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# Norman

By Joseph Cedar

**NORMAN:**

like a Jo Wilf, or an Arthur Taub  
and we get them to buy about  
\$300 million of debt  
and then pay 80-90 cents on the dollar.

And let's say it's Jo Wilf,  
he walks away with \$30-40 million.

This is good.

I've thought it through, I know.

I just got to find someone  
who can actually do this.

I take my seven percent.

You set it up, you get a finder's fee...

It's a lot of money.

And everybody wins.

Isn't this the scale?

The kind of deal that

Jo Wilf is looking for right now?

Yeah...

Yes, but I don't have direct contact  
with Wilf. You know that, right?

Yeah, but you have friends there. Don't you?

I mean, this is your circle, right?

- Yeah.

- Yeah.

Yeah. Bill Kavish. You know him?

He works for Wilf. He is a friend.

- Yeah.

- Do you know his name?

- Maybe.

- You know his family.

His father was Henry Kavish.

You remember him?

He got into some kind of trouble.

Oh, yeah.

He was caught taking some money.

I don't know exactly

what happened there, but...

He was fired.

His wife left him.

Kids turned their backs on him.

He died alone and penniless.

- Bill is his youngest son.

- Introduce me to Bill.  
I can give you his e-mail,  
but I prefer not to send  
a formal introduction, you know?  
We represent clients  
that do business with them...  
I don't want to look like  
I'm asking him for a favor.  
Can I say that we're related?  
- Can I say that I'm your uncle?  
- No.  
No. No. Don't make it a family thing.  
It doesn't sound good.  
Uh...  
It might not be a good idea  
to mention my name.  
Okay, you can say you know me.  
Yeah, but please don't tell him  
you got his address from me.  
- Okay?  
- Yeah.  
Look, I'm sorry I can't be more helpful.  
It's tough.  
You're like a drowning man  
trying to wave at an ocean liner.  
Jo Wilf is an ocean liner.  
He doesn't see any of us. (CHUCKLES)  
But I'm a good swimmer.  
- Yeah.  
- Don't forget that.  
As long as my head is above water...  
(KISSES)  
Good morning, Bill.  
Norman Oppenheimer.  
What the fuck? Are you stalking me now?  
No, I just need  
a couple of minutes of your time.  
I know you're busy.  
Philip Cohen might have mentioned me.  
No. This is my private time.  
Please respect that. Call the office.  
Does Philip know you're here?  
- How did you even find me?  
- It's just a business opportunity.

Look, I wouldn't be here  
if it wasn't time-sensitive. Let me explain.

- Give me one minute.

- No.

A very high official...

I can't mention his name right now.

Made me an offer

to sell his country's tax receivables  
to a third party for 80 cents  
on the dollar...

Excuse me. I have to leave.

This is unacceptable, please.

Bill. Bill, no, I wouldn't be doing this  
if I didn't think it was worth Jo's time.

Don't trust me, trust Philip.

Good things come in surprising ways.

You never know.

You never know, right?

I mean, what, worse comes to worse,  
he kicks me out the door.

No! Worse comes to worse,  
he kicks me out the door.

It is my job to keep people like you away.

Don't you get that?

- Yes.

- So please, respect my position.

Stop.

Please.

I'm sorry. I don't know what else to say.

So I'll tell my partners  
that we had a good conversation.

And we'll see what happens. Okay?

Thank you, Bill.

**NORMAN:**

It's about connecting to people  
at the level of Wilf or Taub.

**PHILIP:**

**NORMAN:**

I'm meeting a very high Israeli official  
at a conference later today.

All I need is to get my Israeli

in a room with one of these guys.

**PHILIP:**

in a political situation.

**NORMAN:**

(RON AND MODERATOR CONVERSING INDISTINCTLY)

**RON:**

on a first name basis.  
Some of them are married to Russian women.  
But it should be a real contact  
without a drop of arrogance.

**MODERATOR:**

you can't trust them.  
You would say it is not a matter of trust  
but one of national interest?

**RON:**

Is America pushing Russia  
away from the West  
and into the arms of China?  
Some natural gas experts  
in this room will say  
that's exactly what they are doing  
by encouraging a pipeline  
between Israel and Turkey.  
But as I always say,  
when dealing with global interests,  
we shouldn't be playing backgammon,  
- Shesh Besh, you know.  
- (MAN COUGHS)  
Where you roll your dice  
and hope for the best.  
We should be playing chess.  
(CONVERSING INDISTINCTLY)  
The distinguished minister  
speaking before me,  
for whom I have a great deal of respect,  
seems to know a lot about everything,  
and it is hard to argue with him.  
China, Russia, America...  
- (AUDIENCE CHUCKLES)

- He must know what he is talking about.

He's my boss, after all.

And a very good chess player.

But, you know,

um, George Bernard Shaw once said,

"Some people see the way things are  
and ask, 'Why?'"

"I see how things should be

and ask, 'Why not?'"

(INDISTINCT CHATTERING)

Thank you, my friend.

(LAUGHS)

- Okay. Hope to see you soon.

- Bye.

(INAUDIBLE)

...people were there today.

You know, I'd be happy

to introduce you to him.

Shall I tell him that you are in town?

I could do that.

You know, I'm going to a dinner

at his house tonight. You can join me.

How do you know Arthur Taub?

Oh, my wife used to babysit him.

And then she ended up working for him,  
years later.

They were very close. Very close.

Why don't I just call Arthur right now  
because I'm sure he would be happy...

- Hold on, please, put the phone back.

- Happy to have his...

Welcome to Lanvin. How can I help you today?

Mr. Eshel is speaking in a series of meetings  
with businessmen and diplomats.

He is interested in trying out those shoes  
in the window.

Sure, may I ask

what line of business you're in?

Well, I don't want to ruin my first  
impression, but I'm a politician.

**NORMAN:**

Mr. Micha Eshel is

the Minister of Trade and Labor in Israel,

and Deputy to the Prime Minister.

No, no, no.

I'm the Deputy Minister of Trade and Labor.

My boss, the Minister,  
is Deputy to the Prime Minister.

But there are three other deputies,  
just to put things in context.

It's an honor to meet you, sir.

I'm sorry, but you look too young  
to be so important.

Well, thank you for the very flattering lie.

He has a future in politics.

Which is more than I can say for myself.

I might be young, but I'm already washed-up.

- You don't look washed-up.

- Yeah.

That's because I'm in New York now.

New York makes me feel good.

Back home, I look tired.

**NORMAN:**

I've seen your appearances on TV.

You look great.

(CHUCKLES) Yeah, well, that's because

I'm very photogenic.

No, no. It's because

you are one of the few Israeli politicians  
who radiates optimism.

Optimism... Yeah.

Well, the shoes I buy today will last longer  
than the government I serve in.

Change is good. That's what they tell me.

The fashion world relies on change.

And the Middle East relies on...

How do you say stagnatzia?

- Stagnation.

- Stagnation, yeah.

Once you're in power,  
you don't want anything to change.

You can ask my boss about this.

**SALESMAN:**

shouldn't feel washed-up.

Excuse me for saying, please.

I can help with this.  
Let me try something.  
So, you said your wife works for Arthur Taub?

**NORMAN:**

Oh, I'm sorry.  
It was years ago.  
But she was very close to Arthur.  
And I would be beyond happy  
if you were to join me tonight.  
He is someone you should meet.  
Yeah, I know. I've been hearing his name  
from a few different people recently.  
- Yeah?  
- Yeah.  
What's he like?  
There are two kinds of moguls.  
First kind is like a big ocean liner ship.  
Makes a lot of waves, a lot of noise,  
everybody sees it coming from miles away.  
Like Jo Wilf.  
I think your boss,  
Minister Maor, is actually...  
- In his close circle of friends, of course.  
- Yeah. Mmm.  
And then, there is Arthur.  
Well, Arthur is more  
like a nuclear submarine.  
He's quiet. He's fast. He's young.  
- Extremely sophisticated.  
- Mmm.  
- Interesting.  
- Yeah, he's a very interesting fellow.  
He likes to surround himself with consultants  
who are in influential  
political positions, you know.  
And he's very good at compensating  
his consultants. He's...  
Yeah, well, maybe I'll have  
my office contact him.  
We'll see. I'm not a private person,  
you know. Not yet, anyway. So...  
Yeah, if you have any trouble reaching him,  
please, I'd be happy to help you.



Thank you. Thank you very much.  
So where are you staying while you are here?  
How can I reach you?  
Just a second. Can I look at myself yet?

**SALESMAN:**

Well, take this away from me  
before I get used to it.  
There is one rule  
every Israeli politician learns  
in the beginning of his career.  
You cannot wear a suit that costs  
more than an ordinary man's car.  
But what if you didn't know what it costs?  
I do. It's too late.  
Israelis don't like to see  
their representatives enjoying themselves.  
I'm sorry for wasting your time.  
- At least take the shoes.  
- No, enough. I don't want them.  
Let me buy you the shoes.  
It would be my privilege  
to buy you these shoes.

**- ESHEL:**

- If it makes an Israeli leader feel good,  
it's the least that I can do.  
- I can't...  
- No. No. Come on.  
Just put them on one more time.  
Would you do that?  
Put your feet in.  
Before you say no, just...  
(SIGHS)  
Please.  
- We'll take them.

**- SALESMAN:**

I don't want you  
walking out of here empty-handed.  
- Here.  
- No, no, no. I can't let you pay.  
- If I take the shoes, I have to pay for it.  
- You don't have to. It's done.

It's done. Okay?

- Are you sure?

- I'm sure. Yes. Positive.

**SALESMAN:**

- Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay.

- Please.

**SALESMAN:**

Yeah. Yes, everything is terrific.

- Enjoy.

- **SALESMAN:**

**ESHEL:**

Jesus. I just realized I'm terribly late.

I have to run.

- But I'm glad I bumped into you.

- (BOTH LAUGH)

- My pleasure.

- Yeah.

Here, take some chocolates.

They're really delicious.

No, no. I have a severe nut allergy.

One bite, I could drop dead. So...

- Specifically cashews?

- Peanuts, actually. Peanuts.

But this is the one area I don't take any risks. But thanks for offering.

- Wait a minute. This could really kill you?

- Yeah, yeah.

What happens to you if you take a bite?

(SIGHS)

Look, if there's even

a smallest trace of a peanut,

my throat closes up, so I can't breathe.

If I don't inject myself with one of these,

I could die in 15 minutes.

Your receipt, Mr. Oppenheimer.

Okay. Thanks.

Mr. Eshel...

Thank you.

- Okay. All right.

- Yeah.

Please, take some chocolates.

Hey, what about Arthur?

Can I tell him that I'm bringing you tonight?

Yeah. Sure. Sure, why not.

- Good.

- I'm staying at the Warwick.

You can leave a message for me there with the details.

Okay. Will do.

- Thank you. Thank you, Norman...

- Oppenheimer.

- Oppenheimer.

- Norman Oppenheimer. Yeah.

Here. Take this.

It has my private number in back.

No matter what,

whenever you are in Israel,

Norman Oppenheimer,

if you ever need anything, feel free to call.

(LAUGHS)

This is me.

Micha Eshel. E-S-H-E-L.

Just tell him he is the guy that is in charge of regulating the energy industry.

Can you do that for me?

Oh, my name?

My... My name is Norman Oppenheimer.

Yeah. No, Mr. Eshel is

a very, very close friend of mine.

Well, just get back to me, okay?

Could you do that?

Thank you. Thank you.

**NORMAN:**

What? With Jo Wilf?

No, no, no. Better. Better. With Arthur Taub.

Yeah, him and my Israeli guy.

At Taub's house, tonight.

How did you manage that?

I told you. I'm a good swimmer.

(LINE RINGING)

(CELL PHONE RINGING)

(LINE CONTINUES RINGING)

Yeah, hey.

Could you connect me  
to Mr. Eshel's room, please?  
Well, could I leave a message?  
Norman Oppenheimer.  
(SPEAKING IN HEBREW)  
Did he say what he does?  
He's a businessman...  
some kind of investment fund.  
I'm not sure exactly. A warm Jew...

**DUBY:**

You can't walk in there  
with someone you just met.  
What do you know about him?  
These things are important.  
You want to meet Arthur Taub?  
Let me set up a proper meeting.  
Are you sure? It seems harmless.

**DUBY:**

I hear Taub is like a nuclear submarine.  
We don't even know  
what this event is all about...  
I don't want you walking into  
an uncomfortable situation.  
Go see a movie. Go have good meal.  
I'll book a table...

**ESHEL:**

Any press about my trip so far?  
No, nothing special.  
It's better this way.  
All right, I'll get something to eat.  
Don't worry about me.  
OK, but put it on your hotel bill...  
the gas company is paying for it.  
And do me a favor...  
stay away from the Normans, please...  
Sure.  
Okay, okay...  
(EXHALES SHARPLY)  
(LINE RINGING)  
(DOORBELL RINGS)  
(SPEAKING INDISTINCTLY)

- (INDISTINCT CHATTERING)

- Wonderful.

(LAUGHING)

Hey. Ronnie, great to see you.

Thanks for coming, I appreciate it.

Thank you.

(SCOFFS)

(LINE RINGING)

(INDISTINCT CHATTERING)

Excuse me.

Mr. Taub would like to speak with you.

Would you mind joining me?

You can wait for him in here.

All right. Thank you.

(SNIFFS)

**ARTHUR:**

Oh.

Norman. Norman.

We met, actually, at the Stern auction.

- My wife is very friendly with Lili.

- Mmm.

Oh, by the way, I can't thank you enough for this last minute invitation for Eshel.

- It was very important...

- And where is he? Mr. Eshel.

Oh, he's on his way.

I just spoke to him. I'm sorry.

He apologizes.

He just got held up in a meeting at the UN.

- But he is on this way...

- You just spoke to him now?

Yes. I just spoke to him.

Yeah, he's on his way.

And how do you know Mr. Eshel?

Well, actually I'm helping him out with some of his American alliances.

He... He's got very interesting ideas that he's trying to promote right now.

For instance, the tax money that Israel is withholding.

- Mmm.

- Well, he has this

genius idea for a third party

- to buy the tax receivables...

- And just so I understand,  
Mr. Eshel asked you to ask me  
if he can come tonight?

Well, no, I... I told him  
about the amazing work  
that you have been doing,  
you know, especially with the...  
The cancer research fund in Israel.

And he was so appreciative.  
You do realize that this is  
an intimate dinner?

Absolutely. Yes.

And that this is my house.

- This is my private home.

- (CHUCKLES)

- It is a beautiful home...

- Thank you very much.

Now, you can't just walk in it  
and sit at my table.

Now I was happy to include Mr. Eshel,  
even though I did find it a bit odd  
that he would invite himself to a dinner  
through someone I don't actually know...

- No. No. We met.

- But,

if he isn't here,  
the invitation is not up for grabs.

- I... He's actually going to be here though.

- You understand that, right?

He... He's... I promise you,  
he's going to be here very soon.

Okay, well, I'll tell you what.

Why don't you wait for him outside  
and when he arrives, I promise you  
we will make him feel very comfortable.

You want me to wait outside?

That would be great. Thanks.

Um, okay. That's fine. That's fine.

I know he's going to be here very, very soon.

Thank you, Arthur.

- Thank you. Good night.

- Good night.

Mr. Oppenheimer.

This way, please.

(DOOR SLAMS)

(SINGING IN HEBREW)

Norman Oppenheimer. If you came  
to hear my class, you're a little late.  
If I had the time. If I only had the time.  
You're busy. That's good.  
Someone has to keep  
the world out there spinning.  
So, what's new? Who's winning? Who's losing?  
Tell me something exciting.

(SIGHS) Well, I came from  
a very special evening tonight.

Very fascinating people  
at Arthur Taub's house.

You were in Arthur Taub's house?

Yeah. I took Micha Eshel with me.

Can I introduce you to him sometime?

You know who he is, right?

He's in the Israeli parliament.

He's young and charismatic. He's...

He's... He's sharp. Very sharp. Very sharp.

I'm helping him out a little bit,  
showing him the ropes.

I'm helping him raise some money.

Well, he is a lucky man  
to have you on his side.

No, actually, I'm the lucky man,  
'cause this guy I'm telling you...

This... He's... This guy's the real thing.

He is just an incredible human being.

Well, maybe bring him to us  
as a guest lecturer.

- If you say he's good...

- Next time he's in town.

And we should make an evening out of it.

- Sounds like a plan, Norman.

- Good. Good. Done.

I'm heading home. Are you staying?

Yeah, I want to listen a bit.

It relaxes me.

Enjoy.

(EXHALES)

(SINGING CONTINUES)

(CELL PHONE RINGING)

(EXHALES)

Hello, sir.

Is it too late to call?

No. No, no. Not at all. No.

I just got back from Arthur's dinner.

Really wonderful.

Oh.

I'm sorry I couldn't make it.

It was a crazy day.

I'm... I'm... I'm really sorry.

No, no. Don't worry about it. It's okay.

It's okay.

No apologies necessary.

We'll find another opportunity.

I told Arthur all about you.

I feel terrible.

- No.

- Do you forgive me, Norman?

(CHUCKLES)

Please, don't give it...

Don't give it another thought.

- It's fine.

- Are you sure?

Yeah. Yeah.

I'm positive.

I... I want you to know

how much I appreciate

what you did for me today.

I really do. It was...

Nice.

I'm glad.

- Me, too.

- Yeah.

Thank you, Norman.

No, thank you. Thank you.

- Mr. Eshel?

- How do you say galgal anak in English?

You know, the big wheel

in the amusement park, like in London...

A Ferris wheel? It's a Ferris wheel.

Ferris. Ferris, yes. Ferris wheel.

Yeah.

Sometimes you are up



and sometimes you are down.  
I just wanted to say that to you, Norman.  
I've tasted it on my tongue.  
Being on top of everything.  
Once you taste it,  
you can't settle for anything less.  
Do you understand what I am saying?  
I do.

(BREATHING RAGGEDLY)

I do.

I do, too.

(BREATHING DEEPLY)

Mr. Eshel?

Mr. Eshel?

(ESHTEL BREATHING DEEPLY)

(CROWD CHEERING)

**MALE ANNOUNCER:**

It is my great honor to welcome  
the Prime Minister of the State of Israel.

- (AUDIENCE CHEERING)

- (STATELY MUSIC PLAYING)

Thank you.

Thank you.

(LAUGHING)

Thank you. Thank you.

**NORMAN:**

- (PHILIP CHUCKLES)

- **NORMAN:**

**PHILIP:**

Are you friends? How close are you?  
Do you visit him in his office?

**NORMAN:**

I don't know.

I just want him to know  
that I'm here for him.

If he needs me.

**PHILIP:**

We've been exchanging messages.

It's not that simple to reach him nowadays.  
He's got a lot on his plate.

**PHILIP:**

he won't know you're here.  
Look at him. He is sealed off.  
For all you know, he won't return your calls,  
even worse, he might not even  
receive your messages.  
Look, I mean, you need to get on that line.  
(CONVERSING INDISTINCTLY)

**DUBY:**

- Mr. Wilf.  
- Prime Minister.  
It is good to finally meet you.  
- Great pleasure for me.  
- Another picture.  
I was very close to your predecessor  
as you know.  
- Very glad to have you here.  
- Thank you very much.  
- (NORMAN BREATHING HEAVILY)

**- PHILIP:**

**NORMAN:**

I might be reacting to something in the room.  
I don't know... (SNIFFS)  
(CONVERSING INDISTINCTLY)

**DUBY:**

Pastor. I'm so honored you are here.  
Norman Oppenheimer, from New York.  
Norman.  
Norman. My friend. Where have you been?  
- I've been trying to reach you.  
- (CHUCKLES)

**- CROWD:**

- (BOTH LAUGHING)  
- Hanna. Hanna, do you know Norman?  
- Nice to meet you.  
This is my wife Naomi. Norman Oppenheimer.

Norman is going to be  
my special honorary ambassador  
to New York Jewry.

My personal, special advisor.

- I am?

- Yes. Of course.

Look around you, Norman.

There are over 500 organizations  
represented in this room.

It is a tremendous force of nature.

Unprecedented in our history.

We need to understand  
how this incredible force  
unites around the issues  
that are important to the Jewish people.  
And the world.

- Thank you very much.

- No, no, no. Stay with us.

- Congressman Bob Easterly.

- Hello, Bob. How are you?

Do you know Norman Oppenheimer?

No, I don't. Nice to meet you, Norman.

This is my wife, Joyce.

- Nice to meet you.

- Very nice meeting you, too.

This is my nephew, Philip Cohen.

I think he is the youngest partner  
at Frankle, Zell, Gould and Rudoff  
in New York. Right?

- Well, one of the youngest.

- I'm sorry, sorry.

**ESHEL:**

- We represented Toby Tabatchnik, I think.

- Yeah, yeah, Toby, Toby. Yes.

Yeah, Toby. Toby. He married a Solomon.

Beth. Charlie Solomon's daughter.

(CONVERSING INDISTINCTLY)

Good to see you, this is my nephew.

(BREATHING HEAVILY)

**LIORS:**

to help Israeli businesses  
communicate with the World Bank

here in Washington.

- My wife, Rita...

- Nice to meet you, Norman.

I'm with the JDC,

Joint Distribution Committee.

Her brother is the chief rabbi of Rome...

- Rabbi Ariel De La Pelgula.

- Nice to meet you, Mr. Oppenheimer.

- Please, meet Luis Pascual.

- Very pleased to meet you, Mr. Oppenheimer.

Luis is a Spanish Parliament member.

You know my friend, and lawyer, Philip...

They all come together through Jo Wilf

who is very close to

Rabbi De La Pelgula's family

and of course through him to the Pope...

Amos Chertoff.

Messianic Jewish Alliance of America.

Very pleased to meet you.

I want you to meet a relative of mine,

Norman Oppenheimer.

Norman, this is Jo Wilf.

- Norman is close with Eshel.

- Close, huh?

How close is close?

"Close" close...

- God personally touched me.

- Listen, how come I don't know you?

I know every Oppenheimer in the world.

There's a lot of ideas out there

that are not biblical.

Do you know Steve Goldfarb?

For us at the NJF,

it's all pretty simple and straightforward.

The rule of law. Free and fair elections.

- Meet Sister Agnes.

- Nice to meet you, Norman.

This is Norman Oppenheimer,

a very close friend of Prime Minister Eshel.

**AGNES:**

that's doing...

Uh, uh, gay rights.

...what James, the Lord's brother,

said to do...

**GIL:**

positive views of Israel.

Have you met Barbara Klein?

I work with Peter Black

at a hedge fund called Sand...

Our mission is to make sure

that New York

doesn't turn into New Havana. (LAUGHS)

Introduce me to Ariel-what's-his-name.

I saw you talking to him.

- We get you what you want...

- ...and we get what we need.

But everything has to be public.

Next time the Pope is in New York,

there's no reason the only rabbi he sees

is Alan Schweitzer!

Maybe there's something

we have to talk about.

Oh, Bill? Bill.

- Be sure we get in touch with Norm...

- Is this a cell?

- Do you have an office?

- ...with Mr. Oppenheimer.

No, but if I want to come visit you,

where would I go?

Startup State doesn't have an address.

That's the point.

- It's abstract.

- We're losing the building,

- that's what's going on.

- That rabbi you spoke with. Blumenthal.

Is he, uh, friendly?

Do you think he could help

with Nicole's conversion?

Something physical has to hold us together...

Evidently, there hasn't been a feature film

that's been seductive about Israel

since Exodus, so we're working on

a romantic comedy set in Israel...

Please, don't speak to anyone

on behalf of the Prime Minister.

If he asks you for something,

it is very important that you speak to me  
or with Hanna first.  
I'm so happy to finally meet you in person.  
Feel free to call me.  
That's what I'm here for.  
My son, Davidy, he wants to go to  
Harvard Business School.  
He doesn't have the grades,  
but he has good instincts,  
- believe me, like his mother.  
- His grades are good.  
But he missed some of his exams  
because he had to go to miluim.  
You know what miluim is?  
It's an Army service.  
- ...a few tips.  
- What can we do?  
- We live in a tough neighborhood.  
- To understand  
- what they are looking for...  
- But he's an excellent student.  
Don't worry, all his calls go through me.  
So don't use any of the old numbers.  
- Thank you, Norman.  
- Thank you.  
- Thank you.  
- Any time.

**ALL:**

Call me.  
(CROWD APPLAUDING)  
(SIGHS DEEPLY)  
(INDISTINCT CHATTER ON PA)  
Norman Oppenheimer.  
Nice to meet you.  
Alex Green.  
- Nice to meet you, too.  
- Yeah.  
So what brought you to the convention?  
I work in the legal department of the  
Israeli consulate in New York.  
- Really? No kidding.  
- Mmm.  
You're Israeli?

That's funny, you don't sound Israeli.

- I'm not.

- Oh.

Where is your family from?

Excuse me?

Where are you from? Where were you born?

How did you end up here? You know.

Um, I'm from Geneva. Originally.

Really? Geneva.

Any connection to Julian Green? From Basel?

No.

No? Well, he's a big supporter  
of the Israel Museum.

Could I introduce you to him some time?

You want to sit here?

If you want to? I mean, you got work to do,  
I'm not gonna bother you. I promise.

It's all right.

**NORMAN:**

What is it you actually deal with?

Like commerce agreements or...

That's a different department.

We're an arm of the Israeli Justice Ministry  
in the United States.

Oh. Okay, so if an Israeli criminal  
flees to the U.S.,

it's your job to bring him back?

- We would be involved in that, yeah.

- Yeah.

The same if an American criminal  
tries to hide out in Israel.

Yeah, that, too.

You must have some  
really interesting stories.

Like, you know, those Russian oligarchs.

They're wanted all over the world,  
but they're looking for asylum in Israel.

Can you give me the inside story  
on how that whole thing works?

Sorry.

Do you know Carol Raskin?

You know, I may be wrong about this,  
but I think she's actually the one who wrote

a lot of those international treaties  
they're talking about.

She's a very close friend of mine.

I'd be very happy to introduce you to her.

No, no, no. That's not necessary.

I wouldn't want to bother her.

You have a family? Kids?

- Family?

- I'm sorry. What?

Do you have a family? Kids?

A partner.

You're a lesbian?

- Yeah?

- (CHUCKLES) Yes. I am.

(LAUGHS)

That's great! Good for you. That's terrific.

- What is?

- No, it's just wonderful.

I love that, when people know what they want.

You know, and they just... (BLOWS)

No, it's a good thing.

I have a very close friend, a rabbi,  
professor Nathaniel Lewis,  
he teaches at JTS.

His daughter started a  
Jewish lesbian organization.

Abigail Lewis. Do you know her?

No.

No? No? She's a... You would love her.

She's a wonderful, wonderful person.

I'd be happy to put the two of you together.

Look, it's the third time in five minutes  
that you've tried to introduce me to someone.

Why are you trying to get me to meet people?

Do I look lonely?

Look, I'm sorry.

I didn't want to embarrass you.

If I did that, I apologize.

I appreciate you trying to help connect me.

It's just that I don't need,  
uh, connections now.

Okay. So what do you need?

- What do I need?

- Yeah.



I'm offering my services.  
What do you need? I'll help you get it.  
I need many things, but not  
necessarily things you can help me with.  
Try me.  
I need the satisfaction of knowing  
that I'm doing good in the world.  
(INHALES DEEPLY)  
That's a big one.  
You win.  
(SCOFFS)  
(CHUCKLES)  
What about you?  
Do you have family? Kids?  
Yeah, I have a daughter.  
- She just finished graduate school.  
- Oh.  
Yeah. Yeah, thank you.  
Yeah.  
Her mother died when she was three.  
Sorry to hear that.  
So you raised your daughter alone?  
I did the best I could, yeah.  
And why were you at the convention?  
I noticed you were speaking  
with the Prime Minister.  
You know him well?  
Yes. Yes. I do.  
Micha is a close friend.  
How did you meet him?  
(SIGHS)  
I bought him a pair of shoes.  
(SCOFFS) What?  
You bought him a pair of shoes?  
You never know.  
(SING-SONG) You never know, you never know.  
What do you mean  
you bought him a pair of shoes?  
(IN NORMAL VOICE) You never know.  
A pair of shoes.  
The most expensive shoes in all of New York,  
but the best investment I made my whole life.  
May I ask what you do for a living?  
Sure. I'm a businessman.

Oh. What sort of business?

Um, consulting. Mostly.

Who do you consult?

Well, businesses, organizations, individuals.

It varies, you know.

Sometimes I consult other consultants.

But do you have a specific area of expertise?

Can you explain to me

how your business works?

If it is not too complicated. I'm curious.

(INAUDIBLE)

(CAMERA CLICKS)

(LINE RINGING)

**NORMAN:**

Hi. It's Alex. From the train just now.

Alex. I was just getting into a cab.

Should I give you a ride? Where are you?

I'm still at Penn Station.

Are you on the street?

No. I'm still inside.

I just realized

you didn't have my telephone number.

So I just wanted you to have it.

(NORMAN BREATHING HEAVILY)

Norman, are you okay?

Yes, of course I am.

No. Everything is perfect.

Couldn't be better. No.

This whole evening has been like...

Been like floating on a cloud.

**WOMAN ON PA:**

please, Amtrak passengers?

All ticketed passengers

are required to have valid identification  
at all times.

Randomly selected passengers,  
their baggage, handbags...

(SIGHS)

Everybody, go home. Go to sleep.

The historical bond between  
the United States and Israel

has never been stronger, you can all relax.

At least till tomorrow morning. Right, Duby?  
If I have to shake one more hand tonight,  
my fingers will fall off.  
One more hand to shake, I'm afraid.  
Bruce Schwartz.  
Special Middle East Coordinator.  
It's good to finally meet in person,  
Prime Minister.  
We don't have to shake hands.  
You're not going to make me  
put on my shoes, are you?  
No. No. No. This is as informal as could be.  
Good. The formal me needs a rest.  
Bruce would like to go over some points  
before tomorrow's meeting with the President.  
Well, it's less about  
your meeting with the President  
and more about the statements  
you will be delivering  
elsewhere around town.  
Now, as someone who occupies  
a fairly tough job himself...

**ESHEL:**

Tell the President that  
I am here to say "yes" to peace.  
I'm sorry "state of peace",  
as we agreed to call it.  
I fully accept his vision.  
I understand it and I believe in it.  
No internal politics will change  
my commitment to the Wye document.  
This evening I had to, uh...  
How do you say, uh, mas sefataim?  
- To pay lip service.  
- Yeah, I had to pay lip service  
to a few organizations on a few minor issues,  
but I promise you, it has no substance.

**BRUCE:**

will be very...  
You know what I've found out  
in the last couple of weeks  
since I was elected?

- Maybe the President can identify with me.

- (CHUCKLING)

For the first time,  
I don't have political worries.  
Somehow, God put me in this job.  
It's not that I didn't work very hard  
to get here, I did,  
but hundreds of other potential leaders  
worked and campaigned just as hard as I did,  
and for some reason,  
I'm the one sitting in this chair today.  
The top spot.

I've reached the top of the ladder.

Why me and not someone else? (SCOFFS)

Who knows?

Believe me, I'm as surprised as anyone else.

But this is the interesting thing,  
instead of feeling the burden  
of that great responsibility,  
I'm feeling...

How do you say goral?

- Fate.

- Fate. I feel fate.

If God put me here,  
he must have had a good reason.

Now, I'm not free to run away from this job,  
but to be honest,  
no single human being can really claim  
to be big enough for this job either.

I would be very happy  
to go over our itinerary...

What is it that really worries the President?  
Tell me.

What doesn't he want me to say?

Well, you have been saying  
different things in different forums.

And I think we're just trying  
to get a better understanding  
of what is the singular message  
you wish to deliver.

Oh, the "singular message"?

(CHUCKLES)

You were there tonight, right?

Hanna? Hanna, how many

completely opposing organization leaders  
came up to me and said, "We're behind you"?

Fifty? 100?

Each with a completely different agenda.

There is no such thing as a singular message.

And anyone who tells you

he's got a singular message

is probably teaching at a university

or writing a blog.

- Okay, I didn't mean it that way, I'm sorry...

- I'll tell you what my singular message is.

I'm going to end this conflict.

How? I'm going to say "yes" to compromise.

To everybody!

Because the opposite of compromise

is not idealism.

The opposite of compromise is not integrity.

The opposite of compromise

is fanaticism and death.

Life is compromise.

I not only believe in that, that is who I am.

That is why I'm here, in this position.

(SIGHS)

If it works,

I will go down in history

as the leader who ended this epic conflict.

If I'm wrong, and my compromise

leads to another catastrophic bloody war,

I will blame God for giving me a role

I was clearly incapable of performing.

(DOOR CLOSES)

(EXHALES SHARPLY)

(INDISTINCT CHATTERING)

Oh, look who showed up.

Our savior has finally arrived.

Sorry I'm late.

No reason to kill me.

Can you get rid of the nuts, please?

The situation is very simple.

The National Council

has decided to sell the building.

To be practical, we need to raise

approximately \$14 million

to save us from the wrecking ball

and ensure our future here.  
Or we start wandering  
from one temporary arrangement to another  
which, in my humble opinion,  
would mean the end of this community.

**MAN:**

Okay. Well, all right, let's not despair.  
This is where our friend  
Norman Oppenheimer comes in.

Norman?

(LINE RINGING)

Norman, Philip tells me you can help me.  
You will have my best effort, yes.  
Here, talk to Bill.

- Norman, this is Bill.

- Is Jo still there? Can he hear me?

Jo had to step out.

- Let me tell you what we need.

- Okay.

Colleague of ours needs a friendly  
introduction at the State Department.

- State Department?

- Yes.

And if Eshel can help us with that,  
we'll see what we can do  
about your synagogue situation.

All right, I got it.

Hanna, Hanna, please,  
just give me a minute with him on the phone.  
One minute.

I'm sorry, Norman. The Prime Minister  
is not available to speak right now.

Look, Hanna, this is a special request.

The Prime Minister asked me  
to look into it, okay?

These are just very busy days for us.

Unfortunately, I can't be more specific,  
but I'm sure you understand.

I understand, of course I understand.

All right. All right, all right, all right.

Please tell the Prime Minister  
it would be great  
if we had a short conversation

about a certain individual  
who's on the board of the dean's advisory  
at Harvard Business School.

Okay, Norman. Thank you.

No, no. Thank you, Hanna.

Thank you very much.

You can go back to your  
very important work right now.

I know, I'm sorry for interrupting you.

And you're doing a great job.

I mean that, a really great job.

- Thanks.

- The prime minister appreciates it.

Just don't forget me.

(HANNA AND DUBY SPEAKING IN HEBREW)

**HANNA:**

**DUBY:**

No matter what.

If he gets obsessive...

...take his call once every few days  
so he doesn't get paranoid.

**HANNA:**

asked him for something?

Isn't Davidy applying to Harvard?

I don't care.

Don't worry about Norman.

In his head, he just had a conversation  
with the Prime Minister of Israel.

Yeah, I got a call  
with Eshel this evening, but,  
you know, I brought it up with his main man,  
Duby already.

I think it's going to be okay. He's...  
He's being very practical about things.

He says he can fix it,  
but he wants the exact information,  
so if you can send me an email  
with your colleague's name please...

No. No e-mails, Norman.

His name is Matthias Kone.

He is an official in the treasury department

in the Ivory Coast.  
Eshel's office will need to reach out to him.  
We are not involved.  
Rabbi! It's Norman.  
I know, I've been calling you all morning.  
Why don't you answer your phone?  
I'm answering now.  
Do you want to hear what I have to say?  
Yeah. You spoke to him? What did he say?  
Let's just say, get ready for a big surprise.  
How many zeros  
are at the end of this surprise?  
- Can you tell me that at least?  
- Come on.  
A considerable surprise. That's it.  
I gotta go, Rabbi.  
No, no, Norman, you realize  
how important this is, right?  
We are going to get kicked out of here.  
You need to give us a firm answer.  
No games, Norman.  
- Hold on. Hold...  
- No time for...  
I can't hear a word you're saying.  
Norman? Norman?  
God damn it!  
How is the rabbi  
connected to this again, Norman?  
Remind me. Why am I doing this?  
Do you want Rabbi Blumenthal  
to marry you or not?  
All you have to do is you pick up the phone,  
call one of your buddies at Harvard  
on behalf of the Prime Minister of Israel.  
Is that really so difficult for you?  
Don't belittle what I'm doing, okay?  
In the world of Harvard admissions,  
this is the biggest no-no in the book.  
It's like incest. It's taboo.  
That's funny, because Rabbi Blumenthal  
is going to think exactly the same thing  
when he finds out I'm asking him  
to marry a Cohen and a convert,  
who hasn't even officially converted.



(WHISPERS) Oh, fuck.

Jo, something very, very big is going on.

I can't be more specific than that,  
but if you saw the papers this morning,  
you're gonna have some idea  
what I'm talking about...

I'm not following you, Norman.

Did you speak to him or not?

No, but I'm going to read  
the latest message I got from Hanna.

Who is Hanna?

- (LINE RINGING)

- (CELL PHONE VIBRATING)

Hanna is Duby's assistant.

- **BILL:**

- Well, that's what I'm trying to explain.

(STUTTERING) Look, Eshel and Duby are now at  
the national security committee as we speak,  
but there's no way

that I'm going to be able to get to them.

Hanna, on the other hand,  
is just outside that closed door.

- She's gonna help us...

- Norman, cut the bullshit!

When you get Eshel on the phone  
then call me back when he says yes to you!

Until then don't waste my time!

Yeah, Jo, but this is time-sensitive.

Look, I've got to tell Rabbi Blumenthal  
that you're gonna give the money

because someone else  
is gonna buy that building...

Rabbi Blumenthal is not my fucking problem!

They're going to launch a war in Syria  
that's gonna turn into World War III!

I don't give a shit

who started World War III.

He's got a country to run. He's busy!

Yeah, well, so am I. Goodbye, Norman!

Fucking windbag.

Philip, it's a call, it's a call.

**BLUMENTHAL:**

returned my phone calls?

**PHILIP:**

Why do I get the feeling  
that nothing you tell me is real?

(HEAVY BREATHING)

(LINE RINGING)

(CELL PHONE VIBRATING)

(VIBRATING)

It's done. Eshel's son is on the list.

You don't want to know what this cost me,  
but he is on the list.

Now please, if I decide to marry a camel  
with three humps,

- this rabbi still better be there with his tallis.

- (PANTING)

Thank you, Philip.

You'll have your rabbi tomorrow.

**5:**

(EXHALES)

(SNIFFS)

(LINE RINGING)

(CELL PHONE VIBRATING)

(LINE CONTINUES RINGING)

I might have a donor who will match  
your pledges up to seven million.

In other words,

if you come up with seven million,

half of the amount, the building's yours.

I mean, ours.

Who's the donor?

(SIGHS) I'm sorry, I can't say.

He will remain anonymous.

Who donates \$7 million

and wants to stay anonymous?

- That doesn't make sense.

**- MAN 1:**

He's a modest man.

As long as he's good for it.

That's a legitimate question.

It's a lot of money,

we should know who the donor is.

**MAN 2:**

Is he sitting here right now in this room?  
What? Maybe this is  
a money laundering scheme.  
I have a feeling I know  
who we are talking about.  
Does his last name start with an R?  
Are we playing guessing games now?  
If he can say goodbye to \$7 million,  
why won't he just buy the whole thing?  
I mean, it's just a number to these people.  
- It's not real money.

**- MAN 3:**

**MAN 4:**

of millions, that's another story.

**BLUMENTHAL:**

This is a very generous gift.  
And it should motivate our entire community  
to become involved.  
Thanks to Norman here,  
we are only \$7 million away  
from finally owning our home.  
But we need some kind of letter.  
I mean, how do we even know  
- this guy exists?  
- A letter of intent.  
- With all due respect, okay?  
- We do need a letter.  
Some kind of written commitment...  
You can get us a letter, right?  
- A formal letter...  
- It should be notarized. Should be notarized.  
And the money should be in escrow.  
Okay. Escrow.

**BLUMENTHAL:**

you can't tell me who it is?  
I probably should know.  
I'd like to thank him.  
Just between you and me. Is it Arthur Taub?

(CHUCKLES)

He was very clear about remaining anonymous.

But, can you tell me why he is doing this?

He can afford it. He knows me.

I told him... I told him about the community,  
you know,

the history of the building, everything.

And why does he insist  
on remaining anonymous?

If people knew he did this kind of thing,  
there would be hundreds of other requests.

(STUTTERING) You know, this is not the usual  
type of charity that he gives to. This...

This is something he did especially for me.

He did it as a favor to me.

Well. It is a good thing.

So please thank him on behalf of all of us.

Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Not that raising the other half  
is going to be so easy.

But the challenge, it's good.

- We should all open up our hearts.

- Yeah.

And our wallets.

God knows there are some  
big wallets in this community.

And if there's any way  
that you think it's appropriate  
to honor this mysterious man, or woman,  
a dedication of some kind...

Or if there is something  
you would like me to do.

Yeah, well, now that you mention it,  
you know, the person

who introduced me to Mr. Anonymous  
is actually my nephew.

You know, he's a very,  
very successful young lawyer.

Maybe I mentioned him to you. Philip Cohen.

Yeah, he's getting...

He's engaged to a very, very sweet girl.

Mazel tov.

From a Korean background.

He might need

a little help with her conversion and officiating the wedding.

Philip Cohen?

If it were simple,  
he wouldn't need your help.

(SIGHS)

Have him give me a call.

I'll see what I can do.

Thank you, Rabbi.

Norman.

(SIGHS DEEPLY)

(SPEAKING HEBREW)

Norman called.

I should call him back.

He always helps  
that lump in my chest disappear.

**NAOMI:**

If anything, he should make it feel worse.

Why do you say that? He's a good friend.

...the most generous person I know.

(SCOFFS)

It's nave to call him "generous."

He is! He has a tremendous heart.

...always eager to help.

Not to say anything negative,

he's not your "friend."

He's someone you take advantage of  
when it's convenient.

I doubt he feels that way.

That's actually pretty insulting.

No. It's just the reality.

When you needed him in New York,  
you let him in.

Now that you don't, you ignore him.

(SIGHS)

Now you're making that lump feel worse.

You think I took advantage of him  
consciously?

Maybe not consciously.

I believe that you consider him a friend.

But the right thing to do now

...is not to take any more favors from him  
...or from any of the other Normans

in your life.

You know...

you didn't protest when Norman offered  
to connect us to that Harvard guy for Davidy.  
Right.

But I was uncomfortable with it...

But you went along even though  
you were "uncomfortable."

Honestly, I thought it was another  
of his empty promises

...and if that's the case, why make a fuss?  
Plus, you wanted Davidy to get into Harvard.  
...so you figured, it can't hurt.

And you let it slide.

- Right?

- No. Absolutely not.

I thought it definitely would hurt.

But I didn't want to hurt Norman's feelings.

I'm glad you didn't hurt his feelings.

That was very nice of you.

(CLICKS SWITCH)

"SOMETHING STINKS"

"ESHEL FACES POLITICAL RUIN  
OVER BRIBES INQUIRY"

"The speculation about Eshel's future  
has weakened him politically

"even as he undertakes delicate negotiations  
with Israel's neighbors."

Well, now...

Is this serious? Do we need to  
worry about our peace talks next week?

- **DUBY:**

- Well, can we help?

Maybe. Look, I don't know  
who this businessman is yet,  
but if he's an American citizen,  
he can't testify  
without your justice department  
being part of the procedure.

At the moment,  
this is just the press spreading rumors  
but let's make sure  
it doesn't spin out of control.

All right. Let me look into this.

Thank you. Thank you very much, Bruce.

(DUBY YELLS AND BANGS DESK)

(RON SPEAKING HEBREW)

The Knesset has seen  
politicians with no backbone.

That is not new.

We've seen opportunists  
distort the will of the voters.

This is also not new.

But never have we seen

...a man so morally bankrupt

...so spiritually empty

...so hedonistic

...selfish

...in a position to do so much damage

...as the man I'm pointing to right now.

(GAVEL POUNDING)

(SIGHS)

Do you know who he is,  
the New York businessman?

No. If I did, is there any way  
we could help Eshel?

Careful, Norman. Don't put your nose  
into this if you don't have to.

This kind of investigation  
brings out the worst in everyone.

So, what do you think? How bad is this?

Is this serious?

Oh, it's serious.

Bribery is tricky, especially in Israel.

We have the Mid-eastern mentality  
of giving baksheesh  
and cutting corners and a legal system  
run by tight-assed German yekkes.

If they can prove he accepted a gift,  
he's done. He could end up in jail.

Look, I gotta go.

Bye.

(EXHALES SHARPLY)

(CELL PHONE VIBRATING)

- (SCOFFS)

- (SPEAKING HEBREW)

No. He's the last thing I need today.

(LINE RINGING)

(LINE RINGING)

**ALEX:**

Alex. Alex Green?

It's Norman, from the train.

Norman Oppenheimer.

I've been meaning to call you.

How are you? How've you been?

Sorry. Sorry.

(CHUCKLES)

I can't... I can't talk to you right now.

Yes, you can. Come on down.

I'm just around the corner from you.

Did you find out who it is?

Better. I'm meeting the investigator  
who is in charge of the whole thing.

Just come on down, right now.

Give me five minutes...

- Norman, I can't...

- Bye.

Thanks for coming down, really.

I appreciate it.

You're acting like a maniac.

Look at you. Why are you getting involved?

This thing is bad for Israel, bad for America,  
bad for Jews, bad for everybody. Step away...

You're right, this is bad for everybody.

That's why I want to help.

How can you... How can you help?

This is a political war  
going on 7000 miles from here.

Look, Eshel's rivals  
have found this cockamamie story  
and they're going to use it to take him down.

There is nothing you can do about it.

Don't get involved. It is too big.

Just one thing, though. One thing.

Just hypothetically, look...

If this guy, this businessman,  
he comes to you for advice,  
he wants you to represent him,  
what are you going to tell him?

You want to approach him? That's a bad idea.



No! No, I'm just thinking maybe  
we can come up with an option for him  
that's not so harmful to Eshel.  
I'd throw him out of my office.  
That's what I'd do.  
I wouldn't want anything to do with him.  
He is a threat to a sitting prime minister.  
But even if it doesn't end up  
having any criminal implication...  
Okay? Apparently his dealings with Eshel  
are embarrassing enough  
so that his political rivals  
think they can use him to hurt Eshel.  
Eshel's people can't ignore that.  
They have too much to lose.  
They're going to strike back.  
Dig up everything they can find on this guy.  
The FBI will get involved...  
I mean, no matter how you look at it,  
this guy is fucked.  
And you want to avoid him like the plague.  
Look, I'm just asking if there's  
some legal way to defuse this whole thing?  
Okay, all right.  
Norman. Now you listen to me.  
Whoever this unnamed businessman is,  
he is in very serious trouble.  
And he needs to be very careful  
what he says now.  
And who he speaks to.  
Yeah, I just was asking, you know, if I'm  
meeting with the investigator of this suit  
and I find out who this guy is,  
I want to be able to offer him something.  
So, think creatively with me...  
I'm not sure I can offer him anything.  
This man needs a very good criminal lawyer.  
Don't be creative.  
And do not meet this investigator.  
Can you do that?  
(RON SPEAKING HEBREW)  
A man who isn't strong enough  
to say no to gifts  
...too weak to resist

the temptations of power  
...has taken us hostage  
...in his megalomaniacal peace adventure.  
He'll drive me crazy.  
He'll call every 3 minutes.  
Easier to just answer.  
Alright, but keep it short.  
Don't let him get involved.  
Before you say "no",  
just listen to what I have to say,  
because they're really  
going to want to hear this.  
I have a meeting with the woman  
who is in charge of  
this investigation that's going on right now.  
Her name is Alex Green.  
She agreed to have a meeting with me today.  
At 4 o'clock.  
And I'm going to try to get  
all the information I can out of her,  
but I was thinking maybe  
Duby would want to give me  
a briefing before the meeting...  
Norman, I don't think it's such a good idea  
for you to meet this woman.  
Please, they can use me any way they want.  
I'm... I'm like a puppet in their hands.  
I'm just here to help.  
And... Look, this is off the record,  
a friendly conversation,  
I have known Alex Green for years.  
- She is a wonderful person.  
- Norman...  
My wife used to babysit her.  
Hold on, just wait on the line.  
(RON SPEAKING HEBREW)  
We must vote against this dangerous agreement  
...masquerading as a peace treaty.  
- Norman...  
- Duby!  
Shut up, Norman.  
Shut up and listen to what I'm saying to you.  
I don't want you  
meeting anybody on our behalf.

Creating the impression that in some way  
you are connected to our office  
is a severe, punishable crime.  
Do you understand what I'm saying?  
Stop using the Prime Minister's name.  
Don't do it anymore. He's not your friend.  
And you don't have any relationship with him.  
I forbid you to meet with this woman.  
Do you understand what I'm saying?  
Answer me!

- Yes.

- Good.

(HANNA AND DUBY SPEAKING IN HEBREW)

**HANNA:**

to insult Norman.

**DUBY:**

Normans. They're a double-edged sword.  
If you keep them in the loop,  
you're more and more dependent on them  
until they own you.  
If you cut them off,  
they blackmail you forever.  
He's just trying to help.  
No more Norman.  
Find out who this businessman is.  
I need a name!  
In a day, every newspaper will want to know  
who this man is.  
We must be ready.  
"WHO IS HE?"  
I don't know.

**RON:**

every demand is not peace.  
It's DEFEAT.  
(ALL CLAMORING)  
(GAVEL POUNDING)

- **HANNA:**

- Hanna.

I'm calling for Duby.  
He shouldn't have spoken to you like that

and he asked me to apologize.

- He did?

- Yes.

He specifically asked me  
to call you and apologize.

Okay.

And don't worry. The whole thing  
with this unnamed businessman  
is going to disappear  
as soon as people find out who this guy is.

Thank God we're strong.

Nothing like this can really affect us.

Well, do you know who he is,  
this businessman?

All I can say is  
it is someone the Prime Minister  
doesn't even know personally,  
and someone he would never get close to.

The man's a clown,  
someone who makes up stories  
'cause he's got nothing better to do.

Just between you and me,  
this man is a known crook.

I can't tell you how relieved I am  
to hear you say this, Hanna.

Thank you.

And please tell Duby that  
I understand his situation completely.  
And if there's  
anything that he needs me to do,  
I'm there for him and for the Prime Minister.

- I will, Norman.

- Yeah. Thank you.

(HANNA AND DUBY SPEAKING IN HEBREW)

**HANNA:**

to the investigator?

**DUBY:**

he's got the inside scoop.  
And not only to her.  
He'll spread it all over.  
...exaggerating so that it sounds even worse.  
Excuse me. Excuse me.

Hey. Hey, you. You. Wait a minute.

Hey. You.

- Who, me?

- Yeah, you. What are you doing?

Why are you following me?

First of all, it's a pleasure to meet you.

I'm Srul Katz.

No, don't do that.

Excuse me, don't give it to me.

I don't want it. Just stop following me.

Why are you angry? I'm not following you.

It's sheer coincidence

I'm going the same way you're going.

You want me to apologize? I'm very sorry.

I'm truly sorry. I apologize. Huh?

But since...

Since we're already talking together,

if I could take

one more minute of your valuable time,

it's such a pleasure to meet you in person.

You're the Eshel guy, right? Oppenheimer.

Yeah? Maybe Zvi Fink, he mentioned me to you.

How do you know Zvi?

We're very close, me and Zvi.

My wife, she practically

grew up in his parents' house.

I'm gonna see him tonight, actually.

You know, you should come by and say hello.

He'd be...

Oi, he would be delighted to see you.

Are you all right?

You look a little shaken up. Huh?

How can I help you? Let me help you.

What do you need?

Tell me what you need.

- What do I need?

- Yes, please.

Could you give me the honor of helping you?

You're a choshuve' man.

Please, a very important guy.

Which... We're going to walk together.

Which way... Are you okay?

- I...

- Which way are you going?

- The Israeli consulate on Second Ave.  
- I'm going that way. Come on.  
- What, you just get bad news?  
- Yeah, I ate something.  
- You ate something?  
- I have to have a Benadryl.  
Sometimes, I get a little thing in my body...  
You get allergies?  
You know who it is, this...  
The New York businessman?  
If I knew, would I tell you?  
Well, no. 'Cause I heard a rumor but,  
you know, they swore me to secrecy.  
Yeah, yeah, don't believe the rumors.  
Well look, obviously you know more than I do,  
but whoever this guy is,  
one thing is for certain,  
it's a conspiracy. Yeah?  
They found a way to assassinate Eshel,  
without actually killing him.  
Don't bury Eshel yet. Trust me.  
He's not going anywhere.  
Why? What do you know?  
You know something.  
Eh, I can't go into details,  
but let's just say  
that this unnamed businessman...  
(SCOFFS)  
He's a nobody. He's a parasite.  
He's trying to  
extort money from the Prime Minister.  
He is the lowest of the low, this guy.  
He made up a story, you know.  
The whole thing is just a made-up thing.  
You know? It's... It's...  
Eshel doesn't even know the man.  
I think I'm okay from here on.  
So, thank you. I... I appreciate it.  
Are you sure?  
Because I'm happy to go in with you.  
No. I'm okay. I'm okay.  
You want I should wait out here?  
No, I... I'm good from here, I...  
But, thank you very much, I really...

I appreciate it.  
Norman, are you going to do me a favor?  
You're gonna call me  
if you need anything at all.  
You don't understand,  
it's going to be my pleasure to help you.

**NORMAN:**

I have an appointment with Alex Green.  
(DOOR BUZZES)  
(DRAWER CLANGS)  
Hey, you know what?  
I... I forgot something. I...  
I'm gonna be canceling this meeting, so...  
Look, I don't see my phone in there.  
Can you give me my phone?  
Can you give me my phone? Hello?  
Hello?  
Hello! Could you give me...  
- I don't see my phone!  
- (DOOR BUZZES)  
Could you... I'm not going in!  
So you might as well  
give me my phone back right now, please!

**ALEX:**

**NORMAN:**

They told me not to meet with you.

**ALEX:**

**NORMAN:**

I don't want to upset them.  
He'll know I was here. I don't...  
It was a mistake.  
No, please. I respect you very much.  
I'm sorry. I apologize.  
I shouldn't have called you.

**ALEX:**

I'm glad you're here.  
Norman, I want this conversation  
to be as straightforward

and honest as possible.

Do you think you can do that?

I spent the past few months  
trying to know more about you.

Where you come from, what you do,  
who your friends are, your family.

Your financial situation.

And what I've discovered is very strange.

Everybody seems to know who you are.

But nobody knows anything about you.

Even people

who say they have known you for years.

For instance, nobody knows where you live.

I was able to confirm that

you inherited a small amount of money

from your mother,

and that she left you

her rent-controlled apartment after she died.

But I wasn't able to

verify that you have a daughter

or that you were ever married.

Were you?

Do you have a daughter?

**NORMAN:**

gathering this information about me?

**ALEX:**

toward the Prime Minister of Israel

and have created

an intricate network of people

who benefit from the access you provide.

The relationship you've established

with the Prime Minister of Israel

is illegal.

I think it is corrupt.

(INAUDIBLE)

The unnamed New York businessman...

You are that man, Norman.

You are our witness.

(SCOFFS) No, I'm not.

We can subpoena you. You have no choice.

I'm going to go now. I'm sorry, but, I'm...

Wait. You need to hear what I have to say.



We're arranging  
for an early deposition for you tomorrow.  
I can't force you to stay here now.  
But here is your official notice.

(SIGHS)

If you testify and speak truthfully  
about everything that you've experienced,  
we can protect you from self-incrimination.  
It will be about him. Not about you.

But what is Eshel going to do?

What will he do to me?

They will try to  
persuade the court and the public  
that you are an unreliable witness.  
That will most likely be their defense.

(BREATHES DEEPLY)

I'm sorry.

(DUBY AND ESHEL SPEAKING IN HEBREW)

Right now...

...few people know who Norman Oppenheimer is.

We have an opportunity to brand him.

...to disqualify him as a witness

...portray him as a crook

...and paint the Prime Minister  
as an innocent victim.

How am I a victim?

We have all the power, Duby.

Never say that. It is not true.

You are Mr. Peace right now.

The press will be on your side.

Nobody wants to see our peace efforts  
go down the drain...

...because of some shady Jewish macher.

We need to portray him  
as a delusional name-dropper...

...who has been sucking your blood for years.

You need to say this clearly.

It's necessary. And it's true.

There must be another way.

Norman is a friend. A very generous friend.

I won't hurt him.

It is not personal.

It's bigger than  
the pain felt by one individual.

He's a threat to our national interests.  
Our personal feelings aside...  
...we must treat him like  
any other strategic threat.  
I took your advice.  
I didn't go to the meeting.  
I'm stepping back, like you said.  
I'm proud of you. Good move.  
Are you there, Norman?  
I'm here.  
You okay?  
I'm a good swimmer, Philip.  
Don't worry.  
As long as my head's above water...  
You are a good swimmer.  
(CHUCKLES) That's for sure.  
Look, I wish I could've  
been more helpful but...  
- You know, I...  
- You've been a very big help, Philip.  
Thank you. I appreciate it.  
I love you.  
Excuse me. Can I help you?  
Rabbi!  
You!  
(SCOFFS)  
What are you doing?  
I need to talk to you.  
No, you need to sign those escrow papers,  
that's what you need.  
Do you realize  
we're going to lose all our pledges?  
Not to mention this building, and my job!  
Norman, why haven't you  
returned my phone calls?  
Oh, fuck!  
- I'm working on it.  
- Fuck!  
I should've known not to trust you!  
What am I going to do now?  
Was there ever a donor? At any point?  
Yeah, but I thought I had someone.  
I still might have them, I just...  
It's not a sure thing.

Then why would you tell us you had a donor?

Why? Why would you do that?

(CELL PHONE RINGING)

(BREATHING HEAVILY)

(EXHALES)

(LINE RINGING)

Is that you, Norman?

Norman, are you there?

Is it safe for us to talk?

It probably isn't.

But there's something I need to tell you

before the lawyers

and the PR people take over.

And I'm speaking to you now as Micha Eshel,

not as the Prime Minister of Israel.

I'm sorry.

I'm sorry for what is about to happen to you.

In the next couple of days,

you're going to hear me say things

that I don't really believe.

Things about you.

And it will hurt. It will hurt both of us.

But the only reason

I will be saying these things

is because there are

hundreds of thousands of lives at stake.

The enemies of peace

have decided to step all over you

on their way to behead me.

It is a terrible price to pay.

But, Norman,

I can't let them win.

We can't let them win.

History is full of anonymous heroes, Norman.

The day I walk up to that podium

to sign the peace treaty,

you will see

a very specific expression on my face.

Know that I will be thinking of you...

Norman Oppenheimer.

Do you accept my apology, Norman?

Do you forgive me?

I will never betray you.

I love you, Norman.

Thank you.

**NORMAN:**

Oh...

Why do you do this?

Why can't anything ever be simple with you?

Who says simple is good?

I have a business opportunity for Jo.

He's going to like this.

No. No, you don't.

Whatever it is, it's too small.

Norman.

Wait.

I'm listening out of respect to my father.

You knew him, didn't you?

All right. What have you got?

If you knew with 100 percent certainty  
that the witness who is  
trying to topple down Prime Minister Eshel  
will never testify,  
would you know

how to make money with that information?

Well, it depends on

where and how I got that information  
and if I can verify it.

You realize

you're not a very reliable source, right?

You put me in a room with Jo Wilf.

I'll give him all the certainty he needs.

Think about it. Go ahead. Think about it.

Run the numbers, do the whole thing.

You have until 8:00 a.m. to call me back.

- After that, I'm going to Arthur Taub.

- (EXHALES SHARPLY)

What's your fee?

(EXHALES)

**BLUMENTHAL:**

At times like this,

when we're aware of our blessings,

we also know that the world

is in desperate need of repair.

Tradition explains

the act of breaking the glass

reminds us to turn our hearts  
towards the city of Jerusalem.  
In which the ultimate peace  
shall be granted to the world.

- Mazel tov!

- (APPLAUSE)

- Hi.

- Hi.

Thank you.

Welcome to Harvard, David Eshel.

Thank you. Happy to be here.

**REPORTER:**

the economic implications  
of this peace treaty this morning,  
one investor, Jo Wilf,  
is looking like a big winner.  
And when I say big winner, I mean, like,  
a-billion-dollars-overnight big winner.  
Wilf, at a series of what now  
seem like pretty prescient bets that...  
All the way back to the conversation  
we've been having  
about the possible impeachment  
of Israel's Prime Minister.  
Now, just when everyone thought  
the Prime Minister would get the boot,  
Wilf bets the opposite.  
He shorts natural gas  
and then he magically buys shares  
in both Sampton Energy  
and the Tel Aviv-based Barkin Group.  
Those are the companies  
building the Israel-Turkey pipeline.  
This deal is starting to look like  
the trade of the decade.  
Genius.

(SINGING IN HEBREW)

(CAMERAS CLICKING)

(SINGING CONTINUES)

(SOBBING)

(SINGING CONTINUES)