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The Lies of the Victors

By Ulrich Peltzer

THE LIES OF THE VICTORS

... Combat value upgrade.

Exactly.

Of course I'm still interested.

Send it to the editorial office close me.

I'll get it.

Yes, that'll be fine.

Thank you, Ms. Dietrich.

Mr. Reimann, Fabian Groys speaking.

Hello.

I wanted to ask as if it would be fine

if I still came by today?

... that peace in Afghanistan

will only have a chance if the Afghans...

Did I miss anything?

- Don't you wish!

Where are we?

- Twenty-two.

The strategy previously laid out

in this dossier is a viable option

for reaching the necessary

civilian consolidation.

Jochen Klett, the Kölner Stadtanzeiger.

What about the fine print?

You listed small arms as one-time supply,

e.g. for use in law enforcement,

yet I see the exact same sum next year.

Is this the notorious shortage?

That can be found

in the summarized statistics.

Sure, blame it on the Sumerians.

That's not what I meant.

I cannot answer that question at present.

Monia Karen, Berliner Zeitung.

Could you comment on the problems

with the heavily armored vehicles?

What problems?

Allegedly you had

to leave behind brand new vehicles.

Where did you get that idea?

I'm not aware of that.

I find that a bit surprising...

And my cell is off.

- And the battery?

Can't tae it out.

- Ah, that's right.

I'm glad that you came.

Don't be glad too soon.

O, what does that mean?

The file has resurfaced.

- With evidence of the slush fund?

The money that could heal the sic?

Yes, you could say so.

That's it.

That's the story.

Any more in it for me?

- First I'd have to see something.

When could you bring it?

In two days.

Same time, same place?

Yes.

Here, loo.

- Thans.

Morning.

Nothing else today?

Good morning.

What? Right now?

- Good morning.

So?

Good morning.

Did you meet the joer?

Yes.

- Well?

I'm getting close.

Who is it?

- I still won't tell you.

Have you spoen about money?

- He's dreaming of a sailboat.

Seriously, what does he want?

As usual. He was sipped over
and now he has his doubts.

What about the veterans?

- Nothing yet. - What?

I can't just contact a returnee.

Word will get around.

But I'm woring on it, of course.

Listen, Fabian, I don't now if you
heard, but we have a new trainee.

I promised her that...
Fabian, she is good.
- No.
We'll be doing Hamburg a favor.
Wait a second.
It's Hubach.
Can you come to my office? Thans.
You loo lie you're 57.
Listen, we'll need something soon.
I now.
- Otherwise, let it sit for a while.
If the story's legit, it'll hold.
- One more wee.
Nadja is interning
at the editorial office,
and you're on the agenda.
May I introduce you? Fabian. Nadja.
My pleasure.
I usually wor alone.
I see that.
- You can do a clean-up job.
I lied your Afghanistan diary.
Wasiristan. Than you.
You're only as good as your last story.
Here. I find this quite interesting.
See what happened there.
Out in Gelsenkirchen.
This here?
'Headless'?
How long do I have?
- Sooner the better.
Mr. Nailly.
You now that this law
is very important to us.
It's strategically important to Germany.
We are quite concerned that...
- Mr. Nailly, we have not yet ordered.
Are you not hungry at all?
- Yes, of course I am...
Excuse me.
Could we do it again?
I thin it would be better...
- Yes, what now?
Don't blurt it straight out.

Is the waiter ours?

Not yet.

Mr. Nailly, if you could ensure that the Minister sits here, next to you, and not in this confrontational position.

Yes, so... I'm just here with you.

Yes, on my good side.

Let's start over again.

Wal bac in with renewed energy, O?

This is a little too much.

Go ahead, Mr. Nailly...

- O, I'm going.

Now then, here I am, sitting with you.

Yes, on my good side.

Two words:

German economy.

May I interrupt?

What is it now?

Isn't this quite a charming place.

Do you come here often?

Lie that.

Or comment on his attire...

He was voted best dressed in a tie.

- In 200\$ and 9.

Indeed. He appreciates fine suits.

- O, nice suit...

It would help if you could deal with the waiter.

Male or female?

- Male.

Nice suit. Charming place.

- Than you.

Excellent.

I'm always dragged to these pseudo-modern class cubes.

And then, come straight to the point.

Minister...

We have nothing to hide.

I would lie to interest you in a project that affects all of us.

Minister, we have nothing to hide.

I would lie to...

'l would lie
to interest you in a project#
Minister, l would lie
to interest you...
Not so serious. Loosen up a bit.
Minister, l would lie to interest you
in a project that affects all of us.
Completely loose.
l've been doing this for 30 years!
l don't want to listen to this shit!
Didn't thin
you'd see me again so soon.
Always a welcome sight.
You came over the tracs?
- l couldn't resist.
The tracs are onlyfor emergencies.
You now that!
Onlyfor emergencies!
How are you?
Here to play?
Gentlemen.
Myfriend Fabian will roll the dice.
Is that O?
We play on, gentlemen.
Doesn't loo so good for you.
Thans.
Just what l wanted to hear.
l don't now if l can help your luc.
That doesn't matter.
- Doesn't matter.
Yes.
Where are we going?
- Anywhere.
l'm out of money.
- l now.

AUTO PAWN SHOP:

lt's O.
One wee. Ten percent.
Excuse me?
Since when is it 10 percent?
Last time it was \$.
Loo for a new car.
Put it next to the SE.

Wait a sec. Last time it was \$.

Do you want the money or not?

Careful with the clutch, O?

He ruins my car everytime.

Good evening, Minister.

Charming.

- Have you never been here?

I'm always dragged to these
pseudo-modern class cubes.

I know what you mean.

Here I am, sitting with you.

On my good side.

May I offer you the menu?

You are new here, right?

- Yes.

Now I'm...

No offence...

Is Heie here?

I can as.

Something wrong?

- I'm conservative, as you are aware.

We'll let Heie recommend something.

Leaders are needed in everyjungle.

Now you are getting to the point.

You want to be my Fhrer?

Perhaps it will suffice,

to make a couple of notes on the map.

Heie.

- Mr. Dellbrc.

Surprise me.

You'll see.

Your suit...

Get to the point.

You know what we need.

I don't believe it will come
to an actual debate, if you as me.

We would rather

not leave that to chance.

Up till now, every harmonization

has been waived through,

since the wording is so complicated.

Cheers.

You read the report?

- Yes.

At times it seems
that you are discussing a first-aid it,
while all around
evermhing blows up in our face.
Spare me your metaphors of war.
It's true.
Evermhing is blowing up in our faces.
The Chinese don't care.
They don't just buy up the maret...
You now that! They are starving us
by limiting raw materials.
But it cannot mean
that we cut down on wor safety...
A bit more leeway.
Dellbrc.
You can count on me.
But l do not feel responsible
for the opposition.
It's enough if you tae care
of your own people.
l am satisfied if nothing more
is added to the blaclist.
Especially Substance Group B
has to remain untouched.
B?
- B.
l see that as an opportunity.
Adopting the EU directive...
... the 'EU-harmonization'.
The German chemical industry
has been patronized long enough.
Absolutely.
It's time.
Time for what?
- The soup.
Than you, Heie.
Mr. Dellbrc.
Champagne for the boar
before slaughter!
Jaali.
You have my money!
Give it to me!
O...
Double or nothing?

Another time.

He's chicening out.

- I just don't want to. You little pric.

Stop it!

Calm down, it's enough!

O, enough!

Enough, I say!

Your vet's name is Thomas Rangel.

His age in the paper was incorrect.

Born in 69 in Walsum, that is...

- Duisburg.

Was last employed at Kuros,
a toxic waste plant.

What was he doing in the lion cage?

- Apparently an animal lover.

He was voluntarily

discharged from the army, early...

... had three months left

until he was out.

Just 3?

How do you now?

I spoke with a journalist.

He seemed credible.

The guy with the wrong age?

- Yes.

Very good.

What did he do in the army?

He was apparently a Company Sergeant,
Pioneer, went to Afghanistan in 2004.

And why did he leave?

Don't know.

But he began immediately at the dump.

O, maybe posttraumatic stress disorder?

- Not sure.

I wanted to call the plant.

- Way too early for that.

I already called.

Just left a message.

And you said, you work for 'Die Woche'?

- Stupid, huh?

Have you been to records already?

- Yes, of course.

Go see Gnther.

Ask him to check on the company

and on the guy himself.
Maybe he was nuts
and didn't leave voluntarily.
Afghanistan?
That'd really be something.
If our aim is to remain
an innocent society,
and as a country dependent on resources
and raw materials we have no other option,
we must be willing
to take certain, calculated risks,
I am concerned that this willingness
is lacking more and more,
due to an esoteric minority
intent on derailing bold, new ideas
in their desire for absolute security,
Looks good.
How many do we have?
- Throughout the factions: 200, 220.
Should be enough.
The main focus should now be on defense.
Let sleeping dogs lie.
- The calm before the storm.
You think so?
- It's just a feeling.
The amending law in the course
of the EU's long overdue harmonization
has to be seen as an opportunity,,,
Mrs. Nadja, I'll just rely
on your e-mail,
since I never reach you,
you Porsche driver,
Nothing new on the army,
but I found out something else:
I also sent you an e-mail.
Germany is the world's largest importer
of toxic waste.
Many of these imports are declared
incorrectly, for a variety of reasons.
Partly to save money, and partly to...
... what do you say?
Avoid regulations.
The website for the toxic waste plant...
- where Rangel worked -

... is not at all specific,
but they definitely deal
with toxic waste from other countries.
I listened to a lecture,
A lot of substances could
have detrimental psychological effects,
I have a list of over
200 different substances
that are dangerous,
especially in a psychological way,
Alright that's it, bye,
I assume you're lying there on purpose?

- Yes.

Spinal disc?

- Yes.

Now there's a headline:

'Germany flat on its back'

'Back pain - a national ailment'

Compassionate journalism.

My story's doing

about as well as your back.

You met him?

Stood me up.

- Damn it.

Hamburg was hot on that story.

- What did you tell them?

That the story is in the making
and what I think of you.

I didn't mention your escapades.

- Which escapades?

Accounting told me you wanted an advance.

Did you hear about

the guy in the lion cage...

Are you in debt again?

Apparently, he lost his mind at work.

- I used you something.

Yes.

- Yes, what?

I gambled.

Didn't we agree that you'd quit?

You never learn, do you?

How much?

Five.

You have some nerve, Fabian.

Paper is under pressure.
We aren't in the 90s anymore.
Go on.
Imagine that you work with substances.
No one tells you how dangerous they are.
And everything inside you changes.
You aren't talking
about blood alcohol, are you?
Seriously, you become
such an animal lover
that you can talk to lions.
Could you be more specific?
In Gelsenkirchen there is a toxic
waste plant, 'Kuros# Rangel' worked there.
This isn't an isolated incident?
I'm not sure yet.
- Fabian, it's a bit flimsy.
What about you continuing on your own?

Quick fact check:

- For you.
And who gave you the story?
- The tabloid.
Wrong.
- Oh, you.
You gave me the newspaper.
So you think it's your story now?
You can go back to the Arts Section.
- Bullshit!
Your mail read like a handover.
That wasn't my intent.
First we speak to the widow.
We already have
a call scheduled this afternoon.
I spoke to a former colleague of mine
at the 'Woche' yesterday.
We talked about Groys.
I said I was worried about the kid,
about his gambling and all.
He told me Fabian was working
on a story about the army
that fizzled out,
because his informant let him down.
What kind of army story?

- He didn't say.
But he thought it was pretty big.
His disappointment was huge.
With the staff reduced to the bone
every setback hurts.
Maybe he'll let us ride his hobbyhorse.
Not a bad idea...
... to get in touch with the informant.
Can we reach him?
With technical support.

- O.
Groys shoots out data, doesn't
encrypt well, his backups are open.
We'll find a way.
But you haven't worked on it yet.
Was just an experiment.
And the girl?
An intern, unimportant.

- I wouldn't say that.
She was by herself for a while.
She called the toxic waste plant.
Groys seems to have just gotten on board.
She may be able to influence him.
We've been Facebook friends
since yesterday.
Just lie that?
Nowadays a 12-year-old
can hack into Facebook.
Hey.
I'd hoped you wouldn't come.

- Why?
I've got a good offer for you.
- Forget it.
What's that?
Your greasy bills again...
- There's nothing wrong with money.
The machine won't take them.
Have you ever driven a Porsche?
Give me the keys.
Where are we going?
- Gelsenkirchen.
What's he like?
Hiacho asshole,
O, what do we now?

I can tell you what I know.
It seems like Rangel
was killed in Afghanistan.
How do you figure?
- You said he only had three months to go.
Yes.
Any normal soldier would have
stuck it out for the money, right?
You don't believe he was poisoned?
Would have been the better story.
I wanted to call the pathologist.
What should I say?
- That we're coming.
I don't have much time.
- Then let's get right to it.
Alright.
Thomas Rangel.
You examined him, correct?
Yes.
And what did you find?
Even if you are from the 'Woche',
I will not break my oath.
Nobody asked you to.
Don't try and act innocent.
Think about it logically.
We performed
a standard toxicological analysis.
I didn't tell you any secrets.
And the police
have closed the investigation.
Nothing unusual?
Professionally speaking,
it was quite interesting,
because the wound worked precisely.
Was it the cause of death?
Difficult to determine
with multiple injuries.
Was he on drugs?
It's on record that he had a history
of psychiatric treatment.
Where?
- You're with the press.
Yes, but you saw it in the hospital file.
In a neuropathological sense,

it's hard to say what is normal.
Of course, not everyone
jumps into a lion cage.
Yes, that's true.
Did you find anytoxic substances?
- We test for evermhing in such cases.
Too bad you are throwing us out.
We came all the wayfrom Berlin.
Halmer said
we could spea openly with you...
Yes, Justus Halmer.
l thought you new him.
How do you now Justus Halmer?
l met him in Afghanistan.
Nevermind.
Why didn't you saythat right away?
How is he?
So-so.
l heard about his meltdown.
He was never a diplomat.
It can't be easy if you have
one of your own on the table.
Yes, that's true.
But the police closed the case,
However not because of my report.
You found something?
- No, but l recommended further tests.
That weren't carried out?
- It upset me.
l've already said too much.
Why were no further tests conducted?
- Too costly. l have to go now.
One last thing.
The tests that weren't carried out,
could they still be conducted?
lf he is exhumed, yes.
Car is over there.
We won't mae it now.
No problem.
Runs every hour.
Gelsenirchen isn't that small.
The factory alone is massive.
It is pretty big.
We now have motor scooters.

The building is 450 meters long.
The largest in Gelsenkirchen.
What do you do there?
- Recycling. Electronic waste, etc.
Is that dangerous?
Dangerous?
There are huge machines.
But as long as you don't fall in...
Do you handle heavy metals
and things like that?
Heavy metals are everywhere.
Your cell phone has heavy metals, too.
We do the shredding
and over there it is melted down...
Have you ever done that?
For the first two years I was there.
Then my nose started protesting,
the mucous membrane.
Aren't there any protective masks?
Look over there.
The stadium.
Hey, you're from the press!
Get out, both of you!
A word on Rangel?
He stayed in the smelting plant.
- And no one lasts long there?
Great!
Excellent job.
What should I have done?
Let him speak first.
- You are such an asshole.
Yes, but an asshole who's right.
Why don't you help me then?
You are the super pro.
Hey, that was your show!
How about a drink?
- Not with you.
Good night.
Night.
Well?
I'm watching wrestling.
Yuck, it's so disgusting what they do.
That's a pin.
Just part of the repertoire.

But it's not real, is it?
- It's real wrestling.
You now what I mean.
See that guy on the right
next to the ring?
That's the storyliner.
He comes up with the story.
Really?
Even if you know all the tricks,
you fall for it every time,
On the phone you're actually kind of nice.
Only on the phone?
So Porsche driver, I need some sleep,
This is her father.
There.
Excuse me, I'm looking for Ms. Rangel.
At the plus-sizes.
- Than you.
You don't need a plus size.
- Ms. Rangel?
We spoke on the phone.
Come with me,
I'll show you something else.
I can't speak with you.
It's for my mother.
What size?
- XL.
No one has to now.
I need the money. They aren't joining.
- The toxic waste plant?
They told you to keep quiet?
Please leave.
Petra, could you take over, please?
What exactly are you looking for?
- I actually have what I need.
RECYCLING DIAGRAM
COMMERCIAL REGISTER
Do you have a minute?
I'm searching for Eckhard Lase.
Eckhard asked,
Who's that?
Apparently the CEO
of a T.T. holding company
or perhaps of Rheingold GmbH.

'L' as in Ludwig. 'A' as in Anton.

'S' as in Samuel.

Or Siegfried, if you lie,
as a Wagner fan... 'K' and 'E.'
O, thans.

It's about a 'T.T. Holding'.
Does that mean anything to you?
Located in Gelsenkirchen.

May I?

No, it's a large business.
Officially, they own Kuros.
Recycling.

And I can see it just lie that?
Thans.

Let me get right back to you, O?
Thans.

He is apparently
no longer CEO at Rheingold.
Or what was it?

T.T. Holding?

So?

He's dedicated himself
to his hobbies.

What prefix is that?
- Thailand.

Fabian Groys, from the 'Woche'.

Am I speaking with Mr. Albers?

Great.

I just have a quick question.

I'm a bit confused.

At first I thought the company
was called Rheingold GmbH,
but in other contexts
all I see is Relca-tec and Kur...

You don't now...

What's funny is that the official records
always state the same company as owner.

T.T. Holding.

The company really did
keep changing its name.

From '83 to '93 it was 'Clear-Tec'

then 'Relca-Tec'

in 2001 it was briefly
'Rheingold Recycling'.

This Holding TT,
T period T?
No idea.
That is an abbreviation.
What for?
- How should I now?
'Total Tricsters'?
- Sure.
You'll have to give me some more.
If I find anything, I'll let you know.
Thans.
Here...
Bythe way, is your email working?
My computer is really weird.
System Error 2369\$ or something.
You could try asking Robbie.
So let's assume that this guy Rangel
was poisoned at work,
went crazy and jumped in the lion's cage.
What time span are we talking about?
- Hard to say.
The one study said that
psychogenic materials take effect slowly.
Years...?
O, Rangel was there since 2006,
right after getting out of the army.
The guy in the car said
he stayed in the smelting plant.
That's seven years.
The pathologist also said
something was strange.
He didn't say that.
One way or the other,
that's not a story yet.
And what is T.T. Holding?
- I don't now.
I also wanted to say...
For the past few days some guy
has been sending me anonymous letters.
Who writes letters nowadays?
50 and older.
Turmstra Re, U9...
- He says he's got something for us.
He wants to meet in the subway?

At first, I just thought he was crazy.

How does he now

we are looking into Rangel?

Exactly.

So tell me,

do you realize what is at stake here?

Are you aware?

Last year we had

a supply gap of 12,000 tons,

scandium and lanthanum.

Do you know what that means

in jobs, total assets and value added?

Are you aware how that affects industry?

We give you a decent salary?

Definitely.

- Yes, I...

The only thing you must do is ensure
that the bill goes through as planned

without anyone from the 'Woche'

snooping around in Gelsenkirchen!

Just a second, may I interrupt?

- Yes, please!

The fact that we're able to inform you
shows that we are in control.

Just imagine if we didn't know about it.

As soon as anything shows up

in the 'Woche' it's too late.

That someone jumped

into a lion's cage is not our fault.

Have a nice day.

- You, too, goodbye.

What's the matter?

That was him.

And?

And?

What is that, USB 2.0?

No, maybe.

But it does find the hard drive.

I'll try it on the old machine.

The amount of time we spend

just sit waiting in front of a computer.

Years.

Naed, right...?

Excuse me?

- How do you take your coffee?
Not completely needed.
Anything coming?
- Wait...
Hey there.
It's a hospital file.
From whom?
- All the names are blaced out.
Loo here.
'Insufficient work safety.
High risk of critical health impairments#
Rheingold.
- The Rheingold group. Bingo.
Where is it from?
From someone that is really upset.
I thought of you immediately.
Certainly.
Tuesday or Thursday?
We have a small problem.
Just a moment please.
If it's only small then it can wait.
- Then maybe it's not so small.
Can I call you back in 10 minutes?
Thanks. Bye.
Groys was given documents.
What kind of documents?
Connected to Gelsenkirchen.
And you think
that is a small problem, Mr. Böhler?
The files are not yet on his computer.
- But we have our computer genius.
I thought so too.
But the computer isn't online. Not yet.
I want to know
what they have, by tomorrow.
How should I...?
- No. Today.
I don't really care how you do it.
Just inform me, even if it's 2 a.m.
Is that clear?
Yes. Perfectly clear.
So?
Nothing yet.
O.

If the computer can't go online,
we'll have to go to the computer.

Alright...

What's that supposed to mean?

That I'll be right bac.

You really want to intervene physically?

Yes.

What does she say?

- She doesn't want to now.

Mr. Bhlér?

- Not now.

Tomorrow.

I read it.

- There are still some holes.

Just a few.

- Listen, you wanted a report.

Where did this mysterious file come from?

Former staff member...

- Department of the Environment.

Anonymous?

They found many cases of negligence in the
handling of certain toxic substances.

I keep seeing the name Rheingold.

- That's what they used to be called.

How did the Department come up with this?

There were several

written medical reports,

blood tests, doctor's certificates...

The file is incomplete.

- That's what I was getting at.

Page 1 is missing.

We can't connect it to any name.

- Not yet.

Where was I?

- Blood tests.

The blood values are typical
of metal poisoning.

But the dump was never shut down.

Someone in the Department
must have warned them.

That went on for 4 years.

After the elections the case was closed.

There's no proof of the connection.

We're working on it...

- That's the wrong lead.
This guy is frustrated,
this pencil pusher in the Department.
He wants excitement.
Spy games in the subway.
Fantastic!
He should come out and tal.
What does he want?
That we go public.
It doesn't make sense.
Maybe this Rangel guy
was crazy beforehand?
Is that even his file?
- We're following this lead...
How reassuring.
I see potential.
My grandmother has potential.
Are we going to put up with this?
- No!
What do we do?
- Go to the competitors.
Excellent idea.
By the way, I googled you.
I wanted to know who I'm working with.
Why didn't you just ask me?
Needed an independent source.
- Sure.
I found almost nothing.
Something's not quite right.
With me or with Google?
Seriously, what do you want to know?
You'll answer every question?
- Just as.
Alcohol always makes me so 'nice#
That's the problem.
You now, Fabian,
you just don't get it.
Are you sure
you activated the right computer?
It was the only old machine.
You did it like we said?
Wait.
One moment.
You now what heparnization is?

- No.
No.
- Didn't have Gree at school?
No.
German first name.
Five letters. First letter W.
Walter.
Why a German first name?
Fine, just a first name.
Walter.
Oh, God.
My head is illing me.
Hey relax, you really weren't that 'nice#
Walter Badin.
Where can we find him?
Wait a sec.
Walter has six letters.
What about Werner?
Wassili Badin?
Wassili also has six. Or seven.
- O, W. Badin.
Isn't that enough,
to find out where he lives?
We have the doctor's address.
And where?
- KirchstraRe, Gelsenirchen.
He wouldn't drive 600 miles
for an examination.
Maybe Walter...
- Wolfie.
... Ieft behind some ind of trail.
O, Mr. Bodin.
Readyfor surgery?
It will hurt a little.
Loo what l've found.
l must have overloood it last time.
lt's just a picture...
Thans.
You have to be idding.
Than you.
They were in the same company
together, Rangel and Bodin.
When was the picture taen?
- October 2004.

Rangel
and Bodin.
They new each other from the army.
Wait. 3rd battalion,
7th Company.
I now someone who was
an army engineer in Afghanistan.
He's no longer serving,
but neither are they.
I'll deal with Bodin.
- Where could he be?
I know him. I know him.
That's Kalle. 'The cunt'.
Do you know that one there, Rangel?
Everyone know him.
Why?
Because he was a bit screwy.
Screwy?
He wasn't in my platoon.
Just what we heard.
You heard that he was screwy?
Was he being treated?
Don't know anything about that.
He was just a bit crazy.
What does that mean exactly?
Be specific, come on.
He put a goat's head
in his neighbor's sleeping bag.
Made a huge mess.
- Sounds like standard soldier stuff.
Where was that?
In some Russian barracks from the 50s.
A real dump.
They said it was temporary,
but we stayed for 3 years.
Where was that exactly?
Where?
Mazar-e Sharif.
Who knows what they dumped there!
When it rained we had oil in the latrine.
Did you file a complaint?
- Sure, but nothing happened.
And the ground?
- They dumped something.

Did you happen to hear about Rangel?

How he died?

Yeah. Crazy.

Did any of the others go nuts?

Not lie that.

Tae a loo here.

Bodin.

Bodin?

I can't remember him.

Who took the picture?

Someone from the press corps?

No clue.

Hello.

I have some news.

- I'll just dry my hair.

So I met with that soldier...

That's enough. Now listen...

- I'll put something on.

Do you now what he told me?

Why don't you ever

answer the phone when I call you?

Did you miss me?

Bodin is dead.

- What?

He committed suicide, too.

I spoke with his aunt.

Did you call me?

You are such an asshole.

Do we now where this aunt lives?

- Nursing home.

And he doesn't have any...

... any other relatives?

Or a wife?

The aunt mentioned a girlfriend,
who wasn't at the funeral.

Did she mention any names?

Stefanie Kodolsi.

And now?

Ms. Kodolsi.

He was disposed of there.

At the toxic waste plant.

Just like the other one.

Rangel?

Could you describe to me

how he changed after Afghanistan?
He came bac
and he was shut off.
You hear stories
but he started doing stran'ge things.
Pictures
manically cutting up pictures.
Things lie that.
And the job at Kuros...
They got it for him.
'They' as in the army?
He also had...
... anxiety attacs.
Screamed lie the dicens.
That was around six months
after he came bac.
But bythat time he was
already woring at Kuros?
Yes.
At first all they did
was twiddle thumbs.
They were under observation.
And why did he send anonymous letters
to the Department of the Environment?
To denounce the toxic waste plant?
That's the first l've heard of it.
He sent medical files, blood test results.
Pages of them.
He mailed lots of things.
He wrote the UN, the World Health...
- W.H.O.
He just went crazy.
You have an envelope in your box.
You call Groys, meet with him
at your normal meeting place.
Insist that you want money.
You tae his envelope, and he taes yours.
You do not count the money, understand?
lf we are lucy, he'll tae the bait.
'Usually media exposure is the best thing
that could happen to a zoo.
But there's no baby polar bear
maing headlines at the Gelsenirchen Zoo.
It's a human. Thomas Rangel.

Army veteran. Recycling plant worker.'

We need to give it

a bit more 'Woche' style.

What did I write?

'Thomas Rangel had no intention of going out quietly on his final visit to the zoo.

The army vet was a regular at the zoo, especially attracted to the big cats.'

What was that?

'Going out quietly'?

I sent it to you.

Don't write it down.

'But on this day, Rangel doesn't come to see the new Bengal tiger.

He's interested in another sensation.'

You'll probably thin

the next bit is too artificial.

'In a horrendous way, this account matches the desperation of his action, because Rangel throws himself in to be devoured by the lion...'

I dressed it up a bit with details:

'At 10:

the guard rail

to the lion cage

that holds the 12-year-old male Kimba.

It's right before feeding time.

It only takes a few seconds before the

550-pound beast pounces on the intruder.

With a single bite

he severs Rangel's throat...'

Just a second, windpipe is better.

A bit more visceral.

'After the shocked caretakers

force Kimba back into his cage,

only a tattered corpse remains.'

Why are you laughing?

- It's a bit sensational.

Of course, we're at the 'Woche'.

Well, you should now.

'Only a tattered corpse remains.'

Can you continue?

'No matter what drove the man to leap,

one thing can be said with certainty:
Rangel had no interest in a quiet death.
He wanted a bang.''
'Bang' won't do.
We have that at the beginning:
'Interested in a new sensation.'
Change it.

O, continue:

commit such a desperate act?
To understand his motives, we have to
travel far bac, to Afghanistan, in 2004.
He arrives as a soldier
in Mazar-e Sharif in the north.
The conditions are miserable, every rain
floods the latrines with waste oil,
and hazardous chemicals,
the soldiers call it 'Dragon Blood.''
See, you have to tell a story.
'Rangel is a hard case. He is slapped
with extra cleaning duties regularly.
After one of his latrine shifts, he has
headaches, nausea and blurred vision.
He twice files for a transfer
and both times he's denied.
His complaints increase
in intensityto the point...'
'He is examined in Germany while on leave.
He doesn't tell his superiors
in fear of reprisals.'
'In such contexts, conflict specialists
spea of lightning rods in male societies,
in which fear has no outlet.'
That's good.
'This year Rangel attracts a lot of
electricity, dangerous wees are afoot...'
It's great...
- ''... for the army.'
Nadja, come here please.
Let me introduce you
to Hans-Jrg Gassen,
he's here to answer any legal questions.
Gnther, from records, you've met already.
Fabian, let me give you a big hug.

I hope you're as flexible
as you once were.
Have a seat.
I'll stand if it's O.
We've read it a couple of times,
Hans-Jrg and Gnther have too.
And in fine companytradition, we'll now
raise questions and voice doubts.
First let me say, great wor.
Strong piece.
I wouldn't have thought that last wee.
Would you lie to start?
Sure. Names.
I have a problem with using full names.
They are deceased,
we cannot ask them for permission.
There isn't any written consent from the
next of kin, and it'd be doubtful anyway.
Rangel's name has been all over the place,
but I would still recommend
using first names only.
Not naming Rangel would be academic.
And Bodin's name is too important.
I also think that naming Rangel is fine.
Bodin on the other hand...
Gnther?
I couldn't find anything
about this Ms. Kodolsi.
At the very least, she's not registered.
That was Bodin's girlfriend, right?
- Yeah, she called us here.
I also couldn't reach her by phone.
So I have to trust you two,
which I don't like doing.
I'll verify it.
The other thing is the numbers you named
about the Afghanistan deployment.
I'm referring to line 33.
Where did you get those?
They do not match the official numbers.
That's the joer.
We got the list from him.
He let us buy it off him.
So, you do not have any official sources?

No, it's deep background.
In this case,
we can't present it as a fact.

What about:

You guys have to do some more digging.
I'm trying to find
the central thesis of the article.
The army puts pressure
on disabled soldiers
to leave willingly and in good health
against their better judgment.
Back home, they find them a lousy job
and no longer take care of them.
Oh, pretty scandalous so far.
But I am missing a core statement
why they do that.
Is it really just for the numbers?
Is it cheaper?
And the toxic waste plant?
An isolated incident or a plan?
With the article the way it is now
we'd be taking a major risk.
The two paragraphs
on Afghanistan and suicide
suggest a connection,
which we cannot prove.
A slight insinuation is OK.
We do mention later
that one of them has a medical history.
What I find strange is the relative
importance placed on the plant.
The story is about the army
and their cover-up practices.
The toxic waste plant is then
of peripheral interest.
Plus, we now how sensitive
the industry can be.
Should I stop writing then?
- I'd hate to lose paragraphs 3 and 4.
You mean those two, right?
- Yes.
Primarily because they
represent the basis of facts.

The entire story is built upon it.

- I agree:

For the military angle,
that's only the example.

Maybe it's enough for an opener.

Fabian, are we on the safe side?

Absolutely.

Then I would suggest

you polish up the story a bit,

reduce the landfill part

and then we'll have a nice cover.

Are you serious?

Did you just say the cover?

Yes.

2.1, You can't say that,

According to our information,

it's accurate.

We don't have to,

We don't want to comment,

And point 2.2?

It's true that Thomas Rangel left the

service in 2006 for personal reasons,

And the posttraumatic stress disorder?

A clear no, nor true,

DEATH IN INSTALLMENTS

WITH HELP OF A SLUSH FUND

TRAUMATIZED SOLDIERS ARE PRESSURED

TO 'VOLUNTARILY' DISCHARGE

FROM THE MILITARY.

THE ARMY DENIES THE ALLEGATIONS.

It feels good to now,

what the 'Woche' is doing, isn't it?

Let's see.

Maybe we're named as authors.

My God, have you heard?

'That's Berlin', she said:

'Low rent eternity and marble plastics.'

Cheers!

Shall we leave?

Before you start crying...

You don't want to stay?

I have to...

... get up early tomorrow?

I have to go to Hamburg
for a job interview.
Wish me luc.
Good luc.
Wait.
I know her.
Kodolsi.
Not blond today.
What are you doing here?
'Patsy'.
That's the name of the character.
Why haven't you returned my calls?
None of your business.
You didn't even know Bodin, did you?
You need to leave.
Someone hired you.
You didn't even know him.
I have to go.
You won't be doing any acting
with a black eye.
There is make-up for that.
Who?
I know it would get out.
Please don't tell my agent.
- Fuck your agent. I want to know who.
Tell me.
Now! Who?
I really don't know.
You're hurting me!
Who is 'X'?
None of your fucking business.
They were all over the place.
I made a backup.
Don't ever use that on a computer
with an internet connection, O?
Buy an obsolete model
if you still need the info.
Who does such a thing? The NSA?
They were incredibly clever.
I have never seen anything like it.
Did she tell you that?
I had a missed call from her number.
When I called back, he answered.
Do we know what his next move is?

He's not broadcasting.
He can't do any real damage anymore,
but T.T. would surely be happy
if we could avoid causing a stir.
Suggestions?
Hit him where it hurts.
The cae is really good.
Did you mae it?
It's still delicious.
They excavated his body and burned him.
No one spoe to me.
Why?
- Why?
Because his body was full of poison.
They wanted to cover it up.
That's all they're good at.
Before someone else
examined his body and found out,
they exhumed him themselves.
They couldn't care less about me.
I eep wanting to tae that down.
He couldn't remember anmhing,
it made him crazy.

GLASS:

You could see it on his face
that he was searching for a name.
SOCKE Did you see a doctor?
The tests never stopped.
And the pills turned him into a zombie.
And all that came from
the toxic waste plant?
Where else?
Your husband was released
from military duty early.
They weren't going
to hold the job any longer.
The job wasn't set up bythe army?
No.
You rang.
Evermhing O?
That picture just appeared
two wees ago in the archive.
The one with both Rangel and Bodin.

We published it.

- So?

I blew up Bodin's face.

Look, I found this picture online.

Notice anything?

It's the same picture.

They mirrored the image

to realign the contours.

What are you getting at?

The Kuros company

is now called 'Quest Recycling'.

And Bodin's supposed girlfriend

is just an out-of-work actress.

I don't follow.

The story doesn't check out.

None of it.

We can't go back now.

If we call back a cover story,

we'll damage the paper's reputation,

we'll damage the brand.

And we get nothing.

Not to mention your career.

The story doesn't check out.

- Too bad.

But?

It hit the right people.

Are you telling Hamburg?

No.

No?

We write for nostalgic people,

who believe the paper doesn't lie.

You think people want to read

that we lost at our own game?

We were used for something foul.

For a cover up.

And you don't care?

I'm hungry.

Won't you stay to eat?

Edith,

look who's here.

Just a second.

I have to go.

Take a break. Two weeks.

Don't let me catch you in editing, got it?

Are you throwing me out?
- I'm trying to help.
Nadja, I don't know where you are.
I was standing at your door.
I can't leave a message.
Call me, I'll be home later.
May I?
Now he's mine!
Five hundred!

CONNECTING:

Can you do that?
- I have to.
I can cover you for a wee.
But no more.
Should I call you a cab?
- No.
One wee.
I can't believe it.
One more sip?
- No, leave her.
Watch your step.
He's already had enough...
That could be us later.
We'll see first on 14,211,
A rollcall vote is required,
I would like to ask all secretaries,,,
A vote will be taken on amendments
to hazardous waste directives
which must be adjusted
to ensure compliance with the EU,
It is generally seen as a formality,
The spokesperson of the conservative
faction called for an overdue modernization
and that even the opposition
would have difficulties to concur,,,
Mr. Groys,
I need to remove the IV.
Please make sure
you check your blood sugar regularly.
You'll feel a little prick.
Hello,
I got the job,
Of course you don't answer,

otherwise you'd have to congratulate me,
Congratulations.

After my interview someone came to me,
I'm not actually sure who it was,
He said if I really wanted the job,
I should break off contact to you,
I didn't understand that at all,
Did something happen?

You sounded so strange,
the message you left me,
Well, I'll have to move to Hamburg,
I am staying next week,
But I miss you already,
Miss you too.

I have to go,
Bye, you Porsche driver,