

The Haber Collection

By

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Cast of Characters

<u>HABER:</u>	German Chemist, buries himself in his work
<u>CLARA:</u>	Haber's Wife; Stay at Home Mother who searches for more
<u>1:</u>	An Optimistic Narrator
<u>2:</u>	A Pessimistic Narrator
<u>3:</u>	A Realist Narrator
<u>ROSSIGNOL:</u>	An English Grad Student studying under Haber
<u>ABEGG:</u>	Haber, Clara, and Otto's former mentor and close friend
<u>BOSCH:</u>	Chemist working for the BASF
<u>RATHENAU:</u>	German-Jewish Businessman; Head of the Board of Wartime Materials
<u>NERNST:</u>	A Nationalistic Chemist
<u>OTTO:</u>	A Promising Chemist
<u>HERMANN:</u>	Haber and Clara's Son. Seen both as 14 and 33
<u>PRIEST:</u>	Priest who Marries Fritz and Clara
<u>KRANZ:</u>	Chief Mechanic of the BASF
<u>MITTASCH:</u>	Chemist for the BASF
<u>GENERAL:</u>	Member of the Ministry of War
<u>SCIENTIST:</u>	A Scientist who signs the "Proclamation to the Civilized World"
<u>OFFICER:</u>	A German Officer at the Battle of Ypres
<u>ERNEST:</u>	A Physicist who resents Haber
<u>IMMIGRATION OFFICER:</u>	A French Immigration Officer

<u>KELLY:</u>	A Modern News Anchor
<u>DR. AGNEW:</u>	A News Station's "Resident Expert"
<u>STANDING MAN:</u>	A Nazi
<u>DESK MAN:</u>	Another Nazi
<u>IRENE:</u>	Haber's secretary; Otto's Niece
<u>TEACHER:</u>	A Modern Day Biology Teacher
<u>STUDENT:</u>	A Bored Student
<u>ENTENTE SOLDIER 1:</u>	A French Soldier played by 1
<u>ENTENTE SOLDIER 2:</u>	A French Soldier played by 2
<u>ENTENTE SOLDIER 3:</u>	A French Soldier played by 3

ACT I: THE HABER COLLECTIONScene 1

August 3rd, 1901; the wedding of FRITZ HABER and CLARA IMMERWAHR; a PRIEST stands between them.

PRIEST

Fritz and Clara, do you come here voluntarily and with your hearts prepared to receive each other in marriage?

HABER AND CLARA

Yes.

PRIEST

Will you love, respect, and be loyal to one another until death separates you?

HABER AND CLARA

Yes.

The PRIEST motions for them to exchange vows.

HABER

I, Fritz Haber, take you, Clara, to be my wife. I promise to be loyal to you both in health and illness, until death separates us.

CLARA

And I, Clara Immerwahr, take you, Fritz, to be my husband. I promise to be loyal to you on both good and bad days, until death separates us.

PRIEST

You may now kiss the bride.

FRITZ and CLARA kiss. Lights go out.

1

Behold, the tragedy of Fritz Haber. The story of a man, lost to time.

3

A glimpse into the depths of one pivotal, brilliant, man, forgotten.

2

For not every hero should be celebrated. Yet they live on in our hearts, our minds, our...

1 Dreams...

2 Future...

3 Past...

2 Nightmares.

1 For behold the tragedy of Fritz Haber; the story of a
hero...

2 Villain...

3 Chemist...

2 War criminal...

1 Husband...

3 Captain...

2 German...

1 Savior...

2 Murderer...

3 Man. The story of a man.

SCENE 2

*HABER'S laboratory at Karlsruhe; 1905. HABER
paces, lost in thought. A knock; before ROBERT
LE ROSSIGNOL, an English Graduate Student,
enters.*

ROSSIGNOL
Herr Haber?

HABER
Yes?

ROSSIGNOL
Robert Le Rossignol? You requested my appearance?

HABER
Ah, yes, yes. Do come in. Shut the door.

ROSSIGNOL
Oh, sorry! I am afraid I am a bit scattered at the moment; it is not everyday that you request a private audience with any of your students, much less me.

HABER
It may be more common than you think. Although, the most prospective students often reach me first.

ROSSIGNOL
Yes, I suppose, people often do come right out and ask you questions, do they not? I simply must do that more myself. You are...

HABER
Why did you leave England, Rossignol?

ROSSIGNOL
I'm sorry?

HABER
Why did you leave England?

ROSSIGNOL
You see, I never really thought about it...

HABER
Rossignol, you are as brilliant of a student as you are terrible of a liar. You are one of the brightest young minds in Karlsruhe. The day you make a decision without contemplating it first is a dark day for us all. Now, I ask one more time, why, when he could have gone to Oxford, Harvard, anywhere he wanted, why did Robert Le Rossignol come to Karlsruhe?

ROSSIGNOL
This might be a tad embarrassing...

HABER

Oh?

ROSSIGNOL

But the reason I came to Karlsruhe was, I suppose, due to you, professor.

HABER

Me?

ROSSIGNOL

Yes, I was on holiday with several friends when the conversation turned to mentors of ours; their glowing opinion of you combined with your recent work on gas reaction thermodynamics...

HABER

Then you've read my recent work?

ROSSIGNOL

Yes, I have. Fascinating what one can discover from...

HABER

What did you think of the acknowledgements?

ROSSIGNOL

The acknowledgements?

HABER

The acknowledgements.

ROSSIGNOL

To be honest, I do not quite remember the acknowledgements.

HABER

No, I suppose no one does, do they?

ROSSIGNOL

I suppose not.

HABER

Yet would it be amiss to say that acknowledgements are the most important section of a book?

ROSSIGNOL

What do you mean?

HABER

Without those the author acknowledges, no matter the

subject, the book often would never exist in the first place.

ROSSIGNOL

I would argue the author is responsible himself.

HABER

Yes, the author is important, but someone must first drive the author to write a written work, regardless of its purpose.

ROSSIGNOL

Perhaps, but this is not always the case. Everyone remembers the author of a work, but no one remembers the acknowledgements.

HABER

Does memory correlate to importance, then?

ROSSIGNOL

No, no, I did not mean to insinuate that by any means.

HABER

Then tell me, the acknowledgement in the book, what do you make of it?

ROSSIGNOL

As I said before, I am sorry, but I do not remember it.

HABER

"To my dear wife Clara Haber Ph.D., in gratitude for her silent cooperation".

ROSSIGNOL

It's very sweet.

HABER

Sweet.

ROSSIGNOL

And meaningful!

HABER

And meaningful.

(A change of thought.)

Let us speak plainly, Le Rossignol. I am, as of current, looking for a new personal assistant. I need someone honest, clever, and willing.

ROSSIGNOL
Willing?

HABER
Willing to experiment; willing to accept; willing to push themselves beyond what they thought themselves capable of. Someone willing.

ROSSIGNOL
And you want me too...

HABER
Well, I can not think of anyone better suited for the position. That is, if you accept.

ROSSIGNOL
Yes! I, I accept. Thank you.

SCENE 3

The HABER household. CLARA IMMERWAHR is deep in conversation with RICHARD ABEGG, a welcome guest. She is dressed in bright colors.

CLARA
I am so sorry, Richard. You really must excuse the state of the house; I have been so busy taking care of Hermann I have hardly had a moment to take care of anything else around here.

ABEGG
I could hardly notice.

CLARA
I appreciate it, but, for me, every little thing jumps out of place.

ABEGG
You always were so detail oriented. Truly a brilliant student.

CLARA
I pride my success on more than my penance to find the little details, thank you.

ABEGG
Oh, yes, there was much more to your success than any simple talent. A woman of the sciences is a rare sight; when you came asking for guidance, it was simple fact that you were something special.

CLARA

Thank you dearly.

ABEGG

Although, excuse my asking...

CLARA

Hm?

ABEGG

Clara, how do you expect to continue your studies with a child and husband?

CLARA

It... has been difficult. But Fritz is no ordinary man! He is but one of the brightest in all of modern German chemistry! We will be rich, this I believe wholeheartedly, professor, and once we become millionaires, we will be able to afford servants. And once we have these servants, then I will resume my passions. For I cannot even think about giving up my scientific work. The mere thought...

She trails off.

ABEGG

An admirable plan. One I hope you can realize.

CLARA

Me too.

ABEGG

Perhaps it may be better to have more women in the industry.

CLARA

Do you think so?

ABEGG

Do you not agree?

CLARA

Of course I agree, but a man in your position... Well, it is often hard to find a man who shares your sentiments.

ABEGG

Yes, a shame. Regardless, I am of the opinion that woman in the workforce may become a necessity if the predicted food crisis comes to pass. Our current industry-

CLARA

The food crisis?

ABEGG

Certainly you have heard of it?

CLARA

These walls have been my life for these past years.
Not much reaches through them.

ABEGG

It is a troubling matter with no clear solution in sight. The recent Chilean embargo has resulted in a lack of fertilizer our farms. Without the fertilizer...

CLARA

Millions will starve the world over.

ABEGG

Now, in the event that an artificial substitute is synthesized, all this could all be averted, but I digress.

FRITZ HABER enters.

CLARA

Fritz!

HABER

Ah, Clara. Richard! I was not aware you were in town.

ABEGG

Only for a short time, really. I decided I would stop by; check in.

HABER

I speak for the two of us when I say it is very much appreciated.

CLARA

Richard and I were just having this fascinating conversation in regards to the oncoming global food shortage.

HABER

Is that so?

ABEGG

The thought was that a substitute, artificial, fertilizer, could easily stall, if not prevent, the

oncoming crisis.

CLARA

Perhaps we-

HABER

Greater men than us are already working on the problem. Herr Ostwald, for one. He was already working on the problem before I was married. A solution will present itself in no time at all.

ABEGG

I would advise against being so sure...

HABER

The combined intellect of my department could not compare to that of Herr Ostwald; if he cannot solve it, then it may just be impossible.

CLARA

Science has done the impossible before.

HABER

And Herr Ostwald will do the impossible again. Of this I am sure.

SCENE 4

FRITZ HABER and ROBERT LE ROSSIGNOL are working in HABER'S lab on an experiment. Midday; several days later.

ROSSIGNOL

Another failure. When the two solutions were mixed, nothing occurred.

HABER

Did you check the concentration of the mixture?

ROSSIGNOL

Double.

HABER

And the purity?

ROSSIGNOL

Triple.

HABER

How interesting. Once again!
(A knock on the lab door.)

In a moment. Come in!

BOSCH

Herr Haber, just the man I am looking for!

HABER

And you might be...

BOSCH

Carl Bosch, of the Baden Aniline and Soda Foundation, BASF for short. I trust you have heard of us?

HABER

It would be a challenge for any chemist in all of Germany to not have heard of the foundation. To what do I owe the pleasure?

BOSCH

In simple terms, a proposition. A mutually beneficial partnership.

HABER

(To ROSSIGNOL)

I question how beneficial it truly may be.

ROSSIGNOL

Herr Haber, it may not be my place, but should we not hear the man out? It is the BASF, after all.

BOSCH

I see no reason why you would not use your expertise in your field to help those in need.

HABER

Those in need? BASF?

BOSCH

Not the BASF, no. But everyone else.

HABER

Everyone else?

BOSCH

I see I have your attention. I am sure you have heard of the oncoming food crisis?

HABER

Is that what this is about? The issue will resolve itself. It always does.

BOSCH

The foundation is less certain of that.

ROSSIGNOL

Is it not just a political issue? Chile closing down all exportation of natural fertilizer?

BOSCH

So, so much more than that. Chile has not just cut the world off from fertilizer, Chile is running out itself.

ROSSIGNOL

Oh. Oh!

BOSCH

And there the issue lies. The fertilizer will not last half a decade, and after that? Famine most likely, unless we find a substitute, whether natural, or *artificial*.

(A beat.)

It is our view that the creation of an ammonium based fertilizer would single-handedly solve both the food crisis and numerous other issues facing Germany.

ROSSIGNOL

I see no reason not to accept...

HABER

No.

BOSCH

Excuse me?

HABER

Greater men than me have attempted this problem. If you so wish, I will put you in touch with these great men, but I am not one of them.

BOSCH

Herr Haber, I don't know you understand...

HABER

I believe you are the one who cannot understand, goodbye.

BOSCH

All right then; that settles that; thank you for your time.

ROSSIGNOL
Thank you.

BOSCH
We'll be in touch.

CARL BOSCH exits.

HABER
Pen and paper, please.

FRITZ HABER starts writing; ROSSIGNOL looks over his shoulder.

ROSSIGNOL
If I may, Herr Haber, what are you writing?

HABER
A letter to William Ostwald, he has already spent numerous years on this topic, I am sure the opportunity to work with the BASF will excite him greatly.
(Reading the letter aloud as he writes.)
"Dr. Ostwald, your experiments on ammonium synthesis for use as fertilizer have recently come to my attention. The Baden Aniline and Soda Foundation has...

Tableau, 3 comes out.

3
...Reached out to me in regards to a similar issue. Would it be acceptable if I were to direct the foundation to you? I feel you may wish that a respectful company with a strong capital base take over the technical execution. Haber."

William Ostwald. Brilliant leader, fantastic chemist and the absentee father of the ammonia synthesis process. Professor Ostwald had experimented with this exact process several years prior, but stopped pursuing this area long before Haber wrote him. How did Ostwald respond to Haber's hope? Let's find out.
(3 merges into the scene as a messenger, carrying a letter from Ostwald. The action resumes, taking place several days later.)
Letter from Ostwald, Herr Haber!

HABER
Thank you.

3 exits.

ROSSIGNOL

What does the letter say?

HABER

Apparently Ostwald gave up- sorry- let go on the project three years ago after a lack of satisfactory results. Apparently the ammonia generated did not exhibit a satisfactory experiment, but instead a compound from the remedial iron inside.

ROSSIGNOL

Oh. How... disappointing.

HABER

Very disappointing indeed.

ROSSIGNOL

So I do not suppose we will...

HABER

We are not taking on the project.

ROSSIGNOL

Why not?

HABER

We cannot even guarantee if such a process is possible, much less feasible.

ROSSIGNOL

It must be possible, the human race requires such a process if it is to continue ever onwards!

HABER

If Herr Ostwald could not solve this problem, I am hard-pressed to believe we will have any more luck.

ROSSIGNOL

But this could be your legacy! The savior of millions today and billions tomorrow!

HABER

Yes, but...

ROSSIGNOL

Germany- no, the world needs you.

HABER

Germany...

(He contemplates this.)
I suppose, if nothing else, at least one good hearted attempt is in order. Alright. Write to Bosch, let him know we have rethought our stance on the issue. Then go through the university records; anything that so much as mentions ammonia I want on my desk. Where others have failed...

ROSSIGNOL

We shall succeed.

SCENE 5

FRITZ and CLARA HABER'S home. CLARA sits at a desk, reading a letter from RICHARD ABEGG.

ABEGG

My friend Clara, I hope all is well. You will be happy to hear about that my experiments of electro-affinity have had shocking results. Pardon the pun. How is Fritz? Not overworking himself, I hope. Be sure to take care of him for me. Yourself too. Take care, your friend, Richard Abegg.

CLARA stops reading and begins writing her own letter.

CLARA

My dear friend Richard, I recently received your letter and am glad your experiments in electro-affinity are going well. I look forward to hearing more as your experiments bear fruit. Fritz and I are doing very well, however, Fritz becomes more obsessed with the puzzle that is ammonium fertilizer every day. I understand the importance of the work, but only wish...

FRITZ HABER enters.

HABER

Ugh.

CLARA

Fritz, you are home!

HABER

Yet my work still follows me.

CLARA

Have you had any luck?

HABER

No. Try higher temperatures, they say. Try more pressure, they say. Nothing works, Clara.

CLARA

You will figure it out. You always do.

HABER

I know, I know I will. But it is a long road. A long road with many dead ends.

CLARA

Certainly you will. Might I help at all? Perhaps look over former research on ammonia? Or analyze your work so far? See possible avenues you missed? Maybe...

HABER

Clara, please. You do more than enough right here. Remember that.

CLARA

I know, but the lab...

HABER

I refuse to let yourself work any harder than you already do. Somebody needs to be there for Hermann, and it can not be me.

CLARA

Please, I can help. Might allowing me to work on this project could be exactly the catalyst that forwards it...

HABER

What was that?

CLARA

I want to help, Fritz.

HABER

No, not that. The phrasing.

CLARA

Forwards? Project? Catalyst?

HABER

Catalyst! That is exactly it. That must be what we are missing! Clara, I love you. Oh, this is brilliant. I must, I must go tell Rossignol.

CLARA

Fritz, it is late at night; can you not wait until tomorrow?

HABER

Not when there is work to be done tonight.

HABER exits. CLARA sighs, before returning to the letter.

CLARA

I only wish... only wish... I only wish I could take on a more active role in Fritz's work. Or rather, given the opportunity, pursue my own course. I know with time my responsibilities as a mother will fade and I will return to the sciences, but until that point, I fear what may come of me. Thank you, Clara Haber.

SCENE 6

FRITZ HABER'S laboratory. 1907. HABER and ROSSIGNOL are deep in discussion. A machine for the synthesis of ammonia remains in the back.

HABER

Iron, gold, platinum, they all do not work.

ROSSIGNOL

Cadmium, Indium, Nickel. Nothing.

HABER

I see. Anything else appears rather difficult to acquire at the current moment.

ROSSIGNOL

Well, there must be something, surely.

HABER

Perhaps... Osmium? It is quite unique in its properties.

ROSSIGNOL

It is possible... Where do we find Osmium, though? The university does not have any on hand.

CARL BOSCH enters.

BOSCH

Hello, fellow compatriots in the field of science.

HABER

Herr Bosch.

BOSCH

I came to let you know that the BASF is very thankful for the work you have done thus far, but questions your commitment to the task at hand.

ROSSIGNOL

Questions our commitment? Sir, you will be...

HABER signals ROSSIGNOL to hold his tongue.

HABER

Herr Bosch, you should know better than anyone at the BASF how close we are to cracking the ammonia mystery. You have seen the patents, you have seen the equations; I guarantee you we are working to the best of our ability.

BOSCH

You're right. I have. I've seen the research you've done here, the ideas you have presented, and I have seen the dead ends you have run into. It is the dead ends the BASF does not like.

ROSSIGNOL

Dead ends? This is science, of course...

HABER signals ROSSIGNOL to stop again.

HABER

Then tell the BASF that they will be happy to hear we believe we have finally found the road to ammonia synthesis.

BOSCH

Have you now? And what is it?

HABER

(Hesitating.)

Osmium.

BOSCH

Osmium! And where are you going to get Osmium?

HABER

Well, due to our limited resources and business agreement, I feel it is only natural that the BASF supplies us with the materials we need.

BOSCH

I come in here to tell the two of you that we need you two to figure this out, and you inform me that you need Osmium. Osmium. A metal rarer than gold.

ROSSIGNOL

But also found in the modern lightbulb!

TABLEAU. 2 enters.

2

Let several facts be known about Carl Bosch: For one, Bosch, was, in his heart, a scientist, but in his trade, a businessman. Almost an oxymoron in the modern day. Two, he saw true financial success and extreme potential in Haber, despite his high demands. But perhaps most aptly, Carl Bosch fought for Haber a multitude of times in the upper echelons of the BASF, and the two grew to become friends over time. What on the surface appears to be nothing more than a covetous entrepreneur, may hide a man struggling with the fight between his own morals and position.

2 exits. The action resumes.

BOSCH

You make a tall ask, Herr Haber.

HABER

Unfortunately, there are not many other options.

BOSCH

Many other options?

HABER

Almost none.

BOSCH

Almost. What other options are you two yet to try?

ROSSIGNOL

Well, we are yet to try element 92.

BOSCH

Which is?

ROSSIGNOL

Uranium.

BOSCH

Osmium it is. I will inform the BASF of your request.

HABER

Thank you, Herr Bosch.

BOSCH

I do not know what they will say, but I will let them know. In the meantime, keep them happy. Make more meaningless patents, make it appear you are achieving results in the meantime. Is there anything else I should inform them of?

HABER

That should be all.

BOSCH

Then I bid goodbye, in hopes that will be good news I bring next time we speak.

BOSCH exits.

ROSSIGNOL

And what do we do now?

HABER

I presume exactly what the foundation wants.

ROSSIGNOL

Which is?

HABER

Meaningless patents.

TABLEAU; the stage is shrouded in darkness except for 3 as he enters.

3

Haber's request for osmium was of granted, and after many failed attempts...

Action resumes, several months later. HABER and ROSSIGNOL are hovering over the ammonia synthesis device.

ROSSIGNOL

No results.

HABER

Perhaps Osmium is quite simply not the catalyst we thought it was. Still, one more time.

HABER begins setting up the machine for another test.

ROSSIGNOL

Maybe, but if we tell the BASF that Osmium has led only to dead ends, it is highly unlikely they'll allow us to continue, and we lack the resources to do so independently, and with no one else researching this field of study, the human race itself is at-

HABER

Calm yourself, Rossignol.

ROSSIGNOL

Sorry.

HABER

Rarely do scientific pursuits allow for emotion, and this is no exception.

ROSSIGNOL

I simply worry, that is all.

HABER

Nothing has ever been accomplished through worrying, it is all in doing.

ROSSIGNOL

Still, one may only go on for so long before starting to lose hope. With deadlines looming overhead, every failure only feels that much more disheartening. Yet, is that why we must not go on? The hope of success over the fear of failure? Herr Haber?

HABER

Mein Gott.

ROSSIGNOL

Herr Haber?

HABER

Rossignol, look!

Ammonia idly drips from the machines faucet.

ROSSIGNOL

It's...

ROSSIGNOL AND HABER

Ammonia!

HABER

Everyone, everyone! Come down, there's ammonia!

TABLEAU in a moment of exuberance for HABER and ROSSIGNOL. 1, 2, and 3 come out.

1
Fritz Haber was right; osmium was the key. The missing piece to the puzzle.

2
The work of years gone by resolved in a single moment.

3
Ammonia has been created, and with it, the world saved.

2
Except, discovery is not the end of the process. There is still production, experimentation, and distribution.

1
For Haber, his job was far from over.

1, 2, 3, exit, revealing CLARA, buzzing with anticipation. HABER enters, distracted.

CLARA
Fritz, I have news!

HABER
Yes?

CLARA
I have been selected by Karlsruhe to teach a lecture on the nature of chemistry!

HABER
Lovely.

CLARA
Is it not fantastic, Fritz? They never let women teach at the university. After all this time, back in the field. It is just...

HABER
Clara, I am exalted for you, but my mind is elsewhere. The process needs refined before I reveal it the the BASF.

CLARA
Oh, I understand.

HABER

Thank you.

HABER exits, CLARA remains until she is shrouded by darkness.

SCENE 7

BOSCH, ROSSIGNOL, HABER, MITTASCH, and KRANZ stand around a new pressure reactor.

HABER

Greetings, gentlemen. Herr Bosch, I am elated you could make it, excuse me, I do not believe we have been acquainted.

KRANZ

Herr Kranz. Chief mechanic at the Baden Aniline and Soda Foundation.

MITTASCH

Alwin Mittasch. Member of the BASF chemistry division.

HABER

A pleasure to meet both of you.

MITTASCH

The pleasure is mine.

BOSCH

Now, Herr Haber, I must be in Ludwigshafen soon, so I hope we can make this quick.

HABER

Yes, of course. Gentlemen, we are gathered here today to bear witness to the birth of the new center of German agriculture: Ammonia.

MITTASCH

Fascinating.

HABER

Shall we begin?

ROSSIGNOL pulls HABER aside.

ROSSIGNOL

Herr Haber, we still need to recalibrate the equipment-

BOSCH

Herr Haber, my time runs short.

HABER

There will be no problems, I have already checked the pressure reactor several times over.

(To BOSCH, MITTASCH, and KRANZ.)

Let us begin. I have already set up the experiment, all that is left is to add the osmium to begin the reaction.

KRANZ

How much ammonia should we expect?

HABER

More than enough to fuel German agriculture for the foreseeable future.

MITTASCH

And the cost-benefit analysis is such that the osmium pays for itself?

HABER

That is...

BOSCH

Problems for later. Let us see the process in action!

HABER puts the osmium into the pressure reaction and starts the machine.

HABER

Gentlemen, I present... ammonia!

There is no ammonia.

KRANZ

Ammonia, huh.

MITTASCH

Did something go wrong?

KRANZ

Wasn't even worth the trip.

HABER

Gentlemen, I am afraid a mishap has occurred within the apparatus. Please give but a few moments and everything will occur almost on schedule.

BOSCH

Herr Haber, I cannot wait any longer than I already have.

HABER

But Herr Bosch, this is the fruits of my work! The fate of Germany lies in this laboratory!

BOSCH

Then I propose a solution. Herr Kranz, you are to help with repairs...

KRANZ

Easy enough.

KRANZ immediately begins diagnosing the problem.

BOSCH

Herr Mittasch, you are to wait for the repairs to finish and report to me the results of the second trial of the experiment.

MITTASCH

Understood.

BOSCH

I trust my employees' judgement.

HABER

But surely, you would postpone your plans in order to bear witness to a miracle?

BOSCH

Not at this time, no. I look forward to hearing of your success.

BOSCH exits.

ROSSIGNOL

I said the pressure reactor was not ready, why did...

HABER

Rossignol, you were right. But let us not dwell on that now, the damage is done.

MITTASCH

You never answered.

HABER

Hm?

MITTASCH

Is it cost effective? The process.

HABER

At this current time, no. The Osmium required does not make up for the ammonia received.

ROSSIGNOL

But we are constantly looking for cheaper alternative catalysts!

MITTASCH

Is there perhaps something simple that has been missed? Anything at all?

ROSSIGNOL

Not involving base elements, no.

MITTASCH

How unfortunate. Perhaps, if this is a success, the BASF may look into a possible alternatives.

HABER

Perhaps.

KRANZ

Ah-hem.

(EVERYONE looks at KRANZ)

It was a simple fix. Shall we?

The pressure reactor roars to life. A moment passes with everyone looking on with eager anticipation. Finally, ammonia drips out.

MITTASCH

Ammonia!

KRANZ

Impossible!

MITTASCH

It is a miracle! Herr Bosch must see!

(MITTASCH and KRANZ run out.)

Herr Bosch! Herr Bosch! There is ammonia!

TABLEAU. 1, 2, and 3 enter.

1

The speed in which we travel through life often causes us to miss out on the little miracles...

3
Mysteries...

2
Horrors...

1
sprinkled throughout our lives.

3
Carl Bosch discovered this first hand.

2
In his haste, missing a defining moment in his life.

3
Or perhaps, was that haste the defining moment in itself?

1
Still, Bosch, through the amazed words of his Herr Kranz and Herr Mittash, now had undeniable proof as to the power of ammonia synthesis.

1, 2, and 3 exit. CLARA is onstage crying. Haber enters, smiling, before seeing the state his wife is in.

HABER
Clara! What is the matter?

CLARA
It is nothing. It is foolish.

HABER
No, please, speak to me.

CLARA
In such a world, I should have expected such a curse.

HABER
What curse? Clara, please, speak plainly.

CLARA
They, they thought you wrote it.

HABER
They? Who is they? Wrote what?

CLARA
The lecture!

HABER

The lecture?

CLARA

The lecture at the college. Can a woman not exist independently of her husbands achievements?

HABER

Oh Clara, I am sorry.

CLARA

No.

HABER

No?

CLARA

You are helping a lot of people. I knew what to expect when I married you; it was worth it then and it is worth it now. Please do not be sorry.

HABER

Then what should I be?

CLARA

Ready.

SCENE 8

1, 2, and 3 are on a black stage.

2

But one final test stands in front of Herr Fritz Haber. May Fritz Haber convince the heads of the BASF to invest in his invention? Or will both he and his invention sit out to rot, evermore?

(1, 2, and 3, become the heads of the BASF, a jury that HABER must impress. ROSSIGNOL is with him.)

Herr Fritz Haber, four years ago, the BASF sent you on your quest to discover a process for the synthesis of ammonia. Today, you stand in the presence of the heads of the BASF organization and claim you have discovered a method efficient in both cost and practice. Is this true?

HABER

(Offhanded; to ROSSIGNOL)

Mein Gott; it is my doctorate thesis all over again.

(To the BASF)

Yes, I have discovered a process for the synthesis of

ammonia through the use of an Osmium catalyst. My assistants are researching possible alternative catalysts as we speak...

3

But you do not currently have access to a cheaper catalyst?

HABER

(Hesitating.)

At this current time, no, but...

2

How much osmium?

HABER

Truly a miniscule amount...

2

How much Osmium, Herr Haber?

HABER

Roughly one hundred grams.

2

One hundred grams!?

3

For the tiniest bit of ammonia?

HABER

I would not dare approach your bench today if this process would not benefit BASF, just as, four years ago, the BASF approached me with a similar belief towards myself. I understand the scarcity of osmium, but promise that investment will be no mistake.

1

Tell us, Herr Haber, under how much pressure does this reaction take?

HABER

Well, at least a hundred atmospheres.

2

A hundred atmospheres!? Just yesterday an autoclave at seven atmospheres exploded on us! One hundred grams of osmium, one hundred atmospheres of pressure, what else?

ROSSIGNOL

That seems more a miscalculation of equipment than a genuine complaint.

1

Herr Haber, I feel it is safe to say that for four years of work, we are greatly disappointed with your progress.

ROSSIGNOL

Greatly disappointed with the process? Do you understand what we have- he has done here?

HABER

Rossignol...

ROSSIGNOL

Four years I have worked with Herr Haber and he always had an idea; always knew the next step. Four years ago you asked this man to create ammonia from the atmosphere, for you, and here he stands in front of you; the creator of bread from air, and you reject his process as unfeasible? Four years ago it was impossible! Four more years it'll be practical!

BOSCH enters.

2

Herr Rossignol, your outburst is unacceptable.

3

And even if true, we cannot bank on the hope of the future to forge our path.

HABER

No, perhaps not.

BOSCH

Yet in this case, that is exactly what we must do!

1

Herr Bosch? This is a private affair.

BOSCH

Yes, so sorry, so sorry. I would not interrupt if I did not believe it was urgent.

2

Speak your peace and go.

BOSCH

Yes, Herr Haber here, as we know, I have also have had the fortune of working with him for the past four years, and he has surprised me with his ambition at every turn. My greatest regret was underselling the conclusion of his work, and I will not do it again. To you fine gentlemen, I present Herr Fritz Haber, the creator of the Haber-Bosch Process...

ROSSIGNOL

Haber-Bosch Process?

BOSCH

Synthesizer of bread from air...

2

Herr Bosch...

BOSCH

And soon to be savior of the human race. But only you let the project continue.

HABER

Thank you.

BOSCH

Of course. Your work in the lab? Truly inspiring.

3

Herr Bosch, this is a wonderful testament to Herr Haber, but more must be done to solve the issues of cost.

BOSCH

And we can do that here. Haber has done his part. Now we must shift the work to us. Herr Mittasch has already expressed significant excitement in searching for new, cheaper, catalysts, as for I? I think it can work. I know exactly what the steel industry can do. We should risk it.

1, 2, and 3 confer for a moment before speaking once again.

1

Herr Bosch, do you believe this "Haber-Bosch Process" may be expanded in a profitable way?

BOSCH

I do, yes.

ROSSIGNOL

Haber-Bosch Process.

3

And do you believe there will be a need for ammonia in the near future?

BOSCH

With the upcoming food crisis in mind, yes. Ammonia fertilizer.

2

And do you believe in the success of Haber's experiments so wholeheartedly, that you will be willing to take on the role of the head of the expansion of this process into our factories and industries? Every failure, every pitfall, on you.

BOSCH

Yes, I think...

(Hesitates, before finding his resolve.)

Yes, I am, yes.

2

Then under the supervision of Herr Bosch, the BASF will take your process, Herr Haber, and bring it to life. We shall work out the contractual details at a later date.

HABER

Thank you, fine gentlemen. Thank you.

1, 2, and 3 exit.

ROSSIGNOL

We have done it!

BOSCH

I am just glad you did not destroy our chances.

ROSSIGNOL

Please, for being the heads of the BASF, it was as if they did not understand a lick of scientific theory.

HABER

They are businessmen, not scientists.

BOSCH

Well, Haber, it appears I am to relieve you of your post.

HABER

Yes, after I have finished the heavy lifting.

BOSCH

Please, Haber, soon you will find you have saved the entire human race.

HABER

You are too kind.

BOSCH

It is true. Fifty million projected deaths in Germany alone.

ROSSIGNOL

Every single one, averted! All thanks to you. Our names shall never be forgotten!

BOSCH

Let us celebrate! There is a bar...

HABER

No, no. Go on ahead. I fear I have much work to do.

ROSSIGNOL

But what work? Herr Haber, our work is done...

HABER

On the contrary, my work will never be over.

BOSCH

Well, I was going to save this for the bar, but since you are not coming with us, a toast! To Ammonia!

ALL

To Ammonia!

ROSSIGNOL

To Haber!

ALL

To Haber!

HABER

To Germany.

ALL

To Germany!

HABER, ROSSIGNOL, and BOSCH exit. 1, 2, and 3 enter.

- 3 And that ends...
- 1 Begins...
- 3 The story. Fritz Haber, toiling away in a laboratory...
- 1 Saving us all from mass starvation.
- 3 Carl Bosch took on his role as supervisor of the Haber-Bosch process, and with the help of Herr Mittasch, discovered a much cheaper catalyst.
- 2 The BASF became driving forces in the chemical industry, even more so than they already were. The gamble paid off, as they hid the technology from everyone as long as they could.
- 1 Robert Le Rossignol eventually finished his studies and moved into a position in Berlin, at the Auer Company, gaining many prominent achievements in his own right.
- 3 As for Haber, after his experiences with ammonia, he was offered a position as the head of the new Kaiser Wilhelm University in Berlin.
- 2 Today these men are celebrated, for the creation of bread, from air.

SCENE 9

CLARA, alone. Writing.

CLARA

Dearest Richard, we are doing well. Or, Fritz is. While the world celebrates his grand discovery in ammonia synthesis, I sit here, alone. What Fritz has gained over these past four years, I have lost, and I do not know that what I have lost will ever be found. Hermann is slowly growing up, it is astounding to see them change through the years. Write soon, Clara

Haber.
 (A knock.)
Come in.

3
 (As a messenger.)
I, I am sorry. This just came in.
 3 hands CLARA a letter.

CLARA
In regards to Richard? No. No. This can not be
reality.

3
I'm sorry.
 3 exits.

CLARA
Oh, Richard...

ACT II: ALWAYS TRUEScene 1

Germany, 1914. GENERAL ERICH VON FALKENHAYN, German Chief of Staff, is in his office. WALTHAR RATHENAU enters.

RATHENAU

General.

GENERAL

Take a seat, Herr Rathenau.

RATHENAU

Yes. I must thank you deeply for this audience on such short notice. An audience with the Chief of Staff has never been more difficult.

GENERAL

Pressing times requires dismissing all but the most paramount of guests.

RATHENAU

I know, and as such I refuse to waste your time any longer! Let us talk simply yet sweetly.

GENERAL

You wrote that you knew of "silent threats soon to strike deep into the German heartland".

RATHENAU

Ah yes, yes. A threat located in the very place we would never think look: Inside of our very own Fatherland.

GENERAL

A spy?

RATHENAU

Worse. A shortage. Sound Familiar?

GENERAL

A shortage.

RATHENAU

Now, it is predicted that the war will be short; that our enemies will be crushed by the end of the year. I, as with every German, hope this to be true. But, and this may be a matter of opinion, the German High Command are so cemented in this belief that they are

yet to consider the alternative, and with it, have severely neglected Germany industry.

GENERAL

The war will be short.

RATHENAU

I am not disagreeing with you, but rather saying that if we happen to be wrong, Germany's industry will only deteriorate. With the British blockade, Germany will have no nitrates, no rubber, no oil, nothing. And so, I ask, how sound are you in the belief that the war will soon be over?

GENERAL

Germany always prevails.

RATHENAU

Only due to its leadership.

GENERAL ERICH mulls this over.

GENERAL

You come to me with a problem, but no solutions, if your concerns...

RATHENAU

On the contrary, I have solutions abound. Here.

(RATHENAU pulls out several papers representing blueprints and plans and gives them to the GENERAL. The GENERAL mulls them over as RATHENAU continues.)

Here you will find plans for how best to manage our current supply crisis, as well as a system to best research new alternatives for currently unobtainable resources.

GENERAL

You clearly have thought this matter through.

RATHENAU

Very much so. If Germany is to win this war, it must be through deliberate actions and initiative.

GENERAL

Fine. Herr Rathenau, starting tomorrow, you are to head the Board of Wartime Raw Materials whose express purpose will be the effective management of current and future resources during wartime. The exact purpose of this division will be the effective cataloguing, managing, and development of materials

considered crucial for wartime.

RATHENAU

Thank you, sir. I guarantee this board will bring the German war effort to new heights!

The GENERAL and RATHENAU exit, 1, 2, and 3 enter.

1
Through action...

2
Through initiative...

3
Through sacrifice...

1
Action...

2
Initiative...

3
Sacrifice...

1
Action...

2
Initiative...

3
Sacrifice.

1
1914.

2
The Great War...

3
The War to End All Wars...

2
World War One.

1
It is is only in the darkest hour that the light within is revealed.

2
The light within you.

3
Within me.

1
Within Haber.

2
Within Clara.

HABER enters on, CLARA chasing after him. CLARA is in much grayer clothes than the first act. 1, 2, and 3 exit.

CLARA
Fritz! Wait. Are you certain?

HABER
In times like these, we have no choice but to be certain in our beliefs.

CLARA
Have you heard what the Entente Powers are saying? It's terrible!

HABER
In the face of such audacious claims, it is up to us to take a stand.

CLARA
And if they are true? What if they are true, Fritz? What then?

HABER
Clara, right now, we do not have the luxury of entertaining such ideas. We must stand behind Germany today so that it lives to see the light of tomorrow. This, "Proclamation to the Civilized World", they call it, signing it will more than express our support to the cause. All for a name on paper.

CLARA
I worry, Fritz. If what the allies say is true, if what happened in Belgium truly happened...

HABER
Just a name on a piece of paper, Clara. Just a piece of paper.

Scene 2

A meeting of many significant German intellectuals of the early 20th century. WALTHER NERNST and FRITZ HABER are among there ranks. At the front stands a SCIENTIST, reading from the "Proclamation to the Civilized World".

SCIENTIST

(Reading)

As representatives of German Science and Art, we hereby protest to the Civilized World against the lies with which our enemies are endeavoring to stain the honor of Germany in her hard struggle for existence. It is not true that Germany is guilty of having caused this war. Neither the people...

SCIENTIST continues silently

NERNST

Herr Haber?

HABER

Yes?

NERNST

Walther Nernst. Third law of thermodynamics?

HABER

Ah yes, I thought your name sounded familiar.

SCIENTIST

It is not true that we trespassed in neutral Belgium. It has been proved...

NERNST

I highly appreciate your contribution to the field. Your work on Ammonia Synthesis? Phenomenal. Truly revolutionary.

HABER

Thank you.

SCIENTIST

It is not true that the life and property of a single Belgian Citizen was injured by our soldiers without the...

NERNST

And your research regarding safer gas warning systems? Very interesting theories abound, even if

they eventually amounted to very little.

HABER

You certainly have done your research.

SCIENTIST

It is *not true* that our troops treated the Louvain badly. Furious inhabitants...

NERNST

Oh, no. No. I simply regularly stay updated on your work.

HABER

Yes, I see. What do you want, Herr Nernst?

SCIENTIST

It is *not true* that our warfare pays no respect to international laws. It knows no undisciplined...

NERNST

I am sorry?

HABER

Scientists always have a reason for talking to someone new. Rarely do events such as these come along, as such, when they do, scientists tend to bring the grandest idea they have along with them in an effort to move onto the higher echelons of the scientific social hagiarchy.

SCIENTIST

It is not true that the combat against our so-called militarism is not a combat against our civilization, as our enemies...

HABER

And as such, I ask with feigned interest, what extravagant idea do you bring forth to me?

NERNST

I, well, I, there's this idea I thought of recently...

HABER

Yes, I would hope it was your own.

NERNST

On a manner to win Germany the war.

SCIENTIST

We cannot wrest the poisonous weapon - the lie - out of the hands of our enemies...

NERNST

Right now, on the field, we see shells that explode on impact, it may hit, it may not. But, but, what if there was a method to increase the effectiveness per shell?

HABER

Such as?

NERNST

My thought is, if we were to fill these shells with toxic gasses and fire them at the enemy, each shell would do far more damage than if a simple explosion were to occur at the base.

SCIENTIST

Have faith in us! Believe, that we shall carry on this war to the end as a civilized nation, to whom the legacy of a Goethe, a Beethoven, and a Kant is just as sacred as its own hearths and homes.

(Speaking)

Once more, thank you for signing this precious document, each and every individual signature on this paper will go far in fighting against the Entente Powers lies.

SCIENTIST exits.

HABER

A fantastic idea...

NERNST

Thank you...

HABER

If ultimately unfeasible.

NERNST

Sorry?

HABER

You are suggesting filling shells with gasses rather than gunpowder, but it simply leaves too many wholes open. You have no examples of specific materials, it takes away supplies from mechanisms already proven to work, I fear in its current state, there is no future in such an idea.

NERNST

This, from the man who created bread from air?

RATHENAU enters.

HABER

If you prove me wrong, then it will be a victory for your career, science, and most importantly, Germany, but until that day comes, I will remain skeptical.

NERNST

Herr Haber, certainly you understand the ramifications a successful test could hold?

HABER

All too well. And perhaps...

RATHENAU

Excuse me, I do not mean to interrupt, Herr Fritz Haber?

HABER

Yes, and you are?

RATHENAU

Walther Rathenau. Surely you have heard of my work on economics, if not my recent appointment as the Head of the Board of Wartime Materials.

NERNST

I cannot say I have heard of the Board of Wartime Materials.

RATHENAU

It is quite new. We chiefly oversee the current efforts for the effective reorganization of German resources for the war effort. Germany will hardly last more than a few months with the current British blockades, after all.

HABER

I see...

RATHENAU

We also are currently looking for substitutes for rare materials on the battlefield.

HABER

Ah.

NERNST
Substitutes?

RATHENAU
Yes, substitutes.

NERNST
Substitutes for what?

RATHENAU
Components of antifreeze, rubber, explosives...

NERNST
Explosives? Excuse me, but recently, I came up with
an idea regarding...

RATHENAU
And you are?

NERNST
Walther Nernst. Third law of thermodynamics?

RATHENAU
I see. Herr Haber, would you be so willing as to
continue this conversation alone.

HABER
Certainly.

NERNST
But, I...

RATHENAU
Excuse us.

*NERNST exist. RATHENAU and HABER continue there
conversation.*

HABER
Are you signing the Proclamation?

RATHENAU
The Proclamation? Ah, "The Proclamation to the
Civilized World". A worthless piece of paper, I am
afraid.

HABER
I find it signifies our support for the fatherland
quite well.

RATHENAU

The problem is... there are almost a hundred prolific Germans here, Herr Haber. Scientists, poets, artists, theologians, everything. One hundred scientists that whole-heartly believe in the German cause, but took time off of acting on that belief to verbalize how much they support it. Actions speak louder than words, yet Germany's minds are hear speaking, when they should be acting.

HABER

Yet our words must reach the Entente Powers in this war of propaganda.

RATHENAU

The Entente Powers care no more about what we have to say then we do about their lies. Sign it if you must, it was the purpose of the trip, after all, but I shall save the ink.

HABER

And why did you make the journey?

RATHENAU

Ah, yes. Well, as I told your friend Herr Nernst, the Board of Wartime Materials is new. Very new. New to the point that, as of current, one may be hard pressed to label it a board.

HABER

I suppose you are to ask to be a part of this board, then?

RATHENAU

Yes, exactly. Head Chemist of Germany.

HABER

You make a tempting offer, Herr Rathenau. Yet there are far better options for such a position. There are far better chemists in Germany; There are far better chemists in this room.

RATHENAU

Far better chemists than the man who created gunpowder from air? Highly unlikely.

HABER

I appreciate the compliment, but, again, politely decline.

RATHENAU

Herr Haber, perhaps there are better chemists in Germany, perhaps they may even be here today. Yet this does not mean they are a better options for this position.

HABER

Then why me?

RATHENAU

Why you? Why you? If I may speak personally...

HABER

Please.

RATHENAU

It is your unique background. I believe that we may see eye to eye on factors that otherwise may become sources of conflict with someone else in the position.

HABER

Interesting.

RATHENAU

I understand your struggles in a manner that others are not privy to. A constant uphill battle to reach the same amount of respect as your colleagues. Yet no matter what you do, no matter what heights you reach, you know deep down that no matter how hard you fight, you never will receive the same amount of respect.

HABER

I know not what you are referring to.

RATHENAU

Yes you do. Anyone with our... heritage... understands all too well. Now, Germany's Head Chemist, perhaps it may be just the position to prove that you are as deserving of a place in German academia as everyone else in this room.

HABER

I earned my spot in this room five years ago. But... I will admit you have peaked my interest, Herr Rathenau. I do not suppose you will allow me to take my time on such a decision?

RATHENAU

Of course; take your time, take your time; we only have a war to win.

SCENE 3

1, 2, and 3 are onstage. It is dark. The following is composed of a series of "micro-scenes:", which should seamlessly blend together.

1 The stage is set.

2 The players have found their places.

3 And the captain is ready to embark.

2 Begin!

The HABER Household is revealed.

CLARA
The Head Chemist of Germany? What an exciting position for you!

HABER
Yes, quite...

CLARA
I just worry...

HABER
I already have plans to take it, but I could never have told him that. Such is the way of business.

CLARA
Oh, than I shall not say a another word.

HABER
No, please, go ahead.

CLARA
I suppose... Fritz, I will stand with you, no matter what may come.

The Kaiser Wilhelm University

OTTO
Hello, Herr Haber?

HABER
Ah, Herr Sackur. What appears to be bothering you?

OTTO
Well, the institute is a large place...

HABER
You are lost.

OTTO
Yes. Very.

HABER
Do not worry, I found myself lost wandering these halls many times my first few weeks here. Where were you headed?

OTTO
The main chemistry lab.

HABER
Follow me.

OTTO
A personal escort by Herr Haber himself! I never thought I would see this day.

HABER
You are too kind. You will find that the men who roam these halls are the same as any other, with the exception that while those outside these halls pretend to already know the secrets of life, we are busy discovering them.

OTTO
What a clever phrase.

HABER
It is nothing.

OTTO
Herr Abegg loved quotes like that.

HABER
Herr Abegg?

OTTO
My mentor during college. He always loved a good joke.

HABER
Herr Abegg was both my mentor as well as my wife's.

OTTO
No!

HABER
Such a terrible loss of life.

RATHENAU'S Office.

RATHENAU
It is a delight to hear from you so soon! The tides of war are ever changing, and I fret to imagine waiting any longer for an answer.

HABER
When war first broke out across Europe, I immediately applied to join the front, but was rejected due to supposedly poor health. Since that day, I have sought to find any manner in which I can support my country. Today, you offer an opportunity to help *das Vaterland* that allows me to follow this desire to its end. Herr Rathenau, it is with my sincerest gratitude that I accept your offer.

The Kaiser Wilhelm Institute; OTTO SACKUR and HABER are researching substitutes for antifreeze.

HABER
Shall we finish for the night?

OTTO
One more test, Herr Haber, I have a theory.

HABER
One more.

OTTO
As we know, the army typically uses toluene in the making of antifreeze...

HABER
But the nature of the war is causing our stores of toluene to quickly dry up, correct.

OTTO
However, when combined xylene and naphtha have been proven to have similar chemical properties as toluene... and so it stands to reason...
(HABER and OTTO watch as the two chemicals mix and combine.)
Herr Haber, I believe we have found the solution you

were looking for.

HABER

Please, call me Fritz.

The HABER Household

OTTO

Thank you again for inviting me over for dinner.

HABER

Thank you for coming.

OTTO

And thank you, Frau Haber, for a lovely meal.

CLARA

Of course.

OTTO

Well, goodbye Frau Haber, goodbye Fritz. I never will be fully at ease calling you that!

HABER

It is no more than my name. Goodbye Otto.

OTTO exits.

CLARA

You simply must stop.

HABER

Hm?

CLARA

I understand the importance of your work, but is it not possible for a slight warning before you invite guests over?

HABER

There is no problem.

CLARA

No problem? Fritz, the house is a mess, the dinner was lackluster, Hermann has had another bout of illness...

HABER

He has?

CLARA

And you do not even know!

HABER

Otto found it all to be quite picturesque.

CLARA

That was simple politeness, nothing more.

HABER

Clara, I understand your domestic worries, but not one of my colleagues will bat an eye at the current state of the household.

CLARA

Still...

RATHENAU's office.

RATHENAU

Herr Haber, wonderful work with the anti-freeze, the army has had no problems with it.

HABER

I am afraid I cannot take all the credit for myself...

RATHENAU

Unfortunately, war goes on, and so must we. As such, I have your next priority: explosives.

HABER

Explosives?

RATHENAU

Alternate explosives, yes. There is only so much saltpeter to go around, and, well, three months and there won't be anymore to go around.

HABER

I will do my best.

HABER Household. CLARA is writing.

HABER

And as such, if we are to assume that another gas enters, the pitch of the whistle will starkly change, in turn acting as a warning sign for any nearby miners.

CLARA

I see.

HABER

To who are you writing?

CLARA

Hm? Oh, no-one.

HABER

Clara?

CLARA

Yes?

HABER

Are you all right?

CLARA

Me? Oh, do not worry about me. Fritz, I... I will be fine. Just... end the war as soon as possible. For me.

HABER

Clara, please, stay a moment longer.

(CLARA exits)

Another time, then.

The Kaiser Wilhelm Institute; a laboratory. OTTO is working.

OTTO

Careful... Careful...

CLARA and HABER enter.

CLARA

Oh, Fritz! I truly cannot thank you enough. Clara Haber, in the laboratory once more.

HABER

It is the least I could do. Herr Sackur.

OTTO

Herr and Frau Haber.

CLARA

Fritz brought you for dinner the other week, correct?

OTTO

Yes, I must come over again sometime, dinner was

wonderful.

CLARA
You are too kind.

HABER
Shall we continue along?

CLARA
Oh yes, lets.

HABER
We may be back.

OTTO
Yes, back to work, back to work...

*CLARA and HABER exit into a hallway, the room
OTTO is in goes dark.*

CLARA
Fritz...

HABER
Yes?

CLARA
What were they working on in there?

HABER
Oh, nothing important.

CLARA
Then you should be free to tell me.

HABER
It is nothing, Clara, nothing.

CLARA
Thirteen years, and never before have you told me
such a blatant lie.

HABER
Explosives.

CLARA
Explosives?

HABER
Substitute materials and methods for explosives.

CLARA

You are supervising explosives research?

HABER

To make them *safer*, Clara.

CLARA

And what else? Cheaper? Stronger? *Better*?

HABER

Clara, please...

CLARA

I thought you were working to end the war as fast as possible!

HABER

I will be more than willing to have this conversation at...

A loud explosion is heard. CLARA and HABER run to the laboratory. A mistake has clearly occurred, OTTO is on the floor, motionless. Blackout.

SCENE 4

RATHENAU'S office. HABER enters.

RATHENAU

Ah, Herr Haber, I recently heard about the explosion at the institute. My deepest condolences for the poor scientists death. It is such a tragedy. Alas, the war stops to mourn for no man, and as such we must go on.

(Notices HABER is still standing.)

Why are you still standing? Please, sit down.

HABER

I do not know I am able.

RATHENAU

Ah.

HABER

I shall keep what I need short and simple. Nothing more.

RATHENAU

Go on, then.

HABER

Herr Rathenau, I request a change of assignment, effective immediately.

RATHENAU

A change of assignment? Herr Haber, I feel you misunderstand our current situation.

HABER

I am fully aware of the situation, whether it be of country, family, or self. As such, I cannot carry on explosives research in my institute.

RATHENAU

Certainly you are joking! Without your mind, Germany will fall!

HABER

It is not that I am abandoning Germany, I simply intend to abandon this line of research.

RATHENAU

You are talking nonsense...

HABER

Germany will still win this war if I leave explosives research to someone else. Instead, as I will reiterate, I expect a change of assignment.

RATHENAU

And if this request is not granted?

HABER

Then I will continue on with my own projects for the war effort.

RATHENAU

You would never quit. You have far too much to lose. Right now, you are one of the most important men in Germany. What will you be without this position?

HABER

Right now, I am no such thing. I am not the Head Chemist of Germany; there is no Head Chemist of Germany; I am the Head Chemist of the Board of Wartime Materials. I serve under you, just as you serve under the Chief of Staff, and just as he serves under the Minister of War. If I leave today, all I lose is a title I never had to begin with, but will in turn gain the freedom to work on projects that will impact Germany. Now, I ask you, will I be

reassigned to a new position, or shall we part ways?

RATHENAU

Listen, you know as well as I do that we are in the middle of a war, and nothing brings a nation down faster than disunity, we must all do our part.

HABER

This part is not mine to play.

RATHENAU

And your faith?

HABER

I have nothing to prove.

RATHENAU

Then I do not believe we have anything left to say.
Thank you for your service, Herr Haber.

HABER

Do not thank me, thank Herr Otto Sackur.

HABER exits.

SCENE 5

The testing grounds for T-shells. WALTHER NERST and FRITZ HABER are deep in conversation.

NERNST

Chemical weapons, we're calling them. T-Shells, to be precise.

HABER

I see.

NERNST

Filled with xylyl bromide, fifteen centimeter howitzer shells. For all intents and circumstances, the Entente Forces shall melt as if butter.

HABER

And the results?

NERNST

Oh, well, inconclusive at this current time.
Effectiveness of a weapon is quite hard to measure in a vacuum.

HABER

As of current, have these *T-shells* seen combat at all?

NERNST

Oh yes, oh yes. Quite recently, in fact. The Battle of Bolimów.

HABER

And, again, I ask, the result?

NERNST

Inconclusive.

HABER

As I thought.

NERNST

Herr Haber, pardon the outburst, when I was informed that you had rethought your stance on the possibilities of chemical weapons, I was ecstatic. However, I find that you are yet to propose a single constructive idea to this project; if I had known your intentions were to mock my work-

HABER

No, no. I do not intend to mock your work here in the slightest. However, one must understand before they are able to help.

NERNST

Then please, let me explain before you criticize.

HABER

As you were.

NERNST

Tear gas, it functions as; tear gas flung straight into the entente trenches using our artillery equipment. Problems arise, however, once you factor in wind conditions, temperature, artillery placement, and more.

HABER

That is all?

NERNST

Yes, in simplest terms.

HABER

Then that, in itself, is the problem.

NERNST

Sorry, what is?

HABER

That is all.

NERNST

That is all? You cannot claim you have found a problem with my work thus far and just claim 'that is all'. It is-

HABER

You misunderstand. 'That is all' does not mean we are finished, on the contrary, I believe we are just beginning, and we may be quite busy. 'That is all' stands to be your problem. Every little facet of your work is to be explained with a simple 'that is all'.

NERNST

I do not...

HABER

It lacks ingenuity, Herr Nernst; introducing chemicals into Germany's repertoire of weapons will not assure a swift victory. No, you have put xyxyl bromide inside a shell and assumed it would be enough. You have invented a new bullet without considering the manner of which it is to be fired. If chemical weapons are to be a threat on the battlefield, we must instead reconsider the way they are delivered. Only then may they bring the war to an end. As such, Herr Nernst, I believe that is where we shall start.

NERNST

We?

HABER

Would you rather continue on this endeavor alone?

NERNST

Five months ago, I sought you out, you in specific, Herr Haber, and brought to you this idea. At which, you went on with your conversation, pretending I was not even there. Now, five months later, you come to me, touting that my idea may have potential, and you tear it to shreds. Tell me, Herr Haber, what do you suppose I do with that information?

HABER

The same venture every scientist must take when a

pursuit does not work to their advantage. We must put emotions to the side and consider new avenues of exploration. Now, might you be willing to hear mine?

NERNST wrestles with this.

NERNST

As you were.

HABER

Thank you. You're using Xyxyll Bromide?

NERNST

Yes, it is cheap and-

HABER

We have better options.

NERNST

But if we are using tear gas, there is nothing cheaper!

HABER

I believe it may be possible for us to do better than tear gas.

NERNST

How so? With what?

HABER

Perhaps... chlorine.

NERNST

Chlorine? But that would... Oooohhh. I see now. Now I see. But the amount of Chlorine required for any impactful damage...

HABER

Yes, Herr Nernst, I propose that a series of tanks be built throughout the battlefield, and under the right conditions, that these tanks have their contents released as such that the wind carried their contents to the Entente Trenches...

(As HABER continues, NERNST is replaced with CLARA, who stares off vacantly.)

In turn, leaving the Entente Forces with two choices: stay in the trenches under the weight of Chlorine Gas, or retreat. Already, Herr Nernst and I are underway on tests, already, to resounding results.

CLARA

Are we safe, Fritz?

HABER

From the war outside? Here, in Berlin, I do believe so.

CLARA

No, not the war.

HABER

Then what, Clara?

CLARA

I do not know.

(Beat.)

I worry, Fritz. I worry. In the name of peace, the soldiers must fight. Or, perhaps in the name of victory. Perhaps it does not matter what they are fighting, dying for, just that they must. And... it is not simply the soldiers either. The women, the children, politicians, scientists... Herr Sackur sacrificed his life at a workbench in your laboratory! How many more must die before it all is over?

HABER

I do my best, Clara, I am doing everything in my power to bring this war to a swift end. If nothing else, take solace in this one certainty: no more will die then must; I shall guarantee it.

CLARA

And Herr Sackur...

HABER

Yes, Clara?

CLARA

Did he- Was he- I-

CLARA breaks down.

HABER

We shall make it to the end.

SCENE 6

April 22nd, 1915; The Battle of Ypres. NERNST and HABER stand with an OFFICER on one side of the stage.

OFFICER

Gas weapons, sure, we've seen the French and their chlorine bullets, but I don't know the battlefield has ever seen anything like this.

NERNST

I felt a similar way when Herr Haber came onto the project.

HABER

A completely new device was necessary to make our ideas a reality.

OFFICER

And this weapon, it works?

NERNST

It should.

OFFICER

Should?

NERNST

Well, this is the device's first field test, we cannot guarantee...

OFFICER

You are banking the integrity of the German front line on an untested weapon? I cannot...

NERNST

You must understand! There is such a low chance of failure...

OFFICER

You may be men of science, but we on the front lines are men of results.

HABER

Your superiors had faith in this project, and, as head of your line, I hope you have faith in their orders.

1, 2, AND 3 as ENTENTE SOLDIER 1, ENTENTE SOLDIER 2, and ENTENTE SOLDIER 3, enter and take their places in an entente trench parallel to HABER, NERNST, and OFFICER. They are singing "Verdun! On ne passe pas".

ENTENTE SOLDIERS 1, 2, AND 3

PLUS DE MORGUE, PLUS D'ARROGANCE FUYEZ BARBARES ET

LAQUAIS C'EST ICI LA PORTE DE FRANCE ET VOUS NE
PASSEREZ JAMAIS

*English translation: No more haughtiness, no
more arrogance/Flee barbarians and lackeys/This
is the door to France/And you will never pass.*

ENTENTE SOLDIER 3

Ha ha! Men, I cannot think of anyone I would rather
be neck deep in the trenches with.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 2

Truly a pleasure to serve with both of you.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 1

Quite.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 2

What's the matter?

ENTENTE SOLDIER 1

Nothing; nothing. Family. That's all.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 3

Ah, we all have someone waiting back home for us,
isn't that right?

ENTENTE SOLDIER 2

Sure do.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 3

Girlfriend...

ENTENTE SOLDIER 2

Daughter...

ENTENTE SOLDIER 1

Mother.

(Beat.)

She was sick when I left; had to no choice but to
leave her with my sister. You two know the story.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 3

So what's changed? Anything at all? Or just hitting
hard today?

ENTENTE SOLDIER 1

Its been weeks since I've heard from her. It might be
nothing but... I fear the worst.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 3

Hey, I know exactly how you feel. My girlfriend, she made me promise to come back safe before I left. Said she'd wait for me. She writes me less and less these days, but, its that little hope, that tiny tiny hope that she's still there, still waiting for me, that keeps me going.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 1

And you?

ENTENTE SOLDIER 2

Me? My daughter and her mother, that's all. Sweetest girl in the world. Can't wait to meet her.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 1

We shall make it through.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 3

No matter what.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 2

How about a drink?

THE SOLDIERS pull out wine from their rations. While all the above is occurring, HABER, NERST, and OFFICER are preparing to begin the chemical attack.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 2

A toast! For...

ENTENTE SOLDIER 1

Celeste...

ENTENTE SOLDIER 2

Elise...

ENTENTE SOLDIER 3

Amiee.

ENTENTE SOLDIERS 1, 2, AND 3

To those we shall never leave behind.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 1, 2, AND 3 drink. HABER, NERNST, and OFFICER release the chlorine gas, which heads straight for ENTENTE SOLDIERS 1, 2, and 3.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 1

What is that?

1, 2, and 3 start coughing.

ENTENTE SOLDIER 2

Retreat. Retreat!

3 suffocates inside of the trench. Gunshots ring out as 1 and 2 attempt climb out of the trench, on of which hits 2, who screams. 1 makes it offstage.

NERNST

A resounding success!

OFFICER

Quick, men, push the offensive! Forward, forward!

OFFICER exits.

NERNST

Herr Haber, you were right! We were all but completely underestimating the possible applications of chemical weapons! This is a fantastic day for Germany!

HABER

Für Deutschland.

Blackout.

SCENE 7

The Haber Household; May Second, 1915. HABER is alone onstage searching for CLARA. The household is done up for a party.

HABER

Clara? Clara? Clara!

CLARA enters, her outfit is devoid of color. A stark grey.

CLARA

Fritz.

HABER

Clara! Guests shall be arriving soon, surely you would prefer to wear something-

CLARA

We have been through this. I will not be attending. Not for long.

HABER

But Clara, the guests will be anxious to meet my wife-

CLARA

Exactly, Fritz. They want to meet your wife; they have no desire to meet me. If they seek to meet Clara Haber, I shall happily oblige, otherwise, Hermann appears certain to keep my hands full for the night.

(Knocking.)

There is the door. Enjoy the party.

CLARA exits. Tableau. 3 enters.

3

Ah, the day. May Second, 1915. Just one week ago, the world was changed forever; today, it is Haber's world that is forever changed. But First! A celebration! To victory at the Battle of Ypres and the birth of chemical weapons. Ahem, introducing, the Military!

OFFICER enters, introducing himself to HABER.

OFFICER

Officer Fritz Haber.

(They salute.)

Congratulations on your work at Ypres. We certainly had our doubts, but you proved us wrong, did you not?

HABER

Yes! If I may, even I was surprised by just how effective it was.

OFFICER

Yes, well, in the event of recent events, the Kaiser himself has deemed it fit to reward you with the rank of Captain.

HABER

Captain?

OFFICER

Yes! It is not so often we find someone so dedicated to the cause. A true model for the rest of Germany to follow.

CLARA enters, listening into HABER and the OFFICER'S conversation.

HABER

Thank you. It is an honor.

OFFICER

Yes, yes it is.

HABER

Please! Enjoy the party.

OFFICER

I will. I will. On a more private note, now,
statistics are hard to come by, but...

HABER

Yes?

OFFICER

Current estimates suggest, at least 350 died; likely
many more, and 7,000 were wounded.

(CLARA runs off.)

And who would that be?

HABER

My wife, please, pay no mind, enjoy the party.

OFFICER

Thank you.

3

Introducing: The Colleague!

NERNST enters.

NERNST

Herr Haber, once again, I would like to thank you.
When I asked for your help and you refused, I admit
that I was quite disheartened-

HABER

I agreed in the end, did I not?

NERNST

Yes, you did, and that is-

HABER

All the matters now.

NERNST

Yes, I suppose it is. Either way, thank you, Herr
Haber, you have revolutionized my research.

HABER

We are not through yet.

NERNST

Oh, I did not mean to imply that it was over, simply that we now have so many possible avenues to explore!

HABER

And we must hurry in their development. The allies are aware of the project now, it is only a matter of time before they create their own.

NERNST

Oh, I did not think of that.

HABER

We must remain one step ahead of the allies; tomorrow, we shall be back in the laboratory, but tonight, relax.

NERNST

Oh yes, you do the same!

HABER

I shall, I shall.

3

Introducing: The wife!

CLARA

Fritz!

HABER

I thought you were with Hermann?

CLARA

350 dead? 350 Soldiers dead?

HABER

And a significant breakthrough for the German front lines.

CLARA

No, Fritz, that's not the- Fritz, they were people.

HABER

War does not end without death.

CLARA

But must you participate in it? You, I...

HABER

It is difficult on us all. But please, every single invention I create, decision I make, for the sake of

shortening this war.

CLARA

No, it is all to bring victory to Germany! How many more will die now, Fritz? How many? Your research killed Sackur; Fritz, he was not a soldier. Neither are you. Yet the path you walk, the actions you take, where will they lead you? What about us? What about Hermann? I cannot fathom the world in which you have created, and I, I, I cannot stand for it!

CLARA runs off, everyone notices her outburst.

HABER

Please! A momentary distraction on a momentous night! Let us continue!

SCENE 8

The HABER Household, same night, it is very dark. CLARA is reading a set of letters. 1, 2, and 3 enter.

1

The same night.

2

A clear night.

3

The night of May second, nineteen fifteen.

1

Now, there are many words that describe Clara Haber.

2

Clara Immerwahr.

3

Clara.

2

Here, only a few will suffice.

They recite the words slowly. Behind them, barely noticed by the audience, CLARA stands up.

1

Brilliant.

2 Loving.

3 Clever.

CLARA reveals HABER'S army pistol.

1 A chemist.

2 A mother.

3 A tragic figure.

CLARA points the pistol towards herself.

1 She was

2 Immerwahr.

3 Meaning...

Gunshot. Another. She falls, bleeding out.

3 Always true.

1, 2, and 3 exit, leaving her on the stage. When it feels the lights are about to go out, a 14-year-old HERMANN enters.

HERMANN

Mother? Mother? I heard... Mother!

ACT III: CHLORINE; AMMONIA; MEMORYScene 1

The 1918 Nobel Prize Ceremony. ERNEST RUTHERFORD is speaking.

ERNEST

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to confer the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 1918 upon the Director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, Professor Dr. Fritz Haber.

HABER enters, and approaches ERNEST RUTHERFORD. HABER goes to shake ERNEST'S hand, but ERNEST does not accept.

HABER

The Swedish Academy has seen fit, by awarding the Nobel Prize, to honor the method of producing ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen. This outstanding distinction puts upon me the obligation of...

1, 2, and 3 enter as HABER'S voice fades.

3

Time moves ever forward...

1

Ever onward...

2

Evermore.

1

Is it still Fritz Haber's story?

2

Was it ever?

3

Is it now?

1

Time heals all wounds...

3

But how long must it take...

1

To forgive?

2

Forget?

1, 2, AND 3

1934.

Scene 2

1934, A Hotel in Switzerland; HABER and HERMANN are talking. HABER is very sick, but not bedridden.

HERMANN

Father.

HABER

Thank you for coming.

HERMANN

You asked.

HABER

I did, and perhaps that is what amazes-

HABER breaks into a coughing fit.

HERMANN

Father, are you all right?

HABER

I'm fine.

HERMANN

Are you certain?

HABER

I am, yes. The doctor... less so.

HERMANN

Ah. I have no words.

HABER

For some matters, words may never be enough. Perhaps my life has more of these moments than most. Or perhaps I simply underestimate the nature of the human experience.

HERMANN

Perhaps.

A beat.

HABER

Has your application for French citizenship gone through?

The scene suddenly changes to HERMANN and an IMMIGRATION OFFICER in an office.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER

You again?

HERMANN

Yes, I believe my papers are all in order.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER

I see... I see... Denied.

HERMANN

But I meet all the requirements!

IMMIGRATION OFFICER

You may always try again.

HERMANN

I have lived in France for far more than the required three years, I have renounced my German nationality, you hold the paperwork in front of you; what more do you want?

IMMIGRATION OFFICER

If you must know...

HABER

I would say it is my right.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER

The Third Republic of France and its many subdivisions, would prefer that any and all relatives, associates, and/or descendants, of German Government employees pre-1918, threats to national security, or possible war criminals reside inside of their borders.

HABER

I have but a working relationship with my father, nothing more.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER

And that is enough for us, *au revoir*.

Back to the conversation between HABER and HERMANN.

HERMANN

No, no, not yet. Still searching for the required documentation.

HABER

Find it, and soon. Germany is quickly approaching a dark hour, and I fear-

(HABER breaks into a short coughing fit.)

Sorry. I fear that Germany has a new threat, only this new threat stems from Germany's heart rather than its enemies.

HERMANN

Father, why am I here?

HABER

I have a request to make of you.

HERMANN

What sort of request?

HABER hands HERMANN a piece of paper.

HABER

My will.

HERMANN

Your will? Father, I cannot-

HABER

Hold onto it. I do not expect you will be required to hold onto it for long.

HERMANN

You cannot...

HABER

And, for my burial-

HERMANN

Father, it is far too early to talk of such ideas.

HABER

On the contrary, it may be almost too late. Please. Listen.

HERMANN wants to protest, but relaxes.

HABER

My burial, please, bury me with your mother. I imagine it may be almost impossible now, but when and

if it becomes possible, please.

HERMANN
Okay.

HABER
And, the tombstone, the following inscription: "He served his country in war and peace for as long as was given to him."

HERMANN
Is that all?

HABER
One more, one more. An honest answer to a question I have long carried with me.

HERMANN
Anything.

HABER
After everything I have done to the world, after every mistake I have made, do you have it in your heart to forgive me?

HERMANN
I...

SCENE 3

A stage cast in darkness, 2 is the only identifiable thing on stage.

2
Is a man responsible for the ramifications of his actions, or his actions alone? How shall your actions stand the tests of time?

(The scene turns to a breaking news story. KELLY is speaking. There is a graph showing the current Greenhouse Gases breakdown next to her. DR. AGNEW is patiently waiting for his turn to speak.)

2
2022

KELLY
Earlier today the Environmental Protection Agency announced its most recent breakdown on the leading greenhouse gasses behind climate change. With Carbon Dioxide being by far the most common gas released in the atmosphere, you would assume it is also the most

dangerous, yet our resident expert, Dr. Agnew, suggests it may not be so simple; here he is with us now.

DR. AGNEW

Yes, thank you, Kelly.

KELLY

So despite Carbon Dioxide making up almost 80% of all current greenhouse gas emissions, you believe that we should all be worried about what you label as Nitrous Oxide, is that correct?

DR. AGNEW

Yes, it is.

KELLY

Yet Nitrous Oxide only accounts for about 6% of emissions, correct?

DR. AGNEW

Correct, but-

KELLY

So what makes it so dangerous?

DR. AGNEW

Well, recent studies have found that Nitrous Oxide may be over a hundred times more effective at keeping heat in the atmosphere than Carbon Dioxide, and as such, is a major player in global warming-

KELLY

So where does this Nitrous Oxide come from?

DR. AGNEW

Well, that is a complicated question, Kelly, but, in simplest terms, this gas stems primarily from artificial /fertilizers, as this gas is both released in the Haber-Bosch Process, /used to produce almost every current artificial fertilizer known /to man, and with that, it is also again released when the fertilizer is used in the field, causing a cascade effect-

KELLY

/Uh-Huh /Mh-hmm /I see./ How fascinating, well, thank you Dr. Agnew, that is all the time we have for today. In other news, Senator...

KELLY fades out. 2 enters.

2

Perhaps, perhaps not.

SCENE 4

(2 is still onstage. The lights reveal a desk, with DESK MAN facing away from the audience, and a STANDING MAN. The scene should be barely visible, functioning on almost sound alone.)

2

1940.

2 exits.

STANDING MAN

Pardon the intrusion, but-

DESK MAN

Yes, what is it?

STANDING MAN

As you know, our scientists have been hard at work, searching for a substance to match our... particular needs.

DESK MAN

I assume you brings results?

STANDING MAN

I have. Perhaps the perfect substance.

DESK MAN

Go on.

STANDING MAN

We call it Zyklon B.

(Beat.)

Based off the insecticide produced by a Fritz Haber's laboratory, Zyklon A, all we did was remove the foul smelling chemical warning, and with that alone we have the perfect silent killer.

DESK MAN

Zyklon B... Interesting.

The scene fades to pitch black, leaving 2 alone on the stage.

SCENE 5

HABER and IRENE are in his office. Sorting through letters.

1

1933

IRENE

You will not be able to save everyone.

HABER

Yet I must try.

IRENE

There are millions affected by this law, as much as your colleagues appreciate your efforts, do you not think you should be focusing on yourself?

HABER

They are my responsibility.

Haber begins a coughing fit.

IRENE

You must rest.

HABER

I have no choice but to go on.

Tableau. 1 enters.

1

1933. Germany had just passed The Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service, and those of Jewish faith were forced to leave their jobs, including dozens from the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. Here, may we find a man returning to his roots.

1 exits; action resumes.

IRENE

Herr Haber, please rest.

HABER

Frau Irene, it is with diminishing energy that I fight against my three enemies: sleeplessness, my increasing disquiet over the future, and the feeling of having made serious mistakes in my life. I know I must sleep, the future, as of now, is out of my

hands. But, my past... right now, my colleagues, my friends here at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, they are against the entire government of Germany, and, if current trends prevail, soon Germany itself. I am the only link these men have to a potential future, and I shall not rest until each of them have secured that future far away from Germany.

IRENE

I understand.

HABER

And this, of course, goes for my secretary as well.

HABER hands IRENE a letter; IRENE reads it.

IRENE

A position at the Palestinian Agricultural Institute?

HABER

That is, if you choose to accept.

IRENE

I was unaware that I mattered to such a degree.

HABER

A dark cloud stands on the horizon for us all, and we must do all we can to avoid it.

IRENE

Thank you, Herr Haber.

HABER

No, thank you, Frau Sackur.

1, 2, and 3 enter. IRENE and HABER enter tableau.

1

Haber saved billions...

2

And then killed millions...

3

Before rescuing as many as he could.

2

Do these actions make him a villain?

1 A hero?
3 Or a man?
1 An extraordinary...
2 Misguided...
3 Man?
1 Do we forgive him?
2 Despise him?
3 Forget him?
1, 2, AND 3
 Present Day.

SCENE 6

*A Biology Classroom. A TEACHER is busy teaching
a lesson with Bored STUDENTS looking on.*

TEACHER

And so our current understanding of modern farming
techniques come from a weird- sciency- thing, called
the Haber-Bosch process, you don't need to know that,
just know that our current agriculture systems are
based on it. And...

(A STUDENT raises his hand.)

Yes?

STUDENT

Is this going to be on the test?

TEACHER

No, it's not, but...

*The STUDENT has already tuned the TEACHER out
once again.*

- 3 It is possible we may never forgive...
- 2 The Man Who Killed Millions but saved Billions...
- 1 The Monster who Fed the World...
- 2 Fritz Jakob Haber.
- 3 But we have already forgot.