

EGON (CONT'D)

She was weak and sees my arrest as a chance to scrub her conscience clean with lies!

POPESCU

Enough!

EGON

Speak to my couriers. They survived the war and were never arrested. They'll tell you I never gave up their names. Dezso --

POPESCU

Dezso Nussbacher, Menyhert Schmidt, Gyorgy Havas, Misi Schnittlander. From your statement. These names have already been recorded.

(beat)

The question is not whether or not you were broken by your interrogators, but about why you gave Ms. Grunfeld this typewriter.

EGON

Her testimony is worthless --

POPESCU

What evidence do you have?

Egon takes a moment. Breathes slowly.

EGON

To your original question, I do not believe Ilona Grunfeld could have turned me in to the DEF because she was arrested after I had gone underground. She wouldn't have the necessary information. It had to be someone else.

POPESCU

And what about Sandor Jakab?

EGON

The DEF wanted me to tell them where he was. That would make no sense.

POPESCU

You're not thinking objectively. He knew where you were hiding.

(MORE)

POPESCU (CONT'D)

You were capable of identifying him. And in a city of a hundred thousand people, you two just happened to bump into each other while both trying to evade detection?

EGON

He would have had no reason.

POPESCU

What if I told you he was an agent of the Gestapo? That you were part of establishing his cover?

EGON

That... That doesn't make any sense.

POPESCU

Your opinion is of no consequence. We have incontrovertible evidence that Jakab worked for the Gestapo during the war. Perhaps you should stop trying to whitewash his history and make a serious effort to recall anything that would corroborate these facts already known to the party.

EGON

I have never seen any sign that Sandor Jakab was anything other than a loyal party member.

POPESCU

Maybe you need some time to think it over.

EGON

If the Securitate has evidence to support these accusations, then use it. I have nothing that can help you.

Popescu stands, slowly scraping his chair against the floor as he pushes it back.

POPESCU

How long do you plan to continue like this?

EGON

I can only tell you what I know to be true.

POPESCU

You stand to gain nothing from siding with this traitor.

EGON

If you don't believe me, then beat me.

Popescu looks at Egon, checking his eyes. Looking for any signs of weakness.

POPESCU

You want me to beat you.

EGON

The DEF beat me until they could believe me. Maybe you should do the same. If you need to beat me to believe that I'm telling the truth, I won't resist.

Popescu walks around behind Egon, circling like a bird of prey.

POPESCU

You want me to believe you're a tough character. If you had been a working class kid who grew up with a hard life, I might believe you. Sometimes they grow up to act like heroes. But you? You're soft. You're deceitful. And even if, once upon a time, you could take a beating to prove something... Look at you now.

Popescu tugs at Egon's shirt. He pat's Egon's stomach.

POPESCU

You're not living underground anymore. You're not a young man full of the revolutionary spirit with nothing to lose.

Popescu leans in close. Too close to strike.

POPESCU

(hushed)

You overestimate your strength.