

"Y"

Written by
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INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

The nurses station in the INFECTIOUS DISEASES floor bustles with medical personnel.

An Hispanic-American NURSE (30) SPEAKS on a PA system.

(She speaks English with a Spanish accent).

THE NURSE
Doctor GOLD, to Infectious Diseases.
Doctor GOLD, to Infectious Diseases.

INT. NURSES STATION - MINUTES LATER

Doctor ESTHER GOLD, dark-brown hair, acutely attractive in her early 40s, stands facing a SENIOR NURSE, grayish hair, plump, (50).

ESTHER
What's the emergency.

THE SENIOR NURSE
An man has just been admitted. He's vomiting blood and has high fever.

ESTHER
How high?

THE SENIOR NURSE
104.

ESTHER
104? Are you sure?

THE SENIOR NURSE
Yes, doctor.

ESTHER
What did you give him?

THE SENIOR NURSE
A high strength ANTIPYRETIC.

ESTHER
Okay, let's go.

INT. ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Esther, the senior nurse and a younger NURSE, petite in her 30s wear protective gloves, head covers, masks and gowns.

They stand near the bed.

An extremely pale MAN in his 60s lies motionlessly in front of them.

INT. ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Esther STARES at the man. She appears horrified.

ESTHER
DAD! OH MY GOD!

The senior nurse gazes at Esther.

SENIOR NURSE
Is he your father?

ESTHER
Yes, yes, is my DAD!

SENIOR NURSE
My God, what happened to him?

ESTHER
I don't know, yesterday he called me,
he told me he was fine. I don't know.

Tears slide down Esther's cheeks. She tries to compose herself.

ESTHER (cont'd)
Did he lose a lot of blood?

THE YOUNGER NURSE
Yes, from his mouth and nose.
We're trying to stop the hemorrhage.

ESTHER
We need a massive transfusion, ten
units for now. Also, give him two
bags of platelets.

THE SENIOR NURSE
Okay, doctor. What else?

ESTHER

Before the transfusion, take four vials of blood for testing.

THE SENIOR NURSE

Should we keep him in isolation?

ESTHER

Yes, bring him to the ISOLATION ROOM until we know what is going on.

INT. ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The man begins to SHAKE and starts to VOMIT a small amount of blood.

The senior nurse CLEANS the blood from the man's mouth.

ESTHER

Be careful with the blood.

THE YOUNGER NURSE

Is he serious ?

ESTHER

Maybe. I don't know right now.

A beat.

SENIOR NURSE

A viral infection?

ESTHER

It's hard to say at this point.

THE YOUNGER NURSE

The blood has no consistency

ESTHER

Let's not rush to conclusions, we have to wait for the results of the blood tests. It could be something else.

THE SENIOR NURSE

What we do for the hemorrhage?

ESTHER

Call doctor LUCIANI, he'll take care of it.

THE SENIOR NURSE
Okay doctor.

ESTHER
Is anybody with him?

THE YOUNGER NURSE
Your MOM, she's in the waiting room.

ESTHER
She's not my MOM, he lives with a woman.

INT. HOSPITAL - MINUTES LATER

An attractive WOMAN in her 50s sits in the WAITING ROOM.

She appears anxious and worried.

Esther stands in front of her.

ESTHER
I'm doctor Gold, NOAH's daughter you must be SARAH.

The woman NODS.

SARAH
I know who you are. How is he?

ESTHER
We are running some tests.

SARAH
Is he very sick? Can I see him?

ESTHER
No right now, he's in strict isolation. We don't know the extent of the illness yet.

SARAH
What you mean, you don't know.

ESTHER
It's a complicated case, I need the results of the blood tests, I can't rush the diagnosis just for you.

SARAH
I'm sorry. I--

A beat.

ESTHER

--You were not sorry when you destroyed my family.

SARAH

You father made a choice.

ESTHER

You instigated his choice.

SARAH

No, no, he wanted that.

ESTHER

Did you ever think about my MOM?

SARAH

He told me that he was unhappy with her. There was no love between them anymore.

A long beat.

ESTHER

What did he do before getting sick?

SARAH

He went for a walk in the park and then to the synagogue. The one on 14th Avenue.

ESTHER

Nothing else?

SARAH

No, this was his routine before going to the office.

ESTHER

Did he meet anybody?

SARAH

Nobody that I know of.

ESTHER

What did he eat?

SARAH

The usual bagel and lox.

ESTHER
Any medicines?

SARAH
Just two pills for his blood
pressure.

ESTHER
Okay, call the hospital this
afternoon to know his conditions.

SARAH
I'll stay here.

ESTHER
You can stay but you cannot see him
or ask questions. We're all very
busy.

Esther's cell phone RINGS.

ESTHER (cont'd)
(to Sarah)
Excuse me.

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Esther stands in the corridor away from the waiting room.

ESTHER
Yes.

THE SENIOR NURSE (V.O.)
I'm sorry Dr. Gold, your father just
passed away. A massive organ failure.

ESTHER
I'm coming over.

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Esther ENTERS the waiting room.

She CRIES silently.

SARAH
He's dead, isn't he?

ESTHER
Yes.

SARAH
(sobbing)
How did it happen?

ESTHER
All his organs failed.

SARAH
Nothing you could have done?

A beat.

ESTHER
No.

SARAH
Can I see him?

ESTHER
Yes, but only through the glass wall.
He's still in isolation.

SARAH
Did he suffer?

ESTHER
He was under heavy sedation. It was a
peaceful death.

SARAH
When can I have his body?

ESTHER
We would like to perform an autopsy
first.

SARAH
Our religion does not allow it.

ESTHER
I know but maybe you can ask your
rabbi for a dispensation.

SARAH
Is the autopsy necessary?

ESTHER
Yes, if we want to know how he
died.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)
 ...and his body must be handled with
 care. We don't know how he died yet.

INT. HOSPITAL - EVENING

A MAN (late 70s) lies lifelessly in bed in the isolation
 room. He is attached to several life sustaining tubes. His
 face appears necrotic.

Doctor ROBERT LUCIANI, (50), doctor Gold, doctor ANDREW YEN,
 Chinese-American in his 30s and a YOUNG NURSE in her 20s
 stand near the bed.

They all wear protective gears.

ANDREW
 He's DEAD.

ESTHER
 Does he have anybody with him?

YOUNG NURSE
 No, a friend called the ambulance, he
 came alone.

ROBERT
 Two similar deaths, is it possible?

ESTHER
 I got the preliminary results of the
 tests on my DAD. There are more
 questions than answers.

ANDREW
 What you mean?

ESTHER
 This pathogen seems to mimic an
 EBOLA VIRUS infection but I don't see
 how they could have been infected.

ANDREW
 Why?

ESTHER
 Because nobody can get this kind of
 infection in New York.

ROBERT
Maybe they traveled to Africa.

ESTHER
My Dad never went out of New York in
the past ten years as far as I know.

ANDREW
What about the other man?

ESTHER
He doesn't look as somebody who
travels. I think he may have had a
stroke recently.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)
The only common denominator is that
both are JEWS.

ROBERT
No surprising in this neighborhood.

ANDREW
I have contacted other hospitals in
New York and New Jersey, no
indications of a new viral outbreak.

INT. ROOM - SAME TIME

An excited NURSE, early 50s, BURSTS into the room.

THE NURSE
Doctor Gold, we have another man with
the same symptoms. The ambulance just
arrived.

ESTHER
Okay, okay, calm down. Where is he?

THE NURSE
In isolation.

Esther indicates the deceased man.

ESTHER
Robert, please take care of his
removal, Andrew come with me.

INT. ISOLATION ROOM - MORNING

A MAN with sallow complexion(80) rests in bed. He is in a semi-comatose state.

THE NURSE
Looks critical.

ESTHER
How is the fever?

THE NURSE
103.

ANDREW
(to Esther)
Do you think we have another case?

ESTHER
Probably, he looks like the others.
Who is with him?

THE NURSE
He's by himself.

ESTHER
Does the family know?

THE NURSE
The paramedic told me that he has
only his wife home.

ESTHER
Call and tell her to come here as
soon as possible. He's near death.

ANDREW
(to the nurse)
Make him comfortable. For now, same
protocol as the other patients.

ESTHER
Everybody should always wear complete
protection, we have a dangerous
pathogen on our hands.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - EVENING

Esther, Robert and Andrew sit at the conference table.

Two files rest on the table in front of them.

ESTHER

The situation is critical, we have two deaths and the third patient is about to die. I'm contacting the CDC.

ROBERT

I agree, they need to know as soon as possible. Did you talk with his wife?

ESTHER

Yes, Same scenario, he never left New York. He got sick after going to the synagogue on 14th Avenue, like the others.

ANDREW

A synagogue can't be the source of the contagion.

ESTHER

It's the only place all three visited before getting sick.

ANDREW

So, you think they got sick in the synagogue?

ESTHER

Apparently, yes. But I'm not sure.

ROBERT

Can it be a coincidence?

ESTHER

I don't believe in coincidences. The viral infection started in one place and all three were there.

INT. HOSPITAL - LATE EVENING

Esther stands facing the nurses station.

One nurse handles the desk.

ESTHER

Any emergencies tonight?

THE NURSE

No doctor, thank God everything's quiet.

ESTHER
I'm going home. Who is on the floor?

THE NURSE
Doctor Yen.

ESTHER
Fine, tell him to call me if there
are emergencies.

THE NURSE
Okay doctor, good night.

ESTHER
Good night.

A beat.

THE NURSE
Oh, doctor, one second, I've almost
forgot.

ESTHER
Yes?

THE NURSE
A doctor called.

ESTHER
Did he leave his name?

THE NURSE
Yes, I wrote it down.

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

The nurse finds the note on her desk.

THE NURSE
Doctor FOSTER.

ESTHER
Foster, you said? I don't know of any
doctor with this name. What did he
want?

THE NURSE
He asked if we had deaths caused by
viral infections.

ESTHER
What did you say?

THE NURSE

That we cannot divulge private information.

ESTHER

SMART! Have a good night.

INT. CDC HEADQUARTERS - MORNING

Dr. ELMER SPELLMAN, a bearded, tall man in his late 60s, Dr. JUDITH DAVIS, attractive, blond long hair in her 40 and Dr. HIRO KATO, an athletic Japanese-American (40) sit around a conference table.

Via a large TV wall-screen Esther is connected in teleconference.

ELMER

Good morning Dr. Gold. May I introduce Dr. Judith Davis and Dr. Hiro Kato.

Esther smiles respectfully.

ELMER (cont'd)

Dr. Davis is the TEAM LEADER OF OUTBREAK INVESTIGATIONS and Dr. Kato is part of the MOLECULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY TEAM. You know me from college.

ESTHER

Glad to meet you doctors. Yes, Professor Spellman I remember very well your tough tests.

ELMER

I received your fax. So, you think that is a viral infection. Why a virus?

ESTHER

We saw some antibodies.

JUDITH

Antibodies that you recognized?

ESTHER

I'm not sure, the symptoms resemble Ebola's but the antibodies are not for this virus.

HIRO

Did you examine the viral DNA?

ESTHER

The DNA is altered but I can't pinpoint what happened.

ELMER

I understand, send us two vials of blood for each deceased and I will get in touch with the CHIEF OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND OUTBREAK. He will decide how to proceed.

ESTHER

Dr. Spellman, how long do I have to wait? In two days, we had three similar deaths, all Jewish. The community is starting to worry.

JUDITH

Dr. Gold, I sympathize with your concern but viruses don't discriminate, I'm sure it was a coincidence.

ESTHER

With all the due respect Dr. Davis but I think it was not a coincidence, the virus--

HIRO

--You don't know if it was a virus. The antibodies didn't confirm your hypothesis.

ESTHER

I'm sure it's a virus, I just don't know if it's Ebola.

ELMER

Okay, Dr. Gold send me the blood sample and I'll start the process.

ESTHER

Again, Dr. Spellman, can you give me a time frame?

ELMER

My ballpark estimation, the approvals to start of the research will take about a month.

ESTHER

Other Jewish people will be infected and die in a month, can you shorten the time?

ELMER

The CDC is a huge institution, things are moving slowly here. We need to do a good job if we want get money from the government.

ESTHER

I'll send you the blood.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)

And the number of all the dead Jews.

ELMER

Another advice doctor, please keep the infections absolutely secret until we start analyze the blood.

ESTHER

What should I say if people will start to ask questions.

ELMER

Esther, it's your responsibility. The CDC can't be involved with the day-to-day operation of your hospital.

INT. APARTMENT - EVENING

Esther sits on a sofa in the living room with her boyfriend MARCELLO DELFER, handsome, in his 40s.

She is sobbing.

MARCELLO

What's wrong?

ESTHER

I'm very tired.

MARCELLO

You should take a few days off.

ESTHER

I can't now, we have many cases of infections.

MARCELLO

What kind?

ESTHER

Hepatitis, HIV, even two cases of
MALARIA.

MARCELLO

Did anybody die?

ESTHER

Not yet, but some are in critical
conditions, near death.

MARCELLO

Honey you can't allow your job to
take all of your energy. Start to
delegate more.

ESTHER

I'm in charge of the department. If
somebody dies, I'm responsible.

MARCELLO

What about the other doctors?

ESTHER

Oh, they are working hard too, we all
do the best we can.

MARCELLO

Well, now forget about the hospital.

Esther slides over the sofa until her body touches
Marcello's.

She caresses Marcello's face. Her eyes are still wet.

ESTHER

I love you so much.

MARCELLO

Close your eyes, don't think--

INT. APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Esther's cell phone RINGS. She picks it up.

ESTHER

Doctor Gold.

A NURSE (V.O.)
 Doctor, sorry to disturb you, this is
 OLGA RODRIGUEZ, we have another of
 those case.

ESTHER
 Okay Olga, I'm leaving now.

Esther looks at Marcello with anguished eyes.

ESTHER (cont'd)
 It's the hospital. I've to go!

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A MAN (80) lies in bed. His face shows large red blotches.
 Dark blood drips slowly from his nose.

Esther and an African-American NURSE (40sh) stand near the
 bed.

They all wear protective clothes.

The nurse tries to stop the bleeding with cotton swabs.

ESTHER
 I would not be surprised if he were a
 Jew.

NURSE
 You mean another Jew infected by the
 same virus?

ESTHER
 Maybe.

NURSE
 What is going on doctor?

ESTHER
 I don't know.

NURSE
 Are we in danger?

ESTHER
 No, if you wear protection.

NURSE
 Is it going to spread?

ESTHER
I don't think so.

NURSE
Only Jewish people will die?

ESTHER
Uh...it's not clear yet. Did you and
the other nurses read the circular I
sent out?

NURSE
Yes.

ESTHER
Is it clear? No word of these cases
outside the department.

NURSE
Yes, it's clear.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALF HOUR LATER

A WOMAN in her 70s dressed in black sits quietly on an
armchair in the waiting room. Tears wet her wrinkled face.

INT. WAITING ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Esther enters the room and has a seat near her.

ESTHER
Good evening Mrs. LEVI, I'm doctor
Gold.

A long beat

MRS. LEVI
Good evening doctor, how is he?

ESTHER
I'm sorry--

MRS. LEVI
Is he dead?

A beat.

ESTHER

Yes, he was very sick when he arrived here.

The woman LOWERS her head. She STOPS crying.

MRS. LEVI

God called him.

ESTHER

He died quietly. My deepest condolences.

MRS. LEVI

When can I have his body?

ESTHER

Would you allow us to perform an autopsy before releasing the body?

MRS. LEVI

A dead body cannot be desecrated.

ESTHER

We need to find out how your husband was infected and the virus that infected him.

MRS. LEVI

It can happen that a person gets sick and dies.

ESTHER

Yes, but in the last two days, we had three similar deaths. May I ask you a question?

MRS. LEVI

Yes.

ESTHER

Did your husband go to the synagogue before getting sick?

MRS. LEVI

Yes.

ESTHER

The synagogue on 14th Avenue?

MRS. LEVI

Yes.

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

Esther and the MEDICAL DIRECTOR Dr. MOSHE JACOBSON sit around a large table in the office of Dr. Jacobson.

MOSHE
Dr. Gold, what is going on?

ESTHER
We had some deaths in my department.

MOSHE
I know that, tell me who died and how they died?

ESTHER
It seems a viral infection, all the men were Jews.

MOSHE
I don't understand why you are linking the infection with the fact they were Jews.

ESTHER
Because I think that there might be a connection between the infection and the Jewishness of the victims.

MOSHE
Doctor Gold now you are moving into the realm of science fiction. Do you know what kind of virus infected these men?

ESTHER
We are waiting for the results of all the blood tests but a preliminary test suggest a FILOVIRIDAE infection.

MOSHE
Ebola?

ESTHER
Similar to Ebola.

MOSHE
Did you contact the CDC?

ESTHER
Yes, I had a teleconference with Dr. Spellman and other two doctors.

MOSHE

And?

ESTHER

He understood the situation but they cannot start the research right now.

MOSHE

Why not?

ESTHER

You know, bureaucracy, the approvals are slow to come. They think it's only a controllable viral infection.

MOSHE

The CDC is in charge, we cannot do anything about that.

ESTHER

Yes, I can.

MOSHE

What you mean with "I can?"

ESTHER

I can start the research myself.

A beat.

MOSHE

Dr. Gold, this is preposterous, you can't carry a complex investigation such as this.

ESTHER

I know--

MOSHE

--And do you think the CDC will approve it?

ESTHER

We don't have to tell them. While they are procrastinating, I'll do the work here.

A beat.

MOSHE

What are you expecting to find?

ESTHER

I don't know what but I feel that something sinister is going on.

An apparently interminable pause.

MOSHE

Okay, go ahead but take all the precautions, this is a nasty pathogen.

ESTHER

Thank you. Can I use the hospital laboratory?

MOSHE

Yes, but report your findings to me directly.

A beat.

MOSHE (cont'd)

Every day.

EXT. STREET - EARLY MORNING

A row of one-family houses borders on a tree-lined street.

A white-haired, frail WOMAN in her 90s attends to her flowers in the front yard of her house.

EXT. STREET - MINUTES LATER

Esther exits her house walking in the direction of her car parked in the driveway.

She glances at her next NEIGHBOR, the elderly woman.

ESTHER

Good morning CLAIRE, how are you?
Beautiful flowers.

CLAIRE

Good morning Esther, I'm fine thanks.
Where are you going so early?

ESTHER

To the hospital.

CLAIRE
An emergency?

ESTHER
Not really, we have an important meeting.

CLAIRE
Problems?

ESTHER
No, we have to discuss new therapies.

CLAIRE
New medicines?

ESTHER
Yes, some experimental drugs.

CLAIRE
Good luck!

ESTHER
Thanks, have a good day.

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

Esther and Robert sit around a large table in a conference room.

Esther SKIMS through a file.

ESTHER
I have the result the autopsies.

ROBERT
Well?

ESTHER
The PATHOLOGIST noticed something unusual in my DAD's right arm.

ROBERT
What?

ESTHER
The sting of a needle.

ROBERT
An injection?

ESTHER
It looks like it.

ROBERT
Did your father get a flu shot recently?

ESTHER
Robert, it's July.

ROBERT
Is it possible that an Ebola virus was injected in his arm?

ESTHER
It's possible.

ROBERT
But who did it? And why?

ESTHER
It's all a mystery.

ROBERT
Did you contact the CDC?

ESTHER
They are not working on this case right now.

ROBERT
They refused?

ESTHER
No, but we have to wait at least one month, they think it's an every-day infection.

ROBERT
Have they evaluated the gravity of the situation?

ESTHER
Of course they know, but they have to follow the protocol, for them it's not so urgent.

ROBERT
What you intend to do?

ESTHER

I spoke with Jacobson, he gave me the permission to use the laboratory. I'll start the research tomorrow.

ROBERT

What you are doing is very dangerous. Our laboratory is not equipped for this kind of research. If something goes wrong, you can start a major outbreak.

ESTHER

Do you have an idea what is going to happen if this virus spreads in New York?

ROBERT

So far, we had only a few Jews dying.

ESTHER

Oh yes, a few Jews only, who cares about a few old Jews! Let's do the same as we did when Hitler was exterminating them...let's fucking close our eyes and believe that this is not happening.

ROBERT

I didn't mean that, don't get so upset.

ESTHER

And what did you mean? Can I find out how my DAD died?

ROBERT

What you want to do can kill many more people.

ESTHER

Yes, something can go wrong but if I wait for the CDC the contagion will surely spread.

ROBERT

Okay, go ahead with your plan but don't count on me.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

Esther and Andrew eat a sandwich sitting at a small desk.

ESTHER
I'm sorry, it's getting late.

ANDREW
It's okay, we're trying to save
lives, don't we?

ESTHER
Yes, we're trying...

ANDREW
Can you recap what you know up to
now?

ESTHER
Well, definitely it's a virus, an
Ebola but--

ANDREW
--but?

ESTHER
The virus has been GENETICALLY
MODIFIED.

ANDREW
What you mean?

ESTHER
The virus did not behave like an
Ebola. The incubation period was much
shorter than twenty-one days, maybe
two days and there was no diarrhea or
flu-like muscular pains, just high
fever, internal hemorrhage and death.

ANDREW
How you know it was an Ebola?

ESTHER
I've isolated the key component of
the virus, the EVP24 protein.

ANDREW
The protein that blocks the virus-
induced activation of interferon
regulatory factor 3?

ESTHER

Yes.

ANDREW

How could your father have been infected with Ebola? And the others?

ESTHER

I can't figure it out. My DAD never left Brooklyn and the others never went to Africa or other infected places, I can only speculate the deadly virus has entered my DAD's body through the needle. The pathologist saw a puncture in his arm.

ANDREW

Did the other men get infected the same way?

ESTHER

We did not find needle marks on the other three men. After my DAD was infected, he may have transmitted the infection by being in close contact with the second man and then the others, all in the same synagogue on 14th Avenue. The virus may have become AIRBORNE.

A beat.

ANDREW

One moment, this is all logical, but why only Jews have been infected so far. The virus does not know who's getting infected. It can't pick and choose. Why not the people in the barber shop or in the market?

ESTHER

Good point, we have another mystery. I can't give you an answer.

ANDREW

These cases are very complicated, are you sure you can do it alone?

ESTHER

(firmly)

I can't wait for the CDC's
bureaucracy to act. I need
answers...and soon!

ANDREW

But we are talking of a month.

ESTHER

I know how they operate. They'll call
the WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION,
investigations after investigations
and precious time will be wasted.

ANDREW

I hope you are right.

ESTHER

Andrew, if you have doubts, you're
not obligated to stay but I can't
stop now.

ANDREW

No, I'm not leaving, we'll find the
answers together.

ESTHER

I appreciate that, thanks.

A pause.

ANDREW

I have another question.

ESTHER

Go ahead.

ANDREW

Assuming that the first infection was
caused by somebody with a needle, how
are we going to find out who did it?

ESTHER

(smiling ironically)

I don't know, maybe, we can put an ad
in the NEW YORK TIMES.

ANDREW

(smiling)

It's better FACEBOOK.

ESTHER

Why not, Facebook will do it.

A beat.

ANDREW

But how did the immune system fail to recognize the virus?

ESTHER

Good question. Apparently, the virus is able to mask the evidence of the infection, the immune system is disoriented and it allows the virus to kill the host and spread to other cells unchallenged.

ANDREW

But what happened after the first infection?

ESTHER

This is still an enigma, I don't know.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)

Another point, the virus cannot mutate.

ANDREW

Even after some time?

ESTHER

No, after it infects the host, it stays the way it entered.

ANDREW

How you know that?

ESTHER

It has been programmed to cause a violent hemorrhagic fever but its mutation mechanism does not function.

ANDREW

Maybe it is because it has not been attacked.

ESTHER

It can be or the virus inside the cell cannot make copies of itself.

ANDREW

Why?

ESTHER

Probably because the virus' RNA cannot replicate itself. Keep in mind that these are all speculations.

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

RABBI MENACHEM KATZ, late 70s, long white beard, sits on an armchair. He wears the traditional black clothing.

Esther sits on her desk. A large file is placed in front of her.

MENACHEM

You understand my concern doctor.

ESTHER

Yes, I do Rabbi, don't forget that my Dad has been the first to die.

MENACHEM

What did the CDC say?

ESTHER

Nothing much, they need at least a month to start the research.

MENACHEM

Are they realizing that Jewish people are dying?

ESTHER

They know but they think it's not urgent, just a flu-like viral infection, they told me.

MENACHEM

They don't care?

ESTHER

It's not that, the bureaucracy slows everything down.

MENACHEM

It's not an excuse.

A beat.

MENACHEM (cont'd)
What can we do to accelerate the
process?

ESTHER
Nothing right now.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)
Rabbi, I have started the research
myself.

MENACHEM
Doctor, you don't have the resources
of the CDC, how can you handle it?

ESTHER
I have a colleague working with me
and my background in GENETICS is
helping.

MENACHEM
Did you find anything important so
far?

ESTHER
I have some good clues.

MENACHEM
God help you doctor! We have to stop
this curse.

INT. LABORATORY - EVENING

Esther sits behind an electronic MICROSCOPE.

She is protected by an INFECTION-PROOF uniform.

ESTHER
MY GOD!

She ADJUSTS the scope's optic and LOOKS again.

ESTHER (cont'd)
MY GOD, IT'S INCREDIBLE!

INT. LABORATORY - SECONDS LATER

Esther picks up his cell phone and frantically DIALS a number.

A long beat.

ANDREW (V.O.)
Hi.

ESTHER
Can you talk?

ANDREW (V.O.)
I'm visiting a patient, let me go in the corridor.

INT. LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

ESTHER
I have found the address.

ANDREW (V.O.)
Which address?

ESTHER
Where the virus attaches itself to the DNA.

ANDREW (V.O.)
What you mean?

ESTHER
(excited)
It's on the Y MALE CHROMOSOME, the 6 Y-STR MARKERS.

ANDREW (V.O.)
You mean the COHEN MODAL HAPLOTYPE?

ESTHER
Yes, yes, the CMH. Somebody has found the way to program a transport virus to bind itself to this DNA sequence.

ANDREW (V.O.)

If this is correct, the virus
attaches itself to the KOHANIM's DNA.

ESTHER

Yes, I am sure that all the other
victims are Jewish Kohanim like my
DAD.

ANDREW

How does the virus enter the cell?

ESTHER

Once the transport virus finds the
address on the DNA, it attaches
itself to the surface of the target
cell, then the nasty Ebola virus
leaves the good virus and goes inside
the cell--

ANDREW (V.O.)

Infecting the victim. So, a transport
good virus carries the deadly
pathogen.

ESTHER

Yes, and only people with that
address can be infected.

ANDREW (V.O.)

Only Jewish Kohanim.

ESTHER

Yes, people without the markers are
not affected.

ANDREW

All the women are excluded.

ESTHER

Yes, they have two X chromosomes.

ANDREW (V.O.)

What happens to the virus if it
cannot find the "address?"

ESTHER

It cannot enter a cell and dies.

ANDREW (V.O.)

A precise address--

ESTHER

--Yes, Jews with that specific genetic sequence on the Y chromosome.

ANDREW (V.O.)

It sounds like science fiction, who can program all this?

ESTHER

I don't know, perhaps a genius.

A beat.

ANDREW (V.O.)

What's the next step? Are you calling the CDC?

ESTHER

No! I'll continue with my work.

ANDREW (V.O.)

You cannot do that, they have to know, it's an incredible breakthrough.

ESTHER

Only you and I have to know this, we don't need any help.

ANDREW

But they are the government, you can't hide--

ESTHER

--What you don't understand? I'm going by myself. There is much more to find out, I can't wait for them.

ANDREW (V.O.)

But--

ESTHER

--Listen Andrew, I think that it's better you leave the investigation.

ANDREW (V.O.)

What's happening to you, why?

ESTHER

Because I can't work with a load on my back.

ANDREW (V.O.)

Am I burden to you?

ESTHER

Yes, you are!

ANDREW

How can you say that, I--

ESTHER

--You are a good doctor and I thank you for helping me but for me it's not just a scientific research, it's the death of my DAD and the future of my people.

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

Esther stands in front of a LIGHTED VIEW BOX.

Rabbi Menachem sits calmly and stares at the box.

A color slide of a reproduction of Y chromosome is displayed on the screen.

Esther points to a small section of DNA.

ESTHER

Rabbi, this white spot is the DNA segment to which the virus attached itself.

MENACHEM

Doctor Gold I don't understand genetics, I'm only asking AGAIN what are you doing about these deaths.

ESTHER

I have a good idea of what happened.

MENACHEM

Why only Jews have been infected and how the infection started?

ESTHER

It's complicated to explain.

MENACHEM

Doctor, people soon will start to ask questions.

ESTHER

Tell them that we are taking all the precautions.

MENACHEM

Will it take a long time before we know what happened?

ESTHER

We hope to have results in two, three weeks.

A beat.

MENACHEM

You know doctor, the Jewish community is not yet aware of what is going on but as soon as they find out, it will be uncontrollable panic.

ESTHER

I know rabbi, I promise you that you'll be the first to know.

MENACHEM

I trust you doctor but I need good news quickly.

A beat,

MENACHEM (cont'd)

Is anybody helping you?

ESTHER

Tomorrow I'll meet Dr. PEREZ, a teacher of mine, he's a prominent geneticist.

INT. OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Dr. LORENZO PEREZ, a Mexican-American portly man in his 60s sits on his desk.

Esther faces him on the other side of the desk.

ESTHER

Lorenzo, what I discovered--

LORENZO

--I read your report, it was a good catch with the CMH but did you check the HAPLOGROUP J?

MARCELLO

No, why?

LORENZO

Because the markers are not only specific to Kohanim but are found in groups with the Haplogroups J1 and J2. These groups go back more than 30,000 years and are spread in other Jewish and Non-Jewish communities.

MARCELLO

Are you telling me that other groups can be infected?

LORENZO

Yes, not only the Kohanim, many other Jewish communities can be targets.

ESTHER

You are the best in this field, what you think about what is happening?

LORENZO

It's terrifying! A genetic HOLOCAUST!

INT. APARTMENT - EVENING

Esther talks on the cell phone.

She sounds agitated.

ESTHER

Can you come over tonight?

MARCELLO (V.O.)

I can't, I have a business meeting.

ESTHER

Can you postpone it?

MARCELLO (V.O.)

Honey, it's not up to me.

ESTHER

I need you.

MARCELLO (V.O.)

Why are you so uptight?

ESTHER

I'm working a lot in the lab, those viruses are getting resistant, we are getting short on treatments.

MARCELLO (V.O.)

You mean the lab in your hospital?

ESTHER

Yes, on the first floor.

MARCELLO (V.O.)

Tonight go to sleep early, watch a movie and relax.

ESTHER

It's what I'm going to do, I'll stay home.

MARCELLO (V.O.)

Good, I'll call you at the hospital, are you there tomorrow?

ESTHER

Yes, in the morning I have the visits and then I'll go to the lab.

MARCELLO (V.O.)

Okay baby, talk to you tomorrow.

ESTHER

Good night love.

MARCELLO (V.O.)

Good night sweetheart.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

A Middle-Eastern-looking MAN in his late 60s stands on the corner of a deserted, three-lined street.

Upscale houses with well-manicured lawns complete the scenery.

He TALKS on his cell phone.

(the man's dialogue is in English with a Middle-Eastern accent)

THE MAN
Did you find it?

THE FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
Yes.

THE MAN
Was she using it?

THE FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
Yes, but I don't know why.

THE MAN
Was she researching infections?

THE FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
I told you, I don't know. Nobody
knows what is going on.

THE MAN
Are people dying?

THE FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
In an hospital people die all the
time.

THE MAN
I mean with infections.

THE FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
Yes, yes, they die with and without
infections. We have twelve cases with
infectious diseases.

THE MAN
What kind of infections?

THE FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
I don't know, they don't tell me.

THE MAN
Did anybody stop you?

THE FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
No, I work there, remember?

THE MAN
Where are the vials now?

THE FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
I'm going to bring them to Ebo.

THE MAN
OK, let's see what happens. I'll let
you know.

THE FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
OK. Don't call me at the hospital.

The man CLOSES swiftly the cell phone.

INT. HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Esther and Claire lounge on a sofa in Esther's living room.

Both enjoy a cup of tea.

CLAIRE
How was the meeting?

ESTHER
We are making progress with the new
drugs, they are very promising.

CLAIRE
(smiling)
How you doing with Marcello?

ESTHER
He loves me.

CLAIRE
What about you?

ESTHER
I'm crazy about him, unfortunately,
lately I'm very busy, you know, all
the responsibilities.

CLAIRE
Many cases of infections?

ESTHER
We have some difficult cases to
treat.

CLAIRE
Esther, listen to me, don't waste any
more time, marry him. I'm telling
you this like a mother. If I were
(MORE)

CLAIRE (cont'd)
your age, I would go after him
myself.

ESTHER
Now I'm jealous.

CLAIRE
Did he say anything about getting
married?

ESTHER
We talked about it a couple of times.

CLAIRE
And?

ESTHER
We always postpone, he's busy too.

CLAIRE
Promise me that you'll decide.

ESTHER
(laughing)
I promise but. . . stay away from
him.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

Esther in full protective outfit stands facing a laboratory
centrifuge.

She slowly opens its lid. Icy smoke escapes from inside the
machine.

She glances at the content looking for something.

ESTHER
OH MY GOD!

INT. LABORATORY - SECONDS LATER.

Esther DIALS a number. Her fingers TREMBLE.

ESTHER
Andrew, the blood vials DISAPPEARED.
They have been stolen from the
centrifuge.

ANDREW (V.O.)

Are you sure you put them there,
right?

ESTHER

Of course I left them in the
centrifuge, I could not let the blood
coagulate.

ANDREW (V.O.)

Nobody knew of your research.

ESTHER

You knew.

ANDREW (V.O.)

You're not thinking that I stole
them?

ESTHER

Of course not. What can I do now?
That was the only blood I had.

ANDREW (V.O.)

Don't panic, I took extra blood from
each of the patients, for my
research. It's not much but you can
still move on.

ESTHER

Where are they?

ANDREW (V.O.)

In the small centrifuge in the side
room.

ESTHER

Thank you Andrew, please forgive me
for the way I treated you I--

ANDREW (V.O.)

--I understand, you are going through
hell right now.

ESTHER

Would you come back to work with me?

ANDREW (V.O.)

I'm coming right over.

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Esther, Andrew and Sarah, sit on a white leather sofa.
The living room furniture REFLECTS her garish taste.

ESTHER
Thank you for seeing us.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)
(introducing Andrew)
This is Dr. Yen, he's helping me.

SARAH
Glad to meet you doctor.

ANDREW
(to Sarah)
My deepest condolences.

SARAH
Thank you.

ESTHER
We'll stay only a few minutes, we
have a couple of questions.

SARAH
Any news about his death?

ESTHER
We hope to have answers soon. Before
getting sick, did my DAD complain of
anything? Headache, nausea, diarrhea
. . .

SARAH
No, he was fine.

ESTHER
And he went to the synagogue, right?

SARAH
For an hour, then he came home and
went to his office in Manhattan.

ANDREW
Did he say if anything unusual
happened at the synagogue?

SARAH
What you mean?

ESTHER
Anything different from the other
times?

A long beat.

SARAH
Maybe something happened, he told me
that just before leaving, he was
approached by somebody and felt like
a sting in his arm.

ANDREW
Did he recognize that person?

SARAH
No, he disappeared immediately.

ANDREW
Did the person say anything?

SARAH
No.

ESTHER
When did he get sick?

SARAH
He started with the fever the next
day.

ESTHER
(to Andrew)
Probably, the incubation period was
much shorter.

ANDREW
Any other symptoms?

SARAH
Yes, he developed blue spots on his
back.

ESTHER
It was when you brought him to the
hospital.

SARAH
Yes, he was very sick. He was shaking
and had very high fever.

ESTHER

Maybe you brought him too late.

SARAH

I asked him many times to go the EMERGENCY but he insisted he was fine "Just a little flu" he told me.

ESTHER

In these cases, timing is important, you should have insisted more forcefully.

SARAH

It's not my fault, your father was always very stubborn, he wouldn't listen to me.

ESTHER

You told me he loved you.

SARAH

Yes he did, maybe it seems strange to you but we were deeply in love.

ESTHER

Apparently not enough to save his life.

ANDREW

Maybe, it's time to go.

ESTHER

Wait, I have another question. Why did you come to my hospital?

SARAH

Your father always said that in case he would get sick, he wanted to come where you were working.

ESTHER

Did he tell you why?

SARAH

Yes, he was very proud of you...and he loved you very much.

A beat.

ESTHER

Thank you, I'll keep you informed.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Esther and Andrew leave the room.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

They exit the apartment.

Sarah begins to sob.

EXT. STREET - MINUTES LATER

Esther and Andrew walk towards their car.

ESTHER

There are no doubts now, it was an injection.

ANDREW

A clever way to start an epidemic.

ESTHER

Yes, really scary.

ANDREW

Why were you so combative with that woman? Your father was very sick.

ESTHER

It's all her fault, she made him die.

ANDREW

How can you say that, you know he could not survive an Ebola infection.

ESTHER

Do you know what that bitch did to my family?

ANDREW

No.

ESTHER

She wooed my DAD and convinced him to abandon us. I grew up without a father because of her.

ANDREW
Were did they go?

ESTHER
They moved to MANHATTAN but he used
to come to the synagogue in Brooklyn.

ANDREW
It must have been terrible for you
and your MOM?

ESTHER
I hate her.

ANDREW
She's suffering.

ESTHER
Not as much as me.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

An ambulance with flashing lights and sirens on APPROACHES
at full speed.

A POLICEMAN stops all the incoming vehicles to allow the
ambulance to reach a building.

ESTHER
Somebody must be very sick.

ANDREW
The ambulances are always busy in New
York.

ESTHER
They save lives.

EXT. STREET - MINUTES LATER

Two FIRST RESPONDERS PUSH a stretcher with a body in the
direction of the ambulance.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Esther and Andrew rush in the direction of the ambulance.

The building's DOORMAN, African-American (50) and a small
group of spectators observe the scene.

Esther approaches the doorman.

ESTHER
What happened?

THE DOORMAN
He was sick for a few days, chills,
high fever, nosebleeds. I think he
got worse.

ESTHER
Is he Jewish?

THE DOORMAN
Why are you asking me this?

ESTHER
Nothing in particular.

THE DOORMAN
No, he is not a Jew.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Esther ACCOSTS the ambulance's driver.

ESTHER
I'm Dr. Gold of University Hospital,
where are you bringing this man?

THE DRIVER
At your hospital, doctor.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Esther approaches a PARAMEDIC in the ambulance.

ESTHER
I'm doctor Gold, as soon as you
arrive at the hospital tell the ER
doctor that you have talked to me, I
work there.

Esther glances at the man in the stretcher.

His face is yellowish and marmoreal. His body shows the
rigidity of death.

ESTHER (cont'd)
 (to the paramedic)
 It's too late, this poor man is DEAD.
 Be careful don't touch his fluids.

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

Esther and Andrew sit at the conference table facing each other.

They look apprehensive.

ANDREW
 What's next?

ESTHER
 We have to find who plotted this and
 how we can stop the contagion.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)
 It looks more and more as the work of
 a BIO-TERRORIST...and a smart one.

ANDREW
 I agree.

ESTHER
 Tomorrow, I have a meeting with some
 geneticists I know, I hope they can
 help me.

ANDREW
 It's a good idea, maybe we are lucky.

ESTHER
 We have to move fast, the infection
 is spreading.

A beat.

ANDREW
 Soon it will be out of control.

ESTHER
 And the media will jump on the story,
 I can envision the headlines, "The
 twenty-first-century Holocaust."
 We're going to be victimized again,
 the Jew haters will have a field day,
 people repeating the same FASCIST
 (MORE)

ESTHER (cont'd)
 mantra, "The Jews are causing all the
 problems," "people are dying because
 of infected Jews." THE JEWS, THE
 JEWS, THE JEWS! Always the Jews.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

RICHARD GRIFFITH, tall, African-American(60), LORENZO PEREZ,
 MAYA GROSSMAN, mildly attractive (40), ANGELA PORT, tall,
 slender (50) and IRA ROSE heavy-set, (50) sit around a
 conference table.

Esther stands in front of a large screen hanging on the
 wall.

On the screen, a Y chromosome reproduction shows a small
 section of the DNA colored in red.

She POINTS to that section.

ESTHER
 This is the Cohen Modal Haplotype. An
 artificial virus carrying a modified
 Ebola virus attaches itself to these
 biomarkers, enters the host cell and
 infects the victim.

MAYA
 Mainly Kohanim?

ESTHER
 Yes, Kohanim who carry the 6 Y-STR
 markers and recently a GENTILE man
 died with the same infection.

A long silence.

LORENZO
 As I told you, other groups may carry
 the same markers.

ESTHER
 I need to know from all of you if
 there is in the field somebody able
 to modify this virus in a lab.

ANGELA
 As far as I know, it's impossible.

ESTHER
 A super-geneticist?

RICHARD
This is out of any genetic reality.

IRA
I know them all, nobody comes to
mind.

ESTHER
Maybe a foreign geneticist?

ANGELA
I worked with an INDIAN geneticist,
she was very bright but went back to
India last year.

ESTHER
Can I please have her name?

ANGELA
NISHA SARIN, went back to DELHI to
get married.

ESTHER
Nobody else? Maybe somebody from
other countries.

RICHARD
(to Esther)
Any country?

ESTHER
Yes.

A beat.

RICHARD
A couple of years ago, I met a
geneticist who just arrived from
IRAN, I think his name was El-Burin.
. . Al-Bonin. . . No, no AL-BUSIN,
EBO AL-BUSIN. He was a former
director of the IRANIAN INSTITUTE OF
GENETICS.

LORENZO
(smiling)
Do they have an Institute of Genetics
over there?

RICHARD
This is what he told me.

ESTHER
What was he doing in this country?

RICHARD
He said he was studying chromosomes.

LORENZO
(laughing)
They don't have chromosomes in Iran?

RICHARD
I'm telling you what he told me, we had a five-minute conversation.

ESTHER
Do you know where I can find him?

RICHARD
He mentioned that he was working in a small laboratory in Brooklyn.

ESTHER
Do you have the address?

RICHARD
I think he said in BOROUGH PARK.

INT. LABORATORY - MORNING

A spartan room filled with scientific instruments.

Esther and Ebo Al-Busin, European-looking (40) sit on an old couch.

(Ebo Al-Busin's dialogue is in English with a British accent)

ESTHER
The researchers community is small and we would welcome a geneticist like you. Dr. Griffith told me that you were the chief scientist at the Iranian Institute of Genetics in Teheran.

EBO
Yes, I was. Thank you Dr. Gold.

ESTHER
Please, call me Esther.

EBO

Okay Esther, I was saying that I'm honored to be part of your group. I'm sure I'll learn a lot.

ESTHER

What are you studying now?

EBO

I'm completing research on the Y chromosome. How the genes mutate over time, you know, heritage.

ESTHER

Interesting, any results?

EBO

Not much. Nothing we don't know already.

ESTHER

I'll call you for the next meeting, I want you to meet the others.

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

Marcello walks slowly. He talks on the cell phone.

INTERCUT BETWEEN CALLS

MARCELLO

Where are you?

Esther sits at her kitchen table eating a sandwich.

ESTHER

Home, eating a sandwich before going to work.

MARCELLO

At your office?

ESTHER

At my lab.

MARCELLO

How long are you going to stay there?

ESTHER

Until 10.

MARCELLO

Any progress?

ESTHER

Not much, the viruses mutate a lot,
they are difficult to study.

MARCELLO

I'm scared of viruses.

ESTHER

Me too, we can't see them when they
are killing us.

MARCELLO

Did you think about going away on
vacation?

ESTHER

I would like to go but I have to
finish my research.

MARCELLO

You can stop for awhile.

ESTHER

Not right now, I'm close to have good
results.

MARCELLO

Sweetheart, if you change your mind,
let me know. I was thinking to go on
a cruise.

ESTHER

It would be great, I'll let you know.

EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

Esther sits in her car parked a few yards away from Ebo Al-Busin's laboratory.

The street bustles with a colorful combination of ORTHODOX JEWS, HISPANICS and ARABS.

She glances at a magazine and keeps an eye on the laboratory.

EXT. STREET - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Ebo EXITS his laboratory and RUSHES to the SUBWAY STATION down the block.

Esther leaves her car and FOLLOWS him at a safe distance.

INT. LIBRARY - LATE AFTERNOON

The reading room of the NYC MAIN LIBRARY is MONUMENTAL but comfortable.

Esther has a seat at a large table. She skims listlessly through a book.

Ebo sits a few tables away in an unoccupied section pretending to read a magazine.

He intermittently SCANS the room.

INT. LIBRARY - MINUTES LATER

A short MAN (50) approaches Ebo's table. He carries a BRIEFCASE.

The man puts the briefcase on Ebo's table and KEEPS ON WALKING away from the table.

INT. LIBRARY - SECONDS LATER

Ebo OPENS the briefcase, checks its content, closes it and SLIPS AWAY with it.

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Esther stares aghast at the action.

INT. ESTHER'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Esther and Andrew sit on comfortable armchairs.

ESTHER

I don't trust him. I sense bad vibes.

ANDREW

Maybe there were just research papers or books.

ESTHER

It was money, I'm sure. . . and a lot of it.

ANDREW

Why does he need money for?

ESTHER

To finance his research and kill more Jews.

ANDREW

Esther, you are becoming overly suspicious.

ESTHER

I'm not paranoid. Do you know that he called the hospital? He used a fake name. And the stolen blood?

ANDREW

Do you think he took the blood?

ESTHER

I don't know but for sure he wants to know if we had patients with Ebola infections.

ANDREW

This doesn't prove he's responsible for the virus. Are you sure it was him on the phone?

ESTHER

You know the woman's SIXTH SENSE? Mine is telling me that Al-Busin is OUR MAN.

A beat.

ANDREW

Can you prove it?

ESTHER

Yes, I can!

INT. HOSPITAL - EVENING

Esther sits behind the desk in her office.

She TALKS on her cell phone.

ESTHER

Good evening CHUCK, I'm doctor Gold,
am I disturbing you?

CHUCK (V.O.)

Not at all doc, what can I do for
you?

ESTHER

How is your son?

CHUCK (V.O.)

Thanks to you he's doing great, you
saved his life.

ESTHER

He's a beautiful boy.

CHUCK (V.O.)

Thank you. He's a great kid.

ESTHER

Chuck are you still in business?

A beat.

CHUCK (V.O.)

Well. . .yes.

ESTHER

I need your help.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Esther and CHUCK ESPOSITO, a skinny man in his 50s, stand in
Ebo's laboratory.

The room is completely dark, only Chuck's flash light barely
illuminates the place

CHUCK

Doc, what are you looking for?

ESTHER

A file.

CHUCK

Any file?

ESTHER
I don't know, I have to see it first.

Chuck and Esther begin to systematically inspect all the shelves.

INT. HOUSE - LATER

Esther FLIPS THROUGH medical books.

Chuck OPENS a drawer of a file cabinet.

He picks up its content: a thick RED FILE.

CHUCK
Doc, I've found this.

He hands the file over to Esther.

Esther glances at the file. Tears wet her eyes.

INSERT - ON THE FILE COVER

האוושה

BACK TO SCENE

CHUCK
(indicating the cover)
Doc, is it Arabic?

ESTHER
It's not Arabic.

CHUCK
What is it?

ESTHER
It's Hebrew.

CHUCK
What does it say?

ESTHER
HOLOCAUST!

INT. HOUSE - EVENING

Esther and Andrew sit at the kitchen table.

Andrew analyzes intensively each photo contained in a black folder.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ANDREW

Your friend did a great job with the camera.

ESTHER

In his business, he's the best. Good news?

ANDREW

Some instructions are readable, the formulas are difficult to decipher.

ESTHER

We need to read the numbers.

ANDREW

It would help us if we had the originals.

ESTHER

Let me see what I can do.

EXT. HOUSE - EVENING

Esther stands in front of Ebo's laboratory.

She RINGS the doorbell.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ebo OPENS the door. He appears perplexed.

EBO

Yes?

ESTHER

Good evening Dr. Al-Busin, can I talk to you?

EBO
(smiling)
Yes, of course, please come in.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Esther stands in the middle of the laboratory.

The room is in a state of organized mess.

EBO
(indicating a chair)
Sorry for the mess, I use this place
as my laboratory. Please have a seat.

ESTHER
Thank you doctor.

Esther sits facing a small table with on top a microscope.

EBO
(amiably)
How can I help you?

ESTHER
Well, in the past two weeks we have
had four cases of a deadly viral
infection in my department.

EBO
(calmly)
It seems normal that you see only
infections, this is your specialty.

ESTHER
Yes, doctor but the dead people where
all Kohanim Jews.

EBO
I don't see your point doctor, in
this section of Brooklyn there are
mostly Orthodox Jews.

ESTHER
You're not a Jew.

EBO
It's true, I'm from Iran.

ESTHER
If I may ask again, what is your
field of research?

EBO

As I told to you before, I'm interested in the genetic evolution of the Y chromosome. Specifically, how this chromosome determines lineage.

ESTHER

The Y chromosome was used to infect those Jews.

EBO

I don't understand, the Y chromosome consists almost entirely of non-coding DNA.

ESTHER

I agree but the CMH is part of the chromosomal DNA.

EBO

What are you looking for?

ESTHER

Would you agree to an investigation by the FBI?

EBO

Why, I didn't do anything.

ESTHER

Are you in this country legally?

EBO

Of course, I have a scientist O-1 PERMIT.

ESTHER

Very well, so you don't have anything to worry if I call the FBI.

EBO

Again, why?

ESTHER

Because we know that you are part of a plot to kill Kohanim Jews. We have the photos of your papers, you cannot hide your activities anymore.

EBO

Did you enter illegally in my laboratory?

ESTHER

Just a short visit. A very rewarding visit, I should say.

EBO

I'm sorry dear Esther, you are mistaken, the papers you have read are my chromosome research. Nothing to do with killing Jews or a plot. I'm a scientist, you know.

ESTHER

What about "Holocaust" written on the file?

EBO

Esther, with all the due respect, I think that you read the word wrongly, I wrote "lineage" in PERSIAN.

ESTHER

Why did you come to this country?

EBO

You can't imagine the life of a scientist in Iran. The ayatollah are against science especially genetics. If was hell for me. I went to jail twice.

ESTHER

Okay, fine I believe you. So, you have no problems with an investigation.

EBO

(emphatically)

Absolutely NO PROBLEMS. May I go in the other room, I want to give you other papers. All my research about the Y chromosome and heredity.

ESTHER

Okay doctor, I'm waiting here.

EBO

Thank you, I'll be right back.

INT. HOUSE - SEVERAL MINUTES LATER

Esther waits patiently for Ebo to return.

Finally, she HOLLERS.

ESTHER

Dr. Al-Busin, are you there?

A spectral silence answers her call.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Esther slowly TIPTOES into the other room.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

She FREEZES at the edge of the door.

Ebo lies on the floor DEAD. His face is red and a yellowish foam oozes out of his mouth. His eyes are wide open.

ESTHER

Oh my God, he ingested POTASSIUM
CYANIDE.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)

(smiling)

Too bad, his LINEAGE has been
interrupted.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

She GRABS the RED file from a shelf and briskly EXITS the house.

She cautiously CLOSES the door after her.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

She proceeds towards her car parked in front of the house.

A few seconds later the car DISAPPEARS in the dark of the night.

INT. MARCELLO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Esther and Marcello stand in the living room. She sobs quietly.

Marcello cuddles her and tenderly kisses her lips.

MARCELLO
Why are you crying?

ESTHER
I don't know, I'm depressed.

MARCELLO
You're working too hard. It's time to slow down.

ESTHER
I can't now, maybe in a few months.

MARCELLO
I don't want to see you so sad, sweetheart, please smile for me.

Esther ATTEMPTS a smile.

ESTHER
I'm sorry, I--

MARCELLO
--Let's make love.

ESTHER
Do you want to? You still love me?

MARCELLO
Baby, I'll stay here tonight, let's make it the most beautiful night ever.

ESTHER
You're wonderful, I love you dearly.

Esther and Marcello kiss passionately. A lustful night is about to begin.

INT. ESTHER'S LAB - EVENING

Esther and Andrew observe a large picture negative.

ESTHER
I'm sure this is the solution to the contagion.

ANDREW
He was very clear with his notes.

ESTHER

He took great pictures of any stage
in the infection process.

ANDREW

We have to admit it, he was a real
genius.

ESTHER

Too bad he used his mind to kill
innocent people. He could have cured
many diseases genetically.

ANDREW

How are you planning to stop the
propagation of the virus?

ESTHER

By changing the address, MUTATING THE
SEQUENCE.

ANDREW

By disorganizing the markers?

ESTHER

Yes, kind of putting a new lock.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)

I hope it works.

INT. ESTHER'S LAB - SAME TIME

Andrew OPENS a file lying on the table.

He TAKES a small piece of paper from inside the file and
shows it to Esther.

ANDREW

By the way, there is an address here.

ESTHER

A New York address?

ANDREW

No, it's UPSTATE.

ESTHER

Interesting, please, give it to me.

INT. ESTHER'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Esther, Andrew, Rabbis MENACHEN KATZ (70), ELCHANAN BOIM (70), AMRAN HAREL (50), BARUCH REIS (80), NOAM MAYER (70), ABE AVRAHAM (50) and RACHAMIM EZRA (90) sit around a large dining room table.

All wear the black Orthodox Jewish attire. A long beard homogenizes their faces.

Each of the rabbis has in front of him a file.

INT. ESTHER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Esther stands up and addresses the group.

ESTHER

Good afternoon, as some of you may know, I'm doctor Esther Gold and I'm in charge of the Infectious Diseases department at University Hospital.

Rabbi Rachamim Ezra replies for all.

RACHAMIM

Good afternoon doctor Gold.

ESTHER

The reason why you are here is because you have to make an historic decision about the present and future of the Jewish people in New York.

ELCHANAN

What you mean by "historic?"

ESTHER

Let me be more specific, I said historic because this treatment will change the DNA of many Jewish men.

ELCHANAN

How can the DNA change?

ESTHER

It's complicated, but let's doctor Yen continue with the presentation.

Andrew remains seated and starts addressing the group.

MARCELLO

During the last few days, we have witnessed an extremely serious pathogenic attack on Kohanim Jews. We know how it started and we have also found the way to stop it.

ABE

Is the CDC involved?

MENACHEM

No, for now they are not aware of anything.

ABE

Why?

MENACHEN

To avoid the media circus and its uncontrollable repercussions.

RACHAMIM

I agree with the decision. We should contact the government only if it's absolutely necessary.

ESTHER

I contacted them already but they need more than a month to start the research. We can't wait that long while people are dying. For them, it's a normal viral infection.

AMRAM

(to the group)

I think it was a wise decision. Dr. Gold is protecting us.

NOAM

Dr. Yen, please continue.

Andrew clears up his voice and glances at each rabbi.

MARCELLO

I'll spare you the scientific details but you have to know that without a drastic intervention this infection will kill most of the Kohanim and possibly many other Jews here in Brooklyn and in other places.

EZRA

Why the Kohanim?

MARCELLO

Because the virus is attaching itself to specific markers on the Kohanim's Y chromosome.

BARUCH

Only the Kohamin have these markers?

MARCELLO

No, they can be found in the Y chromosome of ASHKENAZI and SEPHARDI and maybe other groups worldwide.

ELCHANAN

Are we risking a genetic Holocaust?

BARUCH

What can you do to save us?

ESTHER

There is no reason to panic. We may have found the way to stop the infection.

BARUCH

How?

MARCELLO

We can accelerate the mutation of the sequence on the Y chromosome.

NOAM

You want to manipulate God's work?

ESTHER

Rabbi, we are not changing God's creation, genes mutate from generation to generation anyway.

ANDREW

We are just speeding up the process.

NOAM

I'm against it, solidly against. This is a useless experimentation.

ESTHER

It's not an experimentation, there is a strong scientific basis for it.

NOAM

If we call the CDC, they could develop a vaccine.

ESTHER

No vaccine is going to come from the CDC, they cannot even start to research the virus. Absolutely nothing from them! It's waste of time to ask.

ANDREW

Trust us, the only solution is to induce the mutation.

INT. ESTHER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The rabbis ASSEMBLE in a corner of the room.

The conversation is very animated and accentuated by theatrical hand movements.

(The dialogue is in YIDDISH subtitled)

RACHAMIM

Do you understand what they are proposing to us?

BARUCH

I do, they want to alter our DNA.

RACHAMIM

At what cost?

ELCHANAN

The destruction of our heritage.

ABE

I agree, a mutation of the Y chromosome will interrupt the Kohanim lineage.

AMRAM

The virus will kill us anyway.

RACHAMIM

Let's get in touch with the CDC, they can find a vaccine.

BARUCH

Did you hear Dr. Gold? There is no vaccine for this virus. We don't have a choice.

NOAM

Let's vote. Who nods for a NO?

All the rabbis, with the exception of Baruch, nod.
Baruch gestures a YES.

INT. ESTHER'S HOUSE - SEVERAL MINUTES LATER

The rabbis return to their seats.

(The dialogue is in English)

RACHAMIM

We have decided. The answer is NO!

ESTHER

Are you realizing what is going to happen?

RACHAMIM

Yes we do, the Jewish people overcame many tragedies, God will help us this time too.

ESTHER

People will die. They will be on your conscience.

RACHAMIM

The decision is final. May I ask a question?

ESTHER

Do you know who started this tragedy?

ESTHER (cont'd)

We may have an idea.

AMRAM

Can you find these people?

ABE

Did you call the FBI?

ESTHER

Not yet.

ABE

How do you think you can solve this?

MARCELLO

We have some good clues.

ELCHANAN
May God help you.

ESTHER
I pray God every day. . .

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)
. . . but please reconsider your
decision before it's too late.

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

Esther talks on the cell phone with Dr. Luciani from her
office.

ESTHER
How many?

ROBERT (V.O.)
Two, a father and his child.

ESTHER
Who's the father?

ROBERT (V.O.)
An Ashkenazi from Manhattan.

ESTHER
How is the child?

ROBERT (V.O.)
Extremely sick.

ESTHER
And the father?

A beat.

ROBERT (V.O.)
He's DEAD.

ESTHER
Get the OK from the family and
proceed with the autopsy.

ROBERT (V.O.)
The child is starting hemorrhaging
again.

ESTHER
How is the fever?

ROBERT (V.O.)
104.

ESTHER
I'm coming over.

INT. RABBI'S HOUSE - EVENING

Esther sits on an old couch. The room appears somber and austere.

Rabbi Rachamim Ezra sit on an antique armchair.

He is an intimidating figure.

RACHAMIM
Doctor Gold, I don't think we can
change our decision.

ESTHER
Rabbi, I'm talking as a Jew. Please
reconsider.

RACHAMIM
I appreciate that, but you are young,
you don't feel the burden of history.
The mutation will alter five thousand
years of tradition. We cannot allow
this.

ESTHER
I have studied the TORAH, I know
history but I also know that if we
allow this virus to spread it will be
the end.

RACHAMIM
We survived the EGYPTIANS, the
ROMANS, the CRUSADERS and the
HOLOCAUST. . .

A beat.

RACHAMIM (cont'd)
God will save us again.

ESTHER

I'm afraid God cannot help us this time. Yesterday, an Ashkenazi man and his son died with the virus.

RACHAMIM

This is what God wants.

ESTHER

(upset)

Rabbi, let me be perfectly clear, if we don't stop the contagion, it would be impossible for you and the other rabbis to defend your position. The public opinion will turn against you and you'll be accused of causing all these deaths.

RACHAMIM

We did not create the virus, somebody else is responsible.

ESTHER

You know that, I know that but the American people don't know it. You may start a violent uproar against the Jews. Remember KRISTALLNACHT?

The rabbi looks FROZEN in place. He is SPEECHLESS.

A long beat.

RACHAMIM

Let me think about it.

ESTHER

I'll give you until tomorrow before I'm signing off.

INT. ESTHER'S APARTMENT - ONE HOUR LATER

Esther is preparing dinner in her kitchen.

Her cell phone RINGS. She picks it up.

ESTHER

Hello.

VOICE (V.O.)

This is rabbi Rachamim Ezra.

ESTHER
Good evening rabbi.

RACHAMIM
You can proceed. Please don't stop
what you're doing.

ESTHER
Don't worry, we'll start the protocol
within two days but we need your
help.

RACHAMIM
Just tell me what we have to do.

ESTHER
Okay rabbi, I'll call you tomorrow.

RACHAMIM
Thank you doctor, God help all of us.
Good night.

ESTHER
Good night and thank you.

INT. HOSPITAL - EARLY MORNING

Esther, Andrew and three nurses (20sh, 30 and 60) prepare a long table with syringes for administering the sequence mutation injection.

Several small beds are available to accommodate the receivers of the injection.

A group of one hundred Jewish Kohanim are seated in rows of ten.

Rabbis Elchanan, Baruch, Amran, Noam and Abe sit in the first row.

Andrew glances at the group as if he's looking for somebody specifically.

ANDREW
(to Esther)
Where's rabbi Rachamim?

ESTHER
He told me that at his age it is not
necessary to change his DNA. He's not
afraid to die.

A beat.

ANDREW
But he can infect other people.

ESTHER
I told him that. He's a very stubborn man.

ANDREW
Too bad--

ESTHER
--Okay, let's start.

INT. ESTHER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Esther and Marcello sip a glass of PROSECCO wine lounging on the living room couch.

She looks relaxed, moderately happy.

ESTHER
My work went well today.

MARCELLO
What happened?

ESTHER
A couple of very sick patients got better.

MARCELLO
Did you use new drugs?

ESTHER
Yes, an experimental drug, it seems working.

MARCELLO
Are you going to give it to other patients?

ESTHER
Maybe.

MARCELLO
What's its name?

ESTHER
HAP6Y.

MARCELLO

When it's going to be approved by the
FDA?

ESTHER

Sweetie, let's not talk about diseases
now, I want to enjoy this time with
you.

MARCELLO

You're right baby, I'm sorry.

ESTHER

Do you love me?

A beat.

MARCELLO

You're my life baby.

ESTHER

Can I ask you a question?

MARCELLO

Of course.

ESTHER

Would you marry me?

A long beat.

MARCELLO

I want to marry you but I can't right
now.

ESTHER

Maybe next year?

MARCELLO

I'm not sure, give me some time to
organize my work.

A beat.

ESTHER

It's strange, after almost two years
we're together, I still don't know
what kind of job you have.

MARCELLO

Nothing spectacular, let's call it
SURVEILLANCE.

ESTHER
What kind of surveillance?

MARCELLO
Of GROUPS.

ESTHER
Do you like it?

MARCELLO
Has its rewards.

ESTHER
Can you ask to give you a few days
off to get married?

MARCELLO
I can try but I can't promise it.

A beat.

ESTHER
Okay, see what you can do.

MARCELLO
I'll do my best.

INT. ESTHER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Esther and Marcello kiss tenderly.

They walk slowly towards the bedroom.

INT. LABORATORY - EARLY MORNING

Esther TYPES feverishly on a computer.

INT. LABORATORY - MINUTES LATER

Her cell phone RINGS.

She STOPS typing to answer.

ESTHER
Hi. I'm writing the report.

ANDREW (V.O.)
You sound happy, good news?

ESTHER
I was about to call you, yes, very good news.

ANDREW (V.O.)
Tell me what happened?

ESTHER
IT WORKED!

ANDREW (V.O.)
Did we have a clean mutation?

ESTHER
Yes, we had twelve mutations for each injection.

ANDREW (V.O.)
We close the hole, incredible!

ESTHER
It could never attach itself to the DNA.

ANDREW (V.O.)
What about the other groups?

ESTHER
As soon as we finish with the Kohanim, we'll start with all the others at risk.

ANDREW (V.O.)
It's an event of historical dimensions, like WATSON and CRICK discovering the DNA.

ESTHER
(laughing)
Don't forget ROSALIND FRANKLIN.

INT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Esther sits on an armchair in the living room.

Claire has a seat on a couch across from her.

The furniture has known better times.

ESTHER

I spent some time with Marcello two days ago.

CLAIRE

Good news?

ESTHER

Not really.

CLAIRE

What happened

ESTHER

We were talking marriage and he told me that he's too busy to get married.

CLAIRE

What you mean too busy?

ESTHER

His work mainly.

CLAIRE

Can't he take a vacation?

ESTHER

I don't know, I don't know what is going on. It's all so odd.

CLAIRE

Do you want me to talk to him?

ESTHER

Would you do it for me?

CLAIRE

Of course, you're like a daughter to me.

ESTHER

I love you Claire.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Esther DRIVES her car along a solitary country road.

She SPOTS a house on the side of the road.

The GPS's computerized voice indicates the house as the final destination.

She STOPS the car a few yards away from the house.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Esther WALKS cautiously along a path towards the house.

The structure is completely dark with the exception of a PARTIALLY OPEN WINDOW.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Esther guardedly TAKES A PEEK inside the room through the window.

She EAVESDROPS on the conversation.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

A tall, handsome MAN in his 50s, a heavysset, bald MAN in his 60s and a Middle-Eastern MAN (30) sit at a large meeting table.

MIDDLE-EASTERN MAN
The FUHRER is very upset.

HANDSOME MAN
How did it happen?

MIDDLE-EASTERN MAN
He killed himself. LESTER found his body.

BALD MAN
Did anybody see him?

MIDDLE-EASTERN MAN
No, after he saw the body he ran out of the laboratory.

BALD MAN
Good.

HANDSOME MAN
Did you read anything about the Jews in the papers?

BALD MAN
Nothing! No news of dead Jews.

MIDDLE-EASTERN MAN

How is it possible? Ebo said that there is no vaccine for the virus. Some fucking Jew must be dead by now.

HANDSOME MAN

He told Lester that a more lethal pathogen was ready. Maybe the old virus did not work.

BALD MAN

What does it mean "more lethal?"

MIDDLE-EASTERN MAN

It means that it will infect other Jews.

HANDSOME MAN

What is going to happen now?

BALD MAN

The Fuhrer wants a meeting in two days.

MIDDLE-EASTERN MAN

Okay, I'll call the Fuhrer tomorrow to confirm.

INT. ESTHER'S HOUSE

Esther and Andrew are having dinner in Esther's kitchen.

Esther appears excited.

ANDREW

Why they called him Fuhrer?

ESTHER

In German, it means "LEADER."

ANDREW

The leader of what?

ESTHER

Maybe a terrorist organization.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)

I would like to meet him.

ANDREW

Why?

ESTHER

To kill him.

ANDREW

Better you call the FBI.

A beat.

ESTHER

(whispering to
herself)

Yes, the FBI.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

Claire waits inside an examination room.

She sits on an exam table.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Doctor DAVID LOMBARDI, a cordial man in his 50s enters the room. He holds a clinical file.

He opens the file and glances over the pages.

DAVID

Good morning Claire, how are you
feeling this morning?

CLAIRE

I'm fine doctor, I'm taking the blood
pressure medication, I eat right,
thank God I'm OK.

DAVID

I'm glad to hear that, let me take
your pressure.

David puts a cuff around Claire's arm and proceeds with
measuring her blood pressure.

CLAIRE

How is it?

DAVID

Like a young woman, 120 over 70. Let
me check your heart.

David moves the stethoscope over several points on her chest.

DAVID (cont'd)
Perfect sound, regular beats.

CLAIRE
Doctor, something is bothering me.

Claire glances at David with worried eyes.

DAVID
Is something upsetting you?

CLAIRE
I'm depressed.

DAVID
What makes you depressed?

CLAIRE
I'm thinking about death.

DAVID
Claire, you don't have to worry, you are in great health considering your age.

CLAIRE
I feel very lonely.

DAVID
Do you belong to any clubs? Do you have friends?

CLAIRE
I have a few friends, you know, around here most of the people are Jews.

DAVID
You are not Jewish, right?

CLAIRE
Oh no, please, no, I'm German and Italian.

DAVID
You should join an Italian club.

CLAIRE
The Italians are all in BENSONHURST and I don't drive.

DAVID
I understand, this may be a problem.
Do you have any hobbies?

CLAIRE
I have my flowers.

DAVID
Gardening is excellent for your
health.

CLAIRE
I guess I should be happy I'm still
alive.

DAVID
(laughing)
You'll live another hundred years.

INT. HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Esther is seated at her desk reading through a file.
Her cell phone RINGS. She picks it up.

ESTHER
Hello.

VOICE (V.O.)
Good afternoon doctor, this is rabbi
Menachem Katz. Can we talk for a few
minutes?

ESTHER
Just a few minutes rabbi, I've a
meeting in twenty minutes. How can I
help you?

MENACHEM (V.O.)
Thank you for what you have done for
us. Nobody in the community suspected
this evolving tragedy. You saved our
lives. May God bless you and your
family.

ESTHER
Rabbi, it was my duty to take care of
my people.

MENACHEM (V.O.)
I have one question.

ESTHER

Please.

MENACHEM (V.O.)

Any idea how this infection started?
Is anybody responsible? Don't you
think we should call the authorities?

ESTHER

We may have some ideas, please give
me other two days. I should have all
the answers.

MENACHEM (V.O.)

Two days?

ESTHER

Yes, just two days.

MENACHEM (V.O.)

Okay, but if you can't find the
people responsible, please call the
FBI, we need to know who started all
this.

ESTHER

Understood.

INT. HOUSE - EVENING

The tall, handsome man and the heavysset, bald man sit at a
large meeting table.

HANDSOME MAN

Did you check the CAMERAS?

BALD MAN

Yes, they are running.

HANDSOME MAN

When are they arriving?

BALD MAN

In an hour.

HANDSOME MAN

Do you have an idea of what the
Furhrer will say?

BALD MAN

No.

HANDSOME MAN

I can't understand, still there is nothing in the press?

BALD MAN

I don't know. I called the papers, nobody knows anything about dead Jews.

HANDSOME MAN

Maybe no Jews died.

BALD MAN

It's impossible! At least, the one who got the injection should have died.

HANDSOME MAN

I'm sure the Fuhrer will know more.

BALD MAN

We have to finish with these fucking Jews once and for all.

HANDSOME MAN

Be patient, the Fuhrer knows what to do.

BALD MAN

Do you trust the Iranians?

HANDSOME MAN

So far, they have been following the plan.

BALD MAN

Yes I know, but the younger one seems strange. Are you sure he's not a spy?

HANDSOME MAN

I don't know, I'll talk with the Fuhrer about it.

BALD MAN

Nowadays, we cannot trust anybody.

HANDSOME MAN

Wait a minute, LOOK!

He indicates a large TV screen on the wall opposite the table.

INSERT - TV SCREEN

A WOMAN is ADVANCING briskly towards the house.

BACK TO SCENE.

The two men JUMP on their feet.

HANDSOME MAN (cont'd)
What is going on?

BALD MAN
An intruder, let's go out.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The men BRANDISH their HK45 handguns and move speedily towards the exit door.

EXT. HOUSE - SECONDS LATER

They RUN towards the woman with their guns in a firing position.

HANDSOME MAN
Stop or I'll kill you.

BALD MAN
Who are you? This is a private residence.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Esther FREEZES and keeps her hands over her head.

ESTHER
Please don't shoot. I got lost with my car.

BALD MAN
Okay, what's your name?

ESTHER
ANN.

BALD MAN
Where were you going?

ESTHER
I was looking for the LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY.

HANDSOME MAN
It's not close, you have to go back.

ESTHER
Okay, thank you, I'm going.

She ATTEMPTS to turn back.

BALD MAN
Wait, NOT SO FAST. Come with us
inside.

ESTHER
Thank you for the invitation, but I'm
in a rush.

HANDSOME MAN
Later, I'll show you a short cut.

The men point the guns at Esther.

The first man precedes her while the second man covers her
back. The group MARCHES towards the house.

INT. HOUSE - EVENING

The two man and Esther sit at the table in a large room.

HANDSOME MAN
What you do during the day?

ESTHER
I am a secretary in an INSURANCE
COMPANY.

HANDSOME MAN
Interesting. Are you married? Kids?

ESTHER
Divorced, no kids.

BALD MAN
Your ex must have been a fool.

ESTHER
He is a good man, Jewish.

BALD MAN
A good Jew? Impossible, they are all
bastards.

ESTHER
He is a very religious man.

HANDSOME MAN
So why did you divorce him?

Esther appears CONFUSED by the questions.

A beat.

ESTHER
Well. . .

BALD MAN
Well?

A beat.

ESTHER
It was for sexual reasons.

BALD MAN
I knew it, the Jew wasn't good in
bed, eh?

A beat.

ESTHER
(faking
embarrassment)
Not too good.

HANDSOME MAN
We know that.

BALD MAN
You should go with a real man, Jewish
men are inadequate.

ESTHER
I'll remember that. Can I go now?

BALD MAN
We are waiting for a couple of
friends, they will decide.

ESTHER
Your friends?

BALD MAN
Yes.

ESTHER
Okay, I'll wait.

INT. HOUSE - ONE HOUR LATER

The sound of an APPROACHING car.

BALD MAN
They're coming.

INT. HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

The Middle-Eastern man enters the room.

A WOMAN follows him. She is. . .

CLAIRE!

Esther JUMPS on her feet.

ESTHER
(screaming)
CLAIRE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

CLAIRE
(smiling)
What are YOU doing here?

HANDSOME MAN
(to Claire)
Do you know her?

CLAIRE
Oh yes, I know this little Jewish
slut.

ESTHER
WHO ARE YOU!?

CLAIRE
(to the Bald Man)
Please shut the cameras. I want to
have a long talk with this pig before
I KILL her.

The Bald Man leaves the room.

INT. HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

The Bald Man ENTERS the room.

THE SECOND MAN

Done.

CLAIRE

Okay, thank you. Well, let's start.

ESTHER

WHO FUCKING ARE YOU?!

CLAIRE

Doctor Gold, please, watch your language, you sound like a very vulgar Jewish whore.

ESTHER

TELL ME YOUR REAL NAME!

CLAIRE

First, Let me introduce my COLLABORATORS.

Claire indicates the Handsome Man.

CLAIRE (cont'd)

This gentleman is KLAUS GELLER.

She points out the Bald Man.

CLAIRE (cont'd)

This COMRADE is TED STROSSER.

She moves near the Middle-Eastern man.

CLAIRE (cont'd)

And he is RAMIN AMIRI. An IRANIAN JEW.

ESTHER

(hysterically)

WHO FUCKING ARE YOU!?

CLAIRE

(smirking)

My name is CLARA LANGE. I am the FUHRER. My father was German and my mother a proud Italian Fascist. I was a concentration camp guard in Italy for two years. It was fun. Let me tell you what happened there.

INT. CONCENTRATION CAMP, ITALY 1943 - MORNING - FLASHBACK

Several WOMEN are standing NAKED in front of a YOUNG GUARD, brunette, 20sh inside a barrack.

They try to COVER their exposed intimate parts with their hands. Many sob silently.

The guard walks slowly around them SCANNING their bodies. A cruel smirk distorts her youthful face.

She holds a menacing WHIP.

THE YOUNG GUARD

You bitches have to work hard or die.

A brown-haired, gorgeous WOMAN (30) steps out of the line and gets close to the guard.

THE GORGEOUS WOMAN

The Fascists killed my husband, we didn't do anything. Why are we here?

THE YOUNG GUARD

(yelling)

You pig Jew, don't get close to me!

She repeatedly LASHES the woman on her head and shoulders.

The woman tries to avoid the beating RUNNING to a corner of the barrack.

The guard follows her and continues the brutal lashing.

The woman lies on the floor in a fetal position. She WEEPS hysterically. The other women LOOK ON horrified

THE GORGEOUS WOMAN

(softly)

GOD, don't abandon me!

An OLDER WOMAN in her 60s GESTICULATES in the direction of the guard.

OLDER WOMAN

Stop, stop, we are not animals.

INT. BARRACK - MINUTES LATER

Several female guards RUSH into the barrack with BARKING DOGS.

At the sight of the vicious animals and the menacing guards, the women start PRAYING.

INT. BARRACK - MINUTES LATER

Three FEMALE GUARDS in their 30s ENTER into the barrack carrying GRAY PRISONER UNIFORMS.

A TRIANGLE with a "J" in the middle sewn on the sleeve indicates that the uniforms are for JEWISH prisoners.

A MASCULINE-LOOKING FEMALE GUARD in her 20s hands out the uniforms to the women.

She indicates one of the female guards.

THE MASCULINE GUARD
(to the women)
Get dressed and follow that guard to
your barrack.

The women start to slowly wear the uniforms.

She points to the gorgeous woman.

THE MASCULINE GUARD (cont'd)
You, come with me.

INT. OFFICE - AFTERNOON

A small room with a desk, two chairs. a wall telephone and a picture of MUSSOLINI on the wall behind the desk.

The guard is standing in the middle of the room.

The woman seeks imaginary protection in a corner of the room. She looks extremely frightened.

THE MASCULINE GUARD
Do you know what is going to happen
to you?

THE GORGEOUS WOMAN
No.

THE MASCULINE GUARD
You stay here like a dog and then go
to AUSCHWITZ to die. Our doctors will
use you for medical experiments, they
will cut your flesh, infect your
(MORE)

THE MASCULINE GUARD (cont'd)
wounds and see how much time you need
to die.

The woman begins to WHIMPER.

THE GORGEOUS WOMAN
God will punish you.

THE MASCULINE GUARD
We are more powerful than your god,
Mussolini is our god!

The guard smiles and moves a few steps towards the woman.

THE MASCULINE GUARD (cont'd)
Do you like me?

THE GORGEOUS WOMAN
Let me go with my people. . .

THE MASCULINE GUARD
Get undressed!

THE GORGEOUS WOMAN
(imploring)
No, no. . .

THE MASCULINE GUARD
UNDRESS!

The prisoner starts to REMOVE her uniform. Tears slide down
her cheeks.

She STOPS undressing while trying to protect her body with
her hands.

She QUIVERS with shame.

THE MASCULINE GUARD (cont'd)
NAKED I said!

The woman resumes undressing.

She is NAKED in front of the guard.

Her body reveals a rare statuary beauty.

THE MASCULINE GUARD (cont'd)
You are a good looking Jew.

She CARESSES the woman's breast.

THE MASCULINE GUARD (cont'd)
I can help you if you make me happy.

The woman starts to CRY uncontrollably.

She attempts to stop the guard from touching her.

THE GORGEOUS WOMAN
No, please. . .

The guard laughs ominously while getting closer to the woman's body.

THE MASCULINE GUARD
(whispering)
Dirty Jew, I can save your life, you know.

A beat.

THE MASCULINE GUARD (cont'd)
KISS ME!

The woman tries to get away.

The guard REACHES her and forcibly puts her open mouth on the woman's face.

THE MASCULINE GUARD (cont'd)
Don't be shy filthy Jew, kiss me.

The guard PUSHES the woman's head towards her mouth.

THE MASCULINE GUARD (cont'd)
(excitedly)
Do it! Kiss me!

THE GORGEOUS WOMAN
No, n--

She TILTS her head back in disgust.

THE MASCULINE GUARD
You dirty Jew don't even know how to kiss. I don't need a pig like you.

In a flash, the guard PULLS her LUGAR handgun out of the holster.

BANG! BANG!

The guard's handgun DISCHARGES two fatal bullets inside the woman's head.

She DIES instantly.

The gorgeous Jewish woman's naked body LIES on the floor in a pool of blood.

BACK TO PRESENT

ESTHER
MY GOD, MY GOD, YOU'RE A BEAST!

CLAIRE
Just because I killed a Jew? I still remember her body, very sexy.

ESTHER
Why did you kill her?

CLAIRE
Because she ignored my wishes. I could have saved her life if she would have kissed me.

ESTHER
You're a killer, a monster, I'll call the FBI.

CLAIRE
You cannot call anybody because you'll die tonight.

ESTHER
Why you want to kill me?

CLAIRE
Because you are a Jew.

ESTHER
Six millions of my people were killed by the NAZIS, isn't enough for you?

CLAIRE
(smiling)
Too few, we need a second Holocaust.

ESTHER
How are you going to kill more Jews? Ebo is dead.

CLAIRE
Somebody else is following his work.

ESTHER

We know how to stop the virus.

CLAIRE

You mean the old virus, we have a new virus now. Ebo has left his latest research in a safe deposit box.

ESTHER

Who infected the FIRST man?

CLAIRE

He's not here.

ESTHER

Who's he?

CLAIRE

You really want to know?

ESTHER

YES!

CLAIRE

It's an American JEW like you. His name is SID.

ESTHER

You are lying to me.

CLAIRE

No, I'm not lying, it is one of your people. But smarter than you, he hates Jews.

ESTHER

Where is he now?

CLAIRE

I don't know. He calls Ramin when he needs us.

ESTHER

Where is the box?

CLAIRE

Only Sid knows, he has the key.

A long beat.

ESTHER

How did you enter into this country?

CLAIRE

I used my Italian passport and they let me in.

ESTHER

What the other two do?

CLAIRE

Kraus is a SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR in North Carolina and Ted has an IMPORT/EXPORT company in Boston.

ESTHER

Why do they want to kill Jews?

CLAIRE

Their grandfathers were SS OPERATIVES in Germany. They grew up abhorring Jews.

ESTHER

How did you get the idea of infecting the Kohanim?

CLAIRE

Ebo was experimenting with the Ebola virus and the Y chromosome, Ramin gave him the idea of infecting the Jews using the Y chromosome.

ESTHER

What is your plan?

CLAIRE

Good question doctor, my answer is simple: the extermination of the Jews in New York and beyond.

ESTHER

You can't never do it.

CLAIRE

I don't think a pig like you can stop me, soon you'll be dead.

ESTHER

If you kill me, the police will look for me and it's the end for you and the others.

CLAIRE

Nobody knows who I am.

ESTHER

You'll die soon, you're old and sick.

CLAIRE

I'm not afraid to die, Sid and the others will keep my dreams alive.

ESTHER

What are you going to do with my body?

CLAIRE

We'll bury you tonight. Nobody will know where the sweet doctor Gold went.

ESTHER

I told my boyfriend where I was going.

CLAIRE

Oh yes, Marcello, a very intelligent and handsome man, after your disappearance, he'll forget about you.

ESTHER

You don't know what you are saying, you are a demented bitch.

CLAIRE

(laughing)

Even with my dementia I'm smarter than you Jew pig.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ramin Amiri approaches Claire.

(Ramin's dialogue is in English with a Middle-Eastern accent)

RAMIN

We should find out what they know.

CLAIRE

What you mean?

RAMIN

The Jews got Ebo's red file.

CLAIRE

So what?

RAMIN

They know how the virus was mutated
and how it can be stopped.

CLAIRE

Are you talking about the old virus?

RAMIN

Yes, but the techniques are almost
the same.

CLAIRE

The pigs don't have the new papers.

RAMIN

Okay, but their geneticists can work
with what they have and arrive at the
new Ebola.

CLAIRE

Ramin, I don't understand what you
are saying. Do we have a new deadly
virus or not?

RAMIN

Yes, Sid has the papers but the Jews
can understand how it works. They
have smart researchers.

CLAIRE

Wait for Sid's call and tell him to
start working with you and the other
geneticist immediately.

KLAUS

Fuhrer, what Ramin is saying is that
the Jews can arrive at the new virus
and stop it without the papers.

TED

Maybe, we should stay put for a
while.

CLAIRE

(upset)

You are three pussycats good for
nothing. Do you hate the Jews or not?

KLAUS

They should all die.

TED

Complete extermination, just--

RAMIN

--Okay, okay, I'll talk with Sid.

ESTHER

Our scientists will find the way to neutralize it.

CLAIRE

What are you going to do? Send the dead pigs to TEL AVIV for research? I suggest the ISRAEL INSTITUTE FOR BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH in NESS ZIONA where your people are developing BIOLOGICAL weapons to use against the PALESTINIANS.

ESTHER

Who's Sid? Is he a REAL person?

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)

DO YOU FUCKING HEAR ME? IS HE A REAL PERSON?

CLAIRE

Stop asking questions. I'm getting tired of you.

ESTHER

Why don't YOU stop this pathetic farce?

CLAIRE

Start praying your god, say goodbye to your successful life doctor Gold.

ESTHER

You cannot kill me.

CLAIRE

Yes I can, you have only a few minutes.

ESTHER

At the hospital, they're already looking for me, they'll call the police--

CLAIRE

You are ridiculous doctor Gold, nobody knows where we are.

ESTHER

The police can find this place and--

TED

(agitated)

--Fuhrer, enough with this, let's decide, what are we going to do with her? We have to put her away right now.

CLAIRE

Don't worry, her end is close.

A beat.

CLAIRE (cont'd)

La sua fine e' vicina.
(Italian for "her end is approaching")

ESTHER

What happened, we were friends?

CLAIRE

Oh yes, the famous Jew doctor had pity of an old woman, the Jews are famous for hand-outs. Too late dear FRIEND.

INT. HOUSE - SECONDS LATER

Claire picks up her purse from the top of the table.

She slowly REMOVES her LUGER from the purse.

BANG! BANG!

CLAIRE. . .

COLLAPSES on the floor with two bullets in her chest.

Life DRAINS from her eyes.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Esther stands near Claire's lifeless body.

She holds a BERETTA TOMCAT pistol.

ESTHER
 (whispering)
 A JEW is always faster than a
 FASCIST.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Marcello and several FBI agents with heavy weapons BREAK INTO the room YELLING.

THE AGENTS
 FREEZE! FBI. Put your hands on the
 table, Don't move.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Klaus, Ted and Ramin confused and terrified keep their hands on the table.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Two FIRST RESPONDERS (30s) and an INDIAN-looking DOCTOR in her 40s ENTER the room and RUSH to Claire's side.

The doctor PALPATES her carotid artery.

THE DOCTOR
 (in English with an
 Indian accent)
 She's DEAD. Nothing we can do.

INT. ESTHER'S HOUSE - MORNING

Esther and Marcello lounge on the sofa in the living room.

ESTHER
 I was scared, she was crazy. I tried
 to talk to her, to distract her. I
 was surprised, she answered all my
 questions.

MARCELLO
 She answered because she was ready to
 kill you. You have been reckless, I
 can't say more.

ESTHER
 Be honest, did I do a good job?

MARCELLO

It could have been your last job.
Those people were criminals, crazy
ideologues.

ESTHER

God was watching over me, I guess.

MARCELLO

Why did you bring your gun?

ESTHER

I don't know, maybe a voice inside
me.

MARCELLO

Is it registered?

ESTHER

(smiling)

Of course it is. I killed her in self
defense, anyway.

MARCELLO

It is going to be an investigation,
you know that.

ESTHER

Yes, I know.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)

So, this is your job.

MARCELLO

Special Agent MARCELLO DELFER at your
service.

ESTHER

How long did you know about this?

MARCELLO

Andrew called the BUREAU soon after
the second man died.

ESTHER

Did you suspect Claire?

MARCELLO

She was under surveillance for
awhile. We received a communication
from the Italian SECRET SERVICE.

ESTHER

How did you find out about the meeting?

MARCELLO

The place was bugged.

ESTHER

Who told you about the house?

MARCELLO

Do you really want to know?

ESTHER

Yes, I'm dying to find it out.

MARCELLO

(smiling)

We follow you when you went to that house the first time.

ESTHER

And the second time?

A beat.

MARCELLO

We recorded their conversation.

ESTHER

You are smart Special Agent Delfer.

INT. FBI OFFICE, NEW YORK CITY - MORNING

A wide, typical federally decorated room overlooking Manhattan.

Esther and PAM SPENCER, a FBI Special Agent, good-looking, natural red hair, in her 40s sit across to each other on a conference table.

A copious file lies on the table in front of the agent.

PAM

Dr. Gold, why didn't you call us immediately after the first suspicious death?

ESTHER

You started the investigation, right?

PAM

Special Agent Delfer got involved after doctor Yen's call.

ESTHER

I was researching the deaths and I didn't want to alarm the Jewish community.

PAM

Why didn't you inform the CDC after you found the cause of the outbreak?

ESTHER

I notified them soon after the outbreak but they told me to wait. For them, it was just a usual infection.

PAM

I'm sure you know the law and your obligations as a doctor. Tell me about the autopsies. Why didn't you inform the Center of the results?

ESTHER

I was fighting with time, people were dying. I needed to move on...quickly.

PAM

You know doctor that you have the professional duty to report to the CDC the results of any research pertinent to an outbreak?

ESTHER

I was working with another doctor and in contact with the best geneticists in the country. The rabbis knew what I was doing.

PAM

The DISTRICT ATTORNEY will evaluate the situation and decide about the legal consequences. I would suggest you find a good lawyer. You also killed a person. And your gun was not registered.

ESTHER

I didn't do anything wrong. I put my life on the line, she was a terrorist and I acted in self defense.

PAM

The DA will take all this into consideration. We know you are not a criminal but you made very serious mistakes in judgment.

Esther's eyes wet with tears.

ESTHER

I'm sorry, I really am.

PAM

Do you want to take a short break?

ESTHER

No, let's continue.

PAM

Do you know anything about a safe deposit box.

ESTHER

I heard about it.

PAM

Any idea of where it might be?

ESTHER

No, did you ask those terrorists?

PAM

They don't know. They keep on repeating that only a Jew, a mysterious Sid, knows where it is.

ESTHER

This is what that woman said, who knows, maybe Sid is not even his real name.

PAM

It could be.

ESTHER

What can I do to help?

PAM

You can ask the rabbis you know if they saw any strange character near their synagogues, especially the one of 14th Avenue.

ESTHER

I doubt they saw anybody suspect.

PAM

He must have been inside the synagogue when your father got infected.

ESTHER

Yes, I'm sure he was inside but apparently he remained unnoticed.

PAM

Okay, that's all for now. Please don't leave the city, you may be called back. The DA will get in touch with you.

ESTHER

Are you going to bug my phone.

PAM

Doctor, you watch too much TV. We don't do that anymore.

A beat.

PAM (cont'd)

(smiling)

Now we have satellites.

INT. LABORATORY - EVENING

Marcello and Esther sit around a small lab table.

Marcello holds a copious file.

MARCELLO

This is only what we have left. The investigators got all the other files.

ESTHER

We need the new file.

MARCELLO

My colleagues are looking for it,
they'll find it.

ESTHER

Why you are no longer on this case?

MARCELLO

My boss knows about us, I had to
exempt myself from the investigation.

ESTHER

I hope they can find this phantom
SID.

MARCELLO

If he has the new virus he can use
it.

ESTHER

Maybe he works with other terrorists.

MARCELLO

Or as a lone wolf.

A beat.

ESTHER

The Special Agent who questioned me
asked me to help her.

MARCELLO

Honey, don't put in your head any
ideas, let's them do the work, okay?

ESTHER

Okay, I am just saying what she asked
me--

MARCELLO

--Sweetheart, it's time to let it go
before you get into more trouble.

A beat.

ESTHER

The monster said that he's an
American Jew.

MARCELLO

The FBI knows all this, don't get involved. Promise?

ESTHER

Okay sweetie, I promise.

Marcello hugs Esther and softly kisses her lips.

MARCELLO

Can we talk vacation now?

ESTHER

Let's wait a few more days.

MARCELLO

Why? The mutation is completed, nobody's going to get infected.

ESTHER

I know, but the idea that there is a new virus bothers me.

MARCELLO

I don't want you to get obsessed with this story, it's no longer your responsibility.

ESTHER

I know, it's time to quit.

MARCELLO

I know you, you are still thinking about that Sid. Why?

ESTHER

It would be nice to find him.

INT. LABORATORY - MINUTES LATER

Esther and Marcello kiss voluptuously.

Esther SUDDENLY INTERRUPTS her kissing.

It seems that her passion has suddenly vanished.

MARCELLO

Something wrong?

ESTHER

(silently sobbing)

I may be indicted.

MARCELLO

Indicted?

ESTHER

Yes, failing to report my discovery to the CDC, hiding the deaths and maybe even homicide.

MARCELLO

How you know that?

ESTHER

Spencer told me that during the interrogation.

MARCELLO

What did she say exactly?

ESTHER

That I should get in touch with a good lawyer.

MARCELLO

Maybe she wanted to scare you.

ESTHER

Scare me, why?

MARCELLO

They think you know more than it seems.

ESTHER

They should investigate the CDC and the way they operate. I did my work to stop the contagion.

MARCELLO

The CDC doctors work very hard, there are many diseases to eradicate.

ESTHER

Maybe you're right, they should get more resources from the government.

MARCELLO

It's not easy, the politicians don't understand the danger of an epidemic.

ESTHER

They don't care if--

MARCELLO

No, they don't.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Esther STROLLS along a tree-lined street.

Her cell phone RINGS. She picks it up.

ESTHER

Hello.

RACHAMIM (V.O.)

Hello, this is rabbi Ezra, Rachamim Ezra.

ESTHER

Good morning rabbi, how can I help you?

RACHAMIM (V.O.)

Yesterday I received a visit by the FBI, they asked me lots of questions about a man, Sid. Do you know anything about it?

ESTHER

Not much, apparently he is the man who injected the first virus.

RACHAMIM (V.O.)

But they told me he is Jewish.

ESTHER

Maybe a Jew hater, a sick man, I don't know.

RACHAMIM (V.O.)

Where is he?

ESTHER

The FBI is looking for him.

RACHAMIM (V.O.)

Are we still in danger?

ESTHER

We took care of all the Jewish men at risk. The genetic mutation worked well.

RACHAMIM (V.O.)
I trust you doctor. You understand,
I'm responsible for my community.

ESTHER
I know rabbi, you don't have to
worry, the community is safe.

RACHAMIM (V.O.)
Are you sure doctor?

ESTHER
ABSOLUTELY!

INT. OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Esther REORGANIZES several files on a shelf.

Her cell phone RINGS.

She puts the files on the table and picks the phone up.

ESTHER
Doctor Gold.

THE VOICE (V.O.)
Good afternoon doctor, this is rabbi
Baruch Reis.

ESTHER
Good afternoon rabbi, how are you?

BARUCH (V.O.)
I'm doing well thanks, I have good
news.

ESTHER
(laughing)
Please tell me, I really need it.

BARUCH (V.O.)
We know that you are in trouble with
the authorities and--

ESTHER
--How do you know it?

BARUCH (V.O.)
Doctor, we have friends in high
places, so, I was saying, we want to
help you.

ESTHER

It's a difficult situation, I made serious mistakes.

BARUCH (V.O.)

You saved us from destruction, we'll never forget it.

ESTHER

I'm Jewish too.

BARUCH (V.O.)

We wrote a letter to the PRIME MINISTER of Israel signed by all the rabbis in New York asking him to intercede with our president at the next week's meeting.

ESTHER

You did this for me?

BARUCH (V.O.)

Yes, this is the least we can do.

ESTHER

Do you think the president will listen to the prime minister?

BARUCH (V.O.)

Oh yes, believe me, he will!

INT. FBI OFFICE - MORNING

Esther, Section Chief ALAN RING, tall military-type (50), Supervisory Special Agent THOMAS GRIFFITH, handsome, athletic (40) and Special Agent Pam Spencer sit at a conference table.

A huge file lies in front of Alan.

ALAN

Doctor Gold, we have received a communication from the White House.

ESTHER

The White House?

ALAN

Yes, the PRESIDENT got interested in your case.

ESTHER

The president himself?

ALAN

Yes, our president.

THOMAS

The president has instructed the ATTORNEY GENERAL to drop all the charges against you.

ESTHER

OH MY! Is it true?

PAM

Yes, you are no longer under investigation.

ESTHER

What happened?

THOMAS

Funny things happen on the way to the forum.

ESTHER

Yes, they do happen sometimes. Can I go now?

ALAN

Yes, have a good day doctor Gold.

ESTHER

Please, thank the president for me.

PAM

(smiling)

We'll do, doctor.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

A small, simply decorated, romantic room with a few tables.

Most tables are occupied by middle-aged couples.

Esther and Marcello sit at a corner table. The flickering light of a candle caresses their faces.

They drink champagne.

ESTHER

(toasting)

To you, my love, thank you for your help.

MARCELLO

(toasting)

To your hard work and determination, I love you.

They sip the champagne while locking eyes.

MARCELLO (cont'd)

You are so beautiful.

ESTHER

It's because I'm happy.

MARCELLO

You went through hell.

ESTHER

I was always terrified. I could not see any solution to this tragedy.

MARCELLO

I have to admit it, you did a great job Dr. Gold. Do you want to work with me?

ESTHER

Who's going to be the boss?

A beat.

MARCELLO

Sweetheart, it's all behind us, let's think about our future together.

ESTHER

Mrs. Esther Delfer, WOW!

MARCELLO

When you want to get married?

ESTHER

I have to talk with doctor Jacobson, I hope he can give me two weeks off.

MARCELLO

I think we need more than two weeks, the planning, the honeymoon and a few days after we come back.

ESTHER

Honey, I can't take a month off, they need me at the hospital.

MARCELLO

Maybe three weeks?

ESTHER

I'm sorry sweetie, I know I can't get more than two.

MARCELLO

Okay, we'll do everything in two weeks for now, next year we'll take a long vacation, maybe to Israel.

ESTHER

Yes, we can do that.

A beat.

ESTHER (cont'd)

Do you think that the infection is really over?

MARCELLO

Are you still thinking about that?

ESTHER

I don't know, I feel a strange presentiment, like something terrible is going to happen.

MARCELLO

The infection has been well contained, I don't see any other problems.

ESTHER

Don't forget that somebody is still on the loose with a new virus and a syringe.

MARCELLO

Maybe that decrepit monster wanted us to live in fear. Probably this Jewish man does not exist, and even if he's around, the FBI is going to catch him.

ESTHER

And if he's smarter than the FBI?

MARCELLO

I don't think so, when we are after somebody, soon or later he's apprehended.

ESTHER

I hope you're right.

MARCELLO

Esther, we have to retake control of our lives, we need to move on.

ESTHER

It's not easy for me.

A long beat.

MARCELLO

Who's going to be your bridesmaid?

ESTHER

I was thinking LORIAN.

MARCELLO

Who's she?

ESTHER

I don't think you met her, she is doctor SINGER, we went to medical school together.

MARCELLO

Does she work in New York?

ESTHER

No, she's in New Jersey.

MARCELLO

Did you talk to her.

ESTHER

Not yet, I'll call her tomorrow.

MARCELLO

We need a place for the reception.

ESTHER

Nothing fancy, maybe a good restaurant in Manhattan.

MARCELLO

How many guests?

ESTHER
No more than fifty.

MARCELLO
Well, let's start with the list.

ESTHER
Give me your names and I'll add mine.

MARCELLO
Okay. When are we going for the rings?

ESTHER
I know a place in Manhattan on 47th Street, a good Italian jeweler, we can go next Saturday.

MARCELLO
What about the your dress?

ESTHER
Please don't laugh, last year I bought a beautiful dress, great price and I kept it in storage at the shop, just in case.

MARCELLO
(laughing)
In case somebody wanted to marry you?

ESTHER
No, in case you decided to marry me.

MARCELLO
So, I am the "just in case" man.

ESTHER
Yes, you and only you.

MARCELLO
And what would have happened to the dress if I wasn't marrying you?

ESTHER
(laughing)
I would have sold it on consignment.

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Esther's cell phone RINGS. She answers.

ESTHER
Doctor Gold speaking.

THE VOICE (V.O.)
Good evening doctor, this is Pam
Spencer, FBI.

ESTHER
Oh yes, good evening Ms. Spencer, are
you coming to arrest me?

PAM (V.O.)
(laughing)
No, no, I'm calling to know if you
find out anything about that man?

ESTHER
I spoke with some rabbis, they have
no idea of his identity.

PAM
They never saw anybody strange around
the synagogues?

ESTHER
I'm afraid not. They know most of the
people personally.

PAM
Please doctor let us know as soon as
you find out something new. Even an
insignificant hint can be important.

ESTHER
Of course. I'll be vigilant.

PAM
Thank you for your help. Good night
doctor.

ESTHER
Good night Ms. Spencer.

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Marcello gazes at Esther.

MARCELLO
Problems?

ESTHER

No, no, it was Pam Spencer, she asked me if I had any news about Sid.

MARCELLO

You promised me not to get involved.

ESTHER

I was just answering the phone.

MARCELLO

Okay, I'll talk with Pam.

Esther looks absent-minded.

ESTHER

We were saying. . .

MARCELLO

. . . about your wedding dress.

ESTHER

Oh yes, it's a beautiful dress. I love it.

MARCELLO

Should I wear a tux?

ESTHER

If you want to, otherwise, you would look great with a nice Italian dark blue suit. But I'll pick the tie.

MARCELLO

I can't believe it, in a few days I'll marry the most beautiful woman in the world.

ESTHER

I love you.

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Marcello LEANS over the table and kisses her.

ESTHER

People are watching.

MARCELLO

I'm sure they are envying us.

ESTHER

Yes, they...do you think that Sid is getting ready to--

Marcello gently PRESSES two fingers over her lips.

MARCELLO

--SHH!

EXT. STREET - LATE MORNING

A tree-lined street cuts through a very congested Orthodox Jewish neighbor.

Two-story houses follow the street on both sides.

An ORTHODOX JEWISH MAN, (late 50s) in complete black garment WALKS slowly along the sidewalk. A grayish, bushy beard covers his face.

The sidewalk is crowded with SIMILARLY looking men and a few dark-dressed women.

He APPROACHES the entrance of a synagogue.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

He CLIMBS two steps to the FRONT DOOR. He OPENS the door.

FADE OUT

