

INT. BOARDROOM, OFFICES - DAY

We open on EVA, mid 20s, locked in at a meeting. The star of david sits on a necklace around her neck.

She's sat at a table with a handful of office workers, busy in discussion.

Leading the debate with clear authority is MICHAEL, 40s, at the head of the table.

MICHAEL

Our image is in a bad place. The reality is our audience is centrist. They think we're becoming left wing.

AARON, 20s, sits across from Eva, engaged in the discussion.

AARON

No one's a centrist anymore.

Through the argument we stay with Eva, watching closely but not commenting.

MICHAEL

Moderate, then. Things are divisive enough. We don't want to alienate people.

AARON

A man like Nikita Göth doesn't need another platform.

The name makes Eva wince a little.

AARON (CONT'D)

Beides it doesn't get more divisive than him.

MICHAEL

He'll tone it down for the interview. That's part of the deal.

AARON

That's exactly what he wants. We make him sound normal so he can win over more support.

MICHAEL

We're going ahead with the interview. The decision's been made. Eva.

This catches her off guard.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
I want you to conduct it.

AARON
Is that the best idea?

MICHAEL
Eva?

EVA
I agree with Aaron. If you want
neutrality there are better
choices.

MICHAEL
I appreciate it's somewhat personal
for you, but it's your field. I
want an expert.

AARON
We're writing Göth a puff piece.
Ridiculous. He's a prick.

MICHAEL
He's blatantly anti-semetic, but we
need this. Eva is the most
qualified person in the room and
there's no time to prepare. It's in
two days.

Michael leans in toward Eva, cutting the others out for a
moment.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
I know you're attached. But you
just have to be in the same room as
him. Ask him some questions and
keep them simple. Our integrity is
on the line.

EVA
I can handle it. Part of the job.

MICHAEL
I thought so.

INT. CORRIDOR, OFFICES - DAY

Eva is walking down a corridor on her way out of the office
when DYLAN, 21, turns a corner and runs up to her.

DYLAN
Anything you need for tomorrow?

EVA
Just put together some background
research on Nikita Göth.

DYLAN
Göth. So the interview's still on?

EVA
I'm taking it.

DYLAN
Oh. Tough one.

Dylan is taken aback but Eva plays it cool and keeps on walking.

EVA
That's everything tonight, Dylan.

She turns a corner and heads off, leaving Dylan behind.

INT. HALLWAY, EVA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eva steps into her house from the front door, closing the door and falling back against the wall.

She takes a deep breath, and exhaling - it's like a weight has been lifted.

INT. KITCHEN, EVA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eva walks into the kitchen where her sister - HANA, a couple years younger - is making tea.

HANA
Long hours again.

EVA
We had to stay late for a meeting.

HANA
Anything eventful?

EVA
I'm interviewing Nikita Göth.

HANA
Well I hope you can make him look
bad for us.

EVA
I wish I could. I have to be impartial.

HANA
Well that's stupid.

EVA
It's so frustrating. Everything he's saying and I just have to act like it's normal.

HANA
Maybe you're a little too uptight. Bend the rules a bit.

EVA
I'm a professional. It's what they like about me.

HANA
Well either way you can't let Göth come out of that interview looking any more sympathetic than he is.

EVA
I have to be objective.

HANA
Well he's wrong. Objectively.

Hana finishes her tea and heads to the door.

HANA (CONT'D)
You know, you have a responsibility here. Don't let him off easy. The facts are on your side.

She grins and heads out.

Eva is left there, thinking about it for a moment. A slight smile grows.

INT. EVA'S OFFICE, OFFICES - DAY

Eva strides into the office where Dylan is already busy working.

EVA
What did you get?

DYLAN

Biography, parties he's donated to,
some notable public comments.
Nothing you don't already know.

EVA

Time to dig a bit deeper.

DYLAN

What are you after?

EVA

I don't know. Not a 'gotcha' but we
need to control the interview. Then
let him do the talking.

DYLAN

You want him to look bad?

Eva hesitates - it's a big line to cross.

EVA

He has to.

DYLAN

Michael won't like that.

EVA

I'll play by the rules. He'll speak
for himself.

DYLAN

How?

EVA

I'll figure that out.

DYLAN

Well you haven't got long.

INT. FILEROOM, OFFICES - DAY

Eva and Dylan search through a file room in the office
somewhere, combing through records.

EVA

We can't just bring up 'hey
remember when you said the
holocaust was propaganda?'.
'

DYLAN

So what's your plan?

EVA
I just need to control the
narrative. Get a good set of
questions and then walk him into
it.

INT. KITCHEN, OFFICES - DAY

Eva and Dylan walk back by the kitchen where Aaron is sat,
eating.

AARON
How's the interview? Michael wants
the questions to sign off tonight.

EVA
I've got them here.

AARON
Does it feel good sucking up to
Göth?

EVA
I won't. We're going to steer the
conversation to the extreme stuff.

AARON
He's a smart guy. Don't
underestimate him.

EVA
They're good questions.

AARON
Let's test them.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Eva and Aaron sit face to face in a dark filming studio,
Dylan watching nearby with a notebook.

AARON
You'll be sat here tomorrow
morning, with Nikita Göth facing
you. Ready?

He gives a nod to Dylan, who walks to the edge of the room
and flicks a switch - the main lights cut out and the
characters are lit only by harsh studio lighting.

Eva straightens up, clears her throat.

EVA

Tonight we are joined by Nikita Göth, motivational speaker now making his first moves into politics as a spokesperson for the AfD.

(to Aaron)

Nikita, thank you for joining us.

Aaron goes into character as a serious interviewee.

AARON

Thank you.

EVA

You have amassed a strong following for your advice to your audience of young men online. Do you think this will translate to any pull in the German government?

AARON

Well I have been closely following the situation in Germany for a long time, a lot longer than most people think. I have good friends in AfD.

EVA

I guess your views align pretty closely with theirs.

AARON

They bring up talking points that the mainstream media doesn't always address. A diversity of opinion is healthy in a democratic society, wherever you stand.

EVA

So you agree with *all* their policies? Some quite unsavoury things have been said by its members.

AARON

By individuals, yes. But I'm interested in the party, not the people.

EVA

You don't think the thinking of the individuals reflect the thinking of the party?

AARON

If I had to agree with every
opinion I hear in the AfD I would
be left with no thoughts of my own.
An individual's own judgement is
important, don't you agree?

Eva is stumped for a moment, a little irritated already.

She goes for an easy win:

EVA

And their position on holocaust
denial? Maybe you-

AARON

(snapping back to his
usual voice)

-And you've lost him. You've played
that card out of desperation and he
knows it. He just has to press a
few buttons and he's got an article
out the next day on angry liberals
in the press.

EVA

Okay, so I'll be more subtle, but I
still have to get the questions in.

DYLAN

Do you?

Eva stops and thinks about it for a moment.

EVA

Or I just let him speak for
himself.

AARON

What do you mean?

EVA

Well we know he'll talk about this
stuff unprovoked, in the right
environment. So why provoke him? If
we make him comfortable he'll say
it in his own time.

AARON

That might work. You've got some
questions to write.

INT. BOARDROOM, OFFICES - DAY

Michael, Eva, and Aaron are back around the table in the boardroom, going through their work.

AARON

Our North Sea story is all set for release tomorrow.

MICHAEL

Good. Eva, have you got those questions for Goth's interview tomorrow?

Eva hands over a sheet of questions.

Michael goes through, reading them one by one.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Good, good...

Eva watches carefully, trying to read him.

He goes down the list, then stops and looks up at Eva.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What are you doing here, Eva?

EVA

What do you mean?

MICHAEL

I have to say you sound unusually understanding of Goth's perspective.

EVA

Well I have to be neutral.

MICHAEL

Hm.

Michael, a little concerned, goes on reading.

He stops abruptly and puts the paper down.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You're trying to trap him aren't you?

EVA

What do you mean?

MICHAEL

Making him say something he regrets.

AARON

Everything there is neutral, just like you said.

EVA

We're not putting words in his mouth. Just giving him a platform like he wants.

MICHAEL

And what happens after he slips up? Don't tell me you won't jump on that.

EVA

I won't need to. Besides it will look good-

MICHAEL

It's not happening.

EVA

But we-

MICHAEL

Be a professional, Eva. Play it straight.

This stings a little and hits home for Eva, who sighs and backs down.

INT. KITCHEN, EVA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eva sits by herself in the kitchen, alone in her thoughts.

HANA (O.S.)

How'd it go?

Eva looks up - Hana walks in and sits across from her at the kitchen table.

EVA

We found an angle, creating a false sense of security and letting him speak for himself.

HANA

I like it.

EVA

But Michael shut it down.

HANA

So? What's stopping you from just doing it anyway?

EVA

Getting fired.

HANA

Maybe it'll get you a better job.

EVA

It's not about that. I take my work seriously. I want to be professional, and objective, and factual and all the things they want me to be... but I'm not.

Hana watches, concerned.

EVA (CONT'D)

It just doesn't feel fair! I want to be neutral. I want that choice. But the standard for truth is so low. What's the point? Göth is basically a nazi but he gets away with it. He's able to influence politics in foreign countries! Nothing he says is true, but no one cares!

Eva has to stop for a moment, catching her breath.

HANA

It doesn't sound like you're neutral. It would be pretty dishonest to act like you are.

EVA

That's obviously not how I'll be tomorrow.

HANA

Maybe you should be?

EVA

Michael definitely won't like that.

HANA

Well it's a lot more convincing, isn't it?

Eva just stops, and thinks. Maybe it's a good point.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Eva is back in the dark studio, going through the notes on the interview.

A few crewmembers are setting up lights and checking sound equipment around her.

At the door, Michael walks in, looking around. He eyes Eva and she goes to meet him.

MICHAEL

How are you feeling? It's an important day for everyone here.

EVA

I'm doing it my way.

MICHAEL

Eva we've talked about this.

EVA

We're not having a PR crisis because we're too biased. We're just losing viewers because people don't care about objective news anymore.

MICHAEL

That's a strong statement.

EVA

People only want to hear what they agree with. The truth doesn't matter to them.

Michael slows down, letting the gravity of the statement sink in.

MICHAEL

If you really believe that, I'm not sure you're in the right place.

EVA

I respect your integrity, I really do. I used to feel the same way... You do have views of your own, don't you Michael?

MICHAEL

Of course.

EVA

You have things you believe in?

MICHAEL

I do, but I came to those opinions fairly after seeing both sides.

EVA

That's not how people think anymore. No one is comparing both sides from a neutral perspective. And it's a completely one-sided battle. You don't stand a chance in that climate.

A beat. Michael thinks it through.

MICHAEL

Maybe you're right. But these things can't change over night.

EVA

I'm not asking for them to. Just start with this one interview. You know how important it is.

Another beat. More thinking.

MICHAEL

I want to see those questions again.

Eva hands them over and watches as Michael reads through them.

After an excruciatingly long wait, she finally gets an answer:

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Alright. You can do it.

Eva smiles and breaths a sigh of relief, finally happy.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

But I don't like it. Don't take pride in this. We're stooping to their level.

EVA

Because there's no other choice.

MICHAEL

Exactly. I see nothing to be optimistic about here.

Michael checks his watch.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

It looks like you're interviewee is
on his way. Good luck.

With that he leaves the room.

Eva, still smiling of the high of her victory, waits
anxiously.

She feels the star of david on her necklace, her smile
fading. She tucks it away.

CUT TO BLACK.