

**In the Philippines**  
By John Fisher

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Characters

CHET, a young army lawyer

MAC, a US Army General

RICHARD, an FBI clerk

DARIN, an FBI agent

ALAN a young Filipino officer on MacArthur's staff

DONALD, a young army lawyer

THE TIGER, an ex-general in the Japanese army, now captive

DEIRDRA, a middle aged Filipino woman, mother of Alan

The following characters are played by one actor: ARMY DOCTOR; GILES, a gay man;

BAILIFF

Setting

The Philippines, Washington D.C., New York City

Time

1944-The Present

Author's Note

*In the Philippines* is based on the war crimes trial of General Yamashita after World War II. Yamashita has been redubbed Tiger in my script; Douglas MacArthur is renamed Mac. This play is work of fiction based on historical events. Though I feel it is true to the general “sense” of Yamashita and MacArthur, it takes deliberate liberties with the trial itself – most specifically MacArthur did not preside at Yamashita’s trial and Yamashita’s court appointed US attorney was not a man like Chet. Nevertheless, I feel this play is an accurate portrayal of the philosophical and psychological relationship between the two generals and the importance of the trial. There was a lot of disquiet about this war crimes trial as expressed by the real defender of Yamashita and the US Supreme Court. This play is an attempt to capture that disquiet and to portray the United States at a certain moment in its development.

I-1

(Blank stage. Above the stage is a sign, like an old train station schedule, that gives the date and location of the scene – and clackety clacks through dates and locations getting there. Right now it reads “2000” in the year box and “Chet” in the location box. The location box is not necessarily always a location, sometimes it is a mood or a character or a thought. CHET enters, wearing a trench coat, hat. He is very old, hunched. He speaks to us.)

CHET

We used to experiment. We had an experimental attitude back then, the forties. The late-forties, the waist of century. There was the bomb. That was an experiment. Where would we be if it weren't for the experiment that led to a bomb? We'd be bombless. We'd have bombed. Tee hee. And then where would we be? That's how I started - just experimenting. I was. Of course, those activists wouldn't believe me now. Oh, they'd say, “She's just a closet case.” But back then you couldn't be a closet case. Once you were out, once you were labeled, you were just “one of them.” But no one came to rescue you. I waited, believe me, I waited. The Commies all got rescued. The ultra-lefties got rescued. All the minorities, rescued. But we came dead last, even the women came first. But the girls got left behind. Where we liked to be as it turns out. Tee hee. “Oh, she's wicked, listen to her!” I'm still a closet case actually. I argue cases from the closet, from the dark. But I still argue them. Well, through intermediaries. I'm what's called a silent partner. Which means I do all the work and some handsome Harvard boy takes the table, argues the case. And some of them now are even gay, openly. Gays are right for some cases. So every firm has one. The firm gay. Tee hee. But not me. I'm deep background, deep throat, hell, let's just say I'm deep. Too bad. I was trained to be a public figure, not a private one, not one defined by privates. I was trained by a master. President Eisenhower once said, “I spent a year as Mac's aid. He was teaching me dramatics.” I was such a spoiled brat. I didn't know what God had handed me. Fresh out of Georgetown Law and given the assignment of a lifetime. All I wanted to do was my part, enlist, fight the good fight.

(He removes his hat. His hair is brown. He begins to shed the years as he sheds his clothes. The years click backwards, as does the location – eventually arriving at 1944 – Washington DC.)

CHET

Of course I suspected it about myself. But I knew it was trouble. We run from trouble, at least we did. And you can. And I did. For a long time. You learn to do without sex. It can be done. The loss of sex stings. But it's the loss of human contact that hurts the most, the touch of a desired body, the warmth of it, the intimacy of shared flesh. But when all is suspicion, when every eye lives to record a deed, to report an infraction, in hopes of advancement, favor, promotion, food... You see, the people we liberated were starving to death. A starving pimp might offer you a young man for money, but he'll also record your deed for more money. First from you, then from your superior. Paranoia breeds

purity. That's how I loved, that's how I lived in the Philippines. I'd been through the hazing.

(He is now naked, a scrawny twenty-five year old. An ARMY DOCTOR enters and stands before him with a clipboard.)

CHET

The standing naked for an hour while they talked to me about pussy, about nipples and breasts and the softness of a woman's hairpot. And I forced myself to become aroused. (He covers himself.) That was the psych test, I couldn't believe it. It was amazingly difficult. I thought, "This is the army? How did they get it so right?" So I forced myself to become aroused and then breathed a sigh of relief when I did, so proud of myself.

(DOCTOR holds up picture for CHET to see.)

CHET

Then they showed me, I can't imagine where they found this, they showed me pictures of the most beautiful boy, a young man, with golden hair and himself aroused. And they talked to me of his nubile yearnings and how he longed to make me happy. And there I was, butt naked. With three doctors staring at me, eagle-eyed for the slightest perturbation, the gentlest rumble, the most minute alteration of the prudish landscape. But I was impervious. Law school teaches you a lot. Poker face? Poker dick.

(During the following DOCTOR will hold up other pictures.)

CHET

Then they tried similar pictures of negro men, Asians, a Mexcian, they were searching for my *type*. But I've never had a type. I wasn't aware till then that there were types. I didn't even know what arousal looked like, other than my own, in the light of day. I think my clinical interest is what ultimately saved me. I was being introduced to a whole new species. The aroused male figure, in the light. But there I stood. Impervious to shame. They were impressed. Just to make sure they flashed me one last picture of a real Betty Grable type, those large perky breasts, those warm parted lips. But by then I had many fantasy images with which to arouse myself: the glorioious blond boy, the luscious black man, the girlish Asian cutie. (He covers himself again.) In fact, those images kept me going for a long time, when pornography was unthinkable. (During the following he will dress in a Major's khaki uniform which the DOCTOR hands him.) Life is cyclical, you see. The very thing meant to test you becomes the very thing that convinces you you are what you are, and also feeds your ardure for many an evening thereafter. For I was being vetted to serve at the very highest reaches: legal staff to one of the first five-star generals, victor of the South West Pacific Theatre of Operations, aka Mac. He needed a good legal adviser, as he rose in fame. Or as a friend told me later, every king needs a good queen.

I-2

(He is dressed. Clackety-Clack goes the sign: January 1945 – Lingayen Gulf, the Philippines.)

CHET

We are on board a cruiser. The war is four years old. (Pointing out.) And that's the Philippines. And this, this is the day he returned. To the Philippines.

(MAC enters. He wears binoculars around his neck, his five stars glistening on his collar.)

MAC

Major.

CHET  
(Saluting)

General.

MAC

You're learning to salute.

CHET

I always knew how to salute, sir. I didn't know when.

MAC

Junior officer always initiates salute.

CHET

Then you salute to no one, sir?

MAC

Mr. Roosevelt. I salute to him. He likes that. Makes him smile.

CHET

My background's in court, sir. No saluting.

MAC

Good profession for a young man. We're entering a litigious era.

CHET

Yes, sir.

MAC

And you can call me General, son. Not sir.

CHET

Of course, General.

MAC

(Looking out)

He's in there.

CHET

Who is?

MAC

The Jungle Tiger. He's the best they have. The greatest general the Japanese ever created.

CHET

Like you, General.

MAC

Well, let's hope so. He'll try every trick in the book, and a few new ones.

CHET

He's ruthless, General?

MAC

I don't know about ruthless. He's clever. He's quick. He's intuitive.

CHET

Hard to believe anyone could take on this armada.

MAC

He defeated a British army of 100,000 with just 30,000 men. Numbers don't matter with the Tiger. He's a deceiver, an actor, he plays tricks. He'll have us thinking he's winning right up until the moment he's lost.

CHET

What if he doesn't lose, General?

MAC

Oh, he'll lose. I got a few tricks of my own.

(We hear rumbling from behind them. The bombardment has begun. MAC looks through his field glasses. The bombardment becomes louder, thundering. CHET winces, MAC remains calm. )

I-3

(Clackty-clack: 1947 – Washington. Federal Bureau of Investigation. DARIN and RICHARD, two inverstigators, in an office.)

Nice weekend?  
RICHARD

Yes, very restful.  
DARIN

What'd you do?  
RICHARD

This part of the investigation?  
DARIN

Oh, no, sorry. Just curious. Hard to shake the investigator's tone.  
RICHARD

Went and saw *Tristan und Isolde*.  
DARIN

Who with?  
RICHARD

A woman.  
DARIN

No, sorry. Who was Tristan, who was Isolde?  
RICHARD

Oh, Melchior. And Traubel. The woman was Karin. You've met her.  
DARIN

The Finn?  
RICHARD

No, the American. She brings us our coffee.  
DARIN

But she is a Finn.  
RICHARD

No, she's from DC. A local.  
DARIN

Of Finnish extraction.

RICHARD

I never quite know where you're going with all this.

DARIN

It's just the way my mind works. Observant.

RICHARD

And the way your mind always works. It's not like you forget these things you "observe."

DARIN

I guess that's why I'm in this job. It truly is my calling.

RICHARD

What do we have today?

DARIN

Young man on Mac's staff. Young attorney.

RICHARD

We're going after them overseas?

DARIN

We don't "go after" people, Darin.

RICHARD

Of course we don't.

DARIN

We don't.

RICHARD

Why don't we just discharge him, send him home, his tour of duty completed, hero to his country.

DARIN

How was Tristan?

RICHARD

Excellent. Melchior's always excellent.

DARIN

Karin like it?

RICHARD

DARIN

She did. But that makes sense, she's almost German, being a Finn.

RICHARD

(Handing DARIN file)

Here's his file. He was at Georgetown actually, got his degree there. It will make the... research easier.

DARIN

You want me to hop it to Georgetown?

RICHARD

And environs.

DARIN

When I came here it was Germans we were after. Then the second the tide turned at Stalingrad, the moment our allies, they were our allies remember? The second they actually defeated the Germans it became Communists we were after. Now it's what? I mean, quite aside from "why?" and "what the hell it has to do with national security?," what do we call them? I'd like them to have a name. Fairies, homosexualists, pansies?

RICHARD

Deviants.

DARIN

So you want me to troll deviant bars around Georgetown. We should get a wardrobe department. We could phone down for deviant pants, with a fairy top and pansy hat, just to make sure we hit all bases.

RICHARD

Karin not put out?

DARIN

No, she didn't as a matter of fact.

RICHARD

Must be frustrating. After four hours of German opera.

DARIN

Five.

RICHARD

I take them to the movies. They're shorter and gropping's much more the thing than at the opera.

DARIN

Yes, I figured that out.

RICHARD

I'm sorry. You're over educated for this job. As you know I don't have a college degree. I'm merely a child of the beaurocracy. Third generation government.

DARIN

Yes, you've told me this.

RICHARD

All I know how to do is plod. We land enough of these freaks you'll get a promotion, onto the staff of some Senator, that would be a good thing. I won't even get a raise.

DARIN

Yes, we're bounty hunters, I know.

RICHARD

No, you are. I'm merely doing my job.

DARIN

But it helps me even if it doesn't exactly help you. I appreciate it.

I- 4

(1947 – Back in the Philippines, Manilia. MAC enters with ALAN, who is a young Filipino Army officer. They meet CHET and DONALD. DONALD is like CHET, mid-twenties, an attorney. He is a Captain.)

MAC

Hello, Chet.

CHET  
(Saluting)

General, a pleasure to see you again, sir.

MAC

Now what did I tell you-

CHET

I meant the "sir" as a sign of personal respect, General.

MAC

Oh, that's ok then. Donald, good to see you again.

DON

A pleasure, General. How's Tokyo?

MAC

Beautiful this time of year. You've never seen such orderly rubble. Those people are amazing. You slap 'em down, they pick themselves up, brush themselves off and thank you for making them see the light.

DON

I think it's your magic touch, General. You make occupation seem like deliverance.

MAC

Thank you, Don. This here's Captain Amparo, served on our war crimes team in Tokyo.

(ALAN snaps to attention with a smart salute. DON and CHET return it casually.)

CHET

Captain.

DON

Captain.

MAC

Alan's from Manila, aren't you?

ALAN

Yes, Intramuros.

DON

Bet you have some stories to tell.

ALAN

Yes, Captain, I do.

MAC

Alan did great work for us putting General Tojo away. You shoulda seen that old weasel squirm.

DON

You're an attorney, Captain?

ALAN

Studying to be one. I was the court reporter.

MAC

And you will be again. That's why I brought him with me. So gentlemen, what have we got?

DON

Well, two big cases, as you know General. Then a lot of little people, petty stuff. Hanging offenses some of them but nothing big time.

CHET

There's General Homma and General... well, The Tiger.

MAC

Homma. Homma's a small fry. Should be able to string him up quick. I can't imagine he can muster a defense. The Tiger. This one. This is the one we need to bury. This is the one.

DON

Well, we'll certainly make our best effort.

MAC

Best effort? Alan, what do we think of best efforts?

ALAN

Best efforts are for "C" students.

MAC

I think he's ready for Georgetown, don't you, Chet?

CHET

I'll work my connections, General.

(They all chuckle.)

MAC

But seriously, gentlemen, this is the creep. This man... this man needs to be made an example of. I mean, my God. A monster.

DON

No worse than General Homma really.

MAC

You think so?

DON

Well...

MAC  
Well what?

DON  
Bataan.

MAC  
Yes, Homma's responsible for that, you're right. But this man. He truly is a Tiger. Alan, you can speak to this. You were there.

ALAN  
I was, General. But I'd rather not speak to it.

MAC  
Go ahead.

ALAN  
Please, General.

MAC  
No, tell 'em, Alan. Maybe they don't know the inside story.

ALAN  
Well...

MAC  
This is your story, Alan. Let it shame you, you let them off the hook. Tell it.

ALAN  
I lived with my family during the siege. Under the Japanese. They were holed up in my house. Me, three sisters, and my mother. A month, during that siege. It was... (He wipes his eyes.) There was nothing they stopped at... in my house.

MAC  
People talk about Dachau, Auschwitz. That monster set up an Auschwitz in the middle of Manila. Horrifying. (To CHET) Somethng wrong, Major?

CHET  
Well, with all due respect, sir...

MAC  
When people say, "With all do respect" they mean "fuck you."  
(They chuckle.)

MAC  
Go ahead, Major.

CHET  
Aren't you a member of the tribunal?

MAC  
Member? I'm head of it.

CHET  
Well, General...

MAC  
Yes, yes, yes, speak freely.

CHET  
You don't seem very impartial, sir.

MAC  
Oh, that. Well. I'll get impartial. If I need to be. We learned in Tokyo not to waste time on impartiality, not with these buzzards. If there's a defense, we'll hear it. I promise. Which is where you come in.

CHET  
Me, General?

MAC  
Both of you. Chet, I'd like you to defend The Tiger; Don, you'll prosecute.

DON  
Oh... well thank you, General. It would be an honor.

MAC  
Chet?

CHET  
Thank you, General, but...

MAC  
Oh, Chet, when did you turn into such an old woman? What now?

CHET  
Well, it just seems rather abrupt. I mean, shouldn't there be a review process, interviews, wouldn't you expect me to, well, tryout for the job?

MAC

No, I thought about it on the plane. You're the man. Georgetown Law, lots of criminal and civil background, someone who has, finally, grasped military protocols... who salutes first. (They chuckle.) You're the man for me.

CHET

Well, thank you, General, but...

MAC

But what?

CHET

What about the General?

MAC

He'll help you out. His neck's on the block.

CHET

But, well, shouldn't we ask him? If he approves of me?

MAC

Chet, old friend. You're the court appointed attorney. But you're welcome to ask him.

CHET

And if he says no?

MAC

Tough titties. (They laugh.) Now listen scouts, I came back special to see this through, for the Filipinos, for my friends, like Alan here. But I don't want it to go on forever. I need to get back to Tokyo – I've got Russians there to worry about, and the Chinese just across the channel ready to start World War III. But this is important. To me. I want these people to know there is restitution, there is culpability; we're not just going to sweep this under the rug. This is why The Tiger is so important. Homma killed a lot of American boys on Bataan, a lot. And the Lord knows I feel their death every day. But they were combatants and that's their job, to die for their country. And, frankly, if that fool Wainwright had... But that too is water under the bridge. But The Tiger, he ordered, he permitted the death of a quarter of a million innocent Filipinos, through rape, bayoneting, beheading, mutilation. Now if this man gets away with it, says he was just following orders, well there is no justice. We have a responsibility to bring justice to these people. We are justice. Now let's be thorough, but let's be efficient. We all know where this is headed, let's get there. So I can get back to Tokyo, so I can get back to work. You look unconvinced, Chet.

CHET

I seem to be at odds with the tenor of the operation.

MAC  
No, you're key. If it doesn't appear we gave him a strong defense, we'll just be a kangaroo court.

CHET  
Appear?

MAC  
Appearances are reality, Chet. Who said that?

ALAN  
I think you did, Gernral.

MAC  
Yeah? When?

ALAN  
Just now.  
(They laugh.)

CHET  
General.

MAC  
Yes, Chetters?

CHET  
Sorry, General, but might there not also be a pereception of, well... vindictiveness. On your part?

MAC  
Towards whom?

CHET  
The Tiger.

MAC  
How so?

CHET  
He was your adversary.

MAC  
Oh... that.

CHET

He was your rival.

MAC

I have no rivals, Chet. He was never that.

CHET

Yes, sir.

MAC

I defeated him already. I don't need to do it again.

CHET

But he did put up a hell of a fight. With limited resources.

MAC

Speak plainly, son.

CHET

Your liberation of the Philippines wasn't a picnic, sir. He did put up a hell of a fight. A hell of a fight.

(Awkward pause.)

MAC

You suggesting he out generated me, boy?

CHET

No, sir. You won.

MAC

By a wide margin.

CHET

He wasn't supplied, sir. He was cut off.

MAC

You saying it wasn't a fair fight?

CHET

No, sir. I'm only talking about... appearances.

MAC

Let me worry about appearances. You'd have a tough time convincing anyone The Tiger out generated me. No one's going to think this is revenge. No one.

CHET

But is it, sir?

(An awkward moment.)

MAC

Man's a butcher, son. Focus on that. My motives are pure. Are we clear?

CHET

Yes, sir.

I-5

(Location: Jail.)

CHET

(To audience)

That morning, the morning I received my assignment, I met him. The Tiger. Captian Amparo took me, to his cell. To say I expected a monster is an understatement. As we snaked our way through the labrynthine prison I feared a minator, a horned beast half bull, half dragon. And I would need to defend him, exhonerate him if I could. Is that why Alan was detailed to take me? Captian Amparo. So I could see them standing together, beast and victim. To remind me of whose side I really was on.

(ALAN and CHET stand waiting.)

ALAN

Do you want me to transcribe the interview?

CHET

No. I just want to... No.

ALAN

Have you been in Luzon long?

CHET

Since the invasion.

ALAN

It's good to be back. More settled than when I left.

CHET

I imagine. Do you like Tokyo?

ALAN  
Not so much. A lot of rules.

CHET  
Overruled?

ALAN  
Overruled?

CHET  
Yes, a new use of the word.

ALAN  
Ah, I see. I like that. I like to learn new idioms.

CHET  
Well, that one's brand new. I've never heard it before.

ALAN  
I shall think of it every time someone objects.

(THE TIGER enters. He is only sixty but looks prematurely aged. He is stooped, dressed in a green uniform removed of all insignia and identification. He wears glasses and walks with a slight shuffle.)

CHET  
Will you excuse us, Captian?

ALAN  
Yes.

(ALAN salutes smartly. CHET is surprised by this.)

CHET  
You're always doing that.

ALAN  
Inferior officer intiates salute.

(CHET return the salute. ALAN looks at THE TIGER and exits.)

CHET  
General.

(CHET bows. THE TIGER stares at him.)

TIGER  
You are Major Vrance?

CHET  
Verance.

TIGER  
That makes more sense. I approve. (He starts to leave.)

CHET  
That was quick.

TIGER  
Would it make any difference if I didn't?

CHET  
No. Probably not.

TIGER  
Then I approve. Goodbye.

CHET  
We should talk.

TIGER  
You will excuse me. Right now I am... uptight.

CHET  
Uptight?

TIGER  
I haven't had my morning poop.

CHET  
Oh. Do you need something?

TIGER  
No, I have it. American coffee. It just hasn't brewed yet. But... (We hear the whistle of a tea kettle.) There it is. Goodbye.

I-6

(Location: Adam's Morgan. DARIN and GILES in a Washington bar, sipping drinks.)

GILES  
So you're not interested in me?

I could be.

DARIN

That sounds ominous.

GILES

(DARIN flashes his ID.)

GILES

Shit.

DARIN

Relax.

(DARIN hands over a picture.)

DARIN

Do you know this one?

GILES

I know all of them.

DARIN

Look at it.

GILES

So that's how it is. (He looks and laughs.) She wasn't dressed that way when she came in here.

DARIN

That's his graduation picture.

GILES

Mary wouldn't get a trick wearing a rig like that. Tassel's in the wrong place.

DARIN

Do you know him?

GILES

Sure I know her. But you'd sure have to dig deep to find anything on her.

DARIN

Why's that?

GILES

Sister, there are queens in here with dance cards thick as phone books. Why you wanna go after a little blushing rose like that?

DARIN

I'll go after the whole fucking joint you don't cooperate.

GILES

I saw her in here once. Once. Never forget a face.

DARIN

Did you leave with him?

GILES

No. She left with no one. I don't know how she made it in the door. Almost shaking. Willed herself up to it. One of the other girls said she heard she was the marrying kind, like an otter, or a Catholic, looking for a husband, mate for life.

DARIN

He had a boyfriend?

GILES

That's what they say. Another one of those funny tassel wearers. They all come in here when they're lonely, just to try it out. But then they discover even though they're like us, they're not like us. So then they find someone to settle down with.

DARIN

Which he did?

GILES

For a time. War separates all the best couples.

DARIN

Where do I find the boy friend?

GILES

You're the dick. Girl friend's around. Sniff her out. Something legal about her. I don't mean she's legal, I mean she's involved in legalities, lawyer or something. You know, like her.

DARIN

You know a lot about her. Him.

GILES

We got to talking. She wasn't bright enough to make up an alias. One of those honest ones. Girl, you can forget honesty running with this crowd.

Obliged.

DARIN  
(Standing to leave)

What's your rush?

GILES

You don't know how lucky you are. This place.

DARIN

Too small to matter?

GILES

Here. Buy yourself another round.

DARIN

(He peels off a bill and tosses it at GILES. He leaves)

I-7

(Location: Manila. CHET stands waiting. TIGER enters.)

Good morning.

CHET

Good morning.

TIGER

Have you been pooped yet?

CHET

Yes.

TIGER

(Pause.)

CHET

Was it satisfactory?

All poops are satisfactory. In my experience.

TIGER

Also in mine. A commonality is a good place to start.

CHET

(We hear tea kettle.)

TIGER

Excuse me. (TIGER starts to exit.)

CHET

We should talk, General, prepare your case.

TIGER

Facts. Truth. Stick to them. (Exiting) My afternoon tea.

I-8

(Clackety Clack: An Evening with a Great Man. MAC, DON, and ALAN enter to join CHET in another place. They all hold wine glasses. MAC is ranting. ALAN holds a telegram.)

MAC

Read that nonsense again. He can't be serious.

ALAN

"My recommendation is you should apologize to General Chang immediately. It can't hurt to have him on our side so long as we don't need to send any more troops."

MAC

Wants to gamble without buying any chips. No response.

DON

General. It's from the President.

MAC

It won't be the first commandment I've ignored. Truman. A nobody haberdasher. Sending me advice. The man blocks hats, he doesn't lead nations. Donald, can I run for President from here?

DON

It's never been tried before, General.

MAC

I hate Washignton.

DON

You'd have to live there if you won.

MAC

Really? Why? A good phone line and I can run a country from anywhere. I run Japan from here. I run here from Japan. Ridiculous. America needs someone who's out of the loop, off the Mall. By God, they're not going to give that hankie salesman another term, are they? What do you think, Alan?

ALAN

You should just stay here and run the Philippines. I'm sure we would elect you.

MAC

Elect me what?

ALAN

President. King. Emperor. Whatever you want.

MAC

What about President Osmena?

ALAN

Oh, pooh.

(They laugh.)

MAC

If I made the Philippines the forty-ninth state I could declare myself governor and enter politics. I could make the Philippines and Japan two new states. As governor of both I could leverage a huge majority at the poles.

DON

Innovative thinking, General.

MAC

What about you, Chet?

CHET

General?

MAC

You're very quiet in all this speculation.

CHET

With all due respect for your presidential ambitions...

(They all laugh.)

CHET

I think your talents are martial, General. I think you're right where you need to be.

MAC

Oh, you're talking about a war with Mao.

CHET

Or with Russia. China is the back door to Russia.

MAC

Yes, well, in that case they should have transferred me to Europe years ago and put me in command of the ground forces there. I would've plowed through the Germans and kept right on going to Moscow and Peking. Two birds with one stone. Two red breasts.

(They laugh.)

MAC

How's The Tiger?

CHET

Good.

MAC

Tell us what you're cooking up.

CHET

Well, General...

MAC

Oh, don't mind Don here. He'll need to know about your case soon enough.

CHET

The general doesn't really want me to create a defense. He wants me to rely on the truth, the facts.

MAC

Suspicious of lawyering, huh? That's smart. What was that defense attorney's name, Alan?

ALAN

Talbot.

MAC

Boy, did I feel sorry for Tojo with that butterfingers at the helm. Couldn't present a case for the life of him.

CHET

It's very intimidating, General. I can understand his anxiety.

MAC

Don't let some old Nip general intimidate you.

CHET

Not him, General. You.

MAC

Me? Son, I just want you to do your best. I'll even help you. Don't let it be said we didn't do our best by the old monster.

CHET

My understanding sir is that Admiral Iwabachi commanded that slaughter.

MAC

Acting on The Tiger's orders.

CHET

Acting independently. Iwabachi ignored the general's order to evacuate Manila, ignored his orders to leave it an open city-

MAC

Yes, yes, yes, I've heard all that. The Tiger's responsible. He created an atmosphere of fanaticism. He's not going to shake his guilt by saying he never directly ordered a slaughter.

CHET

It just seems an unnecessary thing to do, for him. Slaughter civilians. He's too smart a general, too clever, as good as they get really. He doesn't waste effort. The more I read about his campaign, the more impressed I am... he was brilliant.

MAC

Brilliant? He lost.

CHET

Wasn't he overwhelmed?

DON

By American generalship.

CHET

I would have said by American industry.

(Silence.)

DON

Captain Verance, I think our General is right in believing that the war was won by himself through superior strategic application.

MAC

Shut up, Donald. (Pause. To CHET) You won't get anywhere with me or with your defense by impuning my generalship.

CHET

I was merely suggesting-

MAC

Merely suggest something else, you litte bitch. You read into the record that man outfought me, I'll personally castrate you and throw you to the sharks.

(Pause.)

CHET

I'm sorry, general.

(The moment passes.)

MAC

I think the best tack will be that he had no idea what was happening.

DON

If you can prove it.

CHET

I will try.

MAC

Donald, have you eaten?

DON

No.

CHET

General, sir. I'm sorry if I-

MAC

Don't mention it, that's over. We've discussed it, we move on.

CHET

Still, I'm sorry. It was thoughtless.

(MAC places his hand on CHET's shoulder and gives it a squeeze, everything's ok.)

MAC

Will you join us?

CHET

I should talk to the general.

MAC

Again, anything I can do to help. Help you help him.

CHET

I need a way in, a way to get him to trust me.

MAC

What does he talk about?

CHET

His poop.

MAC

Ah, yes, we're both at that time of life, obsessed with staying regular. Ask him about this food. Prisoners always complain about the food, it will break the ice. Also, think of something physical to do with him, a walk, badmitton.

CHET

Badmitton?

MAC

I'm just thinking off the top of my head.

(He and DON exit.)

CHET

(To audience)

You see he had that ability. To show you fire eyes of the devil, watch you squirm and then poof, like a magician, it was gone. As if it never happneed. There is magic like that, magic built on enormous power.

I-9

(Location: Again, after morning poop. CHET holds a nap sack. THE TIGER enters.)

CHET

Hello.

Good morning. TIGER

Eat all right? CHET

Ate fine. Food was bad. TIGER

Yes, army food. Very bad. It's meant to be. That's democracy for you. The lowest common denominator, even in taste. (He produces two baseball mits from bag and hands one to THE TIGER.) That's a mit. CHET

Yes. TIGER

I thought we could play catch. Exercise the mind as we exercise the body. You know how to use a mit? CHET

I have seen American baseball. TIGER

Have you ever played it? Played catch? CHET

No. I don't like things flying towards my face. TIGER

No one does, that's why you have a mit. CHET

As a military man I'm trained to duck, not catch. TIGER

Well, you're a civilian now, time to learn new skills. (THE TIGER is quiet.) Sorry. Didn't mean to condescend. I thought it might relax us. I'm very tense. Probably not as good at talking to Japanese as you are to Americans. CHET

Now you're condescending. TIGER

CHET

Yes, an occupational hazard for an attorney. Can we play? I thought it might... level the playing field.

(CHET throws the ball to TIGER. He ducks. Ball flies off stage. He then stands.)

CHET

Well, that's one way to do it. Not very... not as much fun.

TIGER

Should I get the ball?

CHET

Please.

(We hear the kettle whistle. TIGER exits. Kettle whistle goes off. TIGER returns holding ball.)

CHET

Did you want your coffee?

TIGER

All pooped out. Cofee can wait.

CHET

You're not using that expression correctly. "All pooped out."

TIGER

Really?

CHET

Yes. It means tired. "I'm all pooped out" means "I'm tired."

TIGER

I like the way I use it. More logical.

(He throws ball.)

CHET

You have a good throw.

TIGER

I know how to throw things.

(CHET throws it. TIGER catches like a five year old just learning the use of the mit. He aligns it with the incoming ball and then turns his face away at the last instant, closing his eyes. He does manage to catch it though.)

TIGER

That's not a very good catch, is it?

CHET

You caught it.

TIGER

Yes, but style is part of the game. Appearances.

CHET

Yes.

(He throws it back.)

TIGER

Throw it to me.

(CHET throws it. TIGER catches it this time, only slightly wincing as it reaches his mit. From now on they will throw it back and forth with ease.)

CHET

Good. A lot more confidence.

TIGER

I'm acting.

CHET

Confidence is acting.

TIGER

Acting confident is to confidence what an origami bird is to a swan.

CHET

An origami can be beautiful in its own right.

TIGER

But it will never be a swan.

CHET

A swan can look arrogant, preening. Origami can never look arrogant.

TIGER

You cannot slaughter an origami and eat it.

CHET

No, that's true.

TIGER

Not a fortuitous comment from a man accused of ordering slaughter and cannibalism.

CHET

I don't think you're accused of ordering cannibalism.

TIGER

A technical point when the men who did the slaughtering were starving to death.

CHET

Did you order it?

(The ball falls.)

CHET

Sorry. Bad throw. My fault. Tell me about Admiral Iwabachi.

TIGER

I hardly knew him.

CHET

Would you describe him as a fanatic?

TIGER

No, but if you must go ahead.

CHET

How do you explain why he did what he did? If it wasn't ordered?

TIGER

I don't know. Is it important?

CHET

The prosecution will try to make it sound like he was simply following orders. Your orders.

TIGER

But he was not. My orders were clear, evacuate the city. I never trained Iwabachi's troops, never met them, never even saw them.

CHET

Don't you feel they were your responsibility?

TIGER

Yes, of course.

CHET

Then you are guilty. Of a war crime.

TIGER

There are large margins between guilt and responsibility.

CHET

The Judges won't see it that way.

TIGER

Because they are the victors.

CHET

Are you saying-

TIGER

You know what I'm saying. But will you let me say it in court? Will you say it?

CHET

You are on trial here.

TIGER

A war crime is on trial here. It needs to be defined first. You must define it. Is this trial a game or a play? A play has memorized lines and a foregone conclusion, a course, a plot. A game is unpredictable, it is either won or lost, like a war. Which is this trial – play acting or a true contest? Are you my attorney, or just another one of my executioners?

CHET

I'm your attorney.

TIGER

Is there truth in your life?

CHET

What do you mean?

TIGER

You will have to expose secrets, do you fear exposure?

CHET

No.

TIGER

I have nothing to hide but I have no voice, not in your court. The things I say will be my faults, but they will be your responsibility. Are you free of guilt, such that you can accept responsibility?

CHET

I'm confused.

TIGER

If you will help me tell my story it might topple the frame of the courtroom, its assumptions. You can never win me an aquittal, but you might make them, him, reconsider his accusations.

CHET

I will try.

TIGER

Be careful.

CHET

Your throw has improved, as has your catch.

TIGER

I'm a quick learner. I'm innocent of course.

CHET

I hope to prove that.

TIGER

But you won't.

CHET

I will try.

(TIGER starts to leave.)

CHET

We must prepare.

TIGER

I don't want to prepare. That feels like cheating.

CHET

It's not. There is a way of preparing a story so that-

TIGER

Can you prepare the truth? One prepares lies, not truths.

CHET

The prosecution will try to confuse you.

TIGER

Then I shall carefully consider my answers.

CHET

I need a strategy.

TIGER

The strategy is to win.

CHET

I need witnesses.

TIGER

You have me, you have him.

CHET

Him?

TIGER

My opposition.

CHET

I can't subpoena the judge.

TIGER

He shouldn't be the judge.

CHET

Well, be that as it may-

TIGER

If he has made the mistake of making himself judge, we needn't compound his mistake by excusing him as witness.

CHET

But he's hardly, as witness, going to persuade himself, as judge, of anything.

TIGER

I disagree. The only person he listens to is himself. He's the perfect witness. You get him to speak the truth he'll hear it.

CHET

Then he must have already thought it, if it's the truth.

TIGER

Oh, I don't think so. He's a very complex man, you must water his brain and make it blossom. Right now it is just so many ugly folds.

CHET

You've got to give me more-

TIGER

You've studied my story, my background?

CHET

Of course.

TIGER

The answers are all there. Study his story, his background. Compare the two. That is your case.

CHET

You won't convince him to acquit you if you provoke him.

TIGER

Oh, there's no acquittal. Victors don't acquit.

CHET

Then why do it? Why not plead guilty?

TIGER

I want it all read into the record.

CHET

You're hoping the Supreme Court overturns it.

TIGER

Good God, no. I believe in records. One day it might mean something. And I know Americans would never throw a record away. They are fanatical about libraries, museums, places of storage. Words gain credence by being written down, they gain weight. They graduate from conversation to literature and literature rules history. It becomes precedent and then law. I fought my last campaign with no strategy, except survival. If we commit ourselves to that strategy, something will survive.

I-10

(Blackout. Location: The Prosecution's Case. Images of the Siege of Manila are projected. DON narrates. We see the grizzly things he talks about.)

DON

I'll start by showing this: The Tiger pulled out with the bulk of his army, Admiral Iwabachi was left behind. Iwabachi and his marines held the central city, the Intramuros, for one month. One month. They were surrounded, cut off. They inflicted an orgy of violence on the inhabitants. Seventeen thousand Japanese and one hundred thousand Filipinos. Everyone died. Rape, murder, vivisection, cannibalism, a lot of cannibalism. These are the images. When the Americans finally got in there whole families had been slaughtered, whole neighborhoods leveled. After Aushwitz and the Rape of Nanking, Manila was the greatest holocaust of the war. Hospital patients were tied to their beds and then their hospitals were set on fire. These are the dead babies. Their eyeballs had been gouged out and smeared on walls like jelly. Dead women, used for sex then butchered. Heaps of dead women. And what did it do? It bought Tiger time. Time to get away. To the hills. All part of a deliberate strategy.

(Lights. Pause. CHET looks at DON.)

CHET

And you'll argue?

DON

He ordered it.

CHET

He didn't.

DON

He knew it would happen.

CHET

He didn't.

DON

He created an aura of fanaticism, fight to the death, as did all Japanese commanders. The evacuation order was window dressing. He didn't prevent Iwabachi from staying.

CHET

He couldn't.

DON

He must be held accountable.

CHET

As must all commanders.

DON

How will you defend him?

CHET

He showed clemency for American prisoners, for Filipinos. Attocities? It certainly isn't the kind of thing charactertisite of his army, his command style.

DON

The General'll try to keep you on track, move the thing forward.

CHET

Do you think war crimes can be tried? Who's objective? Certainly not us, the General least of all.

DON

He's pretty fair-minded. When it doesn't involve him directly.

CHET

This does.

DON

How so?

CHET

The Tiger was his arch enemy, his opponent for almost a year.

DON

But he won. He already beat him.

CHET

Barely.

DON

Barely? You're the only one who sees it that way. A word of warning.

CHET

Ok.

DON

Impartial warning. The General's fascinated by the world, by people. You might intrigue him and then he'll let you think it's all right. It's not.

CHET  
You mean he'll let me bury him.

DON  
I mean he'll let you bury yourself.

(ALAN knocks.)

DON  
Come in.

(ALAN enters and snaps to attention.)

CHET  
I wish you wouldn't do that.

ALAN  
Why not? Initiating the salute, to my superiors.  
CHET

We're all officers. You don't need to.

ALAN  
I'm sorry. I'm very grateful for my job. I like to do it. Here, I'll do it again.

(He snaps to attention again. DON laughs.)

CHET  
You don't think it's demeaning?

ALAN  
No, it has order. Refinement. Two years ago I was surrounded by disorder, starvation, violence. Saluting, uniforms, structure, respect, these are all new things in my life.

CHET  
Is that why the Filipinos love him?

ALAN  
Who?

CHET  
The General.

ALAN  
He liberated us. That's why we love him.

CHET  
Do you think The Tiger is guilty?

ALAN  
Of course.

CHET  
Why?

ALAN  
He was in charge. His soldiers committed unspeakable acts.

DON  
On the subject of the unspeakable I have a date with an unimaginable. As fascinating as this discussion is, some of us have dinner plans.

CHET  
Don.

DON  
What? Married men don't roost? Wherever there's a nest, my boy. (Pause.) Hey, I'm always true to her in my fashion. And din-din calls-calls.

ALAN  
Oh, that's why I'm here. Compliments of President Osmena, you're both invited to supper.

DON  
Oh, man, you're kidding.

ALAN  
It's a great honor.

DON  
I already have a date. With an angel.

ALAN  
She presentable?

DON  
She's a WAVE.

ALAN  
Bring her along.

DON

Hey, hey, dinner at the palace. Good idea, Alan. That should get me in the sack. See ya boys.

(He exits.)

ALAN

Are you bringing a date as well?

CHET

No, I fly solo. Just me and my shadow.

ALAN

Can I give you a lift?

CHET

When's din-din?

ALAN

Twenty hundred.

CHET

Couple hours to kill.

ALAN

We could get a drink.

CHET

And talk about war crimes, and saluting and-

ALAN

There's a bar, other side of the river, very nice.

CHET

Other side of the river?

ALAN

It's nice over there. Fewer rules. Underrulled.

CHET

I better not. I'm no good when I drink.

ALAN

I'm counting on that.

(CHET smiles, tempted but hesitant.)

CHET

I have work to do. But, uh, you can buy me a drink at the palace.

ALAN

Ah, well... there I'm on my best behavior. I'll give you a rain check. For seeing me at my worst.

CHET

(To the audience)

As it turned out the dinner had a floor show. It's name was Mac.

I-11

(Title: The man who would be king. MAC has entered. He is in his dress uniform and holds a drink.)

MAC

Old Man Roosevelt once called me on the phone. He said, "Douglas. Douglas!" He spoke like that, very high pitched and said everything twice. One of those people who never trusted the telephone to communicate what he was actually saying. I said, "Yes, Franklin." He hated that. Wanted to be called "Mr. President" even though he called me Douglas. He said, "Douglas! We have a frightful row down here with the Bonus Marchers. They're all over my front lawn protesting." I said, "Franklin, why don't you give them their damn money. They won the war, they deserve their victory bonuses." He said, "Dammit, Doug, I don't have any money. And Wilson promised them that bonus, the old boob. Better get down here and clean them off my lawn." So I became the first US general to lead an army into battle in the center of Washington DC. Damn efficient cavalry. Got rid of them, the ragamuffins. Only killed thirty in the process. Pitiful, scrawny things. Nevertheless, it had to be done. But when it was over, I stood there, in the middle of the Mall, surrounded by my troops. And it occurred to me, it suddenly occurred to me, "Hell, I could take the town, with this army, right now." I looked at the White House, the Supreme Court, the Capitol. Defenseless. And my boys were just getting warmed up. I even had my tank brigade with me. It would have been easy as pie. Sieze the capitol. Set the country on the right track. Franco got away with it. Mussolini. Why not? But I didn't of course. I'm just a nice middle class boy. My mama told me, "Never, ever, start a coup. It's just bad manners."

(Laughter.)

I-12

CHET

(To audience)

And that was the last night of story telling before... the trial. If memory is a stage manager it is most efficient, economical. There were many people in that courtroom, I

don't remember any of them except myself, Don, The Tiger, Alan – sweet Alan - a bailiff, and... him. There were, in fact, three judges, a proper tribunal. But it was a tribunal of one. He was the only one who mattered, we all knew that. The others were... set dressing.

(Location: The Trial, Day One. ALAN stands and reads the manifest from behind his table. As he speaks we see DON behind his table and CHET behind his. TIGER sits with CHET.)

ALAN

This case before the Military Government of the Philippines is hereby convened, General of the Army presiding. Major-Generals Thomas and Miller tribunal.

(MAC becomes illuminated behind the bench. BAILIFF stands beside him.)

CHET

(To audience)

He was the only one I saw. I'll let him make the rest of the introduction.

MAC

Be seated. It seemed to work pretty well in Tokyo that there was a free interchange between the tribunal and the court. In other words, I freely asked questions to clarify certain points. Which I think is acceptable form so long as it is acceptable to the other members of the court. Any objections to that kind of arrangement?

DON

No, General.

CHET

None, your honor.

MAC

Well then-

(TIGER has raised his hand.)

MAC

Yes.

TIGER

I have no objections either.

MAC

Thank you.

CHET

(To audience)

Don presented his case, very well I thought. Then he showed his grizzly footage. There was more of it, more than he'd shown me. Mac was visibly sickened, Alan was oddly stoic, The Tiger watched carefully, very carefully. Then it was my turn. (To the court) The defense will show that while it acknowledges the horror of the footage shown by the prosecution it does not acknowledge any culpability on the part of the defendant. There is no record of his ordering Admiral Iwabachi to stay in the city. In fact the Admiral's instructions, as our exhibits show, were explicit: evacuate the city, Manila shall be an open city.

MAC

Yes, we've reviewed those documents. They seem to be in order. They do not, in and of themselves, remove culpability or responsibility.

CHET

I do not argue with responsibility, I argue against fault. A commander is responsible for the actions of all his officers even if they disobey him, but is he at fault? Was his intent that they should do this or be left to do it? We think not.

MAC

We do not concede that a commander who is responsible for the nefarious deeds of his underlings is not also at fault for them.

CHET

Then we will adopt a comparative method in establishing that we are at difference with the court on that matter.

MAC

A comparative method?

CHET

Yes.

MAC

Very well. Where would like to start?

CHET

With the defendant's intent.

MAC

Which becomes a question of character counselor, in the absence of evidence.

CHET

Yes, we intend to establish that such heinous deeds or the desire of them reside outside the defendant's character. I'd like to begin by calling the defendant to the stand.

(TIGER mounts the witness stand.)

CHET

General, can you please review your military record for us? Your record during the war?

TIGER

I was assigned to command the invasion of Malaya in 1941. We took Malaya in two months, from the British. I was then assigned to fight the Chinese in Manchuria, which I did until 1944. In 1944 I was given command of the army in the Philippines. That was my assignment until the war ended.

CHET

Was the assignment to fight in China a good assignment?

TIGER

No. It was a backwater.

CHET

Why were you assigned to a backwater?

TIGER

I was not liked in Tokyo.

CHET

Why were you not liked in Tokyo?

TIGER

It's complicated.

CHET

Had you fought successfully in Malaya?

TIGER

Yes.

CHET

Had you defeated the British?

TIGER

Yes.

CHET

Then why were you given a backwater assignment?

TIGER

After the victory in Malaya, it was felt I had shown insufficient ruthlessness with the British prisoners.

CHET

What do you mean insufficient?

TIGER

I had been too lenient.

CHET

What do you mean too lenient?

TIGER

I delivered all my prisoners to prison camps. It was an orderly surrender.

CHET

And that was seen as a bad thing?

TIGER

It was seen as “not the way we should have liked to see things done.”

CHET

Were you ordered to abuse prisoners?

TIGER

Not in so many words.

CHET

Were you ordered to torture and murder prisoners?

TIGER

Not in so many words.

CHET

Then why do you say you felt this was a source of displeasure to your superiors?

TIGER

It was understood.

DON

Objection. Speculation.

MAC

Overruled. I'd like to hear this.

CHET

Why was it understood?

TIGER

The War in the Pacific was, for many in Japan, a race war. The white race needed to be shown to be inferior, mentally, physically, psychologically. I believe this was the thinking of the Nazis in their abuse of the Jews. If we brutalize people they will become brutes. Prove they are animals by treating them like animals. This was how we were to demonstrate to ourselves that we were the master race, by brutalizing the enemy.

CHET

Why were you, as a Japanese, critical of this policy?

TIGER

I wasn't critical. I understood their thinking.

CHET

You did?

TIGER

The men who formulated these race codes were ignorant. I was fortunate enough to spend time in the US before the war. I saw the humanity and enlightenment of the Anglo-Saxon people. Most Japanese are not so fortunate.

CHET

Yet you did not disdain them?

TIGER

You cannot disdain the ignorant. You also cannot let them guide your actions.

CHET

Thank you.

(CHET sits. MAC nods to DON. DON stands.)

DON

General, would you agree that your superiors in Tokyo were jealous of your success in Malaya and the publicity it received?

TIGER

If they were jealous it was unfounded.

DON

Wouldn't you agree that that was their principle motivation for sending you to China?

TIGER

No, I would not.

DON

General, would you describe your campaign in Malaya as brilliant?

TIGER

I would describe it as successful.

DON

How many men did you have in your army?

TIGER

30,000.

DON

How many did the British have in theirs?

TIGER

100,000.

DON

120,000.

TIGER

I didn't know that. Only 100,000 surrendered.

DON

Some got away. So 100,000 men surrendered to your 30,000. Do you still not call your campaign brilliant?

TIGER

The British were poorly led, poorly supplied, they were not supported.

DON

Are you aware their commander-in-chief Winston Churchill has described your campaign against his armies as brilliant?

TIGER

He would do that, as a way of excusing his deficiencies.

DON

Is it far fetched to speculate that your superiors were jealous of your brilliance?

CHET

Objection. Speculation. Stated speculation.

DON

Do you think they were jealous?

TIGER

If they were, they were stupid. That is not the way to fight a war.

CHET

Yet they did not give you a proper assignment for over two years.

TIGER

They wanted me to fight not just a successful war but a certain kind of war, a war that demonstrated not only the superiority of my army, which I believed in, but also the inferiority of my enemy, which I did not.

CHET

Why did you think differently?

TIGER

I think it adds to my glory if I approach my enemy as formidable.

CHET

I suggest to you that your superiors were jealous and that their envy motivated your lackluster assignments.

TIGER

I am a leader myself. I am jealous of many of my inferiors. That does not prevent me from using the talented to win a fight.

CHET

But as you say, your superiors were not as enlightened as yourself. Thank you.

MAC

Any further questions, counselor?

CHET

Not at this time.

MAC

Witness may step down.

(Pause.)

MAC

Counselor.

CHET

Yes, General.

MAC

Do you have anything further to add with regards to the defendant's character?

CHET

I do.

(Pause.)

MAC

How do you intend to do that, counselor?

CHET

Through the use of another character witness.

DON

Objection.

MAC

So soon?

DON

I wasn't informed of this additional witness. I haven't been given time to prepare.

CHET

Your honor, I suggest that it's been in the nature of this case, the expeditious nature of it, that I was only resolved to call this additional witness last night. I am more than happy to postpone the presentation of my case to allow the prosecution to adequately prepare itself.

MAC

No, no, no. Donald's good enough to ride the whirlwind. Objection overruled. Call your witness.

(Pause.)

MAC

Are you waiting for something, counselor?

CHET

Yes, General. My nerve.

(They all laugh.)

MAC

Well... call your witness, counselor.

CHET

The defense calls the presiding head of the tribunal to the stand.

DON

Objection. Defense is calling a witness who is also the judge.

MAC

Is that an objection or a brilliantly deductive observation?

DON

The judge on a tribunal is also the jury. I posit that the judge cannot remain impartial as jury when he's giving evidence.

CHET

That's why there's a record, that he might review the testimony later, in a different state of mind.

DON

There must be someone else who can speak to the evidence defense wants to present.

CHET

The General is the only commanding officer still alive who was with the American army in the Philippines both in 1942 and in 1945. He can speak to both the campaigns of Bataan and Manila. Might I also remind the court, respectfully, that the court made the generous offer to assist the defense in any way it could, as a demonstration of good faith.

MAC

You may remind the court.

CHET

Thank you.

MAC

We stand so reminded. Here I'll switch seats.

DON

Objection.

MAC

Oh, Donald, don't be such a fusspot. I can give testimony and remain impartial, it's just for the record.

DON

This is highly irregular.

MAC

Is it? I think of it as innovative. Besides there are two other judges to remind me of what I said. Go ahead, Major.

DON

Objection.

MAC

Donald, shut up. (To CHET) Proceed.

CHET

Please describe the campaign on Bataan in 1942.

MAC

The Japanese landed in January of 1942. I and my army retreated from Manila into the Bataan Peninsula in the spring of 1942. It was a highly irregular retreat.

CHET

How so?

MAC

We were undersupplied by the US, in fact we received no supplies from December 1941 to April 1942.

CHET

What happened in April?

MAC

I was ordered to move my headquarters to Australia to form a new army and continue the fight.

CHET

What happened to your army in Bataan?

MAC

I left it in the command of General Wainwright.

CHET

What happened to that army?

MAC

General Wainwright surrendered to the Japanese under General Homma.

CHET

Right after you left, correct?

MAC

That is correct.

CHET

And then what happened?

(Pause. MAC is silent)

DON

Objection. What relevance does this have to the case of the accused?

CHET

I want to establish certain facts of campaigning in the Philippines, as a comparative.

MAC

Overruled.

DON

Exception, we all know what happened after General Wainwright surrendered.

CHET

I want it entered into the record. So that we're clear. The defendant has that right.

DON

The witness obviously is uncomfortable with the story.

CHET

I know that. I'd like him to tell it anyway.

(Pause.)

MAC

That's all right, Don. I can tell it. Exception noted.

CHET

What happened after the surrender?

MAC

After the surrender... what happened to General Wainwright's army, my army was... horrifying. We didn't know about the concentration camps yet, or Nanking, but what happened, in terms of war atrocities... what happened was the most heinous deed ever inflicted on the soldiers of one army by another.

CHET

Please elaborate.

MAC

The surrendered American forces were marched north from Bataan, supposedly to prison camps. On the march they were subjected... to the most egregious abuses imaginable.

CHET

Please elaborate.

MAC

General Homma ordered his soldiers, his guards, to beat, bayonet, and flay their prisoners, the men whose lives they had been entrusted with by treaty, for one hundred miles. Men were beheaded, mutilated, stabbed and left to bleed to death, skinned, slowly... American soldiers were buried alive, by their comrades working under duress, as Japanese soldiers laughed and cheered. The march was the greatest ignominy visited upon any co-belligerents up to that time. Forty thousand Americans delivered themselves to the care of General Homma. Fifteen thousand arrived at the prison camps at the end of their ordeal.

CHET

What happened to the other twenty-five thousand?

MAC

Tortured and killed on the route to the camps.

CHET

Does this ignominy have a name?

MAC

It does.

CHET

What is that name?

MAC

The Bataan Death March.

CHET

Were you also the commander of the forces of Philippine liberation in 1945?

MAC

I was.

CHET

Who was the commander of the Japanese forces?

MAC  
(Indicating the TIGER)

That man.

CHET

The Defendant?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

Did American troops surrender to him in that campaign?

MAC

A few.

CHET

There are always some surrenders in any campaign?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

And some Americans fell into Japanese captivity?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

In the main, were they treated well by the defendant?

MAC

“Well?”

CHET

As well as might be expected, considering the poverty of the defendant’s command.

MAC

In the main, yes.

CHET

Did you feel it was the policy of the defendant to treat his prisoners well?

MAC

I did feel that.

CHET

Was there a great disparity between the treatment of prisoners by General Homma and defendant, in your experience?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

An enormous disparity?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

Where is General Homma now?

MAC

He's deceased.

CHET

How?

MAC

He was executed for war crimes.

CHET

The major offense being the Bataan Death March?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

Thank you.

(CHET sits. MAC gestures to DON. DON quickly rises.)

DON

General, did Americans in captivity die under the defendant?

MAC

Yes.

DON

Thank you.

(DON sits, MAC nods to CHET, and CHET rises.)

CHET

General, would you possit that the Americans who died in captivity under the defendant died because of privations the defnendant's forces were suffereing themselves, ie lack of food, shelter, etc.

MAC

Yes, I'd subscribe to that.

CHET

Did Gernal Hommas' forces suffer these same privations?

MAC

No. Homma had plenty of supplies. His prisoners died wantaonly, brutally, his was deliberate, sadistic extermination.

CHET

Thank you.

(Pause.)

MAC

Is that all?

CHET

Yes.

MAC

I'd like to adjurn.

(MAC crosses to CHET and places a hand on his shoulder. Then he exits. DON exits looking annoyed. TIGER is led away by BAILIFF as CHET watches him go. ALAN crosses to CHET.)

ALAN

Impressive.

CHET

You think?

ALAN

You'll never get him off.

CHET

Impressive but hopeless?

Him. Not you. ALAN

Do you still drink? CHET

All kinds of things. ALAN

Come by around 500. CHET

I-13

(ALAN exits. Location: Jail. Ball flies onstage. CHET catches it bare handed. TIGER enters.)

Today went A ok. TIGER

You feel “A ok.” You’re using that wrong. CHET

Really? “I feel A ok?” That sounds awkward. I like my usage. TIGER

Where’s your mit? CHET

Don’t need it. Prefer it this way. Feel the ball. Did you think it went A ok? TIGER

Depends on how you define “A ok.” CHET

A but not full A. An “ok” A. Some mistakes but generally good. TIGER

A minus? CHET

No. A ok. We are getting it into the record. What happened. In its entirety. TIGER

CHET

We're lucky we didn't provoke the general.

TIGER

Our luck won't hold. But I must see to that.

CHET

What do you mean?

TIGER

Some truths are unlucky but necessary. I'll create the breach, you just exploit it.

CHET

We won't get you off.

TIGER

Off what?

CHET

The hook.

TIGER

Ah, like a fish. I like that. But there is no getting this fish off the hook. There's only the record.

CHET

If he questions you tomorrow?

TIGER

Object. But let him. We'll show who dangles the hook, who holds the pole.

(Whistle.)

TIGER

Tea. (He exits.)

I-14

(Location: Feeling A ok. CHET's office. Knock is heard.)

CHET

Come in.

(ALAN enters.)

Thanks for coming.	CHET
Thank you.	ALAN
Here.	CHET (Handing him a drink)
What's this?	ALAN
A drink. A Gibson. (ALAN knocks it back.)	CHET
Would you like another one?	CHET
Yes, please. (CHET knocks his back. He chokes.)	ALAN
Are you all right?	ALAN
Yes. Fine. I never do that.	CHET
Then why did you do it?	ALAN
I wanted to catch up.	CHET
I never do it either.	ALAN
Why did you do it?	CHET
I'm nervous as heck.	ALAN

Hell. You're nervous as hell.	CHET
Hell yes.	ALAN
So am I.	CHET
I've never done this.	ALAN
Here. Neither have I.	CHET (Handing him drink)
Really?	ALAN
Yes.	CHET
But you come from Washington.	ALAN
You think this is what people do in Washington?	CHET
Don't they?	ALAN
No.	CHET
Oh. How about New York?	ALAN
No.	CHET
Dallas?	ALAN
Dallas?	CHET

ALAN  
I just thought things were... looser. In the United States.

CHET  
What made you think that?

ALAN  
Just... I don't know. It's just what everybody says.

CHET  
No, they're not.

ALAN  
Not here either.

CHET  
What about that bar? On the other side of the river.

ALAN  
Never been there. Thought I'd get up the nerve if you came with me.

CHET  
Me? I'm terrified of bars.

ALAN  
Me too.

CHET  
Why did you come today?

ALAN  
Why did you ask me?

CHET  
I was feeling cocky. Maybe that's the wrong expression. I felt confident, after a good day in court. Why did you come?

ALAN  
I felt cocky. That's sounds like the right expression to me.

CHET  
Do you think this is dangerous? I do.

ALAN  
So do I.

CHET  
You should leave.

ALAN  
OK.  
(ALAN doesn't move.)

ALAN  
Isn't there an American expression, in for a penny in for a pound?

CHET  
No, that's an English expression. (Pause.) But I know what you mean.  
(Pause.)

ALAN  
I don't really know what to do.

CHET  
You mean "do next?"

ALAN  
Yes.

CHET  
Neither do I really. Let's have another drink. (They drink in silence.) This doesn't happen here?

ALAN  
"This"... meaning?

CHET  
This.

ALAN  
Yes, it does. In special places, like little villages. Among tribal people. How about in the United States?

CHET  
In special places. Tribal places. Bars.

ALAN  
But this is more like a get together.

A date. CHET

A date? ALAN

We made a date. CHET

You can do that? Make a date? ALAN

CHET  
Yes. You can actually create a date. A date on a calender is just a number and a box, but you put something in it and you've made it. It's like making a plan, or making a conquest.

God, I'm shaking. ALAN

So am I. CHET

Are you afraid someone will come in? ALAN

Yes, of course. But also, you make me nervous. CHET

You make me nervous. ALAN

It's hard to know what to do. CHET

Yes. ALAN

Maybe we should just knock each other back like the drinks. CHET

You mean quickly, before we can think about it. ALAN

Yes. CHET

Ok. ALAN  
(Neither one of them moves.)

That didn't work. CHET

No. ALAN

Maybe it's the uniforms. CHET

Yes, they seem to be at odds with the date. ALAN

Should we take the uniforms off first? CHET

I'm going to take off my tie. ALAN

Ok. CHET  
(They both slowly loosen their ties and remove them.)

I like your neck. CHET

Yes, I have a good neck. ALAN  
(CHET begins to remove his shirt. ALAN removes his. Now they are standing in their t-shirts.)

I'm not as nervous as I thought I'd be. CHET

Me neither. ALAN  
(They remove their t-shirts. They now stand topless.)

CHET  
Have you done this before?

ALAN  
Not with another person. Have you?

CHET  
Not in the light.

ALAN  
The shoes feel ridiculous.

CHET  
Yes.

(They start to remove their shoes. Sudden knock on the door.)

BAILIFF  
I'm off, Major. See you in the morning.

(They quickly start redressing like crazy, silently.)

BAILIFF  
Major?

CHET  
Yes, sorry. Have a nice evening.

BAILIFF  
You too, sir.

(We hear his feet descending the stairs and leaving. They are in a disshevelled state of redress. They look at one another.)

CHET  
Umm... Where were we?

(They slowly start to remove their clothes again, building speed until they are back to removing their shoes. When they reach this point, they start in again removing the shoes, slowly. Now they are standing in only their trousers.)

ALAN  
How do you feel?

CHET  
Ridiculous.

ALAN  
Me too.

CHET  
You have a beautiful body.

ALAN  
So do you.

(ALAN reaches out and touches him. CHET groans.)

ALAN  
Such lovely smooth... The blond hair, almost like a sheen.

(CHET reaches out and touches ALAN. ALAN suddenly grabs his hand, forcing it away, almost violently.)

CHET  
Are you all right?

ALAN  
Yes. Sorry. It's ok.

(ALAN guides CHET's hand back to his breast. He winces when CHET makes contact.)

CHET  
That's all right, I don't need...

ALAN  
Yes. Please. I want you to.

CHET  
But...

ALAN  
No, I need you to. Please.

(ALAN continues to wince with CHET's touch. But then he groans a bit himself. He grabs CHET and kisses him on the lips. They begin clawing at each other's remaining clothes. Blackout.)

I-15

(Location: The flip side. Cross to another office. DON and DARIN.)

DON

We're actually in the middle of a major trial.

DARIN

Life comes in waves. For decades a gentle lapping, then all at once a tsunami.

DON

You're kind of a weird one, aren't you?

DARIN

I don't like this assignment any more than you.

DON

But you're doing it.

DARIN

It's like prosecuting the enemy after the war. Shooting fish in a barrel.

DON

At least they were once the enemy.

DARIN

I think you should look at it as a moral equivalence. Just as the culture of war is improved through the prosecution of war criminals, the culture of society is enhanced through the prosecution of social deviants. We're all in the same game.

DON

By that measure society is just war in peacetime.

DARIN

I couldn't put it better myself. What have you seen?

DON

Nothing. The man's a monk.

DARIN

Well we know about them. Keep this entre nous. I'll just sniff around for a bit. See what I can find out. I don't want to rock the boat just yet.

(He exits.)

I-16

(Time – Trial, Second Day – ALAN, MAC, DON, CHET, TIGER, BAILIFF.)

DON

I would like to call the defendant to the stand for cross examination.

CHET

Objection. Prosecution has already cross-examined him.

DON

Distinctions were made yesterday between the fanaticism of General Homma's command and the defendant's. I would like to explore in greater detail the fanaticism of the defendant's defense of Luzon in 1945.

MAC

Go ahead.

(TIGER crosses to the stand.)

DON

General, who held overall command of the Phillipines in January of 1945?

TIGER

Imperial Headquarters in Tokyo.

DON

Who held overall *military* command, on the ground?

TIGER

On the ground? I did.

DON

So you were responsible for the city of Manila.

TIGER

On the ground. Yes.

DON

Your honor-

MAC

Yes, Mr... Anyway, please answer the questions yes or no.

TIGER

Of course, Field Marshal.

DON

The presiding judge is a General, not a field marshal.

TIGER

I understood he was proclaimed a Field Marshal in the Philippine Army.

MAC

I am, that's quite right. But General will do.

TIGER

I shall say general.

DON

Were you responsible for the city of Manila?

TIGER

No.

DON

You were.

CHET

Objection, your honor.

DON

He already said he was.

CHET

Objection.

DON

He now is drawing distinctions to protect himself-

CHET

Objection.

MAC

Gentleman. Gentleman. Sir, we do in fact have in our possession written orders making you commander of all military forces in the Philippines.

TIGER

In my army those orders would not have necessarily embraced the naval forces of Admiral Iwabachi.

DON

But they would have embraced the marines, who fought on land.

TIGER

Not necessarily.

DON

Your orders explicitly state they were.

TIGER

Are there not bodies in the American military who disobey orders no matter how explicitly they are stated.

MAC

No.

TIGER

Never?

MAC

Absolutely not.

TIGER

You mentioned General Wainwright's taking your command after you left the Philippines in 1942. When he surrendered that command was he following your orders?

(MAC looks at him, smiles.)

MAC

I've answered your question, Mister.

TIGER

I am a general.

MAC

Counsel can call you what he wants. I will, in recognition of your army's defeat, refer to you as the defendant. You are on trial as a civilian. Go ahead counsel.

DON

(To the TIGER)

Did you issue orders that the marines under Admiral Iwabuchi abandon the city of Manila on January 15, 1945?

TIGER

Yes.

DON

Then we must assume that, in your mind, you considered them under your command. Thank you. I've heard your defensive strategy for Luzon described as survival. Would you say that's a fair characterization?

TIGER

Yes.

DON

Does that suggest to you a fight to the death?

TIGER

Death isn't survival.

DON

A fight to the bitter end?

TIGER

A fight to the end.

DON

Was this strategy communicated to your entire command?

TIGER

It was.

DON

Doesn't this strategy appear to you as conflicted with the order to abandon Manila?

TIGER

It might. But those were my instructions.

DON

Yet, you were a vicious fighter. 100,000 US deaths in combat with your troops. Did you know that?

TIGER

I was a fighter. For me there are not gradations of fighting. You either fight or you flee.

DON

In this case Iwabachi fought so you could flee.

TIGER

That is one interpretation. Though it was not my intention.

DON

Might Admiral Iwabachi have felt like he was receiving conflicting orders from your command.

TIGER

A strategy is not an order. My orders were explicit, the strategy was implicit.

DON

Can you describe what happened after your forces left Manila?

CHET

Objection. We've already heard this. And the General wasn't in Manila at the time.

DON

General MacArthur wasn't in the Philippines for the Death March and we had to hear that. I would like this entered into the record, in the defendant's own words.

MAC

Overruled, go ahead.

TIGER

I do not know.

DON

How could you not know?

TIGER

I only know what I learned, since my capture.

DON

Well tell us what you've learned.

TIGER

But I did not know this at the time.

DON

You didn't hear anything, rumors?

TIGER

I heard rumors, a general hears many rumors.

DON

What did you hear?

TIGER

At the time I heard there was confusion, even some barbarism in the city, especially in Intramuros.

DON

Could you be more specific?

TIGER

About what I heard at the time, no. It was not specific.

DON

Then about what you heard afterwards.

TIGER

Are you sure you want me to?

DON

(Impatient)

Your honor.

MAC

(To the TIGER)

Please.

TIGER

Forgive me. General. I heard, at the time, two things. I heard, at the time, that there was confusion in Manila. After my capture I heard there was unmitigated horror. I heard those things. I heard that Admiral Iwabachi and his men had gone insane. In spite of my orders, they had not evacuated the city. They had stayed. They had dug themselves in and decided to defend Intramuros. The longer they stayed, the more... desperate they became. They took their frustration out on the civilian population. They... I heard that they executed many civilians. They bayoneted children. They summarily executed men. They raped and murdered and, so I have heard, vivisected... I believe that is the word... they dismembered many women. That is what I heard.

DON

Do you believe these stories?

TIGER

I do.

DON

Thank you. Now-

TIGER

I also heard-

DON

Excuse me.

TIGER

I said I heard two things.

DON

Oh, yes, yes of course.

TIGER

I also heard that the American artillery commander General Halibut had been told to shell the Intramuros round the clock. That he had been ordered to flatten the whole of Intramuros with artillery. That he was assisted in this by the American Navy and by the American Air Corps. That the navy shelled from vessels off shore and that the air force bombed indiscriminately... I believe it is called carpet-bombing or terror bombing, for three weeks.

DON

Thank you.

TIGER

I also heard that the Japanese marines attempted to surrender but they were shot down, that civilians were fired upon because the American ground forces couldn't always tell the difference and they were told to take no chances. I was told that the American artillery commander went insane. That he had been berated for not clearing Intramuros sooner and that he had been told that if he couldn't clear it he should do what even a stupid man could do: level it.

DON

Thank you.

(Pause.)

CHET

Redirect? (Pause.) Your honor?

MAC

Go ahead.

CHET

(To the TIGER)

General, did you believe these stories? The second of these stories?

Objection. DON

Why? CHET

Those stories are hearsay. It's irrelevant whether he believed them DON

You could say the same thing about the first set of stories. CHET

Those have been substantiated as fact. DON

Move on, Chet. MAC

Move on? CHET

Objection is sustained. MAC

(Pause. TIGER stares at CHET.)

Who, did you hear, General, had berated the American artillery commander and given him such grievous instructions? CHET

Objection. DON

(They both look at MAC. Pause.)

Move on, Counselor. MAC

Was the artillery commdander berated by a Field Marshall? CHET  
(To the TIGER)

Your honor. DON

(Pause.)

MAC

Counselor-

CHET

Forgive me, your honor. I am only trying to establish, without criticism of anyone, that the Battle for Manila was a high pressure affair in which all parties were behaving, understandably, in a state of confusion and urgency-

MAC

No well-trained army ever operates in a state of confusion, Counselor. And no urgency can ever sanction war atrocities inflicted on civilians. Such a question can only be seen as an accusation, Counselor. Are you making one?

(Pause.)

TIGER

Perhaps I can be of assistance, General. (Pause.) I have forgotten who gave the order to the American artillery commander. It was one of many details of a very complicated account.

MAC

Thank you.

CHET

No further questions.

(Pause. No one moves.)

MAC

That's enough for today. Court is adjourned. Return the prisoner to his cell.

(BAILIFF takes TIGER to his cell. The others wait in silence. Only when TIGER has left does MAC speak.)

MAC

(To CHET)

What the hell are you doing, you unctuous piece of shit! Are you out of your mind? Are you? Answer me! Answer me or I'll have you strung up by the testicles!

CHET

Perhaps the General would like to excuse the other members of the court.

MAC

Answer the question. Are you out of your mind?

CHET

No. I am duty bound to defend my client.

MAC

Your client? Your client is a fucking butcher who we will hang when this charade is complete. You'd have us read into the record criticisms of US officers in the field?

DON

He wants it in there so he can appeal it to the Supreme-

MAC

Shut up, Donald! Shut the fuck up!

DON

Yes, Geeneral.

MAC  
(To ALAN)

Strike the irrelevant testimony from today's transcript.

ALAN

General.

MAC

Do it, goddam you!

ALAN

Yessir.

CHET

That's illegal, sir.

MAC  
(To ALAN)

Get out!

(ALAN leaves.)

MAC

Did you know General Halibut. Did you ever meet him?

CHET

No, sir.

MAC

The biggest cocksucker I ever met in my life. Yellow to the marrow. A heal dragger. A bench sitter. We towed his artillery the length of Luzon and he wouldn't even fire it when he got to Manila. He was afraid of damaging the city's historic center. I explained to him, calmly, that it was ours, it was mine, mine to destroy. And even then he heal-dragged. You're damn right I berated him. He was shaking, tears in his eyes when I was done with him. And then he snapped, became a zombie, went crazy. The next I knew I couldn't get him to silence those fucking guns, I couldn't even get him on the phone. But I thought, "If this is how he wants to play it, let him. Let him do one heroic thing with his miserable life, even if it comes from insanity." And when he was done we shipped him home in a straight jacket. He was so dopped he didn't know he was on a plane. What'd he say as we put him on the plane, Donald? You were there.

DON

General.

MAC

Tell us.

DON

"I'm a bird, I'm a bird."

MAC

I'm a bird, I'm a fucking bird. He was a loon, Major. He went from yellow belly to loon.

CHET

That should be a part of the record, General.

MAC

The record is evidence we tried this man fairly and with due diligence. Any other war he'd be strung up on site without benefit of trial. The record is the trial. That's all he gets. Now if the only way you can defend him is to mock the people who set this country free then I have no respect for you or your fancy assed education. You're an attorney, think up some loopholes, some legal tricks, figure it out, persuade me not of this man's innocence, but of some oversight on our part as a judicial body, find a precedent.

CHET

That's what I'm trying to do.

MAC

Find a different tack, Major. Be creative. That's why I gave you this assignment.

CHET

With all do respect, General...

MAC  
Fuck you, say it.

CHET  
General...

MAC  
Fuck you.

CHET  
You gave me this assignment to fail.

MAC  
Then fail, Counselor. If that's your interpretation of your assignment, run with it.

CHET  
Are you serious, General?

MAC  
I've outlined parameters for this exercise, you'll have to find yourself within them. Am I clear?

CHET  
Yes, General.

MAC  
You think you're under pressure right now? Try fighting a war with every goddamn back-bencher in Washington breathing down your neck about casualties, costs, calendar deadlines. You pipsqueaks don't know the meaning of pressure, either of you. Moral obligation? I brought freedom to a part of the world that knew only indenture. Freedom, Major.

I-17  
(Location: Bad day. MAC and DON exit. Ball rolls onstage. CHET picks it up, stares at it. TIGER enters.)

CHET  
Today was a disaster.

TIGER  
You exploited the breach. We operated as a team. I pitched, you hit.

CHET

That's not how baseball works. He is the pitcher. Always. The more we alienate him the less likely we are of an aquital.

TIGER

An aquital is not important. What's important is that it gets read into the record.

CHET

So the record says you're innocent, what does that matter-

TIGER

I don't care what it says about my innocence.

CHET

Then what do you care about?

TIGER

That a record is kept. Of the trial.

CHET

Why?

TIGER

Will he ever stop the record? Stop the Filipino officer recording it?

(Pause while CHET decodes what to say.)

CHET

No, he'd never do that.

TIGER

Then it is ok. I like what you're doing. I like it going down on paper.

CHET

I'm going to get myself in trouble.

TIGER

No, you won't. He admires his adversaries. He respects talent.

CHET

Up to a point.

TIGER

No. You have his admiraton, I can tell. No matter how angry he gets.

CHET

He doesn't get angry at Captain Catesby. Doanld.

TIGER

Captain Catesby is a plodder, unimginative.

CHET

Catesby's going to have a job when he gets home.

TIGER

I'd hire you in a minute.

CHET

Thanks but you're not hiring.

TIGER

Officers used to beg me for favor.

CHET

Not recently. You barely got assigned me.

TIGER

I am very impressed with you. I was sure they'd assign me a clunker. I was sure I'd get the Catesby type. You are the one thing that impresses me about him and this trial. He obviously wanted a game to play, not just a play to enact.

CHET

Your catch is very good.

TIGER

Thank you.

CHET

Almost like you've always been good at this, playing catch.

TIGER

We all have secrets. Mine is American sports. What's yours?

CHET

You wanna know?

TIGER

Yes.

CHET

Can you keep a secret?

Yes. TIGER

I doubt it but I feel I should tell you anyway. CHET

Ok. TIGER

Other men on the base hear this they'll laugh me back to the States. CHET

What is it? Tell me. I love gossip. TIGER

Ok. CHET

Well? TIGER

I never played catch until I came in here with the mits. CHET

Really? TIGER

Yes. CHET

You see. It's all about confidence. You were so confident I didn't notice? TIGER

And you were so busy acting like you were scared of the ball you didn't have time to notice. CHET

I never thought of that. Why are you doing this? Defending me so... well? TIGER

It's my duty. CHET

(Ball stops.)

TIGER

That's no reason.

CHET

I don't like fixed games. Contests with secrets, unfair tricks up the sleeve. Justice is blind. I don't like to catch her peaking.

I-18

(Location: Trial, Third Day – Unnecessary Force. Back to courtroom. DEIRDRA, a middle-aged Filipino woman, sits on the witness stand.)

CHET

(To the audience)

Next day defense presented a new witness. A country of fifteen million and they called her. The Tiger was right. Mac had found a game to play. (To court) Objection. I wasn't informed of this witness. Additionally, the prosecution has presented its case.

DON

I plead exigencies of the trial. We didn't... I didn't find her until last night.

MAC

Overruled. Proceed.

DON

What is your name?

DEIRDRA

Deirdra. Deirdra Amparo.

CHET

Objection, your honor. I know nothing about this witness.

DON

I didn't know you were going to put the judge on the stand.

CHET

You know him, you know his history. Your honor, why specifically this witness? That's what I'd like to know.

DON

She can tell us about the siege.

CHET

Yes, but why her? There must be thousands of witnesses with her story.

DON

She speaks English, we know her, we can trust her.

MAC

Objection overruled. Proceed, Captain.

DON

Where do you live?

DEIRDRA  
(Pointing at ALAN)

I'm his mother.

DON

Yes, thank you.

DEIRDRA

He can tell you where I live.

DON

It's for the record.

DEIRDRA

In Manila.

DON

Where in Manila?

DEIRDRA

Intramuros. Just outside the wall. Next to the Palace.

DON

Have you always lived there?

DEIRDRA

No, for a few months we lived outside the city.

DON

Why?

DEIRDRA

Our home was destroyed.

MAC  
Why did you move back, Mrs. Amparo?

DEIRDRA  
(To MAC)  
Oh, General.

MAC  
You can tell me.

DEIRDRA  
Well, we were afraid we'd lose our property. Our house was gone but people were beginning to live, to camp out on our property. So my son got us a temporary structure built, so we could have a presence there, to save our property.

MAC  
Thank you, dear. Go ahead.

DON  
Did you live there in February of 1945?

DEIRDRA  
Yes.

DON  
Can you tell us what happened in that month?

DEIRDRA  
Yes. Alan. My poor Alan.

ALAN  
Mother.

DON  
What happened to Alan?

ALAN  
They beat him. They broke his arm.

DON  
And what else?

ALAN  
They said they'd kill him.

DON

But they didn't. Why didn't they kill him?

DEIRDRA

Alan...

CHET

Your honor, objection. The defense concedes that atrocities were committed in Intramuros, the details have been outlined at length, we don't need to go any further.

MAC

(To DEIRDRA)

Are you comfortable talking about this, dear?

DEIRDRA

No.

MAC

Can you talk about it?

DEIRDRA

(Indicating TIGER)

If it will help you destroy that man, yes.

ALAN

Objection, your honor.

MAC

Yes, Counselor. She doesn't know what she's saying. Dear, we want the truth.

DEIRDRA

Of course.

MAC

Without prejudice.

DEIRDRA

Yes, I'm sorry. I can't help my hate but I am here to tell the truth.

CHET

Objection your honor, the witness is obviously prejudiced.

MAC

Ok. Overruled. Go ahead, dear.

DON

Why didn't they kill Alan?

DEIRDRA  
Because they liked him.  
  
(Pause.)  
  
DON  
What do you mean?  
  
CHET  
Objection. Your honor, I don't see-  
  
MAC  
Overruled.  
  
CHET  
Exception.  
  
MAC  
Sit down, Major. I'm interested. I haven't heard about this before.  
  
DON  
What do you mean they liked him?  
  
MAC  
Excuse me, dear. (To ALAN) Captain, would you like me to assign another court stenographer for-  
  
ALAN  
No, thank you, General. I'm fine.  
  
MAC  
Go ahead, dear.  
  
CHET  
Your honor, may I point soemthing out?  
  
MAC  
Yes.  
  
CHET  
If prosecution introduces into the record evidence of Japanese atrocities of an as yet un-introduced nature-  
  
MAC  
Speak plainly, counselor.

CHET

If she talks about the Japanese atrocities specifically I will have to call a witness to talk about American atrocities.

MAC

You have one?

(Pause.)

CHET

Yes.

MAC

That's fine, counselor.

CHET

It is?

MAC

Of course. Let's hear what she has to say, shall we? Go ahead, dear.

DON

Ma'am.

DEIRDRA

Oh, Alan, no one said I would-

ALAN

Go ahead, mother. Tell them.

DEIRDRA  
(To DON)

They liked him.

DON

How did they like him?

DEIRDRA

They liked to do things with him.

CHET

Your honor-

MAC

Counselor, you will remain silent or you will leave the courtroom. This interests me. Mrs Amparo.

DEIRDRA

They did things to him, for many days. They liked him.

DON

What kind of things?

DEIRDRA

Personal things.

DON

Sexual things?

DEIRDRA

Yes.

DON

Did they rape him?

DEIRDRA

Yes.

DON

Repeatedly?

DEIRDRA

Yes.

DON

How many times?

CHET

Your honor-

MAC

Counselor, I warned you-

CHET

I would like to leave the room. I would like to be dismissed.

MAC

Sit down.

Your honor- CHET

You should hear this too. MAC

How many times? DON

I don't know. DEIRDRA

How many were involved? DON

Eight men lived in the house. During the shelling. DEIRDRA

Were all eight men involved? DON

Yes. DEIRDRA

Every day? DON

Yes. DEIRDRA

Multiple times during the day? DON

Yes. DEIRDRA

Did they do things to anyone anyone else in the house? DON

Yes. DEIRDRA

Who? DON

Grace. Alan's older sister.

DEIRDRA

Both?

DON

Yes.

DEIRDRA

Can you describe what they actually did, the acts themselves.

DON

Sir.

DEIRDRA

The sexual acts. Did you see them?

DON

Yes.

DEIRDRA

Can you describe them?

DON

Ok, Counselor, that's enough.

MAC

Your honor.

DON

Your witness.

MAC  
(To CHET)

Mrs. Amparo, why are you here?

CHET

I was asked.

DEIRDRA

Why were you asked?

CHET

Because they felt they could trust me, because I'm Alan's mother, because I speak English.

DEIRDRA

DON

We felt if she could say it in front of her son it must be true.

CHET

Mrs. Amparo, do you hate this man? (Indicates TIGER.)

DEIRDRA

Yes.

CHET

Do you hold him responsible for what happened to Alan?

DEIRDRA

Yes.

CHET

Why?

DEIRDRA

He is the General, he was the general of those men.

CHET

Mrs. Amparo, how were those men dressed? The ones who lived in your house?

DEIRDRA

In uniforms.

CHET

Describe the uniforms.

DEIRDRA

Uniforms.

CHET

Could you give me details? Were they red uniforms? Were they white uniforms?

DEIRDRA

They were blue.

CHET

(Indicating The TIGER)

Like his uniform?

DEIRDRA

Yes.

Is his uniform blue?  
No.  
Were they like his uniform?  
No, they were not.  
You mentioned shelling earlier.  
Yes.  
Did the shelling happen once in while, once every few days?  
No, no... It was always.  
Constantly?  
Constantly.  
Did it fall around the Janapense gun emplacements inside Intramuros?  
I don't know.  
How far away were those gun emplacements?  
On the other side of the wall.  
Quite a distance?

CHET

DEIRDRA

Yes.

CHET

So the shelling was falling on other parts of the city, you don't know where?

DEIRDRA

I do know where.

CHET

Where?

DEIRDRA

On my house.

CHET

On your house?

DEIRDRA

Yes. Our house was destroyed by the shelling.

CHET

Who do you imagine was doing the shelling?

DON

Objection. Speculation.

MAC

Sustained.

CHET

Does it make sense to you that the Japanese would be shelling their own troops in your house?

DON

Objection. Specualtion.

MAC

Sustained.

CHET

How long had the Japanese had their gun emplacements inside the walls of Intramuros?

DEIRDRA

For months.

CHET  
Since before the siege?

DEIRDRA  
Yes.

CHET  
When the siege started was there shelling?

DEIRDRA  
Yes.

CHET  
On your house?

DEIRDRA  
When the siege started?

CHET  
Yes.

DEIRDRA  
No. Later.

CHET  
So at first the shelling was only on the Japanese guns and then it started falling all over the city, indiscriminately.

DON  
Objection. Speculation.

CHET  
At some point it started falling in areas other than Intramuros.

DON  
Objection. Speculation.

CHET  
At some point it started falling in the vicinity of your house.

DEIRDRA  
Yes.

CHET  
Thank you.

(CHET sits. DON rises.)

DON  
Mrs. Amparo. This room is all of Intromuros, ok?

DEIRDRA  
Yes.

DON  
You are in your house, right now.

DEIRDRA  
Ok.

DON  
Where are the Japanese guns?

DEIRDRA  
Back there.

DON  
Where the wall is?

DEIRDRA  
Yes.

DON  
So I am firing a gun at the Japanese from here. Doesn't it make sense that sometimes my shells would fall short-

CHET  
Objection. Witness is not an expert on artillery.

MAC  
Susatined.

DON  
Mrs. Amparo, who was in your house at the time of the shelling?

DEIRDRA  
The Japanese.

DON  
Doesn't the presence of the Japanese make your house a military target?

CHET

Objection. Witness is not an expert on what constitutes a military target.

MAC

Sustained.

DON

Mrs Amparo. Were you upset during the time of the Japanese presence in your house?

DEIRDRA

Of course.

DON

Have you ever been so upset in your life?

DEIRDRA

Never.

DON

Were you hopeful that something would end your misery?

DEIRDRA

Yes.

DON

Were you hopeful that something might end your life as a way of ending-

CHET

Objection. Is counsel really suggesting that the American artillery was acting as some sort of delivering angel-

DON

We haven't established that it was American artillery.

CHET

And a further objection that prosecution is basically feeding the witness dialogue-

DON

Me? Me? You've been script writing-

MAC

Silence. Both of you, shut up. Mrs. Amparo. I'm only interested in one thing, could the artillery have been coming from the Japanese?

DEIRDRA

Yes. But-

Thank you. MAC

But what? CHET

They'd be pretty lousy shots. DEIRDRA

Thank you. That's all for today- MAC

General. I have a thing I'd like to clear up. CHET

Major. MAC

General, please. I actually don't see how it will benefit my case but I think it's important that it's stated. CHET

Ok, Major. MAC

Mrs. Amparo, do you imagine your son was disgusted and horrified by what was happening to him? CHET

Major- MAC

Sir, I am not going to pursue acts but motives. CHET

Go ahead. MAC

Mrs. Amparo, was your son horrified by what was happening to him? CHET

Yes. DEIRDRA

CHET  
Why didn't he commit suicide?

DEIRDRA  
He's a good Catholic boy.

CHET  
Do you imagine there was another reason?

DEIRDRA  
Yes.

CHET  
What is it?

DEIRDRA  
Oh, Alan.

CHET  
Mrs. Amparo.

DEIRDRA  
Alan and his sister were protecting us. They said, they told all of us, that they would leave me and his baby sister alone if he and Grace cooperated.

CHET  
What made you think they would do otherwise if he didn't?

DEIRDRA  
You only had to look in the street, there were bodies everywhere.

CHET  
Thank you.

MAC  
Thank you, dear.

(She rises, looks at ALAN, and leaves. MAC stares at CHET. Pause.)

MAC  
Adjurn.

(He rises and leaves, as does ALAN.)

CHET  
Despicable.

I have a case. DON

What are you playing at? CHET

Nothing. Except my job. DON

Why his mother? CHET

It wasn't my idea. Ok? It wasn't. DON

(Blackout.)

End of Act One

II-1

(Location: Fallout. ALAN and CHET alone, in office.)

	CHET
I'm... I don't know what...	
	ALAN
Yes, I lied to you.	
	CHET
You lied to me?	
	ALAN
About having lovers. I've had many as you see.	
	CHET
Those aren't lovers.	
	ALAN
But there were many of them, whatever they were.	
	CHET
I don't care about that.	
	ALAN
I do. I didn't want you to know.	
	CHET
That was despicable of him. Allowing that testimony.	
	ALAN
It's what he does. He did it in Tokyo.	
	CHET
I'm sorry it happened.	
	ALAN
Are you sorry you know me?	
	CHET
No.	
	ALAN
You're glad you know me?	

CHET

I'm glad we... were together... before I knew it.

ALAN

Now I disgust you.

CHET

No. It just doesn't matter now. I know, already, that you're capable of great tenderness, beauty... I know how you make me feel... All that. I don't care.

ALAN

I do.

CHET

Well...

ALAN

So what about yourself? What are your secrets? You know mine. What about yours?

CHET

What do you want to know?

ALAN

Make me feel equal. Tell me your secret. Diminish yourself, as I am diminished.

CHET

You're not.

ALAN

Tell me.

CHET

I... There's nothing.

ALAN

Nothing that heinous?

CHET

No.

ALAN

So you see. (He starts to leave.)

CHET

Wait. Don't leave. I did a bad thing.

ALAN

Tell me.

CHET

It's nothing like what happened to you... Not even remotely. But you should know it...

ALAN

So tell me.

CHET

You should know it about me.

ALAN

I want to.

CHET

I left someone behind. I just... left. I never said goodbye. I was afraid.

ALAN

A woman?

CHET

No. Someone who loved me deeply. I couldn't face what I had become. What I was. The war gave me an opportunity to escape. So I took it. I hate myself. Deeply. For what I am. So I punish other people, people who don't hate themselves. People who love me. Beautiful, loving people like yourself. You should know that. You should know that I do that.

ALAN

Did you write to him?

CHET

No. He wrote to me. He found me. I tore up the letters. Unread. I came here to escape this. Me. I came here to escape me.

ALAN

The general came here to make his reputation, you came here to lose it.

CHET

Something like that. (He holds ALAN.) I adore you. I do. It's all I can do to not stare at you every day in court. I cop glances, I steal peeks. You're adorable. I can't imagine all this without you.

ALAN

All what?

CHET

The world. Everything. I thought I was just in for a penny, but... I've lost control. I can't run away. I don't want to. You've made me cocky. (He kisses him.) In the Philippines. I came and found you.

ALAN

How will it end?

CHET

The man who put your mother on that stand. He will end it, when he's finished.

ALAN

Captian Catesby?

CHET

No, not Catesby. I need your help. If you can stand it.

(They kiss again. A knock. ALAN and CHET separate. DARIN enters with DON, very quickly. Somehow DARIN is suddenly in the room.)

DARIN

Am I interrupting?

CHET

You are actually.

DON

Sorry about this, Chet. He's from-

ALAN

Excuse me. (ALAN leaves.)

CHET

Excuse me. (Starts to leave.)

DARIN

Major, if I could just have a minute.

CHET

It will have to be later.

DARIN

Major, it is rather-

CHET

It will have to be tomrrow. Excuse me.

(CHET exits.)

DON

We don't cotton much to this kind of thing.

CHET

What kind of thing?

DON

Witch hunts. Stalking people.

DARIN

Shouldn't affect you, Captain. Unless you're cognizant of deviants within your unit.

DON

This is a command unit, Mister. Attorneys, businessmen, economists in real life. This is an ambitious group. I haven't encountered a lot of non-conformists in my life among ambitious people. It's kind of counter productive, if you know what I mean.

DARIN

I'm just an investigator, Captain.

DON

If you smell smoke you light a fire, Mister. I know how prosecutions work. I'm a prosecutor.

DARIN

Consider any help you give us an investment.

DON

In America?

DARIN

In your future.

II-2

(Location-Court, Fourth Day. CHET and DON at their tables. DON crosses to CHET.)

DON

Chet.

CHET

Yes.

DON

The guy from the FBI.

CHET

Yes, I'm meeting him at five. Five-thirty.

DON

I don't want to confuse things but... would you like me to meet with you? Go with you to the meeting?

CHET

Why?

DON

I don't know what he told you but... you might want counsel, at the meeting. (CHET stares at him.) We could discuss it over lunch. Develop a strategy.

CHET

A strategy? He said this was routine, routine screening.

DON

He came all the way from Washington.

(They look at one another.)

CHET

I'll be fine.

(MAC enters and sits.)

MAC

Court is called to order. (To CHET) Counselor.

CHET

Your honor, yesterday evidence was introduced that the Japanese committed unspeakable acts on a certain family during the siege of Intramuros. I would like to call a witness to flesh out further the circumstances of the siege of Manila.

DON

Your honor, I was not apprised of this witness until last night.

MAC

Who is this witness?

Her name is Helena Amparo. CHET

Is she related to you, son? MAC  
(To ALAN)

Yes, your honor. ALAN

Is she your wife? MAC

She's my sister. ALAN

What does she have to say, Major? MAC

I'd rather she said it, sir. CHET

Major, don't waste time. Give us the tenor of her evidence. MAC

She will testify that she was raped, repeatedly, during the battle for Manila. CHET

Is this your baby sister? MAC

Yes. ALAN

Mrs. Amparo said yesterday the Japs didn't rape her, Counselor. MAC

The Japanese didn't rape her, general. CHET

(Pause.)

Your honor, I think it might be time to clarify who the defendant- DON

Thank you, Captain. MAC

CHET

I'm not accusing anyone, sir. I'm trying to establish the environment of belligerency-

MAC

Counselor, you have created such an environment in this courtroom.

CHET

I am trying to establish that the tenor of certain orders, certain stand and fight orders, creates a climate in which rape and murder are inevitable.

DON

Are you suggesting that the American Army was ordered to stand and fight?

CHET

The Philippines have known stand and fight situations before. Bataan.

DON

But no such order was issued on Bataan.

CHET

No actual order but a de facto understanding-

MAC

Thank you, gentlemen. Son, how old is your sister, Helena?

ALAN

She's twelve.

MAC

Well, I don't think we should bother her with all this... unpleasantness. I'm sorry, Major.

(Pause.)

CHET

Then I'd like to call the Mrs. Amparo back to the stand.

MAC

Major-

CHET

General, if you would indulge me.

MAC

Son, could you bring your mother in?

(ALAN leaves and returns with DEIRDRA.)

MAC

How are you, dear?

DEIRDRA

Hello, General.

CHET

Mrs. Amparo, you have a daughter named Helena?

DEIRDRA

Yes.

CHET

Was she assaulted during the campaign?

DEIRDRA

No, she was not.

CHET

She's here with us, ma'am. In another room. I'll ask again, was she-

DEIRDRA

Yes. By the Japanese.

(ALAN stands up. They all look at him.)

MAC

Please sit down, Captain. Go ahead, counselor.

CHET

General, I propose that the witness is prejudicial against the Japanese, that she will lie to insure the defendant's indictment and that her testimony for the last two days be stricken from the record.

(ALAN stands again.)

MAC

Captian. (ALAN sits.) Major, we're not striking anything from the record. (To DEIRDRA) Thank you, dear. You may step down. (She doesn't move.) You can go, dear.

DEIRDRA

Thank you. (She exits.)

ALAN

General, sir. May I be dismissed?

MAC

Yes, of course. We'll adjourn anyway.

(ALAN runs out.)

MAC

Off the record, Chet, there is rape in armies. It happens. We all know that.

CHET

There was no rape in the defendant's army. These incidents in Intramuros were beyond the pale of his command and beyond the tenor of his soldiers' comportment.

MAC

I submit that that is impossible. (To TIGER) With all due respect. The defendant is dismissed.

(BAILIFF leads TIGER off.)

CHET

General, can I ask you, whose idea was Alan's mother?

MAC

I approved that witness, Chet.

CHET

Yes, but whose idea-

MAC

Mine. It was my idea. I wanted you to see that young man sit there, give the court a visual image of this horror, what The Tiger did to this country.

DON

Chet, Alan refused to tell the story, categorically.

CHET

So you put his mother-

MAC

No, I did. Young man's given an opportunity to help his country, he should take it. It's his duty to take it. I'm very disappointed in Alan not volunteering to tell what happened to him, let alone refusing to when ordered.

CHET  
I'm sorry, General, forgive me-

MAC  
(Truly irritated)  
Oh, spit it out, Chet. Life is wasted with your equivocations.

CHET  
Who's prosecuting this case? The Captain or yourself?

MAC  
You have something to say to me, Major?

CHET  
I just said it, General. It wasn't easy.

MAC  
Well, Don here didn't go to Georgetown, did you Don?

DON  
No, General.

MAC  
He needs a little more help than the likes of you.

CHET  
So this is a prejudice against me not the defendant.

MAC  
I took the stand for you, son.

CHET  
Yes, General.

MAC  
I gave the best attorney to The Tiger. You think Don's as good an attorney as you are?

CHET  
Don is an excellent attorney-

MAC  
Answer the question, son.

CHET  
Is that an order?

MAC  
It is.

CHET  
I've only seen Don argue this one case.

MAC  
Do you think Don's as good an attorney as you are?

CHET  
I can't tell, General.

(DARIN has entered. MAC notices him.)

DARIN  
Hello.

MAC  
Hi. Excuse me.

DARIN  
Excuse me, General.

(MAC exits. DON follows him off.)

CHET  
(To DARIN)  
We have an appointment this afternoon.

DARIN  
Yes, I just wanted to confirm it.

CHET  
Will I need an attorney present?

DARIN  
I don't think you'd want that. Even attorneys talk.

CHET  
This is rather an important case.

DARIN  
After we talk someone will be in touch with the General about how to proceed. With the case.

I'll see you at 530.

CHET

Five.

DARIN

Five.

CHET

(DARIN exits.)

II-3

(Location: A kind of family. Another place: ALAN and DEIRDRA visit CHET.)

Hi.

CHET

Hello. She wanted to say hello.

ALAN

Mrs. Amparo, I'm sorry for what-

CHET

No, you were right to do it. I was lying, in the courtroom. Lying is a sin. I needed to be punished. You are only God's agent.

DEIRDRA

I'm not that. (To ALAN) Are you ok?

CHET

It's fine. I was more upset at him than at you.

ALAN

I'm still sorry.

CHET

War has many casualties. Decency is one of them. I've seen him... do this to others. I knew it would come, some day.

ALAN

Don't talk that way, Alan.

DEIRDRA

I'm sorry, Mama.

ALAN

I like you. You are good for Alan.

DEIRDRA  
(To CHET)

Thank you, Mrs. Amparo.

CHET

Alan is my star, my little apple, my big baby boy. He has done so much for me. He can do nothing wrong.

DEIRDRA

I like him very much, Mrs. Amparo.

CHET

You more than like him, you love him. I cannot help but love anyone who loves my son.

DEIRDRA

I... I'm surprised.

CHET

But I am not stupid. The world is so complex, why shouldn't the human heart, human desire be complex as well.

DEIRDRA

I agree.

CHET

Then you should not be surprised.

DEIRDRA

I am also surprised that you are not critical of me, of what I do.

CHET

Oh, that. I know you are doing your job.

DEIRDRA

But I believe in this job. I believe in The Tiger's innocence.

CHET

And so shall I. If it is proved.

DEIRDRA

CHET

You are very enlightened.

DEIRDRA

Thank you. But it is easy enough for me because I believe in The Tiger's judge.

CHET

God?

DEIRDRA

God? Oh, good gracious no. I believe in your General. Absolutely. If he says The Tiger is innocent then he must be; if he says he is a devil then I know he is one. With the general to guide me I am strong.

CHET

The Lord is thy strength?

DEIRDRA

Oh, now that is blasphemy. I know the general is not God. But you'll forgive me if I worship him nonetheless. (She laughs.) He makes it so much easier to believe in God.

CHET

He's sort of God on earth. A Jesus.

(She giggles.)

DEIRDRA

Oh, now you're just naughty. But sometimes, when he's wearing his hat with all the gold braid, it does look like a halo over his head. (She laughs.) I never thought I could like the Japanese, not after this war. But to see them worship the general, accept him, revere him as we do. Well, I've never given up on the Protestants because they do believe in God and the baby Jesus. And for that reason I'll never give up on the Japanese. If they can revere the general as we do, maybe even they are worthy of grace, of forgiveness.

(Music. ALAN leads DEIRDRA out. Lights out on CHET. ALAN helps DEIRDRA into her jacket and then hugs her. She leaves. Suddenly the lights shift back to the office.)

II-4

(Location: Plans. CHET is with DARIN.)

DARIN

He's been exposed to a lot. He has a good position here. You wouldn't want to jeopardize it.

CHET

Don't you want to root him out, like the rest of us?

DARIN

No, we think he's been corrupted. It's you we're after.

CHET

So how do we handle this?

DARIN

You could be corrupted too. It's all how we handle it, as you say.

CHET

I don't understand.

DARIN

We know there are networks, sex networks within the army, names of members, acquaintances, casual and more formal. We know this. You could help us with our lists.

CHET

You mean name names.

DARIN

"Name names." Sort of a clumsy expression. I prefer: help us with our lists.

CHET

I can't.

DARIN

That's too bad.

CHET

I mean I cannot. I don't know any names. I'm not like that. I haven't been around.

DARIN

You haven't had sex in the military?

CHET

No.

DARIN

In three years you haven't had sex in the military?

CHET

Not with another person.

DARIN

Well, that's ok. There are a number of names on the list that you could confirm. That's also helpful.

CHET

I can't. I actually don't know anyone else like me in the army.

DARIN

You haven't had a conversation with anyone else like yourself?

CHET

No. I've scrupulously avoided it.

DARIN

I don't believe you.

CHET

You don't have to. But if you think about it, it makes sense. I'm an attorney. I know how to avoid getting in trouble.

DARIN

Must have been torture.

CHET

It was. I think it explains Alan.

DARIN

You just got desperate.

CHET

I wasn't desperate. I was just waiting for someone to love, something more than sex. Alan's been that.

DARIN

You've loved before. You're not very good at it.

CHET

No.

DARIN

There's a young man who's very upset at you, heart broken-

CHET

I regret that. I regret he was so upset he spoke to you.

DARIN

Yes, well... It wasn't pleasant.

CHET

Grilling a deviant to find another deviant?

DARIN

Seeing someone so unhappy in love. He's a drunk, you know.

CHET

I didn't know that. He was prone to drinking.

DARIN

You shouldn't blame yourself.

CHET

Wouldn't it be nice if life were that simple? (Pause.) You're not right for this job.

DARIN

Aren't I? Still it's my job. It's what I'm paid to do. It's my vocation.

CHET

You shouldn't be so drawn into the story. You should remain aloof.

DARIN

I find it touching. You can help us with the lists anyway. We'll guide you.

CHET

When do you want to do this?

DARIN

No time like the present.

CHET

How life crowds us.

DARIN

It does indeed.

CHET

Can we start tomorrow? Please.

DARIN

Tomorrow's Friday, you're in court.

CHET

Then the day after.

DARIN

That's the weekend.

CHET

I don't have any plans.

DARIN

I do. We'll do it Monday. We can start early, make a day of it.

CHET

You're being very generous. I appreciate that.

DARIN

You've been shockingly frank. I appreciate that.

CHET

I know when I'm cornered. I always have. Will you tell anyone?

DARIN

No. That's the point. You help us, we help you.

CHET

Can I see Alan?

DARIN

Off the record? We don't care about that. This is about networks. We care about networks and having friends within them. (CHET just stares at him.) You're feeling the sitng of it. Injustice. It makes your skin burn, your color rise. The injustice of it all. What you've done, what you're doing is illegal, not unjust, illegal. So now you'll trade illegal for unjust. That's a step in the right direction, surely.

(CHET smiles, he shakes it off.)

DARIN

What?

CHET

Dumb joke.

DARIN

Tell me.

CHET

Please don't call me Shirley.

DARIN

Ah, pansy humor. You see, now you're helping us. I'll remember that one. Very funny.

II-5

(TIGER enters. He tosses ball to CHET. They toss it back and forth with little energy.)

CHET

I need to wrap things up. Tomorrow.

TIGER

Too fast.

CHET

But necessary.

TIGER

If you push him gently he will bend, push him hard he will break.

CHET

It can't be helped.

TIGER

You're making progress, he's seeing it, slowly-

CHET

I'm sorry. On Monday I won't be able to defend you anymore. On Monday I'll be asked to do something I cannot do and they'll arrest me. I'll be a prisoner like you.

(Ball stops.)

TIGER

Can you tell me about it?

CHET

Throw the ball.

TIGER

Please tell me.

CHET

The ball.

TIGER  
(Throwing it)

I felt bad for that young man.

CHET

Oh?

TIGER

Yes, what happened to him. Then having to hear it entered into the record. By his mother.

CHET

Those were Japanese soldiers.

TIGER

Yes. Their behavior was hideous.

CHET

Men doing with men?

TIGER

Rape. The rape was hideous.

CHET

I think you were at fault.

TIGER

I was responsible.

CHET

No. At fault. It was your fault. Not your responsibility, your fault. You created an atmosphere of despair, of hopelessness, in your army, in your entire army, including those marines. You continued to fight for a lost cause. For defeat.

TIGER

What they did was not bred from despair, it was bred from rage.

CHET

You enraged them, you made them feel helpless for themselves but justified in staying, in doing anything to keep the fight going. Their rape, their hideousness was justified because it bought you time. In their minds any time they spent raping Alan in Manila bought you time to get away to the hills. So the Philippines were your fault, everything that happened there. We can no longer parse fault, it is either all your fault or no one's. You could have surrendered. You could have given up. You knew the government in Tokyo was diseased, deficient, without true insight or belief. You knew you were smarter than them. Yet you went right on obeying orders. You committed a crime against your

own intelligence, your own sense of what was right, and therefore a war crime. You're a greater general than the general? You're a greater man than Tojo? Take responsibility for your failure. You knew you could not win, you should have surrendered. You are responsible. You are at fault. You are.

TIGER

Ok, yes, you are right.

CHET

So what game are we playing?

TIGER

We are playing nothing. It is time to surrender, to admit culpability. General Tojo couldn't admit guilt so now we will prove ourselves superior. Do what he could not. Say we were wrong.

CHET

Will you do that?

TIGER

Yes. Eventhough I see the injustice of it. Maybe I can inspire justice in others by actually admitting fault.

CHET

If you admit fault I will get him to admit something.

TIGER

What is that?

CHET

That you are the greater general, even if for the wrong cause.

II-6

(Location: The Trial, Day Five. TIGER is back in the stand.)

CHET

Why did you surrender in 1945?

TIGER

I was ordered to by the emperor.

CHET

What had been the purpose of your army in Luzon?

I don't understand.

TIGER

What was your goal?

CHET

My goal was simple. Tie down as many American soldiers as possible.

TIGER

Why?

CHET

To delay the ultimate invasion of Japan.

TIGER

Would delaying the invasion of Japan save lives?

CHET

No, it would not.

TIGER

Would it preserve a noble government?

CHET

No, it would not.

TIGER

Would it preserve something you believed in?

CHET

No, it would not.

TIGER

Then why did you do it?

CHET

TIGER

I told myself, at the time, that I did it because it was my job, because it was what I had been trained to do. In fact, I did it because I was deluded, I was vainglorious, I could not give up my ambition for greatness. I sacrificed my knowledge of right for my lust for supremacy. I was at fault. My stupid belief, if even only indirectly, inspired Admiral Iwabachi's stupid belief. What I believed falsely, he believed with a mania. I should have anticipated that. I chose not to.

(There is a stunned silence.)

MAC

Are you admitting fault, General?

TIGER

Yes, General, I am. I have become convinced that I must.

(Pause.)

CHET

Your honor, may I continue?

MAC

Yes, of course.

CHET

Having chosen to fight for a cause you did not believe in, can you speak to the effectiveness of your fight?

TIGER

No I cannot, objectively.

DON

Your honor.

MAC

Yes, Captain.

DON

With all due... With respect to the general and counsel, and to the court, the defendant has admitted guilt. He has admitted fault, respnsilbity, and guilt. What is the purpose of further testimony? Might I venture that defense has conceded the case?

CHET

I have not conceded the case.

DON

When the indictment is to determine guilt and guilt has been confessed... Isn't that a concession?

(Pause.)

MAC

Counselor?

CHET

I'm sorry, your honor. But I have not conceded the case. There are... gradations of culpability that I think are worth pursuing. I fear any elaboration of why we are pursuing the case would unfairly prejudice the court.

MAC

You mean me?

CHET

Your honor, the court has shown itself to be surprisingly open-minded with regards to evidence presented. May I beg the court's further indulgence as I pursue a further line of reasoning.

DON

Is the defense questioning the court's right to pursue a prosecution for war crimes?

CHET

No.

(Pause.)

MAC

Can you elaborate on that "no."

CHET

I'd rather not.

DON

Your honor...

MAC

Oh, relax, Don. You've won your case. Let's see where this takes us.

DON

Your honor, the case is closed.

MAC

Well, let's see where he's going anyway, I'm interested.

DON

Your honor...

MAC

Indulge me.

Chet.

DON  
(With a warning look)

Thank you, Don

(DON sits.)

CHET

CHET  
You said your goal was to tie down as many US troops as possible.

TIGER

That's correct.

CHET

Do you know how many you tied down?

DON  
Objection. To the use of the phrase "tied down." It makes it sound like US troops were needlessly deployed.

MAC

Sustained.

CHET

Do you know how many soldiers you engaged?

TIGER

I can't be sure.

CHET

You commanded an army, isn't that correct, general?

TIGER

Yes.

CHET

Do you know how many armies of equal size you engaged?

TIGER

No.

CHET

Would you like to guess?

TIGER

One? But a much better equipped army.

CHET

Two. You engaged two American armies, both of them much better equipped than your own. Except that they were not of equal size. Each of these armies, at the end of the conflict, was twice the size of your own army. So in fact-

MAC

Thank you, counselor, what's your point?

CHET

I thought my point was obvious.

MAC

It isn't.

CHET

It is more a point of administrative ability, General. I only want to make the point as to what extent the General's administration must have been stretched.

MAC

We get the point counselor, move on.

CHET

I have moved on, your honor. This is my point.

MAC

It's made and carries little credence that I can see. Move on.

(CHET walks away, thinks a minute.)

CHET

I have no further questions.

MAC

Counselour.

DON

Nothing.

(TIGER returns to his seat.)

CHET

I would like to call my first witness back to the stand.

Me? MAC

Yes. CHET

Why? MAC

To flesh out my point about administrative stretching. CHET

(MAC moves to witness stand, almost amused. CHET hands him a piece of paper.)

Before we start. MAC

Yessir. CHET

And I think we all know this but, for the record: To call into question the actions of a superior officer, even in the defense of a man on trial for his life, is treasonous. Do you understand me, Major? MAC

Yessir CHET

So long as we're clear. MAC

Thank you, sir. Could you please read this order? CHET

It details my assuming command of the Sixth Army for the invasion of Japan. MAC

And when is it dated? CHET

April 15, 1945. MAC

Can you please read- CHET  
(Handing MAC a second order)

MAC

I'm not going to read orders, counselor. Orders make for hideously dull reading.

CHET

Can you tell me the-

MAC

This one details my assuming command of the Tenth Army for the invasion of Japan.

CHET

And when is it dated?

MAC

August 1, 1945.

CHET

Would you care to speculate general as to why the command was changed from the Sixth to the Tenth?

MAC

Administrative reasons.

CHET

Was the Sixth Army no longer available in August?

MAC

Of course it was available. It was here.

CHET

Was it too busy fighting?

MAC

It was fighting yes.

CHET

In fact, wasn't it so heavily engaged in the protracted campaign of the Philippines that it required the formation of an entirely new army to replace it for the invasion of Japan?

MAC

Don't be ridiculous.

CHET

What was the Eighth Army doing?

MAC  
Also fighting in the Philippines.

CHET  
In the Philippine islands correct?

MAC  
Yes.

CHET  
Wasn't its assignment to liberate all areas of the Philippines even if it required spending six months hopping on and off boats?

MAC  
That's how you liberate an island, Major.

CHET  
But when you said, "I shall return" did you necessarily mean to every single island in the Philippine Archipelago?

MAC  
That's what liberating a country means, Major.

CHET  
How many islands are there in the Philippines?

MAC  
I don't know precisely. A lot.

CHET  
Dozens?

MAC  
Hundreds.

CHET  
Actually there are thousands.

MAC  
Ok, there are thousands.

CHET  
Are you aware that sometimes General Eichlberger was landing on islands that were completely undefended?

MAC

If he did that he had faulty intell.

CHET

And yet he did it, many times, because he'd been detailed to liberate every island.

MAC

General Eichleberger was a thorough general.

CHET

Thoroughly wasteful some might say. How many of these islands were undefended at the time of their invasion?

MAC

I don't know.

CHET

Half?

MAC

Oh, don't be ridiculous.

CHET

A third?

MAC

Probably more like a fraction, at most a tenth.

CHET

How many?

MAC

I don't know, it's a detail.

CHET

A detail? An aspect of the campaign that necessitated the over engagement of two American armies. How could Genral Eichleberger make such a mistake?

MAC

I told you, faulty intelligence.

CHET

So General Eichelberger just didn't care about his assignment.

MAC

No, his intelignece was faulty.

CHET  
His personal inlegince or his-

MAC  
His intelligence, his intelligence team was at fault.

CHET  
So it's their fault.

MAC  
Yes.

CHET  
Their fault that his army was basically wasted during the build up to ithe invasion of Japan.

MAC  
Of course it wasn't their fault.

CHET  
Isn't that what you just said?

MAC  
No I said their intelligence was faulty. If they were wasted it was due to poor oversite.

CHET  
Poor oversite, meaning General Eichelberger, having found some islands empty of Japanese, should have exercised better oversite.

MAC  
Yes.

CHET  
So his intelignce is faulty?

MAC  
His intelleginece isn't faulty, that's not what I'm saying.

CHET  
What are you saying?

MAC  
His intelligence isn't faulty but he is at fault.

CHET

But aren't you, ultimately, responsible? Did you know he was stumbling around islands empty of Japanese?

MAC

Of course not.

CHET

Of course not?

MAC

If I'd known that I would have stopped him.

CHET

But you didn't know that.

MAC

No.

CHET

So there is much happening in your command, even amongst officers operating under your orders, which you do not sanction or control.

DON

Objection.

MAC

No, shut up. Let him finish. (Pause.) Go ahead.

CHET

Should I?

MAC

Yes, Please.

CHET

What happened to the invasion of Japan? Why was it cancelled?

MAC

The bomb. The bomb made it not necessary.

CHET

What bomb?

MAC

The bombs dropped on Hirmoshima and Nagasaki, counselor.

CHET  
And who ordered those bombs dropped?

MAC  
Mr. Truman.

CHET  
Did you have any thoughts about these bombings?

MAC  
If you're trying to hint that I was disappointed I freely admit it. I thought the American army should have the honor of invading Japan. And I would have been proud to lead that crusade.

CHET  
But the bomb prevented it?

MAC  
Yes.

CHET  
Did the bomb save American lives?

MAC  
Yes, of course.

CHET  
So Americans would have died on this crusade?

MAC  
Yes but we didn't know about the bomb. Prior to the bomb, invasion was the only manner of ending the war.

CHET  
But there would have been huge American casualties.

MAC  
There would have been some.

CHET  
General Marshall estimated one million American lives lost.

MAC  
Yes, I heard that figure.

CHET  
You don't subscribe to it?

MAC  
No, I do not.

CHET  
Why do you think he used it?

MAC  
With all due respect, I think he was trying to rationalize the use of the bombs.

CHET  
To save American lives.

MAC  
Yes.

CHET  
Which they did?

MAC  
Yes.

CHET  
Just not as many as General Marshall anticipated.

MAC  
Not as many as he predicted.

CHET  
Did they save Japanese lives?

MAC  
Of course not.

CHET  
I mean did they save more Japanese lives than an invasion might have?

MAC  
Yes, well...

CHET  
Did they?

MAC  
Speaking in terms of lives, yes, but-

CHET  
But what?

MAC  
They didn't save more civilian lives.

CHET  
So the bombs killed some civilians?

MAC  
Yes, of course.

CHET  
What percentage of military to civilian-

MAC  
Are you kidding? Ninety percent of the lives destroyed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were civilian lives. You know that.

CHET  
You said you had no knowledge of your Artillery commander's reducing the Intramuros-

MAC  
I didn't say that. I said I had no knowledge of the civilian casualties inflicted.

CHET  
If you had would you have-

MAC  
Yes, I've said that.

CHET  
Why?

MAC  
Why?

CHET  
Yes, why?

MAC  
I've said, the wanton destruction of civilian lives in the winning of a war is barbaric.

CHET

But you didn't know about it so...

MAC

Yes, yes, yes, counselor, I've conceded that on my part there was some responsibility, even some culpability, investment, what have you. Done. Finished?

CHET

Not quite. You described just now the wanton destruction of civilian life in the winning of a war as barbaric.

MAC

Yes.

CHET

Isn't that what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

DON

Objection.

(Pause.)

CHET

What is President Truman's title relative to your position?

MAC

He's my Commander-in-Chief.

CHET

Haven't you just described his actions as barbaric. Deliberately, wantonly and with knowledge aforehand barbaric. Should a lesser officer condemn the actions of a superior officer. Isn't that treasonous?

MAC  
(To ALAN)

Stop writing, Captain. Stop.

CHET

Objecton.

MAC

Overrulled. Continue, counselor.

CHET

Off the record?

MAC

Oh, I'll remember. Go ahead. This is interesting to me.

CHET

Might there be instances where such a condemnation would be prudent if it would save lives? Was your opinion solicited by President Truman?

MAC

You know it wasn't.

CHET

Was it offered after the fact?

MAC

You know it wasn't.

CHET

On what did General Marshall base his figures of one million American casualties?

MAC

I told you, he was making a point. He was rationalizing an act.

CHET

A barbaric act.

MAC

Ok. Yes, he was rationalizing a barbaric act.

DON

General, sir.

MAC

No, it's fine. Let's have it out.

CHET

Objection.

MAC

What are you objecting to?

CHET

I really do think, well, for many reasons, General. That we should keep a record.

(MAC looks around himself.)

MAC  
(To ALAN)

Ok. Go ahead, son.

CHET

So a rationalization is something after the fact to excuse a previous action?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

So General Marshal, President Truman, they just wanted to... what? Test their new toy?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

Why not explode it at sea, as a demonstration to the Japanese, prove its destructive power harmlessly?

MAC

Japanese would have thought it was a trick. And Truman only had two bombs.

CHET

But why a civilian target? Essentially non-military cities.

MAC

All the military targets had already been destroyed by conventional bombing.

CHET

Not much left to blow up?

MAC

No more barbarism, yes.

CHET

So two cities, a couple hundred thousand people, to make a point, to the Japanese.

MAC

No, to the world.

CHET

To the world?

MAC

The Russians.

So people used to make a point. CHET

Yes, score one for Chet. MAC

All to make a point? CHET

Yes. MAC

How many armies would you encounter, in Japan, if you'd been sent to invade? CHET

I don't know. MAC

Rough estimate. CHET

Three or four. MAC

Fully equipped? CHET

Yes, for the most part. MAC

Well trained? CHET

Yes. MAC

Capatin Catesby, you mentioned earlier US casualties in the Philippines. What were they? CHET

One hundred thousand. DON

CHET

One hundred thousand. And what was General Marshall's prediction for casualties on Japan, General?

MAC

One million.

CHET

One hundred thousand casualties against one slack, poorly led army in the Philippines, versus one million casualties against three to four beautifully equipped, brilliantly led armies in Japan. Seems to me General Marshall's prediction was not far off the mark in terms of American casualties. How many civilians killed in the Philippines, Captain?

DON

200,000.

CHET

Well now. If the civilian casualties are twice the American military casualties-

MAC

Yes, yes, yes...

CHET

It strikes me that Mr. Truman's decision was prudent as a life saving device, for all concerned.

MAC

Brilliantly argued, Major. Except you said the armies on land would have been brilliantly led, they probably would have been poorly led. We might have walked right over them.

CHET

So you're implying that the Japanese army in the Philippines were the ones brilliantly led. Is that what you just said? You can't have it both ways, general. And isn't that what this is all about? Generalship?

MAC

That man there dug into a hillside and refused to surrender. His generalship is nothing more brilliant than that of a gopher. He dug a hole with his head, pulled his butt in after him and refused to surrender. That's not brilliance.

CHET

No. It's dogged survival. Just like you at Corregidor. It was symbolic and it tied down a lot of troops. What the general didn't realize, because nobody including yourself knew, was it made the use of the bomb inevitable, inevitable but necessary, and needful, and good. Given the demonstrable casualties an invasion under your direction would inflict.

(Silence. MAC sits back in his chair, crosses his legs. He smiles.)

	CHET
Should I proceed?	
	MAC
Please.	
	CHET
When did you announce the city of Manila secure?	
	MAC
When it was secure. Middle of March.	
	CHET
I have a release here issued by your press staff declaring the city liberated on February 10 <sup>th</sup> .	
	MAC
That was a mistake.	
	CHET
It's signed by you.	
	MAC
Nevertheless, it's a mistake. Yes, I made a mistake.	
	CHET
Does the date February 10 <sup>th</sup> hold any significance for you personally?	
	MAC
It's my birthday.	
	CHET
Wasn't the stated purpose of the campaign against Manila to liberate it by your birthday?	
	MAC
It was not.	
	CHET
How did this confusion arise?	
	MAC
I don't recall.	

CHET

Here's the order from the defendant declaring the city an open city. Can you read the date on it.

MAC

February 8<sup>th</sup>.

CHET

Did you take this order to mean the city was yours?

MAC

I don't recall seeing that order.

CHET

It was broadcast "en clair." "In the open" so you could see it.

MAC

I don't recall that order.

CHET

Might I suggest that you would have been angry at the defendant for foiling your birthday plans when you found out there were still Japanese troops in the city?

DON

Objection. Witness has already said he doesn't recall seeing the order.

MAC

Go ahead.

CHET

So you were tied up another month liberating Manila. Then where did your army focus its efforts?

MAC

Against the rest of the defendant's army.

CHET

In the San Juan Mountains?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

Did they surrender before the end of the war?

MAC

No, they did not.

CHET

Is it fair to say that they only surrendered because peace was declared?

MAC

I don't know.

CHET

Is it fair to say that they'd still be in those mountains today if peace had never been declared?

MAC

No, it is not fair.

CHET

Are you aware that your invasion fleet was the largest ever assembled for a purely American invasion?

MAC

I am.

CHET

Do you feel it met your expectations for speedy victory in the Philippines?

(Pause.)

CHET

Did you feel out generated by The Tiger?

DON

Objection. Relevance.

MAC

The relevance, counselor, is that the major is trying to suggest that this, all this, is merely revenge. I don't take revenge on losers, Major.

CHET

What's a loser, General?

MAC

A man like The Tiger. A desperate man who creates an atmosphere of stand and fight. A man who creates such an atmosphere and then flees. As he did with Admiral Iwachabi. As he has admitted to doing today, in this courtroom. Fifteen minutes ago when I should have ended this trial with sentencing.

CHET  
Do you want to end this trial, General?

MAC  
No. I do not.

CHET  
Why?

MAC  
It still interests me. You interest me.

CHET  
How do you feel about Admiral Iwabachi?

MAC  
The thought of him sickens me.

CHET  
How do you feel about him as a fighter?

MAC  
Interesting you should ask. I respect him more as a fighter than I respect this man.  
(Indicating TIGER.) This man should kiss Iwabachi's feet because he made it so he could  
get away. Instead he casts aspersions on him. That's cowardly.

CHET  
You've suggested that the defendant created an atmosphere of stand and fight,  
regardless of his actual orders.

MAC  
Yes. And he's confessed to as much.

CHET  
Earlier you said General Wainwright surrendered the armies on Bataan.

MAC  
Yes.

CHET  
Did you order him to do so?

MAC  
I did not.

CHET

What were your orders to him, when you moved your headquarters to Australia?

MAC

My orders were that he should keep fighting.

CHET

Yet you were leaving.

MAC

A new army was being formed to assist him. It was being formed in Australia.

CHET

What did you say when you left?

MAC

I don't know what you mean.

CHET

What did you say famously when you left the Philippines?

MAC

I said, "I shall return."

CHET

When did you say that?

MAC

1942.

CHET

April 1942?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

When did you return?

MAC

1945.

CHET

January, right?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

Did you expect General Wainwright to hold out for three years on Bataan?

MAC

I expected him to do his duty.

CHET

Did you reward him for holding out so long on Bataan?

MAC

Reward him?

DON

Objection. I fail to see where all this is going, what bearing it has on the case of the defendant.

CHET

I am trying to establish that commanding officers often make demands of officers on the ground that are in variance to demonstrated realities.

(Pause.)

MAC

Go ahead.

CHET

Weren't your orders to General Wainwright, when you left, in fact "fight to the death" orders?

MAC

I would never issue orders like that.

CHET

Was he supposed to leave the Philippines like you did?

MAC

No.

CHET

Did he have any source of supply?

MAC

He might have, if he'd...

CHET

When was the last time you'd received supplies from the US?

MAC

I don't remember.

CHET

Earlier you testified that President Roosevelt stopped supplying you in December 1941.

MAC

I did say that.

(DARIN enters. CHET stops his questions and looks at him. DON looks at him. Everyone looks at DARIN, except MAC who keeps looking at CHET. DARIN sits in a chair to the side.)

MAC

Go ahead, counselor.

CHET

Didn't General Wainwright surrender when he ran out of ammunition?

MAC

I don't know.

CHET

What was your final determination that Wainwright should do?

MAC

Take to the hills, hold out.

CHET

What hills?

MAC

What?

CHET

What hills?

MAC

It's an expression.

CHET

General Wainwright was at the end of a Peninsula. He didn't have access to any hills.

MAC

He might have infiltrated the Jap lines, worked his way north.

CHET

Would you describe Generral Wainwright's army as well nourished when you left it?

MAC

I don't know.

CHET

What commendaton did General Wainwright receive for his heroic defense of Bataan?

MAC

General Wainwright wasn't in it for commendations.

CHET

You, as his superior, are empowered to recommend him for commendation, are you not?

MAC

Yes.

CHET

Did you recommend him for the Silver Star?

MAC

No.

CHET

The Medal of Honor?

MAC

As I said, he didn't do it for glory.

CHET

Your superior was President Roosevelt, was he not?

MAC

He was.

CHET

What commendations did he award you after Bataan?

MAC

The Medal of Honor.

CHET  
Did you refuse it?

MAC  
I did not.

CHET  
Were you fighting for commendations?

MAC  
No.

CHET  
So accepting a commendaton does not necessarily mean-

MAC  
I recommended General Wainwright for nothing because he was a coward. The day I left, the *day* I left he started negotiating that surrender.

CHET  
It was a week after you left. I have my own visuals. This is General Wainwright at the time of surrender.

(Suddenly the lights dim and we see WAINWRIGHT, emaciated, sick, at the time of his surrender. The lights restore.)

CHET  
I suggest, General, that you are vindictive, based on your treatment of your own generals. I further suggest that your vindictiveness extends to your enemies, especially when they out general you. Even when they get better stand and fight from their subordinates in spite of the fact that they were given contrary orders. I suggest that you view general The Defendant with an envy that extends to the fanaticism of his army and the deterniation of his bushido code.

MAC  
Nobody out generaled me.

CHET  
Who was your first adversary in this war?

MAC  
General Homma.

CHET  
Where is he now?

MAC  
He's dead.

CHET  
Did he defeat your army?

MAC  
In an unfair fight, yes.

CHET  
Who was your next adversary in the Philippines?

MAC  
The Tiger. Who was vanquished by my armies-

CHET  
Who was vanquished, I suggest, by the prudent and timely use of the atomic bombs.

DON  
Your honor?

(Pause.)

DON  
Sir?

MAC  
What is it, Donald?

DON  
I object to this entire line of questioning. I don't-

MAC  
It's purpose is to brand me a strutting egotist, a popinjay who can't even bare to see a defeated man get off the hook. It's a spurious line of questioning, intriguing but ultimately built on coincidence and faulty reasoning. We'll revert to the general's confession of guilt. I'll rule on that.

(Pause.)

DON  
I also move that the entire q and a that has transpired since the confession be stricken from the record.

MAC  
No, let it stand. I'm not afraid of what was said.

CHET

Thank you, general.

MAC

No one reads records. Not even the supreme court.

II-7

(Clackity-clack, loud this time: Location: The Verdict... MAC has returned to his rostrum where he now sits and reads his verdict. TIGER stands.)

MAC

You have argued persuasively, Major. At times at risk to yourself I might add. I am mindful of the fact that there were moments, several moments, where a charge of sedition might be leveled against you for the bent of your arguments. But I fancy myself an enlightened judge, as well as a sensitive leader of men. I have been piqued by many of your arguments, even provoked. You give a man of experience much to think about and reflect on. But you do not persuade. Never the less as I pass sentence on this man, a sentence of death derived from a verdict of guilty, I rest assured that he was given as spirited and broad a defense as might have been provided him by a Japanese. I'm not sure I can commend you, but the defendant surely must.

(The set and actors clear, as if by magic. They exit or slide off leaving only MAC and CHET, facing one another. There is a desk and a samurai sword on the wall. Location: MacArthur's Office.)

II-8

CHET

His greatest fear is hanging. It's an undignified death. He doesn't mind our condemnation, just the manner of execution. He wants a firing squad.

MAC

Ah, yes. He would. Well, that's a technicality. Dead is dead, no matter the method.

CHET

Hanging is undignified.

MAC

Indignity is what's required of a failure.

CHET

But he's not a failure, militarily.

MAC

Failure is failure. It's quite simple. Fail personally, fail militarily. They're not compartmentalized.

CHET

You can't ask him to think like an American, to think like one of us. He grew up in a culture of fanaticism. He actually holds himself culpable for not thinking like a fanatic, he thinks he failed. Nonetheless, he didn't. I know you see that. I know you do.

MAC

You mustn't condescend to Eastern Cultures. They have a different code, a different credo.

CHET

But that's exactly what I'm trying to explain to you.

MAC

Yes, and I think we should hang him. You see, the man wants us to. He must. He failed, so the only way to expiate his failure is boshido, seppuku. If we don't execute him he will have to commit hari kari. If we don't shoot him he will have to fulfill his code.

CHET

If that's the case, why hasn't he already?

MAC

I don't know. Why does anybody deliberately disobey orders? You tell me.

CHET

He knows better.

MAC

Yes. Some of us do. In spite of the obedience we've had drilled into us some of us do actually know better. We're either ahead of our time or behind it. My father was an excellent soldier, but he was no General Grant. Grant was a visionary. I am a visionary. Aren't you a visionary?

CHET

I don't know what you mean?

MAC

Don't you? You have your own code. It makes sense to me actually. I know it makes sense because I'm a little jealous of it. You have problems, don't you? Take an afternoon. Sort them out.

(MAC exits. CHET turns and crosses to another space, a space he shares with ALAN.)

II-9

CHET

You talked about tribal areas, villages where this is ok.

ALAN

I have heard of that kind of thing.

CHET

Let's go to one. Let's disappear, into the jungle.

ALAN

Oh, come on.

CHET

There's nowhere in the US we could do this. Nowhere.

ALAN

I'm just guessing it happens here.

CHET

You said it did

ALAN

I don't know.

CHET

Find out.

ALAN

Who would I ask?

CHET

Let's do it anyway.

ALAN

You and me? It's ridiculous.

CHET

No, it's not. There are islands, thousands of them, places we could escape to.

ALAN

And if they ever found us they'd send you back to the US and me, they'd stone me to death.

CHET

We could flee. From island to island.

ALAN

It's ridiculous.

CHET

Don't say that.

ALAN

I don't mean we're ridiculous. I mean this island paradise thing is ridiculous. Look at us. In these uniforms, we look like a couple of postmen.

CHET

We can take off our uniforms.

ALAN

I just want to be with you. I don't want to be punished for being with you. It's not worth it.

CHET

You mean I'm not worth it.

ALAN

You are. But I wouldn't be with you. I'd be punished. Every single thing has consequences. And some things are insurmountable. You convinced me he was guiltless, and that he was a better man than the general. You convinced me, of all people who should hate him. You convinced me. And still he gets hung. It's not worth it being right. It's just a concept. Like guilt and innocence. It has no true value.

CHET

I have to leave soon.

ALAN

I don't want you to.

CHET

Come here.

(They begin removing each other's ties. They will now undress one another. When they are naked, they embrace.)

CHET

Your mother likes me. She says I'm good for you.

ALAN

She would change that song in a minute if we were found out. She likes us and she likes that no one knows. Turn the light on us, she'll become just another person standing in the dark pointing a finger.

(Lights fade on them in an embrace. We hear a pipe. Lights up on TIGER playing a mournful tune on a pipe. He looks at peace. Lights fade on him and come up on CHET and MAC.)

II-10

MAC

I'm surprised you're still here.

CHET

You thought I would have gone home with the man from Washington.

MAC

Or gone somewhere else.

CHET

You said you were jealous of my code.

MAC

Yes, the way your mind works, legalistically.

CHET

I was mindful, at the time, that you were referring to something else.

MAC

Ah, yes. The ambiguities of speech.

CHET

I was mindful that I might be able to come to you for protection at some point.

MAC

Why is that?

CHET

Because I thought, or at least I was mindful that maybe you were sympathetic, that that is what you were trying to tell me.

MAC

Envious. Not sympathetic.

CHET

Sympathy can come from envy.

MAC

When I said that, I was referring to your living outside certain codes.

CHET

Certain sexual codes.

MAC

Yes, like Donald has.

CHET

Donald? I'm not like Donald.

MAC

No, not at all. Donald has lived sexually outside his marriage, as you have lived sexually outside the law. I envy you both in the same way.

CHET

Oh, I thought you might mean...

MAC

Really? Good gracious, no. I find your particular form of sexual expression repugnant. I was referring to envy of the self-license, not the manner of licentious expression. You people are worms, far too ridiculous to be taken as anything but dangerous. No, that's not what I meant.

CHET

I'm surprised.

MAC

I'm a very conventional man, Major. I fight my wars along strict lines of proven principals, only the superficialities are innovative – the use of the press, the costume, the staged events.

CHET

Then you're not a Lawrence of Arabia, a Hannibal.

MAC

Good gracious no, those people failed. Being ahead of your time always means failure. Our friend in the cage understands that. He is a conventionalist like me, a traditionalist. He just lost. He didn't fail. You have failed. Did you really think I was that way? Your way?

CHET

I thought... yes, maybe.

MAC

Well that is flattering to me. I try to be all things to all men. Nice to think I can be even that if the need arises.

(Pause.)

MAC

I'm sorry about what is happening to you. I won't raise a finger, not a pinkie to help you but I am sorry. It's rotten. It's one of the reasons I can't live in that country. The persecutions, the subterfuge. I haven't set foot on American soil in seventeen years. If I never go back it will be too soon. The irony is that your very persecution is the thing that will force you to go back there to live, where you are least wanted. Instead of staying here, in the east, where there are categories, places, niches for people like you. The Chinese box, a place for everyone. A cubbyhole. Of course, now that's changing. The world is changing. The boxes are breaking down.

CHET

Will you do me a favor?

MAC

Go see him? Of course. I would like to see him. We haven't really had a chance to chat.

(MAC exits.)

II-10

(Location: Departures.)

CHET

(To audience)

That was the last time... well, not really. I went right from the sentencing to a plane and then... home. Or what I would call home. Alan managed to meet me at the airport. I don't know at what risk, he didn't seem to care. My caregiver was mysteriously absent when Alan became present, all as if it had been arranged.

(CHET and ALAN.)

CHET

I feel like there's a phantom world, like secrets are being allowed which makes them no longer ok.

ALAN

You're paranoid.

CHET

I'm in training for life at home.

ALAN

I'm going back to Japan. With the General. I'm in shock. He actually asked me.

CHET

You want to go.

ALAN

He's despicable. I know that now. I've seen it, heard about it, witnessed him at his worst. But he's...

CHET

I know, the most powerful man in this part of the world. You would be stupid not to go back. I love you.

ALAN

I love you.

CHET

I feel like I'm dying.

ALAN

No. There are things worse than this.

CHET

I know. At least I can imagine.

ALAN

Don't imagine that. Save your imagination for me.

(We hear the pipe playing. CHET exits. ALAN looks after him. MAC enters and walks with ALAN to another part of the stage, the cell where TIGER sits playing on the pipe. MAC dismisses ALAN and ALAN smartly salutes and exits. CHET has entered in another place with DARIN and DON. We hear an aircraft engine.)

DON

(To DARIN)

You're not going to put him in handcuffs?

DARIN

I'm still hoping he'll help me. No sense in alienating him unnecessarily.

DON  
I doubt he'll ever help you. He's not scared.

DARIN  
Like you are?

DON  
Good luck, Chet. I wish there was something I could do.

CHET  
I know, Don.

DON  
I'd say I'd have you out to the house for pot roast when I get back but...

CHET  
I'm not someone you want to have visit you in Teaneck.

DON  
Actually I would. I just don't know if there's a house waiting for me.

CHET  
Oh.

DON  
Never confess anything. That's what I've learned in the Philippines.

CHET  
I'll keep that in mind.

DARIN  
(To DON)  
Here's my card. Call me when you get back.

CHET  
You should.

DON  
I shall actually.

DARIN  
We'll try to mitigate all this as much as we can. It would help if he cooperated but I'm not sure I would so...

DON

I don't think you're cut out for this kind of work.

DARIN

Oh, I am. A conscience never stopped anyone.

DON

(To CHET)

So long, kid.

CHET

Adios.

II-11

(MAC enters TIGER's space. MAC holds a large satchel. ALAN exits. CHET and DARIN exit towards plane, DON in the opposite direction. MAC and TIGER are left alone.)

MAC

(To TIGER)

Major Verance insists that I see you. For, as he put it, a personal appeal.

(TIGER does not respond.)

MAC

Chet tells me you've become quite a ball thrower.

TIGER

I like this game. Baseball.

MAC

Well, I consider myself a man of the Orient. What say we play a little catch, like a couple of postwar Orientals?

(MAC removes a baseball from his satchel and throws it. TIGER catches it but does not throw it back.)

TIGER

I am a man of dignity.

MAC

So I'm told.

TIGER

Hanging is the death of a criminal. I am a warrior.

MAC

You have been found guilty of a criminal's charge. Your crimes erase your merits as a warrior.

TIGER

I have read of these other "war criminals." Goring, Hoess, Keitel. I am not one of these men.

MAC

You are. That is exactly what you are.

TIGER

If I were shot I would be as dead as if I were hung.

MAC

It is the very fact that you see a difference that one will be made.

TIGER

Did you only come to repeat what I might have read in your sentence?

MAC

No, I came because you wanted to make a personal appeal.

TIGER

A man of dignity can do no more than ask. You should have known this.

(Pause.)

MAC

I have admired your generalship for some time. Especially what you did against the British in Malaya, that was an act of audacity.

TIGER

Yes, I pleased even myself with that one. I have admired your generalship as well. Not so much in 1945. But before. In Bataan. I was impressed. Not so much by the skill as the doggedness. You are like a dog, persistent.

MAC

If you had opposed me then there would have been no death march.

TIGER

No, General Homma was a pig. A lazy pig.

MAC

He was that.

TIGER

And yet you gave him a firing squad, a warrior's death.

MAC

Yes. I was hoping for something more from you. Something I cannot give you.

(TIGER looks at him.)

MAC

You have always impressed me as a warrior to the core, as if, at your center, there was a burning magma of heroic flame.

TIGER

I believe you call it a fire in the belly.

MAC

Yes.

TIGER

This is true.

MAC

It need not be quenched.

TIGER

It was quenched long ago. When I saw how a people could suffer because of war, how the Chinese suffered, how the Filipinos suffered, how my men suffered. I have been taught humanity. I have always believed in the austerity of a fighting force but in 1945 I saw the austerity of my soldiers slip into poverty, hunger, madness. It quenched my fire, to witness that. I am grateful that it happened before I died. Had I died in battle I would have died proud. Now I die bowed, before the majesty of suffering.

MAC

We have both caused much suffering.

TIGER

I am surprised by your frankness.

MAC

I will not be outdone by you, General. The good Major would spread the myth that you might have outgeneraled me given the chance. I will not let you see yourself as more human as well.

TIGER

You call me General.

MAC

You are General. You are my only adversary.

TIGER

Thank you for coming to see me, General.

MAC

Am I dismissed?

TIGER

I express gratitude, not command.

MAC

Do you miss Japan?

TIGER

Japan? No. I miss freedom, the ability to take a walk, to feel the rain, to swim in the ocean. The rain, the sea, these are not Japanese. They can happen anywhere. I miss the anywhere. Do you miss the United States?

MAC

God no. Godforsaken place. Always broke, never enough money, until there's too much. Everything guided by money. Money, money, money. I have been happiest here, Japan, New Guinea, anywhere. I am lucky to have had a life away.

TIGER

This land is so pretty. A world unto itself. A whole continent in an archipelego: freezing mountain tops, tropical forests, open plains of dessert. All here.

MAC

I couldn't wait to get my tanks ashore, to be a real tank commander, with my own little country to conquer. Like Rommel in the Sahara. Tank country. A tank commander.

TIGER

I was the same in China. But there was nothing to fight. The Chinese had no tanks.

MAC

Yes, nor did you here.

TIGER

No.

MAC  
Two men with tanks and no one to fight.

TIGER  
It's why I fled to the hills, slow down your tanks.

MAC  
And you did.

TIGER  
I lost a son in the war.

MAC  
I'm sorry.

TIGER  
Your son was too young.

MAC  
Oh, yes, little sprig of a thing.

TIGER  
But you're so old. You could be a grandpa.

MAC  
Yes. Isn't that nice? Eternal youth, that's what I've had.

TIGER  
I've felt that. Homeless. A life of homelessness. It keeps us young.

MAC  
Do you think about what's next?

TIGER  
Next to life?

MAC  
Yes.

TIGER  
I should. It's how I was raised.

MAC  
Me too.

TIGER  
No.

MAC  
Me neither. All horseshit. How do you think we live, after we die?

TIGER  
In history. In books.

MAC  
Is that enough?

TIGER  
I don't know. It's interesting. To be non-fiction and to slowly become more and more... what's the word?

MAC  
Fictive.

TIGER  
Yes. As we die longer, we will-

MAC  
As we die longer?

TIGER  
As in "as we live longer," as we die longer, the longer we are dead.

MAC  
Ah, yes.

TIGER  
As we die longer we will become more and more like phantoms.

MAC  
Myths.

TIGER  
Myths if we inspire. Phantoms if we do not.

MAC  
I aspire to mythology.

TIGER  
I guess I have too. Maybe to a lesser extent. But it cannot be controlled.

MAC  
It can.

TIGER  
How?

MAC  
A man might control it by achieving great victory.

TIGER  
Ah, yes, that would be your answer.

MAC  
Or by dying, by inspiring in the way he dies.

TIGER  
Death is death. It is finite.

MAC  
It needn't be.  
(TIGER looks at him.)

MAC  
Bushido. The warrior's credo. Ritual seppuku.

TIGER  
Suicide.

MAC  
An ugly English word for a noble act.

TIGER  
Self-destruction.

MAC  
Ritual cleansing.

TIGER  
The way of escape.

MAC  
The way of the samurai.

TIGER  
No.

MAC

Do it. Show them. Show all of them. Show me. Convince me.

TIGER

Of what?

MAC

That you are the samurai. The ultimate warrior. When I heard of you in Malaya, the Tiger of Malaya, I thought, "There's a worthy adversary. The only adversary for me. My God," I thought. "If I can fight him, if I can vanquish him, I too am a myth."

TIGER

But you didn't vanquish me.

MAC

I fought you to a standstill.

TIGER

But I'd still be in the hills even today, if my government hadn't ordered me to-

MAC

Yes, yes, I know that. I thought it was you in Manila, at the center of it. It's why I gave the order to pummel you to earth, to reduce you to dust. I thought it was you, I thought it was the fight to the death. Only to find that you had escaped me. I fought my way across the Pacific to fight you. In Europe, the greatest general of them all was the Dessert Fox. In the Pacific it was the Tiger of Malaya. And I chased you into a cave. And still you refused to fight. You tied down a million men. You postponed the invasion of your homeland, you made the bombs inevitable. You're right, if it weren't for them we'd still be fighting you. You're the master. I am still an apprentice. Show me the bushido. Inspire me. Show me how greatness goes.

TIGER

Give me a firing squad.

MAC

I won't. It's beneath you. It's squalid.

TIGER

Hanging is squalid.

MAC

Everything is squalid. Except the code. Bushido. Inspire me. I will die soon. Show me how to die. Show me dignity. A man as great as I has no inspiration. Who can inspire a God? An ant like Truman? A half man like Roosevelt? No one. Except you. Light my fire. Rekindle the fire in my belly.

TIGER

If I did this thing...

MAC

Full restitution for your wife and family, everything.

TIGER

And me?

MAC

A proper burial. All the dignities of a warrior. I'll return your body to Japan. They can raise a statue to you, in time.

TIGER

The Emperor?

MAC

I will convey myself to him. On your behalf.

TIGER

I would need my sword.

MAC

I'll get it.

TIGER

It was destroyed.

MAC

Nonsense. I kept it. It was hanging in my office.

(He crosses to satchel, removes sword in scabbard. MAC hands it to him.)

TIGER

Will you leave me alone?

MAC

Of course.

TIGER

And this would mean so much to you.

MAC

To me. To all generals. It is dignity, it is pure, it is grace. They'll try to retire me soon, make me fade away, with all the others. You do this, I will learn to do it. You will teach.

My father died by the sword. TIGER

He was a great man. MAC

A simple man. TIGER

But a great one. MAC

Yes. TIGER

You must be great. For me. MAC

You must leave. TIGER

Do it in front of me. I want to see. MAC

I cannot. TIGER

Please. Show me your strength. Show me. MAC

(TIGER unsheathes sword, it is bright, almost blinding.)

You have... TIGER

Polished it, yes. Many times. MAC

(TIGER hands MAC the scabbord. He immediately assumes the warrior stance, all the energy and the grace of the warrior returns to his body.)

Show me. MAC

(TIGER stands at attention, sword by his side. Suddenly he turns the sword on himself, holding the point to his belly, ready to strike. MAC is transfixed. He falls to his knees. TIGER is ready to strike.)

MAC

Show me.

(Suddenly TIGER relaxes his posture and presents the sword to MAC with a slight bow.)

TIGER

It is a surrendered sword. It is not mine.

MAC

Nonsense.

TIGER

Sheath it. It belongs on a wall now.

(MAC stands and takes sword. He puts it in its scabbard.)

MAC

You're a coward.

TIGER

No.

MAC

Yes, Bushido is a myth.

TIGER

No, dignity is. There can be no dignity amongst kangaroos. They are absurd.

MAC

I am no kangaroo.

TIGER

You preside over a kangaroo court, you are a kangaroo. If I killed myself I would be expiating myself of sin. But I have committed no sin, I have not failed. You would have me kill myself to avoid the indignity of being hung. But killing myself would admit defeat. I will not admit defeat. Not to the world, not to you, not for your benefit. Not so you can say, "You see, he failed, He has admitted it." You are clever. You play on my desperation, my need for dignity. But I will not be your accomplice. You want guidance? I will give it you. You fought your way across the Pacific to learn from me? Let me teach. The final lesson. Great generalship is not a performance. I am not an actor. An actor performs a role. A general just is. You have never learned to be. But like fatherhood, it's never too late.

MAC

You'll hang and your indignity will be filmed, for all the world to see.

TIGER

But I will not hang as a failure.

(MAC starts to leave.)

TIGER

Be a great general, just once. Do one thing.

MAC

I'll never order you shot.

TIGER

That's not the one thing.

MAC

What then?

TIGER

Something harder for you to do than to forgive yourself, for all your failures.

MAC

What?

TIGER

And only I will ever know you did it.

MAC

Tell me dammit!

TIGER

Salute me. As one general to another. Initiate the salute. Salute me first. At least admit it to yourself. With a salute.

(MAC stares at him. Suddenly he straightens up, stomach in, chest out. He rises to his full height. It is impressive. Will he salute? TIGER also comes to attention. The two of them facing one another. Suddenly MAC spins on his heel and exits. TIGER relaxes, throws baseball against the wall, catching it on the rebound.)

(CHET enters, dressed as a civilian. Clickety-clack: The sign ratchets forward from 1947 to 1963, setting a rhythm to CHET's speech. As he speaks the lights fade on TIGER.)

CHET

(To audience)

I don't believe in sanctuaries. I think a man should weather the storm, face reality. I lived in New York for sixty odd years after that. Made my way as a legal advisor, a silent partner. Had a brain and talent and I came cheap, cheap because I had no name to go with the brain. My talent was tainted because of me, so it always performed under a different name. Does the world forgive? In a way. But not really. Does it forget? Now this is what's strange. It does. Weird paradox: it can never forgive if it does not forget. But it does forget, so it forgives. It does but I didn't. Memory like a pacaderm. You see, when you're as beneath contempt as I was, for most of my life, you begin to breed weird festishes, odd grudges. I had a burning desire to know, did he still hate me? How could he not? And then one day it dawned on me. This man who dominated my life, who so altered my existence, must have forgiven me, he must have, because he probably forgot me.

II-12

(Lights up on MAC sitting in a wheelchair wearing an army bathrobe. He is greatly aged, limp, frail. The room is a hotel room, opulent, a Waldorf Suite as a matter of fact. Location: The Waldorf Astoria. There is visible memorabilia from his campaigns. On the wall hangs TIGER's sword.)

MAC

You'll forgive me. I don't remember you. It's not senility, my mind's just too full.

CHET

It's all right. I just wanted to say hi.

MAC

Philippines you say? You weren't on Bataan?

CHET

No. The second time. I helped you defeat The Tiger.

MAC

A great man. A great general.

CHET

Sad how he died.

MAC

Yes. I've always... Well. Blood under the bridge. (Pointing towards sword on the wall.) That's his.

CHET  
May I?

MAC  
Of course.

(CHET removes it from the wall, holds it.)

CHET  
It's very fine.

MAC  
I go down to the Army Navy Club to get the war news. This mess in Vietnam. Would never have happened if Truman had let me invade China.

CHET  
But he didn't.

MAC  
No. The prick.

CHET  
You failed to convince him.

MAC  
And he fired my ass. To convince himself.

CHET  
You know the Japanese believed in bushido.

MAC  
For those who failed.

CHET  
But you see we all must fail because to strive is to fail.

MAC  
I never failed.

CHET  
Not for a long time.

MAC  
Never.

CHET

Truman. The Presidency.

MAC

I was robbed.

CHET

Still you failed. How is it you didn't commit Hari Kari? You would go with honor, dignity.

MAC

No one would understand it.

CHET

The Japanese would, the Filipinos.

MAC

Not the Americans.

CHET

Of course they would. As an individual, as the ultimate warrior, they have revered you. They would revere this act as that of an ultimate warrior. Would Marshall have done it? Would Patton?

MAC

They didn't have the guts.

CHET

Would Eisenhower have done it if he'd lost to you?

MAC

Never. A coward at heart.

(MAC is slipping into his own world of thought. CHET has leaned in like a hypnotist.)

CHET

So show them. Show them what mettle you are made of.

MAC

You're a scary young man, aren't you?

CHET

I'm not young. I'm middle aged. I am a shadow, a secret, my life a compromise, a veil. But you, you have the power to inspire, to lead, to enchant, with an act. A final act. An act you spoke of to me, before I was exposed, compromised, an act that haunts me, that

torments me in each of my adjustments, sacrifices, dalliances with defeat. The sword, General.

(CHET removes sword from sheath. It glistens. MAC sits up, at attention, alert suddenly.)

MAC

Give it to me.

(CHET hands it to him.)

MAC

I forgot... I forgot how light it is.

(He waves it about.)

CHET

End the torment, General. The bitterness. Resolve for peace. Do it.

(Suddenly MAC points the sword at himself. His arm is strong. He goes limp.)

MAC

Such fancies. In the Waldorff Hotel. On Park Avenue. They'd charge Jeanie for the carpets.

CHET

Another failure then. A failure of nerve.

(He takes the sword from MAC and resheaths it, putting it back on the wall.)

MAC

You were on my administrative staff.

CHET

Yes.

MAC

Briefly.

CHET

Yes.

MAC

Legal staff.

CHET

Briefly.

(A flicker on MAC's face as he begins to remember.)

CHET

Bushido.

(MAC starts, as before.)

CHET

Thank you for seeing me, General. You taught me much as a young man. Life lessons. I think of you daily.

MAC

(Suddenly tired, old)

Would you, would you ask my adjutant to come in to me?

CHET

Yes.

(CHET draws himself up into a smart salute. MAC doesn't return it. He looks spent.)

CHET

(To audience)

I left him that day. But as I left, as I passed from the room, I could smell not defeat, not failure, but fear. It had the distinct odour of piss. (He crosses away as lights fade on MAC.) I have secrets to tell, indiscretions to share. At the dawning of a new empire magnanimity was within our grasp. There were criminals. There were. A generation of them. From Himmler who master-minded Auschwitz to Tojo who ordered Nanking. But there were also witch hunts in the night, kangaroo courts in the day, and a chance lost, even at its inception, for a world of equanimity. They made a dessert and called it peace. The Pax Americana. Then they dragged from its darkness those made weak and tried them. Fair enough. Silence. Suppression. Subjugation. Those are a kind of peace.

End of Act Two

End of Play