

EXTRACT

Tel Aviv Disco Bombing

a short play

by

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Cast

ARIEL

JULIA

Setting

Office.

Time

Afternoon.

Tel Aviv Disco Bombing

Office. Tel Aviv, Israel. 2pm.

ARIEL at his desk, reading. There is a knock at the door.

ARIEL: Yes.

THE DOOR OPENS SLIGHTLY. JULIA IS THERE, CARRYING A FOLDER.

JULIA: It's only me.

ARIEL: (STANDING) Julia. Yes, come in. Come in. Sit down.

ARIEL GUIDES HER TO A CHAIR.

JULIA: Please tell me I didn't miss it. Please.

ARIEL: No – you made the deadline.

JULIA: Thank you. I was fretting.

ARIEL: There's plenty of time for the deadline.

ARIEL SITS DOWN. HE PICKS UP SOME PAPERS.

JULIA: Is that it?

ARIEL: Yes.

JULIA: (STANDING) I'm sorry. I thought you'd had time to ...
Impatient. I'll come back.

ARIEL: No, it's fine.

JULIA: You've read it?

ARIEL: Yes.

JULIA: Already?

ARIEL: Yes.

JULIA: And?

PAUSE. SHE SITS.

JULIA: It's good, isn't it?

ARIEL: No, not good. Great.

JULIA: Thank you.

ARIEL: Perhaps the best story you've done since you came to us.

JULIA: I was happy.

ARIEL: First class.

JULIA: Thank you.

ARIEL: Does anybody else –

JULIA: No. I didn't tell anybody. Not even my husband.

ARIEL: Good.

JULIA: I was busting to but ...

ARIEL: Well done.

JULIA: So ... where do you think it will run?

ARIEL: This is a cover. No doubt.

JULIA: I thought so. I don't mean to – but I did... A cover. Yes!
(OPENING FOLDER) And I've been down to see Cassandra and found some amazing photos. Look at this one of one of the ...
This could be the cover.

JULIA MOVES TOWARDS ARIEL. ARIEL HOLDS UP HIS HAND.

ARIEL: Julia – I can't use this story.

JULIA: But ...you just said.

ARIEL: Cover.

JULIA: Yes cover. You said -

ARIEL: It is a great story.

JULIA: But then ...

ARIEL: A truly excellent piece of journalism.

JULIA: Then why -

ARIEL: That doesn't change the fact -

JULIA: But, I don't -

ARIEL: That I can't use it. (PAUSE) You know what is happening tomorrow?

JULIA: How could I not know?

ARIEL: Well ...

JULIA: How does my story affect that?

ARIEL: Don't be so naïve.

JULIA: Pardon me.

ARIEL: We may not be the biggest paper but we are certainly read.

JULIA: I'm not saying -

ARIEL: Then how can this story have no affect? Your words have power. Do you doubt that? If you do then why did you become a journalist?

JULIA: My words do have power. Our words have power.

ARIEL: Then you must understand why I can't use them.

JULIA: (HOLDING UP FILE) But this happened.

ARIEL: So you proved, conclusively.

JULIA: It's the truth.

ARIEL SCOFFS.

JULIA: You're laughing?

ARIEL: Truth? You want to talk about truth.

JULIA: Why are you laughing?

ARIEL: Let me tell you about truth. (STANDING) Tomorrow in this city major representatives of both parties will sit down to sign a comprehensive agreement discussed and argued over for almost a year. We are the closest we have ever been to something