent Secretary of the Party Chancellery
- Dr. Joseph Buehler, State Secretary of the General Government (Poland)
- Dr. Georg Liebbrandt, Office Head for the Ministry For the Occupied Territories
- Dr. Alfred Meyer, State Secretary for the Ministry For the Occupied Territories
- Martin Luther, Undersecretary of State for the Foreign Ministry

Additional Personnel

Unterscharffuehrer.

Dr. Kritzinger's 12 O'Clock was first performed at Burien Actors Theatre on May 15th, 2015 with the following cast:

General Reinhard Heydrich	Christopher Rodriguez
Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm Kritzinger	Eileen McCann
Dr. Wilhelm Stuckart	Jim Rogers
Dr. Erich Neumann	Greg Miskin
Dr. Rudolf Lange	Leah Reynolds
Dr. Gerhard Klopfer	Didi Proctor
General Heinrich Mueller	Jessica Robins
Lt. Colonel Adolf Eichmann	Tim Takechi
Dr. Roland Freisler	Erica McAdams-Roth
General Otto Hofmann	Jim Snowden
Dr. Josef Buehler	Byron Patten
Colonel Karl Eberhard Schoengarth	Jeff Rowden

In the middle of the stage, is a conference table, placed diagonally. Fifteen chairs are placed at roughly even spacing around the table. Paper name tags suggest the seating arrangements. At the head is one for DR. KRITZINGER. Moving from his position clockwise are the cards for DR. STUCKART, MARTIN LUTHER, REICH NEUMANN, DR. LIEBBRANDT, DR. MEYER, DR. KLOPFER, DR. FREISLER, DR. JOSEPH BUEHLER, SS COLONEL SCHOENGARTH, SS MAJOR LANGE, SS GENERAL HOFFMANN, SS GENERAL MUELLER, SS GENERAL HEYDRICH, AND SS LT COLONEL EICHMANN

Standing around the table, in clusters, preshow, are the people named above, with two exceptions: Dr. Kritzinger and General Heydrich. One other person, Dr. Stuckart, is standing alone, with a half empty wine glass and a nervous expression he's trying to pass off as a faraway look at the scenery outside the window in front of him.

From offstage and behind doors, Eichmann unleashes an angry tirade at a servant. It's not clear what he's angry about exactly, but he gives the servant a good blowing up before opening the doors, entering, and giving the first person who makes eye contact a look that says "You ask at your peril."

Dr. Neumann, who spends his time preshow ingratiating himself to the others, bounds over to Stuckart.

NEUMANN
Dr. Stuckart, Dr. Stuckart. Heil Hitler.

STUCKART
Hm?

NEUMANN
Heil Hitler.

STUCKART
Oh, yes. Heil Hitler.

NEUMANN
The wine is splendid, isn't it? Splendid?

STUCKART
I suppose so.

NEUMANN

The invitation said there'd be food at this meeting, but I never expected a spread quite like this. The SS really can get the best, can't they?

STUCKART

So it would seem.

NEUMANN

So, how are things at the Interior Ministry?

STUCKART

Fine.

NEUMANN

Well, I don't know about you, but my office is damned worried. We've got thousands of Jewish workers in the factory shifts working to keep up our quotas.

STUCKART

I hear you're not keeping up your quotas, Neumann.

NEUMANN

Yes, I know, and most of this group will want to blame the Jews. Sabotage and all that. But what I think it is are the rumors that have been spreading about the East. They think they're going to get shipped off, and what the hell kind of incentive is that to work?

STUCKART

Maybe that's what this meeting is about: providing your yids with an incentive to step it up.

NEUMANN

I hope so.

Dr. Kritzinger enters. A man firmly entrenched in his middle years, he carries himself as someone who expects to be in authority.

Eichmann greets him.

EICHMANN

Heil Hitler.

KRITZINGER

Heil Hitler.

EICHMANN

It's particularly gratifying to see you here, Doctor Kritzinger.

KRITZINGER

Gratifying? For you? Why? I'm not a film star, and I don't know you.

EICHMANN

Oh, well, let me remedy that. I'm Colonel Adolf Eichmann, on General Heydrich's staff. I'm pleased because General Heydrich was especially keen on your attending this meeting.

KRITZINGER

If he were so keen, he'd be here to greet me himself.

EICHMANN

I think his plane will be on the ground in a few minutes.

KRITZINGER

Yes. We've warned him about his fetish for that plane. It'll be the death of him. Ah, I see Dr. Stuckart. Excuse me.

Kritzinger approaches
Stuckart and Neumann, who
give salute.

NEUMAN AND STUCKART

Heil Hitler!

KRITZINGER

Heil Hitler. Gentlemen.

NEUMANN

How is the Fuehrer?

KRITZINGER

In full command, as always. I'll be sure to pass on your interest.

NEUMANN

Thank you. I'm Neumann, by the way. Director of the Four Year Plan.

KRITZINGER

So you were when you last introduced yourself to me. And the time before that.

NEUMANN

Yes, Ministerialdirektor. I never think you'd remember...

KRITZINGER

Rest assured that I do. Now, will you excuse us, Dr. Neumann?

NEUMANN

Surely.

Neumann fades back, before
looking for others to chat

with. Once he's safely
away, Kritzinger and
Stuckart start talking.

KRITZINGER

The invitation said nothing about an ambush.

STUCKART

You noticed.

KRITZINGER

How could I not? Five SS men in the room already, and Heydrich
on the way.

STUCKART

It's not like Heydrich needs them. Mueller alone is enough to
terrify any room into submission. The Gestapo's gotten even
nastier since he took it over from Heydrich.

KRITZINGER

Yet for all their nastiness, they missed the bomber that nearly
killed the Fuehrer.

STUCKART

That's the trouble with them. They seem to think that terror can
accomplish everything. They don't see the need for smart law
enforcement.

KRITZINGER

Or the need for law at all.

STUCKART

Right. So what are we going to do about it?

KRITZINGER

Did you have any ideas?

STUCKART

Me? Without your backing, what can I do? Frick doesn't have
anyone's ear. Not anymore. He's sidelined. I need you. Your
boss can't be sidelined.

KRITZINGER

True. And don't worry. I am with you. Heydrich may think that
by packing this room with his people he can win the vote on the
Jewish Question and bypass the law, but he forgets that this is
not a democracy. Lammers and I have spoken with the Fuehrer and...

Heydrich enters, in full SS
dress regalia.

EICHMANN

Heil Hitler!

All turn to see Heydrich
and salute.

ALL

Heil Hitler!

HEYDRICH

Heil Hitler. Gentlemen, though I am slightly late, I still want this meeting to finish on time, so if you'll all take your seats we'll get to work and hopefully finish with room to spare to feast on the culinary delights in the antechamber. Dr. Kritzinger, I'm particularly glad you're here.

Kritzinger and Stuckart
head for their seats.

KRITZINGER

Anyway, the Fuehrer made his wishes clear to us, and I'll make them clear to Heydrich. Don't worry.

HEYDRICH

Now while I'm anxious to start, Lt. Colonel Eichmann just reminded me that some of you may not have had much of a chance to get acquainted. So, since I'm playing the role of headmaster of this particular school, I'll introduce myself and then we'll go once, clockwiae, around the table. I am General Reinhard Heydrich, head of the Reich Main Security Office, and the Reichsprotektor of Bohemia and Moravia.

EICHMANN

I am Lt. Colonel Adolf Eichmann of the Reich's Main Security Office. Most of your invitations came from me. My office oversees Jewish affairs.

HEYDRICH

He truly is the best man for the job. He even speaks fluent kike.

Laughter around the table.

HEYDRICH

I'm serious. The man has studied.

EICHMANN

That is the kind of hero I can be for my Fatherland.

HEYDRICH

Exactly so. Let's move on.

LUTHER

I'm Martin Luther. I represent the Foreign Ministry.

HOFMANN

I'm General Hofmann from the Race and Settlement office of the RHSA. There we handle the issues of race and settlement, particularly in the East where...

HEYDRICH

I'm sure that's enough, Hofmann.

STUCKART

Stuckart, Doctor. Interior Ministry.

KRITZINGER

I'm Doctor Kritzinger, Ministerialdirektor for the Reichs Chancellery. I wish to state from the outset--

HEYDRICH

I think--

KRITZINGER

I wish to state from the outset, General Heydrich, that the protocol by which this meeting was called was improper at best. The disposition of European Jewry is a matter for the Chancellery office first--

HEYDRICH

If you'll be patient--

KRITZINGER

And it is a matter that has been settled--

HEYDRICH

That's true. It has been.

KRITZINGER

Then I fail to see why I've been called here.

HEYDRICH

A few minutes of your kindly indulgence will solve that mystery.

KRITZINGER

All right.

KLOPFER

I am Gerhard Klopfer, Permanent Secretary to the Party Chancellery and adjutant to Martin Bormann. I also hold rank in the SS. And our chancellery does not believe that the matter of the Jewish question has been settled and would argue that it could not have been, because Martin Bormann has not as yet been consulted on any final solution--

HEYDRICH

That is what this meeting is about, Dr. Klopfer.

(MORE)

HEYDRICH (CONT'D)

Now if I let you all make an introductory speech before we even start, we'll never finish. If the rest of you could manage some brevity, I'd appreciate it.

NEUMANN

I'm Neumann. I think you all know me. I'm the director of the Four Year Plan.

HEYDRICH

Well done. Next.

LIEBBRANDT

I'm Reichslieter Liebbrandt, one of two representatives of Dr. Rosenberg for the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Territories.

MEYER

And I am the State Secretary for the same ministry.

EICHMANN

Your name, sir?

MEYER

Dr. Meyer.

FREISLER

I'm Roland Freisler, Ministry of Justice. One of two ostensible legal experts here, though I think there are a lot of lawyers present.

KLOPFER

Probably too many.

BUEHLER

And I'm one of them. Dr. Josef Buehler, State Secretary to the Generalgovernment.

HEYDRICH

How long before you rename all those Polish towns to something pronounceable?

BUEHLER

Progress is slow.

SCHOENGARTH

I'm Colonel Schoengarth, attached to the Generalgovernment.

LANGE

I'm Major Rudolf Lange, representing SS special task forces in Latvia.

MUELLER

And I'm General Heinrich Mueller, SS-Gestapo.

HEYDRICH

Don't worry. He's not here to arrest you all. He always looks like that. So, welcome to 56-58 Am Grossen Wannsee. Here at this splendid home we have gathered to discuss a matter that is both crucial and secret. I cannot emphasize enough the need for secrecy here. All notes taken from this meeting apart from the official written transcript must remain here to be burned. After the transcript is edited into acceptably concise minutes, you will each receive a copy. This copy is for your memory only and is under no circumstances to be shared with subordinates without consulting with me or with Lt. Colonel Eichmann. Is that clear?

Pause while everyone nods
or mumbles a yes.

HEYDRICH

Good. Now to business. Though the fortunes of war have brought much good to the Reich, they have also made us the unintended custodian of most of the world's Jews. This problem, which started manageably with the 600,000 Jews in Germany's prewar borders has compounded with every one of our army's successes: hundreds of thousands more from the Balkans and from France, two million from the conquest of what used to be Poland, and now with the invasion of the Soviet Union or Russia or whatever that doomed country chooses to call itself, we face the prospect of having to absorb 5 million additional Jews into the body of the Reich. This is obviously an untenable situation, especially now that the United States has entered the war on the side of Bolshevism--

KLOPFER

Thanks to the Jews who run Roosevelt.

HEYDRICH

Exactly. Thanks to them, we have lost any credible hope of continuing the policy of forced emigration of the Jew from our soil. So, at the risk of quoting Lenin, what is do be done?

Heydrich opens the folder
in front of him.

HEYDRICH

If you open your folders you should find at the top a letter from Reichsmarshall Goering to me. The relevant quote is as follows, "I herewith charge you with making all necessary preparations with regard to organizational, practical and financial aspects for a complete solution of the Jewish question in the German sphere of influence in Europe. Insofar as the competencies of other core agencies are required, you are to secure their cooperation and involvement." So this is the mandate. A complete solution throughout all of our living space. Since we have already, thanks to the Nuremberg Laws, authored by our dear comrade, Dr. Stuckart, solved the problem of building a Jew free economy and polity, the issue is now one of removing all physical taint of the Jew from

(MORE)

HEYDRICH (CONT'D)

our living space. Since emigration is no longer practical, a complete solution as I see it must involve evacuation.

KRITZINGER

How do you mean evacuation?

KLOPFER

Hopefully the same way you evacuate a giant shit.

Laughter.

HEYDRICH

Please, Dr. Klopfer.

KLOPFER

I'm serious. One big push and a pull of the chain and whoosh, they're gone.

More laughter.

NEUMANN

Forgive me, but why can't they still emigrate? There's still Switzerland, isn't there? There's still Arabia?

EICHMANN

Nobody wants them. And even those that will take them charge outrageous fees for landing. And we can no longer spare the shipping tonnage needed to transport them abroad. There is a war on, you know.

LUTHER

Besides, none of these countries that weep for the Jew ever raised their immigration quotas when they had the chance, did they?

HEYDRICH

Precisely. Which is another reason why we can't expect our enemies and those neutral countries to solve our problem for us. If you take a look at the second page in your folder, you'll see a detailed breakdown of the Jewish problem by country.

FREISLER

I see Estonia is free of Jews already. I think I'll build a summer house there.

LUTHER

Three quarters of a million Jews in Hungary. That'll cause some problems.

HEYDRICH

Why?

LUTHER

Their government is shot through with hooknoses. They don't allow them to make proper racial delineations in government documents. Same with Rumania. We'll have to lean on them hard.

EICHMANN

Actually, we'll have additional problems in that these numbers don't necessarily show all Jews. Many of these countries haven't yet adopted our racial principles and count only those Jews who actively practice the Hebrew faith. There are almost certainly millions more uncounted Israelites in almost all of these countries.

HOFMANN

General Heydrich.

HEYDRICH

Yes.

HOFMANN

I think I may have the answer to our Hungarian problem. I have a expert already scheduled to leave for Budapest to present to Hungarian officials a general orientation on the way our offices want things handled. That should help clear up any confusion about what the policy is and who's in charge of it at the Reich's Main Security Office.

HEYDRICH

Yes, we certainly wouldn't want anyone to be confused about his role, General Hofmann, or to overstep his authority.

HOFMANN

Sir?

HEYDRICH

Yes.

HOFMANN

I didn't mean to overstep...I mean...

HEYDRICH

You mean what, General Hofmann?

HOFMANN

It's just that I thought...the work we've already done...

HEYDRICH

Your work is appreciated General, and your expertise valued, but the letter from Goering gives authority to me. As for your expert in Budapest, we'll send him along as an assistant to my representative, which should make clear to the Hungarians where the authority lies. Is that not a better arrangement?

HOFMANN

Yes, of course. That makes a lot more sense.

HEYDRICH

(to Luther)

What issues do you foresee for the rest of Europe?

LUTHER

The low countries and France should cooperate easily with whatever we're asking them to do. Southeastern Europe should also work out fine. Scandinavia, though, is going to be a problem. They'll have strong objections that'll be difficult to overcome. But their Jewish populations are relatively small, so I think we'll be able to leave them until last. Italy is going to be more of a problem just because of the famous Italian allergy for organized action.

HEYDRICH

If our Italian friends persist in being useless, we'll have to take steps to see that they fulfill their obligations to Western Civilization.

KRITZINGER

But in all this discussion, my question has gone unanswered. When you say evacuation, where are they being evacuated to?

HEYDRICH

To the East, Doctor, of course. We will comb the Reich from west to east and south to north, from Brittany to Vladivostok and from Crete to Lapland. All will be shipped east.

BUEHLER

But wait a minute. I've got Jews stacked on top of Jews in ghettos right now. We need to get rid of the ones we've got, not take on more.

HEYDRICH

We've already considered that issue. If you'll be patient--

MEYER

And I'm not convinced we need any more Jewish road workers.

NEUMANN

And I'm worried we're running short of vital workers even now!

HEYDRICH

If you will let me finish.

Silence

HEYDRICH

Thank you. As I was about to say, all able bodied Jews will be segregated by sex and set to work building roads.

(MORE)

HEYDRICH (CONT'D)

All Jews who are disabled or too old or young to be of use will be evacuated to transit camps like Thierisienstadt, where they can make a quiet exit.

KRITZINGER

Hold on a minute, General Heydrich. You're going to have all able bodied Jews building roads?

HEYDRICH

Yes.

KRITZINGER

You can't be serious. It's hardly as if every able-bodied Jew were a construction worker. More than half of them according to the third page in this folder are bureaucrats, teachers, journalists, actors, and doctors. And even among the workers a large percentage of them would be in skilled trades and unused to physical labor. A full three quarters of your road building crew hasn't had to lift anything heavier than a box of books in their lives.

HEYDRICH

Which means their evacuation will end quickly. As for their hardier friends, they'll be subject to a special treatment that'll complete their evacuation with alacrity.

KRITZINGER

So by evacuation, you mean--

LANGE

He means killing, Doctor Kritzinger.

Silence.

LANGE

That is right, isn't it General Heydrich? The reason I'm here is to tell you all about the 30,000 people my special action groups evacuated in Riga. You should have seen it. We dug this giant pit, had the Jews kneel in front of it, and evacuated each of their brains with a rifle bullet. When you say evacuation, General Heydrich, that is what you mean, isn't it?

Silence.

HEYDRICH

Yes. That is what I mean.

KRITZINGER

Now wait a minute.

HEYDRICH

Doctor Kritzinger.

KRITZINGER

Don't Doctor Kritzinger me, General. I don't know if you know this, but rumors of Major Lange's special action groups have reached the Jews in Berlin and in other German cities. We've had Jews panicking and jumping out of windows, hanging themselves...

FREISLER

I have yet to hear a problem.

KRITZINGER

You dare to interrupt me, Freisler?

HEYDRICH

Apologize to the Ministerialdirektor, Dr. Freisler.

FREISLER

I'm sorry. It was a joke. Do go on.

KRITZINGER

Because of the rumors, Dr. Lammers and I met with the Fuehrer. We asked him point blank if any plans were in the works to deport Germany's Jews to Russia to be killed. He denied it, categorically. The Fuehrer gave me his personal assurance that when the Jews were deported, they'd be sent to a place where conditions were livable. The policy you are outlining here today, General Heydrich, directly contradicts the Fuehrer's expressed word.

Heydrich smiles.

KRITZINGER

Am I amusing you, General?

HEYDRICH

No.

KRITZINGER

You heard what I said?

HEYDRICH

Clearly.

KRITZINGER

Then why are you smiling?

HEYDRICH

Because I'm pleased.

KRITZINGER

Why?

HEYDRICH

When asked, the Fuehrer denied we had any intention of sending the Jews to die in the East.

KRITZINGER

Yes, he did.

HEYDRICH

That's exactly what I advised him to say.

KRITZINGER

You advised him?

HEYDRICH

Well, I can't take all the credit. Himmler and I were both at that meeting. If you ask the Fuehrer again, after we adjourn, I'm sure he'll deny it again.

Silence.

HEYDRICH

You're looking pale, Doctor Kritzinger. Eichmann, fetch him--

KRITZINGER

No. Don't bother.

HEYDRICH

Are you sure? You look as if you're choking on something.

KRITZINGER

I'm fine. I'm just following a train of thought.

HEYDRICH

You do that, Dr. Kritzinger, but I think the rest of us will move along. Now, the imperative of releasing the Reich from the Jewish strangle hold does collide with another imperative: that of making sure that all of our actions are in conformity with the laws of the Reich, specifically the Laws of Race. It's for this reason that we invited Dr. Stuckart here. He is, as many of you know, the author of the Nuremberg Laws, and is one of the architects of the legal basis of a Jew free society.

Applause.

STUCKART

Please. I was a co-author, along with Loesner and Medicus, two other fine legal scholars.

HEYDRICH

Your modesty does you credit, Dr. Stuckart. Coming up with a legal definition of a Jew couldn't have been an easy task.

STUCKART

Certainly not.

HEYDRICH

I know that creators often feel a sense of pride in their creations, and I'm sure everyone around this table feels you should. Nevertheless, this new policy does force us to reexamine your work.

STUCKART

Reexamine it how?

HEYDRICH

We've come to the conclusion that your law's racial guidelines would allow too many traces of European Jewry to remain in Europe. We're going to look at tightening up those restrictions to prevent these yids from slipping through our nets.

STUCKART

General Heydrich...

HEYDRICH

Yes.

STUCKART

The Law For the Protection of German Blood and Honor is a complex tapestry that took us years to weave. I hope you've given careful thought to what happens when you tug at one of its threads.

HEYDRICH

That's what you're here to help us with.

STUCKART

Fine, but this meeting is only scheduled to last into the middle of the afternoon. Any radical change will need more time to sort through than that.

KRITZINGER

Just so.

KLOPFER

And, not to complicate things even further for you, General Heydrich, but let me assure you that any radical changes in the law that take place without consultation with the Party Chancellery office will be a non-starter. You can wave that letter from Goering around all you like, but that piece of paper does not strip Martin Bormann of the powers the Fuhrer promised him over the Jewish question.

KRITZINGER

Bormann isn't the only issue, General. Other parts of the government have a role to play and will need to be properly consulted...

NEUMANN

The army, just for starters...

MUELLER

The army...

NEUMANN

Yes. They'll need to be consulted. We'll be using their manpower for this solution in the East, largely. Right?

HEYDRICH

The army's performance over the last few months has confirmed what I've long argued, that they cannot be trusted in the handling of the Jewish question. Their ideological commitment as well as their toughness are both lacking. We'll be relying on them for almost nothing, Neumann.

NEUMANN

But resources intended for their use, manpower as well as armaments and rolling stock will have to be diverted to this...whatever this is. I'm sure they'll want to make their case. And a thorough study will need to be made of the impact these new policies will have on wartime productivity...

BUEHLER

We don't have time for that. Our ghettos stink to high heaven with the diseases the Jews carry. Typhus is already rampant, and every day we cram more in. If we wait much longer, the contagion will go over the walls into the rest of our cities and we-- administrators, SS men, soldiers, everyone will shit our lives away. Discuss and delay is great for you lot in Berlin, but for us it's a death sentence.

MEYER

I second that.

SCHOENGARTH

And I and my people are champing at the bit to get going.

EICHMANN

Perhaps we should take a break.

HEYDRICH

Yes, fine. Let's take a pause to catch our breaths and grab some food. When we come back, we'll discuss the changes to the Laws of Race.

All stand. Some start to head for the door. When they come back, they'll have small plates of food and glasses of wine or beer. Kritzinger approaches Major Lange, who's looking out the window.

LANGE

It's easy to forget in a job like mine that views can be this beautiful. Latvia has nothing like this.

KRITZINGER

I'm sure it's nice to be home.

LANGE

Home? No. For me, Silesia is home.

KRITZINGER

We're almost neighbors. I'm from Posen.

LANGE

Are you? We've both come far in life to make it here.

KRITZINGER

In our different ways, that's true.

(pause)

When you say you shot 30,000 Jews, were you among those who actually did it?

LANGE

That was partly my responsibility, yes. There were others, of course. But that's not the bulk of what I do.

KRITZINGER

What is the bulk of what you do?

LANGE

I organize the locals into mobs, direct them, and supervise their activities. It's all supposed to look spontaneous of course. Locals rising up against their Communist Jew masters--that kind of thing. But Stahlecker and I run the show. The Latvians don't breathe without authorization from us.

KRITZINGER

Tell me, Major. What were you before you joined the SS?

LANGE

I was in the Gestapo.

KRITZINGER

And before?

LANGE

I was a law student. Why?

KRITZINGER

I'm just trying to understand something.

LANGE

What?

KRITZINGER

How you draw the line between a young law student and a man who directs other men to kill in mobs.

LANGE

I sometimes wonder about that myself.

KRITZINGER

I'm sure you were in attendance on the days when they taught law at law school. You know how the law would classify what you're doing.

LANGE

If the law were based on what's written in books or in the precedents of aging or dead judges, sure. But the highest source of contemporary law lies between the Fuehrer's ears. The old law would say we're murdering civilians. But Hitler says we're eliminating partisans, and so we are. Soon we'll be evacuating people or slaughtering them, however you'd like to put it. If the law as it once was ever does come back, we'll be in a lot of trouble. But as long as the Fuehrer defines our terms...

KRITZINGER

I get the picture. But surely your teachers were like mine. They taught you to love the law, yes?

LANGE

I love my people and my culture more, and I suppose I hate its enemies more. What is the law when stacked against them?

HEYDRICH

Let's get back to work, gentlemen. Those of you with food can have it at the table.

All sit.

HEYDRICH

Let's dispense with Klopfer first. You raised the issue of the Party Chancellery's interest in the Jewish question. Let me assure you that our door will always be open to Herr Bormann and that we welcome his guidance and suggestions. We are not usurping his authority at all. We are merely seeing to it that the Fuehrer's will is carried out in the most expedient manner. Since the Fuehrer has seen fit to repose his trust in us, we will repay it a thousand fold. I'm sure Herr Bormann can be a valuable resource for us.

KLOPFER

That's acceptable, General Heydrich.

HEYDRICH

As for State Secretary Buehler, he is quite right in saying that we don't have time to dither while soliciting advice from any

(MORE)

HEYDRICH (CONT'D)

departments whose representatives aren't present here today. I can tell you that if I felt I needed them to shape this policy, I'd have invited them.

KRITZINGER

They may not accept that explanation.

MUELLER

They will if I put it to them.

HEYDRICH

Let's hope it doesn't come to that. Now, Doctor Stuckart, let's get down to cases. Under the rubric established by the Law For The Protection of German Blood and Honor, those persons with three or four Jewish grandparents were, quite sensibly, classified as Jews automatically. We have no problem there. Our issues are with the mixed bloods. Under current law, mixed Jews of the 1st degree and 2nd degree are afforded German citizenship provided that they don't behave as Jews or practice the Jewish faith.

STUCKART

My co-authors and I thought that was the best way to manage things. It's simple enough for administrative purposes and it provides the kinds of clean definitions the law needs...

EICHMANN

The trouble is that, in practice, these definitions have hardly been clean.

FREISLER

I can testify to that. Old Jew ladies clog our courtrooms, saying that they fucked God knows which gentile God knows when, so Young Dieter and Young Anna have two Jew grandparents, not three. Let them be. Just let them be. It's ridiculous.

KLOPFER

We do reclassifications as well, under the personal direction of the Fuehrer.

MUELLER

We know. They paid for that lovely car that drove you here.

KLOPFER

What?

MUELLER

You heard me, Klopfer.

KLOPFER

You've got a lot to say for someone who joined the party six years after I did.

MUELLER

Waving your party number in my face doesn't make you any less corrupt, Klopfer.

KLOPFER

And being at the end of Heydrich's leash doesn't make you any less of a shitball opportunist.

Mueller rises from his chair,
provoking Klopfer to rise
as well.

HEYDRICH

Enough. Sit down.

KLOPFER

And one day your protectors will decide you're no longer useful, and on that day we'll come for you.

HEYDRICH

I said enough! Sit down and shut the fuck up, before I lose my temper. Now as we were saying, the issue of deciding who a Jew is has been harder than we initially thought and has led to complications. My job is to cut through complications. So while we'll retain the superstructure of the Nuremberg Laws, we will be making the following adjustments. 1st Degree mixed, who were previously Germans, are now reclassified as Jews. They go. If they're married to a Jew and the marriage has produced children, the children go to. Exceptions: if the 1st Degree mixed is married to a German and their marriage has produced offspring, the 1st degree mixed will be allowed to stay if he or she submits to sterilization. The children will be treated as 2nd degree mixed and will be treated as Germans with exceptions listed below.

STUCKART

I see problems right away with this...

HEYDRICH

Please let me finish, Doctor Stuckart. There's a lot to get through. Other 1st degree mixeds will still be allowed to apply to the Party Chancellery for special dispensation, but that dispensation will be granted only if the person has shown extraordinary merit and service to the Reich. All previous applications for dispensation will be reexamined to ensure they fall in line with the new standards.

KLOPFER

Reexamined by whom?

HEYDRICH

By the SS, naturally.

KLOPFER

But--

HEYDRICH

Don't worry. You'll still have a substantial role and all the benefits that come with it. Let me finish. Mixed seconds, as implied by the regulations regarding mixed second children above, will be classified as Germans unless both of the subject's parents were also of mixed blood, if the subject is Jewish looking, or if the subjects by their criminal record or political leanings demonstrate a Jewish attitude. Exemptions to these exemptions, I love that phrase, will no longer be granted merely because the mixed second has a German spouse.

STUCKART

Could I stop you here?

HEYDRICH

Must you?

STUCKART

I think it's important.

HEYDRICH

Go ahead.

STUCKART

The Laws of Race were precisely calibrated, and the lines are clean. The fact that some officials have been getting fat profits out of cutting exemptions is an indicator of corruption, not an indicator of a fault in the law.

HEYDRICH

That's not the point. The point is that your finely calibrated law, even if enforced correctly, still doesn't take us to our goal of a Jew free society. Now do you deny this, or is that you question the goal of a Jew free society?

STUCKART

As one of the architects of these laws, I can hardly be accused of coddling the Jew.

MUELLER

Still, you seem implacably opposed to tightening the noose around their necks. Are you afraid of the Jew, or do you love him?

KLOPFER

I'll lay money on love.

STUCKART

What in God's name are you suggesting?

(MORE)

STUCKART (CONT'D)

I am as fervent an antisemite as anyone in this room, and in my work drafting these laws, I've done more to safeguard the health of the Aryan race than all of you put together, and yet because I question these changes, you'd accuse me? You who live in the world that I built? A world you couldn't have built in a million years because you've got slogans in your head instead of thoughts.

HEYDRICH

Doctor--

STUCKART

You keep saying "Let me finish", General Heydrich. Now it's time to let me finish.

HEYDRICH

Fair enough, Doctor. Proceed.

STUCKART

As I said, these laws were drawn up to push us toward a Jew free society as quickly as possible and to give ordinary Germans the tools they'd need to protect their blood. With its restrictions in place, the Jew will either emigrate or die off over time. This is how a civilized race handles ethnic problems.

LIEBBRANDT

By letting the Jew roam free?

STUCKART

If you were a Jew in the Reich right now, would you consider yourself free? The law binds them most severely.

FREISLER

It also binds us.

STUCKART

All laws bind both enforcer and subject. As soon as you write a law, you're saying to the citizenry, "Here is what we can do. Here is what we won't allow ourselves to do." If the government can simply change the law at will to fit whatever wild fancy has possessed it, then why should any citizen trust the law?

KLOPFER

They'll trust the law because we're the ones who they elected to make the law.

MUELLER

Besides which, why should they care? The law doesn't target German citizens. It's only Jews. The only people who care will be those with some sort of love for them, and if they like, they can join them on the transport as far as I'm concerned.

KLOPFER

Maybe that describes Dr. Stuckart's feelings.

STUCKART

What? That I love the Jew?

KLOPFER

Why else would you be complaining?

STUCKART

I've been a loyal party member since long before you got here, Klopfer. I joined when the Party was illegal, banned. I did the legal work that removed that ban. One of the reasons you get to sit here right now and slander me is that I did that work. I made you possible, Klopfer. I--

KLOPFER

He didn't answer--

STUCKART

I'M TALKING! I can't believe you idiots in the party apparatus with your Jew hating slogans you repeat over and over. The Jews are our misfortune. The Jews are subhuman. The Jews are incompetent. You hate a cartoon Jew. I hate the real thing. I hate them for their rootlessness, their lack of native culture, their rejection of the Christ, and their corrosive effect on our moral character. That is why I've dedicated my life to the legal construction of a Jew free society that protects our Western morals and Western civilization from them. As for the reason I'm complaining, Klopfer, it is that this blithe approach to the law strikes me as the sort of thing a Bolshevik would do. They never let the law get in the way of their bloodlust. We revile them for it and rightly so. Or at least, some of us revile it. I know how Dr. Freisler feels, Bolshevik admirer that he is.

FREISLER

Fuck you, Stuckart.

EICHMANN

It seems to me we're getting far afield.

HEYDRICH

Agreed. Could we get back to the issue of changes to the law?

STUCKART

Fine. With respect to the changes you're suggesting, they're simply incompatible with the approach and spirit of the Nuremberg Laws.

HEYDRICH

I don't see how that's true.

STUCKART

I'll explain if you'll let me.

(MORE)

STUCKART (CONT'D)

Because the Nuremberg Laws touch on marriage and family life, they get us into a lot of legal areas, particularly divorce, divisions of property, child custody, inheritance, all complex areas of the law. The whole point of the Nuremberg Laws was to remove the Jew from society with a minimum, not a maximum, of disruption to other statutes, criminal and civil procedures. By expanding the scope of the law, you're not only promoting disrespect for the law, but you're setting the stage for judicial paralysis of a scale unprecedented.

HEYDRICH

How so?

STUCKART

Think a moment. I don't know how many 1st and 2nd degree mixes we have married to German citizens right now. They may number in the millions. Break up those marriages and ship those people off, what happens? If we kill them, death certificates will have to be issued to surviving spouses. Estates will have to be divided.

KLOPFER

So fucking what?

STUCKART

So how secret can these killings be? That's so fucking what. Millions will know. If we try to cover them up, these widows and widowers will be pounding on every door of every city hall demanding answers. What about inheritance? Are we saying their marriages were never legitimate and confiscating their property, or do we allow spouses to inherit? Either way, we could be looking at litigation that could clog our courts until the very end of the thousand year Reich.

HEYDRICH

You represent the Ministry of Justice, Dr. Freisler. What do you say to this?

FREISLER

I think that Dr. Stuckart is unduly defeatist. The courts will sort it out.

KRITZINGER

Even if they do, that's not the main consideration.

LUTHER

What is the main consideration? The spouses? Why should the Reich be overly concerned by men and women who were queer for kikes?

STUCKART

Because they're German citizens.

(MORE)