

THE LAW OF RETURN

CHARACTERS:

JAY POLLARD, a man in his twenties

STEVE HARRIS, a man in his forties

RAFI EITAN, a man in his sixties

TIME: 1984-1985

SETTING: Desk, gate, park bench

1

June, 1984.

(Morning sun. Commander Harris, at his desk, unpacks boxes. Pollard enters in civilian clothes. Occasional sound of construction work.)

HARRIS

I've been here alone.

POLLARD

Sorry to keep you waiting. Williams said --

HARRIS

Lieutenant Williams.

POLLARD

Said you need an ASH receiver right away.

HARRIS

I don't.

POLLARD

What is an ASH receiver?

HARRIS

You look tired.

POLLARD

Stayed up for the Reagan – Mondale debate. See it?

HARRIS

Sit, Jay. This is important. I need to brief you.

POLLARD

What's happened?

HARRIS

Got myself ATAC.

POLLARD

Anti-Terrorist Alert Center?

HARRIS

Brass named it ATAC. How they love an acronym.

POLLARD

So they don't have to learn how to spell.

HARRIS

Could be. Take a seat.

POLLARD

You got an Anti-Terrorist Alert Center just for the U.S. Navy? Check.

HARRIS

Check.

POLLARD

How's that possible?

HARRIS

I killed children in their sleep. Christ, it's an expression, Jay.

POLLARD

You need a lead analyst!

HARRIS

Check.

POLLARD

Army, Air Force -- will they have their own --

HARRIS

I said, sit.

POLLARD

Commander Harris, you need me for the job.

HARRIS

Jay, this is the Navy. We don't have jobs. We have assignments.

POLLARD

I am a civilian. You need me for this assignment.

HARRIS

Possibly.

POLLARD

I'm the best intelligence analyst you've got.

HARRIS

What happened? No one love you as a child? Someone strangle your cat?

POLLARD

Found a stray. Took it in. Fine now.

HARRIS

As for lead analyst --

POLLARD

You must need me.

HARRIS

If you get past me. And the polygraph.

POLLARD

I already get polygraphed.

HARRIS

Sit. I said, sit!

(Jay sits.)

HARRIS

This is not the FBI polygraph. Or the CIA polygraph. For UMBRA they use the best guy. From the NSA.

POLLARD

NSA?

HARRIS

If you lie, he will know.

POLLARD

I've heard people fail this test all the time. What happens --

HARRIS

Not only will you not get this assignment, you'll lose your post here.

POLLARD

Where would I go?

HARRIS

With luck, back to NISC.

POLLARD

You understand how hard I fought to work for you?

HARRIS

Oh. It gets worse. If NISC doesn't have an opening, you're on the street.

POLLARD

Why don't you just post me to lead analyst?

HARRIS

I need to know your loyalties are with me. Not brass. Not anyone. With my soldiers --

POLLARD

U.S. Navy troops?

HARRIS

No, Canadian troops.

POLLARD

U.S. Army? Air Force? They don't have ATAC.

HARRIS

Not my lookout. Jay, what do you want?

POLLARD

To save lives.

HARRIS

You think Navy lives are in danger?

POLLARD

I do. Can I ask you something else?

HARRIS

Nothing's stopped you before.

POLLARD

What is an ASH receiver?

HARRIS

Ask one more time and I'll tear you a new asshole.

POLLARD

What...what can you tell me about ATAC?

HARRIS

ATAC will be up and running faster then you can say "Fire in the hole."

POLLARD

Will ATAC have access to UMBRA documents?

HARRIS

What do you know of UMBRA?

POLLARD

UMBRA is *not* an acronym.

HARRIS

Really?

POLLARD

No. UMBRA is Latin. For the darkest part of the shadow. An UMBRA system means the ability to see that which cannot be seen.

HARRIS

As a military application?

POLLARD

Well, in theory, UMBRA would be a system of codebooks and computer programs that would allow the CIA and NSA to break every known communication signal.

HARRIS

The personal responsibility, if it were real?

POLLARD

In the wrong hands, it could...

HARRIS

Yes?

POLLARD

End the world.

HARRIS

No.

POLLARD

Yes. If you could hack into any encrypted system in the world, you would know everything.

HARRIS

You don't believe it's possible?

POLLARD

This is real life. Not a Graham Greene spy novel.

HARRIS

We've seen UMBRA-class documents.

POLLARD

A special level of security? Yes. An entire system? A rumor to make the Soviets crap. But no, not possible.

HARRIS

If UMBRA did exist, how would it work?

POLLARD

Don't you already know? Sorry. (beat) You won't understand the math.

HARRIS

Get on the hump and explain UMBRA to me!

POLLARD

(leaping up) An UMBRA system or set of codebooks would rely on mathematical formulas using quantum physics.

HARRIS

Quantum physics? What the fuck is that?

POLLARD

The assumption that there are not one, but two universes operating simultaneously.

HARRIS

Like I have a twin in another dimension?

POLLARD

How'd you know that?

HARRIS

It was on a *Twilight Zone* episode.

POLLARD

An UMBRA system would capture all known frequencies. All ciphers are based on the difficulty of factoring integers --

HARRIS

In English --

POLLARD

Think about your car.

HARRIS

My 1964 Lincoln Continental with suicide doors?

POLLARD

Suicide doors?

HARRIS

Rear doors, Jay. They open backwards. That way if you leap in while the car is taking off --

POLLARD

I see.

HARRIS

SPLAT!

POLLARD

Think about your wife --

HARRIS

Mrs. Harris?

POLLARD

Are you thinking about Mrs. Harris?

HARRIS

It's a great day to be in the Navy! I am.

POLLARD

Think about you and your wife having sex.

HARRIS

What?

POLLARD

Picture you and Mrs. Harris wearing nothing but a smile.

HARRIS

The last thing you're going to be picturing is a ballpoint pen entering each eyeball.

POLLARD

Do you or don't you want to understand the problems associated with quantum physics and an UMBRA system?

HARRIS

Carry on.

POLLARD

Your wife is screaming in ecstasy --

HARRIS

She never does.

POLLARD

Picture your car. (pause) Your wife. Your car. (pause) Your wife. (pause) Now try to see them both at the same time. You can't. Can you?

HARRIS

I can.

POLLARD

That's not possible. The human brain can only visualize one thing at a time.

HARRIS

I can see both.

POLLARD

How?

HARRIS

I'm screwing my wife in the back seat of my car.

POLLARD

That's very good. Commander Harris, you don't like me, do you?

HARRIS

Jay, I love to hate you.

POLLARD

That doesn't make sense.

HARRIS

You're a human encyclopedia. Warfare. Politics. World history. Your analysis is faster than I've ever seen. You are a needle in a haystack.

POLLARD

Exactly --

HARRIS

But you are a needle. You disrespect authority. You pull practical jokes on U.S. Navy intelligence personnel.

POLLARD

It's good for morale.

HARRIS

Morale is not your lookout. And off the record, I despise your politics.

POLLARD

I'm a Republican.

HARRIS

Are not.

POLLARD

There must be a photo of me and Anne at President Reagan's inauguration. In my file.

HARRIS

But you see my dilemma?

POLLARD

Once in a while, I've complained. Argued about who should see what intelligence.

HARRIS

I wouldn't be having this conversation with Lieutenant Williams.

POLLARD

Williams hate me?

HARRIS

Lieutenant Williams? He did ask you to find an ASH receiver?

(Jay starts to speak. Stops himself.)

HARRIS

If you get assigned lead analyst, check, *Lieutenant* Williams will hate you.

POLLARD

How can you even think of *Lieutenant* Williams?

HARRIS

Fuck me, I'm a cheerleader. It's gonna be you or *Lieutenant* Williams.

POLLARD

Because he wears a uniform?

HARRIS

Lieutenant Williams is A.J. Squared Away!

POLLARD

Yes, but --

HARRIS

He's been by my side from day one. *Lieutenant* Williams could have attached himself to a rising star. But no, he gutted it out with dumb old Commander Harris.

POLLARD

I don't think you're dumb.

HARRIS

Really? Shut up. If you get the assignment, can I trust you will do exactly what I say?

POLLARD

I'll do exactly what you say.

HARRIS

Then say yes to the NSA polygraph, pass it, and I'll know.

POLLARD

If I fail?

HARRIS

You're on the street. Don't take the test, you have a long shot at a post at NISC. As of zero eight hundred today, there is nothing available at NISC. You could spend your summer pounding the pavement. You should take the test.

POLLARD

Lieutenant Williams is also up for lead analyst?

HARRIS

Check. It's one giant cluster fuck. Lieutenant Williams has job security. From the Eagle. For you, big risk. Big reward.

POLLARD

You want me to risk...why should I risk --

HARRIS

What do you think of my analysis of quantum physics?

POLLARD

By thinking of all mathematical possibilities in two universes simultaneously, all codes could be broken.

HARRIS

What's stopping us?

POLLARD

Beyond getting the math right, you would need a computer that could handle the program.

HARRIS

That a fact?

POLLARD

Check. Is UMBRA real?

HARRIS

For talk, if it exists, I can't just hand it to you. If it were misused, the level of damage -- People take trips to Disneyland. We're here. For what?

POLLARD

National security.

HARRIS

If you give someone the most powerful intelligence-gathering system on the face of the earth --

POLLARD

UMBRA exists?

HARRIS

Let's assume it does. What then?

POLLARD

No computer would be safe. No encryption system would be safe. We could go anywhere. Find out anything. We would be gods. Stoppable by no one and nothing. This is the happiest day of my life.

HARRIS

I never said UMBRA is real.

POLLARD

No one would believe it.

HARRIS

It sounds like, as you would say, something out of a James Bond movie. But this is real life. Take the NSA test?

POLLARD

You say, take the test? I say why should I? Is UMBRA real?!

HARRIS

Christ, Jay.

(Harris hands over an open file with a document inside.)

HARRIS

Go on. Sign it. Date it.

(Pollard speed-reads the document, one page after another.)

POLLARD

Nondisclosure?

HARRIS

The rest of this conversation, if you repeat it to any unauthorized personnel, three things will happen. A, you'll lose your job. B, you'll go to jail. C, two-six-ten.

POLLARD

(looks up) Two-six-ten?

HARRIS

It's gonna take two surgeons six hours to remove ten inches of my boot from your ass.

POLLARD

You don't wear boots. Sorry.

(Pollard signs.)

HARRIS

The UMBRA system does, in fact, exist. (pause) I've never seen you speechless, son.

POLLARD

I don't believe it.

HARRIS

UMBRA is very real. The hardware and its codebooks are guarded round the clock by two Honor Guard Marines in a vault. In the basement of the Pentagon.

POLLARD

I'll work at the Pentagon?

HARRIS

Here at ATAC and the Pentagon. Other people in this man's Navy --

POLLARD

There are women in the Navy now --

HARRIS

Navy men and *women* depend on you for their safety. Their lives. Can I trust you?

POLLARD

Yes.

HARRIS

Trust? Trust no man. For no man can be trusted. Remember that, and you will go far.

POLLARD

But you've been asking for it.

HARRIS

It's a hope. A prayer. What if you were to make an incorrect analysis?

POLLARD

I never would.

HARRIS

Really? I was on a Navy technical cruiser, taking heavy incoming.

POLLARD

Is there any other kind?

HARRIS

In fact, there is, Jay. There is light incoming. Twenty years ago at sea, I saw a kid on fire. Pulled at his legs. Could only feel bone. Lieutenant Williams may not be the analyst you are, but he's combat tested. And between men who have been in battle, there is a code. In a war movie, or on the six o'clock news, the screams last a second. If you hear them at all. What happens when the screams don't stop? What happens when information is really misinformation? You tell me that.

POLLARD

I think --

HARRIS

You want my friendship? Possible. You want my respect? Perhaps. You want my trust to win this assignment? That you got to earn.

POLLARD

Why are you shouting at me?

HARRIS

ATAC, this place, is my sole reason for being. So when I'm on my deathbed, and I look back at all the shit I had to eat, the giant shit sandwich I had to swallow, I'll know it was worth it.

POLLARD

You will?

HARRIS

That there was something to justify the fact that I used oxygen. That I consumed food. Beyond this assignment, what do you want?

POLLARD

Like you, to save lives.

HARRIS

U.S. Navy lives? Check.

POLLARD

Check. Why does brass want you to fail?

HARRIS

Outside the CIA, there are no other anti-terrorist alert centers. Brass feels it's costly and duplicative. I strong-armed my way past the Congressional intelligence oversight committee. Never out of the fight!

POLLARD

Navy Seal creed. Coined by --

HARRIS

I know what it is!

POLLARD

With UMBRA, you know how much fun I'm going to have?

HARRIS

UMBRA is not yours. Not yet. The system and its codebooks are to be used for legitimate intelligence gathering. I don't want someone transferring money from the Federal Reserve into a Swiss bank account. Check!

POLLARD

Check.

HARRIS

I do not want someone listening to the French Prime Minister screwing two of his mistresses simultaneously. Check.

POLLARD

Check.

HARRIS

I don't want someone eavesdropping on the G-7 Summit. That's the kind of CIA shit...you know, someone got Madonna's number and asked her out.

POLLARD

Williams?

HARRIS

Not a Navy analyst. You a-hole. CIA. And if you think by badmouthing Lieutenant Williams --

POLLARD

Sorry.

HARRIS

I do not want a Navy ship blown up. Ever. I do not want Navy personnel to be harmed by a terrorist. Ever. The person I require will work seven days a week.

POLLARD

No days off?

HARRIS

SNAFU, Pollard?

POLLARD

Even God rested on the seventh day.

HARRIS

My lead analyst will work harder than God. Six a.m. to six p.m., seven days a week. Check?

POLLARD

Yes, sir.

HARRIS

In the year we've known each other, you have, I am quite certain, never addressed me as "sir."

POLLARD

One year, three months, eight days. Sorry. As a civilian analyst, I'm not required to address you as "sir."

HARRIS

Why today?

POLLARD

It's a big one.

HARRIS

If I station you to this post, you will hand me a single summary report Monday through Friday.

POLLARD

Weekends?

HARRIS

Saturdays and Sundays, my lead ATAC analyst will have a single-use secure line to my home.

POLLARD

A Batphone?

HARRIS

Batphone. Check.

POLLARD

What if you're not home?

HARRIS

I will be. And I want to be clear as a bell on this point. If something happens, only I can call the Pentagon situation room.

POLLARD

You need the credit?

HARRIS

You know, Lieutenant Williams respects chain of command.

POLLARD

I would never let a Navy life come into harm's way, sir.

HARRIS

The UMBRA-class security check. They want you to fail. So, when tested, be honest. If not, they will know.

POLLARD

Commander?

What?
HARRIS

What if I get sick?
POLLARD

During the test?
HARRIS

If I get the assignment.
POLLARD

You won't.
HARRIS

Sometimes Anne isn't well.
POLLARD

Didn't notice her in your file. Girlfriend?
HARRIS

Check.
POLLARD

Anne a hottie?
HARRIS

I really don't think --
POLLARD

Everyone likes sex. Unless they don't.
HARRIS

This is not --
POLLARD

The place to talk about sex? This is the Navy. You're the crotch crab who brought up Mrs. Harris. What's your hottie's problem?
HARRIS

Sometimes Anne isn't able to digest her food.
POLLARD

HARRIS

Doctors deal with that how?

POLLARD

Feed her through a tube, from time to time.

HARRIS

Well, if you want this post and the pay grade increase that goes with it --

POLLARD

I don't care about money.

HARRIS

If you get it, want the assignment without a pay grade raise?

POLLARD

No.

HARRIS

With that pay increase, Anne can fend for herself. Take a taxi. Check?

POLLARD

When Anne is ill, who will take care of Dusty?

HARRIS

Dusty?

POLLARD

Our cat.

HARRIS

I'm talking about the lives of every member of the U.S Navy, and their families, and you're worried about your cat?!

POLLARD

Yes, sir. No, sir.

HARRIS

If you want this assignment, you best make other arrangements. You think President Reagan is ever off the job?

POLLARD

I hear he takes naps.

HARRIS

The man took a bullet. Wasn't off the job a second.

POLLARD

You mean, the guy with the suitcase --

HARRIS

With the nuclear launch codes. Never left the President's side.

POLLARD

President Reagan had a gunshot wound and he could still launch a nuclear strike?

HARRIS

When President Reagan had a camera up his anus at Navy Medical, he could still go nuclear.

POLLARD

I never thought of that.

HARRIS

See? You don't know everything.

POLLARD

I wouldn't say that.

HARRIS

Christ, you wear me out. (gets up) If you get through this door, you have no idea, the world you'll enter. Drink, son?

POLLARD

Coffee.

HARRIS

Jack Daniels for two.

POLLARD

Ice? (Harris reacts.) No ice.

HARRIS

Here's to ATAC, saving lives, and screwing my wife in the back seat of my Lincoln.

POLLARD

To ATAC.

Scared? HARRIS

Anne won't like the hours. POLLARD

You'll take the test? HARRIS

It's tempting. POLLARD

Say yes, Jay. Do it for me, son. HARRIS

(pause) Yes. POLLARD

I knew you'd come around. HARRIS

When do I take the test? POLLARD

First thing tomorrow. HARRIS

If I pass -- POLLARD

I post you to the assignment immediately. HARRIS

Lieutenant Williams? POLLARD

Washed out of the NSA poly at zero nine hundred. HARRIS

Failed? You were baiting me? POLLARD

HARRIS

With Lieutenant Williams. As leverage. Check. Still, Lieutenant Williams nailed you with the ASH receiver. (cleans up drinks) Alpha Mike Foxtrot.

POLLARD

Alpha Mike Foxtrot? Oh. Yes. Adios, mother fucker.

HARRIS

In answer to your query, U.S. Navy prank. A newbie is sent all over a ship or base to locate an ASH receiver. It's an ash tray.

POLLARD

I have a score to settle.

HARRIS

You will do no such thing. (starts to leave) Time, she's up.

POLLARD

If I snag this new assignment, will I really get to use UMBRA?

HARRIS

Yes.

POLLARD

I'll know everything?

HARRIS

You will.

POLLARD

People say there is no God.

HARRIS

No. He's an arrogant, balding intelligence analyst, right here in Suitland, Maryland.

POLLARD

I'm not balding.

HARRIS

Before this is over, you will be.

(Lights dim.)

2

July, 1984.

(Lights on Pollard. A door in front of him.)

POLLARD

Anne? Will you please unlock the door? Come out of the bathroom. I was hasty. I'm sorry I set a meeting with Israeli intelligence. One you never agreed to. I'm going meet Rafi Eitan. Can you believe it? Rafi Eitan? Anne, it's become Pikuach Nefesh. Do you hear me? Pikuach Nefesh! (beat) With my new post at ATAC, the immediate threats I see to Israeli lives -- I...I can't go through life without you. I promise, on Hashem, I won't do a thing without your blessing. How else can I make you understand? (pause) At thirteen I have my Bar Mitzvah. My parents are proud, as I find the study of Hebrew easy and I sing beautifully. They ask what I wish for a reward. For a job well done. I say, "I have one desire. To go to Germany and see Dachau." My mother cries out, "Why, during such a time of joy, do you wish to go to a concentration camp?" My father stares at the synagogue floor. I say, "I've read books, seen pictures -- still I can't believe it." A month passes. My parents take me to Germany. At Dachau, it's a cold winter day. I feel the wind against my face. At the death camp, I spot a twelve-foot gate. The gate is closing. Stopped by a guard who, once he understands us to be American, barks out, "It is now exactly SIX! The museum and camp are closed. Everyone is going home. You may return tomorrow!" The guard is returning to the gate. I cry out, "WAIT! TELL THEM WE'RE JEWS!" A moment. Then the gate is opened. I enter the first room, intended as a welcome center. Filled with pictures of dead children. The room made into a display, in an effort to explain what happened to the children. Life-sized, grainy photographs. Calling from the past, yet present in this place. It pierces my mind like a bullet, the meaning of "never again." I still see those dead children in my nightmares. Anne, now with my post to ATAC, seeing the immediate threats to Israeli lives, not just military...to innocent men, women, and children. I have to do something. I have to.

(Sound of the door unlocking. Opening. Pollard looks to Anne. Lights dim.)

3

August, 1984.

(Sunset. Eitan sits on a park bench clutching a paper bag. Pollard enters apprehensively.)

EITAN

This area is secured by Israeli agents for precisely eleven minutes.

POLLARD

Certain?

EITAN

Yes. The trees and the flower beds are quite beautiful. Have you been to Dumbarton Oaks before?

(Pause)

EITAN

Growing up, I was dyslexic. I saw everything backwards. Which made reading English impossible, but Hebrew incredibly easy.

POLLARD

Really dyslexic?

EITAN

My attempt at Israeli humor. You look uncomfortable. Jay, what troubles you?

POLLARD

Anne.

EITAN

What about her?

POLLARD

Anne wasn't sure I should come, Mr. Eitan.

EITAN

Please. Call me Rafi.

POLLARD

You were a hero of mine growing up. The man who got Eichmann.

EITAN

A lifetime ago. We have ten minutes. What is Anne's concern?

POLLARD

This is not safe.

EITAN

I guarantee your safety and Anne's.

POLLARD

Israel does?

EITAN

Not Israel. Not Mossad. Me.

POLLARD

With Mossad, I've had problems.

EITAN

Turned you down to spy for Israel. Twice. Please sit. Mossad does not run agents inside the United States. They feel you're a risk.

POLLARD

Why are you here?

EITAN

I work with Israeli Defense Forces. But have my own network. To gather data of a scientific nature.

POLLARD

Nuclear weapons technology --

EITAN

What's it like at ATAC?

POLLARD

Security is lax.

EITAN

Intelligence agencies are filled with people with flaws that are, well, human. How's the food? The pay?

POLLARD

Good.

EITAN

Day in and out, nothing happens. People start to feel...safe.

POLLARD

No, I don't.

EITAN

You told Avi Sella you wish to assist Israel? What do you mean exactly?

POLLARD

To save Israeli lives.

EITAN

Why Israeli lives?

POLLARD

Israel is my home.

EITAN

You've only been to Israel once.

POLLARD

It is home.

EITAN

How is this possible?

POLLARD

I was in Tel Aviv. On the beach. Across from the American embassy. An Arab terrorist was running toward me. Explosives strapped to his chest.

EITAN

Is this American humor?

POLLARD

No. An Israeli was chasing the terrorist. Two U.S. Marines sprinted from the embassy toward the terrorist, faster than I've seen humans move. Trying to detonate -- the terrorist pressed a button over and over.

EITAN

Faulty equipment? I hate when that happens.

POLLARD

The Marines tackled the terrorist. The Israeli pinned the terrorist down. The bomb was cut off.

EITAN

I remember that incident.

POLLARD

I walked around afterwards for hours in a daze. Then I returned to my hotel. The BBC was interviewing the Israeli I'd witnessed. They asked him, "What happened?" He said, matter of fact, "I saw a man with a bomb. I knew what had to be done."

EITAN

Forgive me. An American, from such a thing, they might run? Please take a seat.

POLLARD

(sits) If I'd been thinking clearly, yes, I would have run.

EITAN

Why run to Israel now?

POLLARD

The U.S. intelligence-sharing agreement.

EITAN

With Israel?

POLLARD

Yes. The U.S. is not living up to its part.

EITAN

That's not possible. We meet daily and share information. Eight minutes remain.

POLLARD

Intelligence we promise Israel, under a written agreement, is routinely withheld.

EITAN

You expect me to --

POLLARD

You must. Israel is in grave danger.

EITAN
Can you be specific?

POLLARD
I can be very specific. You are alone.

EITAN
I am not alone.

(Pollard hands Eitan a photo.)

POLLARD
You are.

EITAN
(studies photo) This is Israel's bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor at Osirak!

POLLARD
Check. June '81.

EITAN
This is three years old.

POLLARD
Now you understand --

EITAN
This was withheld? For what? Israel has human assets you lack. But we don't have your NSA's technology. It took Israel time, with human cost, to find out the damage our planes did. Why did the U.S. not share --

POLLARD
Now you understand why I'm here. America wants you afraid.

EITAN
Why?

POLLARD
It gives them leverage. You are alone.

EITAN
I'm not alone.

POLLARD

Yes, you are.

EITAN

The big questions. Is there a God? What happens when we die? Are we alone? I think there's a God. I've seen men die but have no good answer to what happens after. Still, at great personal risk, I have been with men in their last moments on earth. They were not alone.

POLLARD

They were lucky.

EITAN

This is not luck. A few years back, Mossad had five agents inside the PLO. Right next to Arafat, every day.

POLLARD

No, not possible.

EITAN

Nothing is impossible. Regrettably, all were discovered. Then tortured. The PLO and Israel have an unwritten law. We return each other's dead. What was left of five Mossad agents was returned. For burial. During a routine autopsy, it was discovered that one of the agents, tortured beyond all human endurance, had written something in Hebrew between his toes, with the blackened end of a match. It simply read, "I have not betrayed."

POLLARD

That's --

EITAN

We have six minutes. You look queasy. (takes box from his bag) Matzo? Good?

POLLARD

Yes.

EITAN

(smacking satellite photo) How long have you had UMBRA-level clearance?

POLLARD

Officially, UMBRA doesn't exist.

EITAN

How long have you had that which does not exist?

POLLARD

There are UMBRA-class documents.

EITAN

This we already know. You are the first person with UMBRA who has requested such a meeting. You're asking yourself, how can I be loyal? To the United States. And Israel.

POLLARD

Let me be clear. I will never harm the U.S.

EITAN

Nor should you. You get polygraphed monthly. By the NSA?

POLLARD

By a small, ruthless man.

EITAN

Yet you met Avi Sella, an Israeli fighter pilot? To you, a foreign national. Today, you're speaking to me. How is this possible? How do you get past the polygraph? Specifically, *that* polygraph?

POLLARD

A lie detector is meaningless.

EITAN

You've beaten a system we use. Is there an UMBRA system?

POLLARD

Arab states surround you with chemical weapons.

EITAN

This I already know.

POLLARD

Arab states have missile systems that can reach all the way to Tel Aviv.

EITAN

In the future, perhaps.

POLLARD

Now!

You have evidence? EITAN

Check. POLLARD

Type of missile? EITAN

SCUD. POLLARD

SCUDs? EITAN

SCUDs! POLLARD

Today Arab countries can strike Tel Aviv via SCUD? EITAN

You must purchase gas masks now. For the entire population. Israel's enemies have chemical and nuclear programs that are further along than you know. POLLARD

Not possible. EITAN

It is. Now you understand? Why I'm here? POLLARD

Pikuach Nefesh? EITAN

Check. (holds out envelope) Take it. Syria's plan for chemical warfare on the Golan Heights. POLLARD

(Eitan takes envelope from Pollard. Studies contents.)

Jay, if this starts, there is no going halfway. How effective are you willing to be? EITAN

POLLARD

To save innocent lives? Very.

EITAN

Willing to take things to the end of the line?

POLLARD

I am.

EITAN

What will you do for Israel?

POLLARD

Get plans for Soviet weapons systems Arab states possess.

EITAN

Then what?

POLLARD

Get you rundown on Soviet communications systems they sell to Arabs.

EITAN

Then what?

POLLARD

Get you detailed intel on Arab capabilities, dispositions, and war plans. Do not ask me for U.S. troop positions.

EITAN

I haven't.

POLLARD

Do not ask me for plans of U.S. weapons systems. Or U.S. code books. Do not ask me for *any* intel regarding the U.S.

EITAN

I never would.

POLLARD

You brought up UMBRA. Rafi, I'm offering you a deal. Do you want this deal?

(Eitan takes out an inhaler and presses it to his mouth.)

EITAN

Touch of asthma. Appreciate what could go wrong?

POLLARD

I'm an intelligence analyst.

EITAN

How secure are documents at ATAC?

POLLARD

I can take documents out. We're not supposed to work at home. Everybody does. It's overlooked.

EITAN

How do you know the U.S. hasn't planted microphones inside ATAC?

POLLARD

No, they haven't.

EITAN

Jay, American car dealerships do that.

POLLARD

That's not legal.

EITAN

You just bought a new car.

POLLARD

Why would you know that?

EITAN

Place yourself in my shoes. It's my job to know everything about you.

POLLARD

Did I get a good deal on my car?

EITAN

When you were in the salesman's cube, the salesman went off to consult his manager about the price. The manager had been listening in the entire time.

POLLARD

You can go to jail for that.

EITAN

It can easily be done with a speaker phone that just happens to be on. Your new white Mustang. Don't worry. You were given a good price.

POLLARD

What are you telling me?

EITAN

That I can help you in many ways. Two minutes. (points up) The next KH-11 --

POLLARD

NSA spy satellite --

EITAN

(looks to watch) Will be in range in 117 seconds. Israel expects her agents to move faster, further, and harder than any other. The polygraph. How do you defeat it?

POLLARD

No.

EITAN

If this is to begin, it must begin someplace. Give your life for Israel?

POLLARD

What do you think I'm risking now?

EITAN

What if Anne comes in harm's way?

POLLARD

Anne has nothing to do with this.

EITAN

Certain you've thought this through?

POLLARD

I have.

EITAN

I wish to meet Anne. (beat) How do you pass the polygraph?

POLLARD

In advance, a PLO terrorist attack on Israeli. The U.S. knows the time, place --

EITAN

I have no use for information regarding the PLO. Does your CIA have agents inside Israeli intelligence? (pause) How do you defeat the NSA polygraph?

POLLARD

Why are you obsessed with a lie --

EITAN

Israeli intelligence relies heavily on it.

POLLARD

Ask for something else.

EITAN

The UMBRA codebooks.

(Pollard gets up.)

EITAN

I'm sorry. Jay, place yourself in my shoes. You must prove you have not been sent by American intelligence. To entrap me. We have one minute. The lie detector? How do you beat it?

POLLARD

Fine. When you use a lie detector, you draw blood, then you ask for urine?

EITAN

Naturally.

POLLARD

To look for drugs that might affect outcome. You let whoever urinate alone?

EITAN

I fail to see the point.

POLLARD

After I urinate, I take two ten-milligram tablets of Valium. A lie detector works on stress. On Valium, it detects none.

EITAN

Next time we meet, we will discuss your payment.

POLLARD

No, I don't want money.

EITAN

We will always meet here. Unless otherwise specified. Also, promise me you'll never come to the Israeli embassy.

POLLARD

Check. I don't think it will, but if something goes wrong, you'll have an escape plan in place?

EITAN

Naturally. And you have the Law of Return. Any Jew...

POLLARD

Who asks Israel for asylum must be returned to Israel. Yes. But I'm asking you, not Israel.

EITAN

I gave you my oath.

POLLARD

No, you said, "Not Israel. Not Mossad. Me."

EITAN

Jay, you know who I am. You have my word. One final thing.

POLLARD

Yes?

EITAN

Do you know what a blood oath is?

POLLARD

I do.

EITAN

Good. You just took one.

(Lights dim.)

4

June, 1985.

(Lights up on desk and small computerized chess board. Pollard holds a file labeled "classified." Pollard sees Harris. Hides file.)

HARRIS

You understand the importance of what we're doing here?

POLLARD

I do.

HARRIS

The secrecy?

POLLARD

Check.

HARRIS

You've been requesting documents --

POLLARD

I --

HARRIS

Let me finish -- documents that have nothing to do with your tasking.

POLLARD

I haven't --

HARRIS

Yes. Shut up. You received SCI documents pertaining to Soviet military equipment. Why did you request those documents?

POLLARD

Have I not excelled --

HARRIS

Why did you request those documents?

POLLARD

Which documents?

HARRIS

On Soviet military equipment --

POLLARD

Background for a project I'm doing on a terrorist threat to U.S. Navy ships in the Caribbean.

HARRIS

I don't follow.

POLLARD

The Soviets have been supplying Cuba with next-gen weapons systems.

HARRIS

So what?

POLLARD

Since the U.S. invasion of Grenada, Castro has gone ape.

HARRIS

His left-wing pal Maurice Bishop is now a poo-poo platter.

POLLARD

Maybe I'm being paranoid, but I'm concerned about Castro. And possible retribution to U.S. Navy personnel stationed in Grenada.

HARRIS

Yes, I see it. (pause) I can trust you to keep Navy lives safe? Check.

POLLARD

Check.

HARRIS

Jay? What in Sam hell are you doing in my office?

POLLARD

Saw the computerized chess board. Couldn't resist.

HARRIS

New craze. That's what Mrs. Harris tells me.

POLLARD
Gift?

HARRIS
More like a sick joke.

POLLARD
No, you're doing very well. Two moves away from checkmate.

HARRIS
I'm not.

POLLARD
Move your bishop here.

HARRIS
I'll lose my knight.

POLLARD
Lose it! You see?

HARRIS
Queen takes pawn. The king has no place to go. Check?

POLLARD
No. It's checkmate. You see?

HARRIS
I do.

POLLARD
Always protect *your* king. Always attack *their* king.

HARRIS
Thank you. I can show Mrs. Harris I won. Speaking of, why did only you RSVP to the ATAC holiday picnic?

POLLARD
I'm coming alone.

HARRIS
Mrs. Harris wrote a personal note inviting Anne.

POLLARD

Thank Mrs. Harris for us. Anne's going to be away the July Fourth weekend, I think.

HARRIS

Don't think. It's important the ATAC family is in full attendance. And we're having ribs.

POLLARD

Anne's a vegetarian. Sorry.

HARRIS

Never a good idea to let Mrs. Harris down. Are we clear?

POLLARD

Yes, I'll see about Anne. Sorry about being in your office. It won't happen again.

HARRIS

I'm sorry I blew my top. I was being paranoid.

POLLARD

Occupational hazard?

HARRIS

Check. (starts to go, turns back) What you did to Lieutenant Williams took guts.

POLLARD

I guess.

HARRIS

You hired a TV crew. Actors. Had a sign stenciled on a white van. Dozens of balloons. Check.

POLLARD

Yes. I hired a van. TV crew. Actors.

HARRIS

Your merry band shows up at Lieutenant Williams's house posing as a sweepstakes prize patrol... He thought he'd won a million dollars!

POLLARD

See the videotape?

HARRIS

Who hasn't? Still, stand down.

POLLARD

He started it with the ASH --

HARRIS

Your occasional pranks were amusing at first. Reversing light switches. Fake parking tickets. This has gone too far. Look at me, Jay.

POLLARD

(turns to Harris) Commander?

HARRIS

I've spoken to Lieutenant Williams. This stops now. Are we clear?

POLLARD

We are clear.

HARRIS

Atta boy. Jay?

POLLARD

Commander?

HARRIS

Use my office. Any time. Make yourself at home.

POLLARD

No, you don't have --

HARRIS

To play chess. You're putting in overtime. Following orders, doing fast, efficient analysis.

(Sings)

I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEA AGAIN
TO THE VAGRANT SAILOR LIFE
TO THE GULL'S WAY AND WIND
LIKE A WHETTED KNIFE
ALL I ASK IS A MERRY YARN
FROM A LAUGHING FELLOW-ROVER
AND QUIET SLEEP
AND A SWEET DREAM
WHEN THE TRICK IS OVER

POLLARD

You sing beautifully.

HARRIS

Perhaps. It's time I get the paperwork going.

POLLARD

A transfer?

HARRIS

Christ, no. To request you get a pay grade raise.

POLLARD

Oh. I -- Thank you.

HARRIS

You earned it. And Mrs. Harris is looking forward to meeting Anne. (pours one)
Drink?

POLLARD

Sure.

HARRIS

I never thought I'd say this.

(Harris places his hand on Pollard's shoulder.)

POLLARD

Sir?

HARRIS

This is working out better than I thought possible.

(Lights dim.)

5

August, 1985.

(Lights up. Pollard on other side of the bathroom door.)

POLLARD

Anne. Come back. Don't leave me alone. Damn 1940s keyhole lock. Let me out. (pounding door) Anne. Come back. Yes, it's been fourteen months, but you've cornered me into an impossible dilemma. You say leave ATAC and move to Israel now. Don't you think that's what I want? But if someday after we're married and blessed with children, they can't be safe in Israel...unless I stay here.

(Sound of Anne's footsteps leaving.)

POLLARD

(calls out) Anne? Come back. Listen! Commander Harris can be an S.O.B., but he has a good heart. He thinks I'm doing a great job. Which in a way I am. Keeping U.S. Navy lives safe. At the same time, with Rafi, I'm keeping Jewish lives safe. At the same time with Harris, it feels like he's starting to think of me as the son he never had. I'm starting to think of him... (pause) Anne? I swear on Hashem you won't regret unlocking the door.

(Blackout. Sound of the door being unlocked. Opening.)

POLLARD

(in darkness) I can feel my heart pounding. There's something I need to ask you.

6

September, 1985.

(Afternoon. Lights up on Harris's office. Sound of rain.)

HARRIS

Without my approval, you phoned the Pentagon situation room?!

POLLARD

You have to --

HARRIS

NSA redirected a KH-11 spy satellite?

POLLARD

Yes --

HARRIS

At your urging!

POLLARD

Forgive me. Right now --

HARRIS

Do you know what it costs to redirect a KH-11?

POLLARD

It's still happening. I need you to call the Pentagon --

HARRIS

What happened?!

POLLARD

I intercepted PLO terrorist activity.

HARRIS

Target?

POLLARD

Israel.

HARRIS

You work for the United States, Jay.

POLLARD

I know --

HARRIS

Do you?

POLLARD

You must --

HARRIS

I'm working on my lawn. It starts to rain. I turn off the old weed whacker. Hear Mrs. Harris screaming. Batphone is ringing. Run for it. Stops ringing the second I pick up. Try you right back. Where were you?!

POLLARD

My way to the Pentagon --

HARRIS

And I get a giant shit sandwich, courtesy of Jonathan Jay Pollard.

POLLARD

I tried you for twenty minutes.

HARRIS

You should have tried harder!

POLLARD

I was alone.

HARRIS

There are two thousand people in this complex. What happened?

POLLARD

I accidentally ran across a PLO threat. Which is playing out right now. So if --

HARRIS

What were you doing monitoring the PLO?

POLLARD

Monitoring the Russians. Who have real-time PLO intel --

HARRIS

You called the Pentagon situation room?

POLLARD

Please --

HARRIS

Why should I trust you ever again?

POLLARD

If the Pentagon does not real-time feed the Israelis audio from the KH-11, people will die.

HARRIS

That a fact?

POLLARD

We can still save them.

HARRIS

Oh, good.

POLLARD

Three Israeli Navy officers were -- two now. One is dead. Shot in the head.

HARRIS

Splat!

POLLARD

The other two still have a chance --

HARRIS

That's your analysis.

POLLARD

It is --

HARRIS

Want mine?

POLLARD

Can you please --

HARRIS

Mine is: fuck 'em.

POLLARD

The Pentagon?

HARRIS

No. Israel. The Pentagon will have sense enough not to pass along your report. Know why?!

POLLARD

No one can know about UMBRA.

HARRIS

If the Soviets discovered the existence of UMBRA, WHAT THEN?

POLLARD

You don't have to go ballistic.

HARRIS

This is not ballistic. Ballistic is when I cut off your index finger and use it as a fountain pen. You are NOT here to set foreign policy. You are here to do one thing. What is that?!

POLLARD

Whatever you say?

HARRIS

Are U.S. personnel in harm's way?

POLLARD

No --

HARRIS

If the Soviets discovered we have UMBRA, what then?

POLLARD

They would do something drastic?

HARRIS

All A-grade Soviet signals intelligence might be handled in some other way?

POLLARD

Is that Soviet contingent policy?

HARRIS

It is.

POLLARD

How do you --

HARRIS

I saw it on an episode of *I Spy*. You a-hole, it's U.S. policy. We'd do the same if the Soviets had a version of UMBRA.

(Harris starts to make himself a drink.)

HARRIS

When did your "friends" at the Pentagon situation room say they would phone back?

POLLARD

They didn't. Please phone --

HARRIS

You don't contact the situation room twice in one day. (downs drink) We don't want too many people knowing how or why we contact the Pentagon situation room. Why is that?

POLLARD

Need to know.

HARRIS

Do you understand what you've put at risk?

POLLARD

Yes, but --

HARRIS

What an amateur you've made --

POLLARD

I know. Still --

HARRIS

The phone is going to ring, any second, and General Armstrong, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is going to say, "Commander Harris, I thought you understood your tasking."

POLLARD

How did you get Congress to give you ATAC?

HARRIS

Don't ever ask me that. And we have more pressing concerns.

POLLARD

In my defense --

HARRIS

Defense?!

POLLARD

Right now, two human lives --

HARRIS

You're whistlin' Dixie, Pollard! Brass will say we don't need ATAC.

POLLARD

No, they won't.

HARRIS

Blow ATAC right out of the water. Save the taxpayers some money. Buy them a paperclip.

POLLARD

ATAC costs more than a paperclip. Sorry. But if we pass on real-time audio, it's likely --

HARRIS

I don't care what is and isn't likely. Two men, not American. Halfway around the world.

POLLARD

You --

HARRIS

Let's play along with dumb old I-never-went-to-the-Naval-Academy Harris. What happens if they take ATAC away?

POLLARD

We get new assignments?

HARRIS

Top-notch analysis, Jay. Thanks to President Reagan, our economy has done an about face. With your skill set, you'll be snatched up by another agency.

POLLARD

(picking up phone) I need to work for you.

(Harris glares at Pollard. Pollard returns the phone to its cradle.)

POLLARD

May I speak freely?

HARRIS

Nothing's stopped you before. You know, all I get from you is you think that I'm an idiot.

POLLARD

I don't think... (beat) I've grown fond of you, sir. You make me feel important. Unlike how other civilian analysts are treated here. I won't let you down again.

HARRIS

Oh, I have your word?

POLLARD

I screwed up. I'm sorry.

HARRIS

My life no longer has meaning. I don't even have an Annapolis class ring. Fucking boys' club.

POLLARD

They let women in Annapolis now, sir.

HARRIS

A plebe is a plebe is a plebe!

POLLARD

I'm just saying --

HARRIS

Stop looking at the phone or I'll ram it down your throat. Why do you want to work for me?

POLLARD

You make things happen. You dreamed up ATAC, had the guts to get funding. Most guys your age --

HARRIS

Forty-four is not old, Jay.

POLLARD

You're forty-five. Sorry. You don't just collect a paycheck. You see a threat. You act. And, well, I admire you.

HARRIS

This is going to make me feel better when they scrap ATAC?

POLLARD

No one has scrapped ATAC. Since --

HARRIS

What was in your analysis to the Pentagon?

POLLARD

Went in a burn bag.

HARRIS

You have a good memory. Give me that report.

POLLARD

Today is Yom Kippur, which is --

HARRIS

I know what Yom Kippur is, Jay. I'm Christian. That doesn't make me a moron. Jewish holiday. Day of Atonement.

POLLARD

PLO Force 17 targeted Israeli Navy officers. You might know them?

HARRIS

Israeli Navy? I hate the PLO. I think they're fucking cowards. Still, I hope the PLO succeeds.

POLLARD

You can't mean that.

HARRIS

I have my reasons. What did you hear on the KH-11?

POLLARD

A man pleading for his life. For the sake of his children.

HARRIS

Would you like a box of Kleenex? You are a thorn in my side.

POLLARD

I want --

HARRIS

My Achilles' heel.

POLLARD

Don't mean to be.

HARRIS

Couldn't make ATAC work without you. Ironical, really. You probably destroyed it.

(Pollard starts to speak, stops himself.)

HARRIS

Israel won't deal in hostages. The men you wanted to help are, or most certainly will be, dead.

POLLARD

No, not if --

HARRIS

Yes. Yes. Yes. (pours Jack Daniels) Drink?

POLLARD

Water.

HARRIS

In Jack Daniels, there is freedom. In water, there is bacteria.

(Pollard tries to give glass back to Harris.)

HARRIS

Down the hatch.

(Harris finishes drink in one gulp. Pollard takes small sips.)

HARRIS

Why do you care about Israeli Navy officers?

POLLARD

Well, I'm Jewish.

HARRIS

General Armstrong is half Jewish. (refills drink) But first, he's what? He's what?

POLLARD

An American.

HARRIS

Fucking A. You think because I'm part Irish I give a shit what happens in Ireland? My fellow Irish killed. They're what? My McFriends? If they don't like Ireland, they can McFuck themselves.

(Harris downs second drink with a gulp.)

HARRIS

I care only about what?

POLLARD

A, American Navy. B, ATAC. C, Mrs. Harris.

HARRIS

Two for three. Though Mrs. Harris loved meeting Anne. You, not so much.

POLLARD

Commander? You think the Israelis are really dead?

HARRIS

You know the drill. Israel doesn't negotiate. I think the men you wanted to help are dead.

POLLARD

I think I'm...gonna throw up --

HARRIS

Seasick?

POLLARD

We're on land. Sorry.

HARRIS

You will NOT blow chunks in my office. That is an order! Tums?

POLLARD

Yes, I'm about --

HARRIS

(looks through desk) Get your mind off it. Think about Anne. You lucky bastard.
(with Tums) One? Or two?

POLLARD

Two.

(Pollard opens and chews Tums. Phone rings.
Harris and Pollard look to phone. Neither
moves. Phone continues to ring. Lights dim.)

7

October, 1985.

(Park bench. Afternoon sun. Sound of a leaf blower startles Pollard. Eitan approaches, takes a seat, clutches his paper bag.)

EITAN

Today we have seven minutes. (picks up autumn leaf) The leaves are beautiful here in the fall, are they not?

POLLARD

Yes. When will I leave ATAC?

EITAN

(hands Pollard leaf) Soon.

POLLARD

Stop saying "soon."

EITAN

How can I tell you that of which I have no knowledge?

POLLARD

When will you have an escape plan if something goes wrong? Why must I keep asking?

EITAN

Jay, I will take care of you. Speaking of, your monthly salary has been raised from 1500 to 2500 dollars.

POLLARD

No. Not necessary.

EITAN

Six minutes. All Israeli agents are paid. You must take it. Think of it as a wedding gift.

POLLARD

How do you -- Is there a microphone in my apartment?

EITAN

No. No microphone. (hugs Pollard) Mazel Tov! How did you get such an extraordinary woman?

POLLARD

I ask myself that everyday.

EITAN

When may we have lunch with Anne again? (pause) Well, it's good to be married. That's what they tell me, eh? (stands) Jay, there is something you must do for Israel now.

POLLARD

Long as it doesn't cross the line. Rafi, this may sound crazy --

EITAN

Tell me.

POLLARD

I think I'm being followed.

EITAN

Very good.

POLLARD

I don't understand.

EITAN

It's us.

POLLARD

Israel?

EITAN

Following you and Anne. You wish Israel less careful?

POLLARD

No, but --

EITAN

You see my dilemma? If you were removed from ATAC without UMBRA --

POLLARD

You're the one who says I can't leave.

EITAN

I said "removed." The UMBRA codebooks. They are real?

POLLARD

We have a deal.

EITAN

Five minutes. Israel now needs specific intelligence.

POLLARD

I can tell you nothing of UMBRA.

EITAN

Israel must have, immediately, the location in the Mediterranean Sea of Soviet, French, and U.S. warships.

POLLARD

U.S. Navy ship positions?

EITAN

I must have them.

POLLARD

No way.

EITAN

We're going to strike PLO headquarters in Tunisia. To pay them back for the dead Israelis you tried to save.

POLLARD

It's not possible for Israeli jet fighters to fly all the way --

EITAN

No?

POLLARD

The fighters would have to refuel midair. You don't have --

EITAN

Unless we do. Israel will airstrike PLO headquarters in Tunisia. The PLO is certain they are safe there. They are mistaken. It has been named Operation Wooden Leg. Why? I have no idea. I also need --

POLLARD

Libya's air defense systems. Tunisia's. As well as --

POLLARD/EITAN

(simultaneously) Satellite photographs of PLO headquarters.

EITAN

Israel requires this immediately. And for you to pinpoint Arafat's personal residence. We want to send him a house warming.

POLLARD

But I...but I will not give you U.S. Navy ship positions.

EITAN

Four minutes. For the day of the air strike. You must.

POLLARD

It's not that much of a risk, you not having U.S. --

EITAN

Listen, what happens if a U.S. ship clocks one of Israel's F-15s? What does the U.S. do?

POLLARD

The U.S. will get on the radio and --

EITAN

Make contact with Israeli fighters. The cat will be out of the bag. So --

POLLARD

You're worried the U.S.S. Liberty might happen again?

EITAN

Jay, that was in 1967. But now that you mention it...you make an excellent point.

POLLARD

What are the odds --

EITAN

Israeli planners think significant. Therefore you must --

POLLARD

We made rules, Rafi. It's a line I won't cross.

EITAN
Can't? Or won't?

POLLARD
Both.

EITAN
I see. Let me check my spy rulebook.

(Beat. Eitan then takes out an inhaler and presses it to his mouth.)

EITAN
Jay, you are bound by rules you pretend to hold yourself to.

POLLARD
No, it's real!

EITAN
The Israeli fighter pilots? The Talmud teaches us, "Whoever saves a life –

POLLARD
"It's as if he has saved the entire world." Still --

EITAN
Do you want to personally explain to the wives and children of Israeli pilots if they die because *you* failed --

POLLARD
Rafi --

EITAN
To provide, for ONE day, Jay -- Those pilots' lives are our responsibility!

POLLARD
Don't you think I want to? After three Israelis were executed, someone put up a sign at ATAC that reads PLO three, Israel zero. That sign is still up. Every time I yank it down, someone makes another one.

EITAN
Three minutes remain.

POLLARD
Are we being watched now?

EITAN

Who do you think is operating the leaf blower?

POLLARD

Very good.

EITAN

UMBRA?

POLLARD

No, forget it.

EITAN

Israel will now risk everything for the UMBRA codebooks.

POLLARD

I thought you want the U.S. Navy ship positions?

EITAN

Today's shopping list aside, the UMBRA codebooks are now my sole directive. You will give me the U.S. ship positions?

(Eitan takes matzo from bag, offers Jay a piece.
Pollard takes matzo, but does not eat it.)

EITAN

Many years ago, I was given the opportunity to remind the world no living Nazi was safe. The man who had signed the papers to send millions of Jews to concentration camps, Adolf Eichmann, had been spotted in Argentina. Eichmann was living in Buenos Aires. Under the name of Richard Klement. My plan: a driver, a second man to grab him, a third waiting in the car to overpower Eichmann. I sat up front as backup. I looked at my watch. You can always count on a Nazi to be on time. My man drove behind Eichmann. Eichmann noticed and started to move quickly. My man pounced out of the car, tripping on his own shoelace. I had come halfway around the world and I was about to lose Eichmann because my man had not tied his own shoelace. Aware of danger, Eichmann walked faster. Right away, I knew what was necessary. I leapt out, grabbed Eichmann by the neck. Threw him in the car. He was returned to Israel and stood trial in front of the world. Later, I was in the execution room. Eichmann looked at me....He said, "Your time will come, Jew." I replied, "Not today, Adolf." I heard the sound of a trap door. A stretched rope. A very satisfying sound.

POLLARD

I bet.

(Pollard eats matzo.)

EITAN

Two minutes. There were no lines to cross. Like Eichmann, I will get the UMBRA codebooks. Where are they kept?

POLLARD

No dice.

EITAN

(exploding) Do you or don't you want to keep Israel safe?! UMBRA is kept where?!

POLLARD

A steel vault. Each of ten volumes is connected to a steel cable. If there's a break, an alarm will sound --

EITAN

Israel will assist you in disconnecting those cables!

POLLARD

The codebooks consist of twenty thousand pages. If a single page were to leave the vault, I would be shot. Honor Guard Marines don't miss, do they?

EITAN

A Mynox B camera?

POLLARD

No good.

EITAN

Why not?

POLLARD

I enter and leave the vault through x-ray, which will detect a camera and destroy the film simultaneously.

EITAN

We will find a way.

POLLARD

No.

EITAN

One minute remains.

POLLARD

There must be safeguards I don't know about.

EITAN

I need those codebooks!

POLLARD

You want the impossible.

EITAN

To keep Israel safe, I've done the impossible my entire life. For this, I have nightmares! For what?

POLLARD

Ask me for something else.

EITAN

Today's list. Take it. Your conscience will instruct you.

POLLARD

UMBRA is not on the list. So yes.

EITAN

(starts to leave) Good.

POLLARD

To everything but the positions of U.S. Navy ships.

EITAN

(looks to wristwatch, turns) Thirty seconds. You have been wanting to help with the PLO since day one --

POLLARD

Yes --

EITAN

Family. Love. Longing. Madness. Difficult to sort out. Still, I'm sure you will do this now. For me. Please.

POLLARD

Wait. I don't know anymore.

EITAN

Like the man on the beach who may have saved your life. Israel needs your help now. Give us those positions. After one day, they will be meaningless.

POLLARD

(starts to go) I never bargained for this.

EITAN

It's now Pikuach Nefesh. You must. Am I right?

(Pause)

POLLARD

Yes. (hurries off) For one day. You'll get your ship positions.

EITAN

You have no idea what you're doing for --

POLLARD

Rafi?

EITAN

Yes?

POLLARD

I know exactly what I'm doing.

(The lights dim.)

8

November, 1985

(Lights up. Sound of jet fighters flying by with a roar. Then sound of a bathroom shower as it runs, then is turned off.)

POLLARD

Anne. This will make you feel better. It's time I resign from ATAC. (beat) Yes. I know. No, he doesn't. (beat) Well, it's not his decision. Today. Israeli jet fighters flattened PLO headquarters. So Israel is safe. For a time. I changed the sign at ATAC. It now reads, PLO three, Israel sixty. Anne, I'm turning in my notice at ATAC. Yes, it's not safe. So, I'm quitting. By the end of the week. Don't cry. We're getting everything we ever wanted.

(Lights dim.)

9

November, 1985.

(A stream of light on Harris. He stands at attention. A stream of light on Eitan.)

HARRIS

Yes sir, General Armstrong.
At 18:22, Lieutenant Williams
witnessed Pollard walking out of
Suitland with classified documents.
If Pollard is spying, FBI, Naval
Investigative Service, and myself feel
he would be selling to the Soviets.
Yes, they would pay the most.
UMBRA is secure. Individual
classified documents? Not sure.
Amount? Not sure. Type? Not sure.
I know there's a lot I'm not sure
about. Well, if we confront Pollard
directly, it's unlikely we'll discover
who he -- Our plan. Tomorrow a.m.,
rows of black FBI cars, myself
included, will be waiting in front of
Pollard's white Mustang. If he runs,
we may get lucky. My analysis? I
don't think Pollard has anywhere
to go.

EITAN

Yes, Pollard phoned the embassy in
Washington. Yes, Prime Minister, he
was told to come. Yes, we told him
to come to the embassy. But I
promised. I understand, Prime
Minister, but if you will... No, I
don't know how the U.S. found out.
They think it's the Soviets. Exactly.
But if Pollard makes it to our
embassy, to Israeli soil... Our Law of
Return guarantees... Sir? What about
the next asset I... Retire? Retire?! A
post was due me. Owed and paid for
in blood. You said, "The post is not
yours yet." Still, I did my duty. And
trusted you. You said you had my
back. Now you say "retire"? What
about my agents in the field... My
agents who at great risk to them...
Risk... No. I said, "No"! Sir? Hello?
Hello?

(Lights dim.)

10

November, 1985.

(Sound of a helicopter flying past with a roar.
Lights up on Pollard behind a closed gate with
Eitan.)

EITAN

Realize what you've done?!

POLLARD

What about Anne?

EITAN

What are you doing here? (calling off) Keep Anne in the car.

POLLARD

I was told to come to the embassy.

EITAN

No one told you --

POLLARD

Said I was being watched --

EITAN

The U.S. *didn't* know --

POLLARD

I outran the FBI and Harris. They can't believe it!

EITAN

You were never to come to the embassy.

POLLARD

I was instructed to come. To save my life and Anne's --

EITAN

Who told you that?

POLLARD
Head of Israeli embassy security.

EITAN
Not here today.

POLLARD
I was ordered by him --

EITAN
A woman heads Washington embassy security.

POLLARD
I made it inside embassy grounds. With Anne. And Dusty.

EITAN
Dusty?

POLLARD
Our cat.

EITAN
Your cat?

POLLARD
I wasn't gonna leave him.

EITAN
This is madness.

POLLARD
Anne and I are technically on Israeli soil. Why aren't you happy to see me?

EITAN
I need the need facts. From the start.

POLLARD
Woke up. Looked outside my home. There was a line of FBI cars. Harris waved to me.

EITAN
Then?

POLLARD

I waved back.

EITAN

Then?

POLLARD

I drove eighty miles an hour on Connecticut Avenue. Doubled up and back side streets. Like in a Graham Greene story.

EITAN

Then?

POLLARD

Ran red lights. Lost surveillance. Embassy gate was closing. Floored the accelerator. Just made it.

EITAN

Now you will go --

POLLARD

Inside the embassy. Then home to Israel!

EITAN

You and Anne must leave.

POLLARD

You want us inside the embassy proper?

EITAN

Leave.

POLLARD

I don't understand "leave."

EITAN

I'm sorry. It was not my decision.

POLLARD

You're saying I should go?

EITAN

Yes.

POLLARD
Out there?

EITAN
Yes.

POLLARD
TO THEM?!

EITAN
Jay, Israel can not afford to risk its relationship with the United States. You are wanted. By the FBI. You see?

POLLARD
No. I demand -- I demand -- under *your* Law of Return, that you get me and Anne, and Dusty, safely home to Israel. It's your law!

EITAN
For today, sadly, it is not.

POLLARD
But you promised --

EITAN
You will be questioned for six months, perhaps a year. When questioned, give them small bites, mixed with fiction --

POLLARD
You really want me to leave?

EITAN
Jay, someday you and I will meet again. Perhaps in Tel Aviv for coffee. For now, you must bury our secrets.

POLLARD
You gave me *your* word --

EITAN
You will not betray Israel. Follow me.

(Eitan takes Pollard by the arm.)

POLLARD
Hands off. I'm not a child!

EITAN

(calls off) Anne?

POLLARD

Take Anne. Yes. Take Anne. Save her. Please!

EITAN

No. She --

POLLARD

Hands off!

EITAN

Listen to me --

POLLARD

Shut up. Shut. Shut. Shut. Shut. Up! 1943. *The New York Times* carried a confirmed report that Nazis were systematically exterminating Jews. Two million dead! Another four million to be slaughtered. FDR had no comment. For what? You traitor! You know my fate. And you stand there and tell me to leave?

EITAN

The question is: how many lives?

POLLARD

For what?

EITAN

Theirs for yours.

POLLARD

I don't understand.

EITAN

Your life is worth what? One Israeli? Ten? A million?

POLLARD

How is this possible?

EITAN

I was told, it was assumed, if needed, you would take a bullet. For Israel.

POLLARD

You said I wasn't alone. That I had a home.

(Harris enters, standing on the other side of the gate.)

POLLARD

We had a deal!

HARRIS

Jay, you want a deal? Come out. I might let you live.

POLLARD

I'm going to Israel. With Anne!

(Pollard bolts, leaving Harris and Eitan alone.)

HARRIS

What in Sam hell?

EITAN

It would appear he's throwing up.

HARRIS

Have we met? Commander Steve Harris.

EITAN

U.S. Navy?

HARRIS

You are?

EITAN

I suppose I'll have to clean that up.

HARRIS

Know why we're here?

(Eitan takes out and uses inhaler.)

EITAN

That man. Tell me his name?

HARRIS

Jay Pollard.

EITAN

If you say.

HARRIS
You know who he is.

EITAN
Lunatic claims to be an Israeli spy.

HARRIS
Is he?

EITAN
A lunatic?

HARRIS
A spy.

EITAN
I wouldn't know.

HARRIS
Certain?

EITAN
Check.

(Pause)

HARRIS
Can I have Jay now, or need I speak with your ambassador?

EITAN
I'm told we wish him to go outside the gate. To return with you. Perhaps after he calms down?

HARRIS
Let's do this now.

EITAN
Yes. The relationship between Israel and the United States is vital. Tell me: have you ever been to Israel?

HARRIS
I have not.

EITAN

Then you must visit. Please wait here. I'll get you some lovely brochures.

HARRIS

Come back.

EITAN

You don't wish to visit Israel?

HARRIS

Too hot.

EITAN

You don't like the heat?

HARRIS

No.

EITAN

More of a cold weather type?

HARRIS

You could say that.

EITAN

In the north, we have mountains. (beat) It appears the media have arrived.

HARRIS

Tell me who you are.

EITAN

The same as you.

HARRIS

I think not.

EITAN

Oh, yes. We are the same. We do whatever is necessary. One is born in a certain place...in a certain way...things happen...we become who we are. Truly, we are alike.

HARRIS

You look familiar. Who are you?

EITAN

From the reporters, we can learn a lesson in persistence. We must do this quickly and quietly.

(Pollard bolts in.)

EITAN

You have no idea how many crazies turn up at our gate.

HARRIS

Come out, Jay. You'll feel better. I have Tums.

EITAN

Time is up.

POLLARD

But we're friends!

HARRIS

Jay. Come on out. I'll be your friend.

(Eitan signals. The gate begins to open. Eitan slowly moves Pollard toward the gate.)

POLLARD

Leave me alone!

HARRIS

Come here, Jay.

EITAN

Commander Harris? (puts index finger in Pollard's chest) What's his name again?

POLLARD

My name is Jay -- My name is Jay -- My name is --

EITAN

Jay. Rule number one.

POLLARD

Yes?

EITAN

There is no rule number one.

POLLARD

(clinging to Eitan) What?

EITAN

You heard me. (a gentle shove toward the gate) This is the end of the line.

POLLARD

END OF THE LINE?!

(Pollard clings to Eitan. Eitan uses his inhaler to spray Pollard in the eyes.)

POLLARD

(holds eyes) NO! NOT THE END OF THE LINE!

(Eitan passes Pollard to Harris outside the gate. The gate closes. Harris restrains Pollard.)

POLLARD

IT'S NOT THE END OF THE LINE! YOU HEAR? I'M JONATHAN JAY POLLARD! JONATHAN. JAY. POLLARD! AN AMERICAN. AND A JEW. AN AMERICAN JEW. IT'S. NOT. OVER. YET!

(The lights dim.)

11

December, 1985.

(Lights up. Pollard stares out window. Watches snow. Harris enters.)

POLLARD

I've been here alone.

HARRIS

This is important. Take a seat. I need to brief you.

POLLARD

What's happened?

HARRIS

You're going to want to sit.

POLLARD

(sits) What is it?

HARRIS

Anne's bail was denied.

POLLARD

Oh, no.

HARRIS

She's been returned to district jail. Merry Christmas.

POLLARD

When can I see her?

HARRIS

You can't.

POLLARD

Surely you can arrange --

HARRIS

No.

POLLARD
What do you want from me?

HARRIS
Being humble suits you.

POLLARD
Are we being recorded now?

HARRIS
No. Aside from Anne, what matters?

POLLARD
Nothing.

HARRIS
Why do you insist on protecting Israel? (beat) If I were you, I'd be more concerned about your furry friend with four legs.

POLLARD
Dusty?

HARRIS
Your cat.

POLLARD
What about Dusty?

HARRIS
Strangled him. Little son of a gun meowed like crazy.

POLLARD
No, you're lying.

HARRIS
You have me there. Dusty is alive and kicking. Watched by a soon-to-be former Honor Guard Marine. Imagine his face, when I do wring Dusty's neck. Then again, in death, a Marine is trained not to feel. Still, I think he'll feel when he finds out he's no longer a Marine.

POLLARD
No longer a Marine?

HARRIS

You took classified documents past him every day? Did you not?

POLLARD

You lose your post at ATAC?

HARRIS

No. I got a raise. Yes, you A-hole. I'm on "administrative leave." Meaning, A, I'll be forced to take early retirement. B, they may scrap ATAC. C...

POLLARD

They won't scrap ATAC.

HARRIS

They may well --

POLLARD

To get ATAC you hacked into computers at the Congressional intelligence committee.

HARRIS

We're being recorded! I know of no such thing.

POLLARD

So, we're being recorded now?

HARRIS

Check. You're going to jail.

POLLARD

For a time.

HARRIS

Maybe a long time. As is Anne.

POLLARD

If I help the U.S. in its damage assessment, there might be a deal? For me? And Anne?

HARRIS

You're one step ahead of dumb old Commander Harris.

POLLARD

I don't think you're dumb.

HARRIS

No. Say what you really think. You think I'm stupid? Don't you?

POLLARD

It took you an awful long time to catch me. (beat) Can I tell you the truth?

HARRIS

Please.

POLLARD

If I had a penny for your thoughts, I'd have change coming.

HARRIS

I appreciate you telling me the truth, Pollard. Really, I do. (beat) Now if you sign an agreement and cooperate, we'll ask for reduced sentences. For you. And Anne.

POLLARD

Until then, can Anne please get out on bail?

HARRIS

Perhaps.

POLLARD

Anne can't get the medical care she needs in prison.

HARRIS

That a fact?

POLLARD

Yes.

HARRIS

I need the truth. The UMBRA codebooks. Give them to Israel?

POLLARD

No. Absolutely not. No.

HARRIS

So long, Pollard.

POLLARD

Please stay!

HARRIS
Anne ever lie to you?

POLLARD
No.

HARRIS
You ever lie to Anne?

POLLARD
No.

HARRIS
Mrs. Harris screws other men. I screw other women. We go through life and say, even to those closest to us, "Trust me." Yet, in the end we are alone.

POLLARD
No, we're not.

HARRIS
You are not God. You don't get to decide who lives and dies. (beat) Snow is coming down outside.

POLLARD
About Anne --

HARRIS
Anne's suitcase was full of classified documents!

POLLARD
Yes. C. You said, you said, there was a C?

HARRIS
The real meaning of the Law of Return. You'll figure it out. As for ATAC --

POLLARD
You haven't lost ATAC.

HARRIS
Pollard, you gave Israel U.S. Navy ship positions in the Mediterranean. Israel told us.

POLLARD
They did?

HARRIS

Yes. They claim you're a rogue agent. Israel is feeding Jay Pollard a giant shit sandwich. Eat up. Yum! (beat) You actually gave intel on U.S. Navy ship --

POLLARD

It was a line I never intended to cross.

HARRIS

You did cross it?

POLLARD

For one day. Yes.

HARRIS

Just one day?

POLLARD

Yes. Israel made me feel...

HARRIS

What?

POLLARD

I wasn't alone.

HARRIS

You believed them?

POLLARD

I did.

HARRIS

I searched your safe, which was empty. Typical. But we found it in your desk.

POLLARD

What?

HARRIS

You wrote Pikuach Nefesh. Over and over. You think the Jewish obligation to save a life in jeopardy gets you and Anne off the hook?

POLLARD

In my defense --

HARRIS

Who told you what to do?!

POLLARD

My conscience. I understand a few things about human nature. We live in a world that can create concentration camps, then use them.

HARRIS

That was Germany, Jay. Not the U.S.

POLLARD

The U.S. is the only nation to use atomic weapons on other human beings. We're capable of anything.

HARRIS

You honestly don't feel you hurt anyone?

POLLARD

I hurt Anne. I hurt you. Never meant to. I'm so sorry.

HARRIS

You have no idea the level of damage -- Thank God someone saw you waltz out of here with a stack of classified documents.

POLLARD

Williams?

HARRIS

Lieutenant Williams. He was with me on the U.S.S. Liberty. In '67. We were bombed. Torpedoed. Napalmed. By Israeli aircraft.

POLLARD

The Liberty had no markings -- Israel thought they were attacking an Egyptian spy boat.

HARRIS

That a fact?

POLLARD

It is. You saved Lieutenant Williams's life? Pulled at his legs? Check.

HARRIS

Check.

POLLARD

Then he wasn't alone.

HARRIS

Really? Since your posting at ATAC, half a million Ugandans were murdered. So many, in fact, the Ugandan golf courses were littered with corpses. Some said, quietly...this might be bad for tourism. The next day the bodies were gone. You didn't do a goddamn thing! Yet you threw a hissy fit over three Israeli --

POLLARD

Not just three. An entire country. You didn't do a thing for the Ugandans --

HARRIS

My strong personal feelings aside, that is NOT my tasking. (beat) Did you give all or part of UMBRA to Israel?

POLLARD

No. I need to speak to Anne.

HARRIS

Things happen in prison hospitals. What if a feeding tube were accidentally removed? What if Anne got the wrong medication? Shut up. What if something fell on her head and smashed her skull? I don't know. Anne could be bombed. Torpedoed. Napalmed. Who's the dummy now, Pollard?

POLLARD

I am.

HARRIS

The UMBRA codebooks?

POLLARD

Are safe.

HARRIS

Positive?

POLLARD

Check.

HARRIS

Memorize UMBRA?

POLLARD

Twenty thousand pages of charts, graphs, and technical data? Even I couldn't do that.

HARRIS

How did you get Israel UMBRA, Pollard?

POLLARD

Walk out of the Pentagon with a stack of thick codebooks marked "Top Secret"? With all those countermeasures?

HARRIS

I think you did. I won't rest until I prove it. For Anne's sake, tell me how you did it.

POLLARD

I didn't.

HARRIS

Positive?

POLLARD

I'd remember. I have a photographic memory.

HARRIS

You do?

POLLARD

(Sings)

I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEA AGAIN
TO THE VAGRANT SAILOR LIFE
TO THE GULL'S WAY AND WIND
LIKE A WHETTED KNIFE
ALL I ASK IS A MERRY YARN
FROM A LAUGHING FELLOW-ROVER
AND QUIET SLEEP AND A SWEET DREAM
WHEN THE TRICK IS OVER

HARRIS

(hands Jay document) Sign this plea agreement. Now.

POLLARD

For?

HARRIS

You know the drill. Recommended reduced sentences. For you and Anne. You're looking at life.

POLLARD

I'm not.

HARRIS

You need to sign this. Trust me.

POLLARD

Trust? Trust no man. For no man can be trusted. Remember that, and you will go far!

HARRIS

Your writ has run, Pollard. You think Israel's going to what? Break you out? Rafi Eitan's going to send in a commando team?

POLLARD

Rafi, he --

HARRIS

Don't you know who he really is? After World War II, Eitan hunted Nazis and strangled them to death. Not for Israel. He just thought it up. He did it. Rafi Eitan murders people. That's what he does.

POLLARD

That's not murder, that's justice.

HARRIS

Thanks to Rafi Eitan, Israel has over a hundred nuclear weapons.

POLLARD

Israel will never --

HARRIS

Israel is capable of anything. And they will happily let you and Anne rot until doomsday. My time is running out. To save ATAC.

POLLARD

I'm sorry.

HARRIS

Then sign this. And help me. You owe me that much.

POLLARD

My lawyers have to --

HARRIS

Reviewed it this afternoon. (hands Jay letter) Here's what they say.

POLLARD

No, I want to speak --

HARRIS

You don't need to speak to anyone. Go on. Sign it. Date it.

POLLARD

I wish to speak with my lawyers.

HARRIS

I understand! (grabs paper, starts to go) Really, you don't need to sign this. Adios, mother fucker. I'm off to see Anne.

POLLARD

Wait. Wait! Check?

HARRIS

No, it's checkmate. You see?

POLLARD

I do. I want to alter our deal.

HARRIS

What...what do you want?

POLLARD

To say something to Anne. Give me your word you'll play Anne the part of the tape being made now.

HARRIS

In return?

POLLARD

I'll do everything I can. To help save ATAC.

HARRIS

You will? (beat) Why?

POLLARD

I know...

HARRIS

You know what?

POLLARD

I know, the smartest part of me knows, I'll never see Anne again.

(Harris places document with pen in front of Pollard. Pollard speed-reads document a page at a time. Starts to sign. Stops.)

POLLARD

No. I want to talk to Anne first.

HARRIS

You have one minute.

(Harris looks to his watch.)

POLLARD

Starting now?

HARRIS

Yes. Now!

POLLARD

...Anne. I can picture your angelic profile. You look so unhappy. It's my fault. You were right. About everything. I pray you won't suffer another day. I always wondered what our children would look like. Don't think I'll ever know. Forgive me. I thought I knew everything. I know nothing. I betrayed you... (beat) Oh, no. Oh, no. I betrayed myself. It's the law of...

HARRIS

Time, she's up. Sign.

POLLARD

(finds place on page, signs) Here.

HARRIS

(starts to go) So long, Pollard.

POLLARD

Commander, you never took the time to read my file. Not really. All those Jewish lives at stake. The U.S. wouldn't do a thing. For what? A little leverage. Don't you know there's more to life than a little leverage? And here we are. And it's a beautiful night. And I just don't understand it.

HARRIS

So you see, Jay. In the end, you are alone.

POLLARD

Yes. I'm alone.

(Lights fade to black.)

END OF PLAY