

Geva Can't Fall in Love

A full-length play

By Amir Zloter

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Dramaturgy by Rom

Reznik and Nimrod

Danishman.

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Cast of Characters

Geva	30-ish, Israeli.
Itai	30-ish, Israeli.
Ted	30-ish, American.
Waleed	30-ish, Lebanese.
Antonio	30-ish, Italian.
Steffen	30-ish, German. (all could be played by the same actor)
Noam	30-ish, Israeli.

Place

Berlin, Germany.

Time

2024 - 2026.

PROLOGUE

GEVA

(to the audience)

I moved to Berlin because I moved to Berlin.

It has nothing to do with Itai.

I'll meet a Moritz.

Or some Steffen.

Or some Ted.

And he'll work in tech

or something like that

But he'll be an artist at heart.

And we'll meet on Grindr. Or on Tinder.

Probably Tinder.

And he'll be alone. Like me.

And handsome. But within reason.

Intelligent,

but also kind of an idiot.

Who doesn't take himself too seriously.

And I'll say to him:

(to Itai)

Hi.

And he'll say to me:

ITAI

Hi.

GEVA

I'm Geva, and you are?

ITAI

I'm very angry, Geva.

GEVA

Angry?

ITAI

Very, very angry.

GEVA

Why are you very, very angry?

ITAI

I won't tell you, you'll think I'm extremely weird.

GEVA

Tell me.

ITAI

But you'll think I'm extremely weird.

GEVA

I promise I won't think you're extremely -

ITAI

Yaron won't let me pet him.

And I worry about him all the time and I'm sweet to him and I tend to his needs all day long and I don't deserve this.

Yaron is my cat, My cat's name is Yaron.

GEVA

And yours?

ITAI

Mine?

GEVA

What's your name?

ITAI

Oh, that.

Itai.

Silence. A smile.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Or something like that.

Along those lines.

More or less.

Not one to one, obviously.

Because Itai is Itai

and Itai is a son of a bitch

because Itai did what Itai did.

And I moved to Berlin because I moved to Berlin.

It has nothing to do with Itai.

CHAPTER ONE: TED

GEVA

(to the audience)

I opened Grindr the moment I crossed passport control.

GUY1

Hey there.

GEVA

Hi.

GUY1

How's it going.

GEVA

Good. You?

GUY1

Good. What are you up to?

GEVA

Nothing much.

GUY1

Me too.

GEVA

I told myself: trust your instincts.

When it's right, it's right,

You'll know immediately.

Like it was with Itai.

With Itai you knew immediately.

GUY2

Hey there.

GEVA

Hi.

GUY2

How's it going.

GEVA

Good. You?

GUY2

Good. What are you up to?

GEVA

Nothing much.

GUY2

Me too.

GUY3

Hey there.

GEVA

Hi.

GUY3

How's it going.

GEVA

Good. You?

GUY3

Good. What are you up to?

GEVA

Nothing much.

GUY3

Me too.

TED

Hey there.

GEVA

Hi.

TED

How's it going.

GEVA

Good. You?

TED

Homesick, actually.

Pause.

GEVA

After weeks of

GUY1

Good. What are you up to?

GUY2

Good. What are you up to?

GUY3

Good. What are you up to?

GEVA

Suddenly,

TED

Homesick, actually.

Pause.

GEVA

Kind eyes.

A smile that's somewhere between intelligent and goofy.

And insanely sexy.

(to Ted)

I miss my home too.

TED

Oh.

I meant home, sick.

Like literally home.

Literally sick.

Like throat ache.

Runny nose.

Fountains of tea.

But “homesick” is a much better answer,
Let’s pretend I said homesick.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Ted.
His name is Ted.

TED

Ted here. Pleasure to meet you.

GEVA

(to the audience)

He’s an anthropologist.

TED

I’m an anthropologist. What about you?

GEVA

(to the audience)

I’m...
Not sure what that means.

TED

Nice. Do you also live in Kreuzberg?

GEVA

When it’s right, it’s right.
This is what “right” feels like.
I knew immediately.
And I said I was going to trust my instincts.
“This is Ted, my boyfriend.”
“My boyfriend, Ted.”
“Ted says I’ve gained weight but I think he’s just kidding.”
“Who’s Ted? My boyfriend, Ted.”
“Oh sorry, can I just quickly get this? It’s Ted, calling me, my boyfriend, Ted,”
(pretends to answer the phone)

Hi Teddy bear.

(to the audience)

We will love in English.
There will always be a slight distance between us because of the language,
but underneath the words we will understand each other.

TED

So,

GEVA

(to the audience)

And then he ruined everything.

TED

Where are you from?

Pause.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Just like that.

Mercilessly.

I thought nothing could stand between us, me and Ted,

But this?

Right at the start?

Why?

Why ruin it?

Why ask questions you can't handle the answers to?

TED

So, where are you from?

GEVA

Yes.

TED

Yes what?

GEVA

I am from, yes.

TED

You are from..?

GEVA

Are you American?

TED

Are you changing the subject?

GEVA

Are YOU changing the subject?

TED

Yes, I am American, and you are..?

GEVA

Not American.

(to the audience)

I could have told him that I'm from Poland.

That's technically true, genealogically speaking.

But what if he happens to speak Polish, Ted?

He's smart. He's an anthropologist.

He could speak Polish.

TED

Shall I guess? Where you're from?

GEVA

Sure. Guess.

TED

French with Algerian roots.

GEVA

(to the audience)

How I wish I were French with Algerian roots.

That's it, it's over.

He doesn't know it yet, Ted, but it's over between us.

Because with my luck,

I'll tell him I'm from Israel, and he'll say

Ted opens his eyes in surprise.

Pause.

TED

Nice.

GEVA

(to the audience)

But actually think to himself:

TED

You are a despicable person, Geva. Despicable.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Either that,
or worse,
he'll go,

TED

Listen, you look like a really nice guy and everything, and I guess what I'm about to do isn't that fair, I mean you can't be blamed for whatever your government is doing, It's not your fault, But I honestly can't allow myself to have any sort of interaction with someone who has been willingly taking part in the heinous occupation that's going on in Palestine at the moment. I hope you have a really nice day.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And all I ever wanted was to sleep on his chest.
He had this picture of his chest that...
Like, not a disgusting mirror selfie,
A shot at the beach,
A friend took it,
Casual,
And his chest was like...
And I wanted to, you know,
Put my head right there and like...
And how do you get from -

TED

Heinous occupation

GEVA

—to sleeping on his chest?
You can't.

Pause.

But eventually I realized that,
I want to meet this guy. Eventually. Right?
So I somehow *have* to examine his position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict beforehand,
There's no way around it.
I mean,
maybe not his position,
but at least rule out that he's antisemitic,

I more or less definitely have to,
 because otherwise,
 face to face,
 it will be much harder for me to escape,
 and then he'll find out I'm from Israel,
 and then he'll terrorize me.
 He'll terrorist-attack me.
 That's what they do, antisemites.
 So I decided, okay.
 Rip off the band-aid.

(to Ted)

Israel.

Silence.

(to the audience)

Complete silence.
 After fluent texting, ping-pong,
 Him – me, me – him – suddenly: Silence.
 And then—

TED

Jesus.

GEVA

(to the audience)

My finger was already on the “block” button—

TED

It must be... difficult.
 Is your family safe?

Pause.

Geva stares at Ted and his smile slowly
 spreads.

NOAM

Seriously? That's what got you?

GEVA

(to the audience)

When I told Noam about it,
 I have this friend here in Berlin, Noam,
 he said,

NOAM

“SAFE”, give me a break.

GEVA

(to the audience)

I’m pretty left-wing myself, but Noam is like
ultra-mega-super...

NOAM

Whether your parents are safe—

GEVA

(to the audience)

-über left-wing.

NOAM

My heart goes out to those poor sad human beings in their penthouse in
Ra’anana,
Drinking coffee, clicking their tongues.
So tragic.
Tell them to take care crossing the busy street outside the mall there,
People there are driving like crazy.
You poor thing.
You poor poor thing.

TED

It must be... difficult.
Is your family safe?

GEVA

Have I told you you’re hot?

TED

Are you changing the subject again?

GEVA

And then we kept on texting, me and Ted,
Ted and me,
Ted and me, me and Ted
me and my boyfriend,
Ted.

GEVA

Do you like to cook?

TED

So when did you actually move here?

GEVA

Gosh, how was that?

TED

I can't stand Emma Stone.

GEVA

I kinda think my boss is trying to kill me.

TED

Hey, how'd you sleep?

GEVA

I don't want to brag but I've been told I'm a pretty good kisser.

TED

Nothing, just procrastinating doing the dishes, how about you?

GEVA

And then one Saturday afternoon he sent me—

TED

So what are you up to this weekend? Any plans?

GEVA

And that same Saturday there was this huge... rally.

in Berlin. Going on.

A rally... you know.

Against me.

A rally against me.

To free Palestine.

From me.

So I wrote to him that my plans were to sit at home with a helmet and wait for the storm to pass.

And he ignored my message. Didn't respond for a few hours.

Which isn't unusual on Grindr,

but it is unusual on... Ted.

And then in the evening he wrote:

TED

Would you be up for a walk later toni—

GEVA

(to the audience)

Yes! Yes! yes.

A million times yes.

I mean,

(to Ted)

I'm meeting some friends this evening but maybe after..? I'll text you.

(to the audience)

I spent seven hours getting ready,

I texted him,

we met.

TED

Hey.

GEVA

Hi.

(to the audience)

He's even hotter in real life.

Some small talk:

TED

It's getting cold.

GEVA

Yeah!

TED

But this is nothing. Wait till it's January.

GEVA

Oh, no.

(to the audience)

And then it turns out he's Jewish.

TED

I'm actually, I'm Jewish, my family is Jewish.

GEVA

And inevitably,

I immediately started imagining us going to Israel.

And him meeting my family for Passover.

“Mom, meet Ted.”

TED

Nice to meet you. Ronit? Is it?

GEVA

And I teach him Hebrew.

TED

Shifhat Min?

GEVA

(to the audience)

That’s “Sex Slave”

(to Ted)

Shifchat Min, yes.

TED

Shifhat Min

GEVA

Shifchat Min. With a khhhhh

TED

Shifchhhhhhat Min

GEVA

Yes.

TED

Ani shelcha Shifchhhhat Min

GEVA

Are you my Shifchat Min?

TED

Ken bevakasha.

GEVA

(to the audience)

But then I listened to the context,
in which he casually mentioned, that he was -

TED

Jewish, I mean my family is Jewish, and I've been getting all those messages and stuff from friends and colleagues reaching out to see how I'm doing, and offering their support when actually I find that quite annoying because, like, just because I'm Jewish doesn't mean I have family or friends in Israel, you know?

GEVA

Yeah, I mean...

Sure.

It's a...

I mean just because you're...

Right, like. totally it's...

TED

I actually went to the rally today.

(Silence.)

GEVA

Sorry?

TED

I went to the rally. Oh, rally. I mean, the demonstration? Do you know that word?

GEVA

The um...

The pro-palestinian rally?

TED

The Ceasefire Now Rally.

Pause.

And it's interesting that you... you said you... thought it was a rally against you?

Pause.

But you know, I was there with some friends, and they were holding these, "Jews for Ceasefire" signs, and you know, everybody was very nice to us, we felt genuinely safe.

Pause.

GEVA

mmmhhmmm.

Really?

Well that's...

wow. That is...

Yeah it's...

I mean, it's nice to hear that...

(to the audience)

Oh no.

TED

I mean, don't you think it's collective punishment,
what's going on.

In Gaza.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Maybe instead of talking about Gaza,

you could,

like,

take your shirt off?

TED

I mean, do you think it's a proportionate response?

I mean, it's not even a war this is... this is just slaughter.

Plain and simple.

Merciless,

Pointless

Slaughter.

So juvenile!

So cruel!

Bombing, killing, destroying.

Instead of acknowledging the pain of the Palestinian people,

A pain you caused, you just completely ravage the place.

If you just hear them out, you know?

Just hear what they have to say,

then maybe –

GEVA

No.

Pause.

(to the audience)

I really didn't want to...

TED

Pardon?

Pause.

GEVA

I mean... Never mind.

TED

No, please, I want to hear your –

GEVA

You just,
I mean,
it's,
There's a...
certain...
Never mind.

TED

But like, do you disagree? do you find that –

GEVA

(to the audience)

And I wanted to slap him across the face, basically.

TED

That it's reasonable, the whole –

GEVA

(to the audience)

To "Collective Punishment" him.

TED

You have seen the visuals right?

GEVA

(to the audience)

"Proportionate Response" him.

TED

The children, the bombing in highly populated areas, the –

GEVA
(to Ted)

Listen, I...
 You seem like a nice guy.
 And I really appreciate your passion.
 Passion? How do you say?
 Sympassion? Copassion?
 Compassion.
 I appreciate your compassion.
 Really.
 But from a distance it's easy to be compassion,
 to be compassion-ful,
 to be compassio-
 Come on,
To have compassion.
 Have you ever even been in Israel?
 Have you ever gone to the shelter?
 Have you seen the...
 How do you say Otef?
 The cities that – the houses that –
 If I were you I would also say proshprtionate response.
 It's very easy to say proshprtionate response.
 Porpostionate.
 Fuck.
 Proportionate. Response.
 You have no idea what it means.
 You have no idea what it looks like.
 You have no idea what it feels like.
 So just –
 Do me a favor and –
 Never mind.

Silence.

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to –

Ted kisses him
 Geva is very surprised.
 He immediately stops the kiss and looks at
 Ted
 Pause.
 Geva continues the kiss.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And then, like,
we had sex.

Geva and Ted make out passionately and
begin to undress

And it was...

They moan softly

It was...

The moaning gets louder

It was...

They moan loudly and a second before
climax –

Good.
It was good.

They lie next to each other, breathing
heavily
Silence.

(to Ted)

I'm confused.

TED

Yeah?

GEVA

Yeah.

TED

Why is that?

GEVA

Well.
I... thought you...
that you think I'm a...
crazy...
barbaric...

zionist...
 colonialist...
 murderer...
 rapist.
 And then you kissed me.

Ted laughs.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And then he laughed and he said –

TED

I thought you were special.
 While we were texting,
 And then, tonight, when I met you...
 I thought...
 Has anybody ever told you that you have this vulnerability in your eyes?
 I guess what I'm trying to say is –
 I just feel like I really want to get to know you.
 Better.

Silence.

GEVA

So I snapped at him.

NOAM

What?

GEVA

I snapped at him. I yelled at him.

NOAM

What do you mean?

GEVA

I said to him: Excuse me?
 What is "special"? What do you mean "special"?
 I've been spending the last hour justifying a fucking genocide,
 and suddenly I'm special?
 Leftist, leftist, but give him a handjob and suddenly everything's fine.
 I can't with the hypocrisy.
 I got up and left.

I blocked him.
Special, he says to me.

Long silence. Noam stares at Geva.
He's in shock

NOAM

Wow, Geva, let me tell you...

GEVA

(to the audience)

And then Noam took a drag from his cigarette.

NOAM

You're gonna die single.
It breaks my heart.

CHAPTER TWO: HornyNow

GEVA

Maybe I think too much.
Talk too much.
Explain too much.
All this war stuff,
All this Israel stuff.
Who cares?

NOAM

Who cares?

GEVA

Nobody cares.

NOAM

Nobody cares.

GEVA

I decided to go with the flow.

NOAM

Go with the flow!

GEVA

Just go with the flow.
Just let whatever happens, happen.
Keep it simple.

NOAM

Keep it simple!

GEVA

Simple.
Simply simple.
And then it happened.

HORNYNOW

Hi.

GEVA

(to the audience)

I usually don't reply to people who call themselves,

HORNYNOW

HornyNow.

GEVA

But in his picture there was something that...
Like, there were mostly torso pics,
but there was one picture with a face,
and there was something in his eyes...
That made him look like he didn't belong here.
Like he was saying:

HORNYNOW

Every night I write.
I sit by the river,
and write.
I'm looking for fun, that's true,
but it's only because my heart is wounded.
But you, Geva, you are the cure.
In your bed I will see the light,
and in your eyes I might,
find the poetry
that I write,
by the river,
every night.

(to Geva)

Can you host?

GEVA

(to the audience)

The plan was simple.
We'll meet for a hookup.
We'll have a hookup.
During the hookup,
we'll look into each other's eyes.
And snap,
We'll fall in love.
That's it.
One shot. Straight through the heart.

ITAI

Hey handsome, can you host?

GEVA

(to the audience)

A year into our relationship, Itai would sometimes send me,

ITAI

Hey handsome, can you host?

GEVA

(to the audience)

Or sometimes,

ITAI

Discreet for now?

GEVA

(to the audience)

Every time he thought of me, instead of "thought of you smiley face"

ITAI

A couple looking for a third. Interested?

GEVA

(to the audience)

Instead of good morning,

ITAI

Hey man, up to?

GEVA

(to the audience)

Instead of “wanna sleep at my place tonight,”

ITAI

Bukkake on me now.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Sometimes right in the middle of a sentence,

ITAI

I finish at 7 and then need to pick something up from the mall, so we can
“bukake on me now” in principle, but not now, later...

GEVA

(to HornyNow)

Yes, I can host.

HORNYNOW

Nudes.

GEVA

(to the audience)

There was a period there.

It wasn't a question. It was a command.

HORNYNOW

Nudes.

Pause.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And there was something about the assertiveness that kind of did it for me,
I'm not gonna lie.

But I don't send nudes.

It cheapens the whole thing...

It makes me feel uncomfortable.

And as arousing as assertiveness can be,

I need some manners,

some mutual respect,

we're human beings,

we're not...

NOAM

So you sent him a dick pic.

GEVA

I sent him a dick pic, yes.

HORNYNOW

What do you like?

GEVA

Well,

They start making out.

GEVA

(to the audience)

It was pretty routine at first.

But suddenly he sort of... smiled at me.

HornyNow smiles.

Men don't smile.

Like, they smile, but not very often.

Because then the whole act falls apart.

So when he smiled,
suddenly it was like...

His whole act fell apart.

And then after we finished he looked me in the eyes and asked:

HORNYNOW

You are romantic?

GEVA

Excuse me?

HORNYNOW

You are romantic.

GEVA

What gave me away?

HORNYNOW

You look at me like you want to marry me.

GEVA

Does it bother you?

HORNYNOW

The opposite.

Pause.

But you don't even know my name.

Pause.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Oops.

HORNYNOW

Want to marry me and don't know my name.

GEVA

(to the audience)

I swear I'm usually not that much of a slut, I don't know what made me –

(to HornyNow)

What's your –

HORNYNOW

You are like this guy.

I was at a chill one time.

And a guy was fucking me,

and everyone went to the balcony to smoke but he stayed to fuck me,

and then he said,

he was like fuck fuck fucking me,

and while he was still inside me he was saying,

“Are you looking for a relationship?”

Geva laughs

Like this, still fucking me, “are you looking for a relationship?”

I was like um... Yes?

GEVA

That is. The best chill story. I have ever –

HORNYNOW

But he was a fucking racist, when I told him my name he suddenly became white.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And I thought to myself:

HORNYNOW

Like, even more white.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Does that mean he's...?

HORNYNOW

He is one of those Germans.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Come to think of it, I couldn't really pinpoint the accent...

HORNYNOW

They like fucking me but nothing more.

Pause.

Are you a racist?

GEVA

No.

NOAM

But you are.

GEVA

What?

NOAM

A racist. You are a racist person.

GEVA

No I'm not, what are you talking about?

NOAM

You never reply to Arabs on Grindr.

GEVA

That's because –

NOAM

They're Arabs. That makes you a racist.

GEVA

That's because it's complicated. It's heavy. It's baggage.
I want something simple.

NOAM

What *is* simple?

GEVA

Simple is simple.

NOAM

Simple meaning white?

GEVA

Simple meaning simple.
Simply simple.

NOAM

Meaning white.

GEVA

Have you ever dated an Arab?

NOAM

A Palestinian, even.

GEVA

Really.

NOAM

We met at a party or something.

GEVA

And?

NOAM

We fucked, it was fun, we even dated for like a month... Then he moved to Frankfurt.

GEVA

Wow.

NOAM

Yeah, we still text every once in a while.

HORNYNOW

Waleed.

Silence.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And immediately I said –

(to Waleed)

See? I'm not running.

No racism here.

(to the audience)

But I wondered if he could tell I was in shock.

HORNYNOW

You look like you are in shock.

GEVA

(to the audience)

I was in shock.

(To Waleed)

It's just my face.

HORNYNOW

Really.

GEVA

Really.

(to the audience)

I'm not racist, really I'm not racist,

There's no issue here, it's a non-issue,

I mean it is an issue,

There is baggage,

There is an elephant in the room, there is some elephant here,

HORNYNOW

What's your name?

GEVA

Geva.

HORNYNOW

Israel?

GEVA

Unfortunately, yes.

Silence.

They both start laughing.

You?

HORNYNOW

Lebanon.

GEVA

Nice.

HORNYNOW

Well...

GEVA

Ok so no love story here I guess.

HORNYNOW

Or maybe a brave one.
Romeo and Yulia.

GEVA

Ramadan and Yom Kippur.

HORNYNOW

Yeah.

GEVA

Yeah.

They look at each other.
Silence.

Nope.

HORNYNOW
(Immediately)

Nope.

Nope.

GEVA

Pause.

HORNYNOW

Nope?

GEVA

Yeah, nope.

HORNYNOW

Yeah, you're right. Nope.

Pause.

I mean you are very...

GEVA

I know. But...

HORNYNOW

I know.

GEVA

Yeah.

HORNYNOW

Yeah.

Pause.

GEVA

Nice fucking you though.

HORNYNOW

Very nice.

GEVA

Very nice.

HORNYNOW

Let's do this again sometime?

Pause.

GEVA

I don't think so.

Pause.

(to the audience)

On his way out he asked me,

HORNYNOW

Why did you move here?

Silence.

GEVA

(to the audience)

One time I texted with some Italian guy, Antonio,
I asked him why he moved to Berlin and he said,

Antonio

For work.

GEVA

That's it. Simple.
I envied him so much.
I usually say,

(to Antonio)

Because of the war.

ANTONIO

Mamma mia!

GEVA

Yeah.

(to the audience)

Gets me points for being a leftist,
throws in a little I'm-not-my-government,
buys me some empathy,

(to Antonio)

Because of the war.

ANTONIO

Mamma mia!

GEVA

Yeah.

NOAM

Mm-hmm.

And why did you actually move here?

GEVA

Ben-Gvir.

Pause. Noam doesn't buy it.

I had a difficult breakup.

NOAM

Oh.

Pause.

What was his name?

ITAI

Oh, that.

Itai.

HORNYNOW

Why did you move here?

Pause.

GEVA

For work.

CHAPTER THREE: NOAM

GEVA

I think I just need to date Israelis.

ITAI

Hey man, Top or Bottom?

GEVA

Only Israelis.

ITAI

Wanna swap nudes?

GEVA

I say this with a heavy heart.

NOAM

You know where you can find a lot of Israelis?

GEVA

Where?

NOAM

Yavne.

ITAI

I'm a top, bro, but if you're not too big there's room for discussion.

GEVA

What can I say.

With an Israeli, on the first date you're already on the seventh date.

A shared language isn't just a shared language.

It's culture,

It's nuance... it's...

ITAI

You're not sleeping at my place today?

GEVA

(to Itai)

I don't know, I have to wake up early tomorrow so I can't do "bukake on me now."

(to Noam)

It's nuance.

Noam takes a drag from his cigarette.

NOAM

Only Israelis? Really?

GEVA

Really.

There's a reason I keep getting stuck here.

It's a barrier – cultural gaps.
It's an issue.

NOAM

That's your issue?

GEVA

That's my issue.

NOAM

So the first Israeli guy you lay your eyes on...

GEVA

Yes.

NOAM

Two kids and a dog.

GEVA

Absolutely.

Pause.

NOAM

So now all that's left is for you to find an Israeli.

Pause. They look at each other.

GEVA

You know anyone?

Pause.

NOAM

I know plenty.

Tension-filled silence.

GEVA

(to the audience)

A little context.

NOAM

Hey there.

GEVA

Hi.

NOAM

How's it going?

GEVA

Good. You?

NOAM

Good. What are you up to?

GEVA

Nothing much.

NOAM

Me too.

GEVA

I'm Geva, and you are?

Pause.

NOAM

(smiling, in Hebrew:)

Ma Kore, Geva? (=What's up, Geva?)

GEVA

(to the audience)

That's how I met him.

Noam.

He had this kind of language,

NOAM

Never heard of that. Let me *YouTubize* it.

GEVA

(to the audience)

YouTubize.

The way he plays with words.

Makes love to them.

Makes love to words.

But like, Noam would never say "makes love to words"

because that's way too much pathos.
Noam is more grounded.

NOAM

The sun was insane.
So I mostly just sprawled out in the park like a lazy son of a bitch.

GEVA

(to the audience, savoring:)

Sprawled out in the park.

NOAM

You?

GEVA

I talked to my mom, cleaned the house, and made chicken in the oven. It
turned into a crematorium.

NOAM

Sounds like you live here.

GEVA

Is a month living here?

NOAM

That's practically flirting with living here.

GEVA

(to the audience, savoring:)

Flirting with living here.

(to Noam)

How about you?

NOAM

Here since 2015, buddy.

GEVA

Yeah, I had a feeling.

NOAM

Really? Why?

GEVA

You look like someone grounded.

NOAM

I like this word. *Grounded*.

Geva smiles.

GEVA

You're a man of words, aren't you, Noam?

NOAM

What does that mean?

GEVA

People are usually much more laconic on Grindr.

NOAM

I'm laconic by necessity a lot of the time.
Otherwise I'm talking to myself.

GEVA

Not here.

NOAM

Yeah, that's pretty nice.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And honestly,
He's not really my type. Noam.
He's a bit too skinny.
But because of all the -

NOAM

Let me *YouTubize* it.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And the -

NOAM

So I mostly just sprawled out in the park...

GEVA

(to the audience)

And the -

NOAM

That's practically flirting with living here.

GEVA

(to the audience)

I suggested:

(to Noam)

Coffee?

(to the audience)

Cause who knows?

And it wouldn't hurt me in this Berlin,
to hear some Hebrew every now and then –

NOAM

(in German:)

Entschuldigung, Ich hätte gern Zweimal Grosse Cappuccino mit -
(to Geva)

Oat milk?

(Geva is shocked, nods)

(in German:)

Mit Hafermilch, bitte. Und kann ich mit Karte bezahlen?

GEVA

(to the audience)

And there was something about that...

It was like a combination of several things that...

NOAM

(in German:)

Mit Hafermilch, bitte. Kann ich mit Karte bezahlen?

GEVA

(to the audience)

I had an erection.

This whole thing got me hard.

First of all the German.

Something about the German.

Something about the fluency, the confidence.

He sounded...

European.

Something in the quality of the voice.

Not the accent.

Something in the calm.

You could feel the European chill in his breath.
 The lack of vitamin D.
 You could forget he was born in some hole in the Middle East.
 A kind of patience.
 A kind of pleasantness.
 Within a few years
 the guy scrubbed off the Sabich and the traffic jams and the pigeon shit,
 and that's it,
 Kann ich mit Karte bezahlen?
 But the best part was when he started explaining to me about the Berlin
 housing market,

NOAM

The prices here *are* lower, generally speaking...

GEVA

(to the audience)

Which was in itself sexy, but the thing is that –

NOAM

Not by a lot, but lower, it's just that like, you have no chance of getting an
 apartment, you know? Because there are all kinds of regulations here, the
 rent is heavily regulated, and the regulation is –

(Hands Geva the coffee cup while continuing to
 talk)

Hold this for a second,

- It's disproportionate to what's happening on the market,

(Starts adjusting his dick inside his underwear.

Geva stares, sneaks a glance at the audience.)

And that leads to a reality where if you were lucky and signed a contract two
 years ago, for example, the contracts here are unlimited!

(Takes the coffee cup back from Geva)

Thanks.

GEVA

(to the audience)

He was kind of between jobs, Noam,

NOAM

I don't know, I get by.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Which was also kind of sexy.

NOAM

I don't do well with JOB jobs, you know?
My therapist says I have issues with authority I need to sort out.
I told her not to tell me what to do.

GEVA

Is she Israeli? Your therapist?

NOAM

Yeah.

GEVA

On Zoom?

NOAM

Yeah.

GEVA

Sponsored by mom and dad?

NOAM

Sponsored by the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

Silence.

GEVA

Oh.

NOAM

I was injured in the army.

Silence.

It's all good. I'm past it.

Silence.

You okay?

GEVA

What?

Yeah, yeah of course.

(to the audience)

And then he started laying out one of his stupid manifestos,

NOAM

Pet ownership is a perversion.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Noam has these stupid manifestos he likes to lay out.

NOAM

We attribute human qualities to a cat,
she's offended,
she's jealous,
she's having a crisis,
No.

It's a cat.

It's hungry.

And don't get me started on dogs.

Projecting aggressions onto them,

"educating" them,

Educating!

Such a perversion.

Perversion!

Silence.

GEVA

You're a special kind of stupid, aren't you?

NOAM

Oh yeah.

GEVA

(to the audience)

On the way back he said,

NOAM

Look,

I wasn't always like this.

During my first year coming here I would wake up almost every day with

"Maybe I'll go back to Israel?"

And honestly, there was this one time I decided that that's it,

that I'm going back,

and I really packed everything and bought a ticket, and I got to the airport,

and at the last moment I just,

I freaked out.
 I didn't get on.
 My legs wouldn't let me.
 A panic attack, they call it.

GEVA

Really?

NOAM

Weird. I don't think I ever told anyone here about this before.

GEVA

Yeah?

Geva moves closer to kiss Noam.
 Noam breaks it at the last moment.

NOAM

Anyway, I'm glad things turned out the way they did.
 Could you imagine me living in Rishon LeZion? Dating someone named Dror?

GEVA

Yeah. Totally.

NOAM

I would never date an Israeli.
 I'd rather die.

GEVA

Oh.

NOAM

Stress-eaters.
 Chasing their own tails.
 A fucked-up nation.

Pause.

GEVA

Yeah...

Silence.

(to Noam)

Okay,

And then I said okay,
 Have a great night.
 And then he got on his bike.
 Bye.

(to the audience)

(to Noam)

(to the audience)

(to Noam)

Silence.

(to the audience)

We've been friends ever since.
 Which is good.
 Friends are also...
 Friendship is something that...
 But there has always been this...

NOAM

So now all that's left is for you to find an Israeli.

Pause. They look at each other.

GEVA

You know anyone?

Pause.

NOAM

I know plenty.

Tension-filled silence.

Okay, I'm off.

GEVA

Where to?

NOAM

To *Boiler* actually.

GEVA

Oh, okay.

NOAM

Ever been?

GEVA

Yeah... um... I kept meaning to, but I never... I mean, I usually...

NOAM

You have no idea what it is.

GEVA

I have no idea what it is.

NOAM

(Laughs)

It's a sauna.

GEVA

Oh, okay, I don't really...

NOAM

Like a gay. Bathhouse.

GEVA

Oh.

NOAM

I think you should try it sometime.

GEVA

But isn't it... like...

NOAM

It's an experience.

GEVA

Do you like..? have to... get naked? At the entrance?

NOAM

I don't have to but I will.

Get naked. At the entrance.

Silence.

They'll give you a towel if you want.

GEVA

That's... considerate.

Pause.

NOAM

Wanna come with me?

Pause.

GEVA

Right now?

ITAI

Why not?

NOAM

Okay, okay, I was just asking. Jesus.

GEVA

(to Itai)

Um... like... in principle it sounds really really fun,
but we've only been dating for two weeks and...

ITAI

Oh, no, no, of course.

GEVA

A weekend in Berlin is a bit... You know what I mean?

ITAI

Yeah yeah, I just meant, if it like... works for you.

GEVA

Sounds fun though.

ITAI

Ever been?

GEVA

A few times, yeah.

ITAI

KitKat and stuff?

GEVA

Oh.

Nah.

ITAI

What do you mean "oh"?

GEVA

What?

ITAI

I said “KitKat”, you said “oh”.

GEVA

It’s just that... I just learned something about you.

ITAI

What did you learn?

GEVA

That you’re like... I didn’t know you were like a...
Like a clubber.

ITAI

I’m not a “clubber.”

GEVA

KitKat. Ter.

ITAI

I’m not a “KitKatter.” I’ve been to KitKat. I happened to be at KitKat.

GEVA

Yeah, I’m just not really into that, that’s all.

ITAI

Into what?

GEVA

Parties and stuff.

ITAI

Really? Why?

GEVA

I don’t dance. I don’t like dancing. I’m not good. At dancing.

ITAI

I’m also not good at dancing. What is *good* at dancing?

GEVA

I don’t know, I’m all clumsy.

ITAI

Oh.

GEVA

What do you mean “oh”?

ITAI

Nothing, I just learned something about you.

GEVA

What did you learn?

ITAI

That it's not that you don't like to dance.
You're just afraid to.

Pause.

I want to dance with you.

GEVA

No, you don't understand, you're really better off -

ITAI

Geva.

I want to dance with you.

CHAPTER FOUR: STEFFEN

STEFFEN

(in German)

Zunächst gibt es das Wort Sperma. Das ist sehr wissenschaftlich, also sehr neutral. Man kann es im Alltag aber auch sagen. Ein bisschen vulgärer und ein bisschen formloser wäre Wichse. Man kann auch Wichse sagen. Dann kannst du noch Saft sagen. Also es ist wie Orangensaft oder Apfelsaft. Ja.

Wie sagt man das auf -

(Switches to English)

How do you say this in Hebrew?

NOAM

Shpich.

STEFFEN

Shpich?

GEVA

Shpich.

STEFFEN

Shpich?

GEVA

(to the audience)

One day you'll meet some Steffen.

STEFFEN

Shpich?

GEVA

(to the audience)

Shpich means "cum", by the way.

(to Steffen)

Very good!

(to the audience)

And maybe you'll hesitate at first,
because that's you, hesitant,
but remember –

Don't trust your instincts.

Your expectations are unrealistic, you're spoiled, you're picky.

You're self-sabotaging. And for nothing.

Just go with the flow – the butterflies will eventually catch up.

Because he's great, Steffen,

he's really really great,

On your first date, for instance,

you eat at some Asian fusion restaurant,

and in the middle of a bite he suddenly pulls something out of his –

STEFFEN

What do you think that is?

GEVA

Was that in your food?

STEFFEN

Yes.

GEVA

Is it a... cigarette?

It kind of looks like a...

STEFFEN

It um...
also tastes like a...
Cigarette.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And the thing is,
That his reaction,
to the fact that that Thai food restaurant,
Asian fusion restaurant! Sorry. Which by itself is a cause for a lawsuit,
That this Asian fusion restaurant
put a fucking cigarette butt
in his rice noodles,
and his reaction was –

STEFFEN

Should I tell the waitress? Do you think?

Pause.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And of course, the Israeli in you says,
“What do you mean ‘should I tell the waitress?’
burn the place down!”
But come to think of it,
You yourself would also probably be all: “should I tell the waitress?”
It’s the story of your life.
Should I tell the waitress?

STEFFEN

(In German)

Ähm... Entschuldigung... es... es scheint, als ob... also...
vielleicht... Ich glaube, da ist was...
in meinem Gericht.
Glaube ich.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And then when you leave the restaurant,
and sit on a bench,
you say to him,

(to Steffen)

Do you... still taste? Like cigarette?

STEFFEN

No, no, it is all gone.

GEVA

Can I see for myself?

Pause.

STEFFEN

What do you mean by this?

Pause.

Oh!

Steffen bursts out laughing

GEVA

(to the audience)

And he like, cannot stop.

Steffen keeps laughing. Geva stares at him
Silence. Laughter.

But after it stops being weird it starts being cute.

In like a dorky way.

In a childlike way.

In a... German way.

Steffen calms down.

They kiss.

In the middle of a kiss Steffen starts to
chuckle.

STEFFEN

(laughing to himself)

Do you still taste like cigarette...

GEVA

(to the audience)

So yeah, Steffen's cute.

Definitely cute. Very very cute.

But...

Pause. Looks at Itai

Hey! What did we say? Don't trust your instincts.
 You've been single for quite some time,
 and It's getting pretty clear that you'll never fall in love again,
 at least not in the grandiose ninth-grade sense of the word,
 So when after two months, you're walking in the park,
 and he suddenly says,

STEFFEN

I love you.

GEVA

And you know he's serious,
 because that's how it is with Steffen,
 when you speak German it's all about helping you practice,
 but when you talk business you speak English.
 So when he says,
 In English, he says,

STEFFEN

I love you.

GEVA

What you answer is,

(to Steffen)

I'm not sure if I do too. Yet.
 But if there is anyone out there,
 that I'm ever going to be able to,
 it's you.

(to the audience)

And you can be really pleased with yourself in that moment,
 because you were honest with Steffen and with yourself
 and you didn't ruin what you built.

STEFFEN

I am so sorry I have cleaned your bathroom!

GEVA

But then things start to get complicated when one day –

STEFFEN

I am so sorry I have cleaned your bathroom.
 Please don't think it means I find you dirty. I just have ADHD and sometimes I
 must do something while I am thinking about things.

so...

I have cleaned your bathroom.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And the bathroom was filthy.

It's crucial to stress how filthy the bathroom was.

And all day you thought about how filthy the bathroom was

and you came home determined to deal with how filthy the bathroom was

but completely exhausted and with no energy whatsoever to deal with how

filthy the bathroom was

and suddenly,

STEFFEN

I have cleaned your bathroom.

GEVA

(to Steffen)

Oh my god, I love you!

Pause.

Steffen freezes completely and opens his eyes wide.

And like, obviously it was said jokingly, but –

Steffen stares at Geva with big doe eyes.

He's tearing up

So, I mean,

you can't take it back now,

Geva hugs Steffen

And it's okay,

because Steffen is great.

He really is great.

He's really really great.

Suddenly in the middle of the hug Steffen starts laughing to himself.

STEFFEN

Do you still taste like cigarette...

GEVA

Which is adorable.
It's adorable.
He's adorable.

Itai sits on Geva's back, writing with his
finger on his back.

ITAI

Come on, you're not serious!

GEVA

D?

ITAI

No.

GEVA

A?

ITAI

A?!

GEVA

B?

ITAI

How could it be A?

GEVA

(to the audience)

You must not compare.

ITAI

An A needs you to lift the finger off the back. How could that be A?

GEVA

P?

ITAI

You're messing with me.

GEVA

L?

ITAI

You just want me to keep going, you're not even trying.

GEVA

I'm trying, I'm trying.

ITAI

I'll stop.

GEVA

I'm trying, I'm trying.

ITAI

I'm warning you.

Itai draws again.

GEVA

A?

ITAI

Fuck you.

They wrestle playfully.

STEFFEN

(in German)

Ich habe dir eine Suppe gekocht.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And when you're sick Steffen makes you soup.

STEFFEN

Ich habe dir eine Suppe gekocht.

GEVA

And then he lies next to you in bed all night,
He's a doctor, by the way. Steffen is a doctor. I didn't mention that.

And he listens to you breathing,
And at around three in the morning you tell him it's okay,
(to Steffen)

It's okay. You can go to sleep now.
And he says,

STEFFEN

After you.

Silence.

GEVA

And then you understand that you probably do love him,
But even then you don't feel it.
You understand it.

ITAI

Oh no!

GEVA

I wiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnn!!!!

Geva starts dancing a victory dance.
Itai looks at him.

I win, you lose, what are you smiling about?

ITAI

Nothing.

GEVA

I wiped the floor with you, what are you smiling about?

ITAI

I like your dance.

GEVA

(keeps dancing)

I'm not dancing. I don't like dancing. I don't dance. This is not dancing.

ITAI

Okay.

Pause. Geva continues a bit and then stops.

Why did you stop?

GEVA

Now I'm embarrassed.

ITAI

May I?

GEVA

May you what?

ITAI

Not dance? with you?

Pause.

GEVA

Okay.

They dance together.

STEFFEN

By the way,

GEVA

(to the audience)

So when one evening you're watching Netflix and he says,

STEFFEN

By the way,

GEVA

(to the audience)

And you're really close to him, and you feel his heart beating when he says this "By the way".

STEFFEN

I told my landlord I might be moving out this year.
And he said okay.

GEVA

Okay.

(to the audience)

Then it's very important that you keep your cool. And certainly when you're together in a museum and he asks you,

STEFFEN

By the way,
When did you say your contract is over? In six months?

GEVA

(to Steffen)

Yeah.

STEFFEN

And it's possible to leave earlier, yes?

GEVA

I don't think it would be a problem.

(to the audience)

So you must not, under any circumstances, lose your cool, and definitely not when one Saturday morning you're cuddling in bed and he whispers to you,

STEFFEN

I don't want to go back to my place, I want to stay here.

GEVA

And as time goes by,
 from hint to hint,
 from comment to comment,
 from by the way to by the way,
 you just ignore it elegantly
 and pretend not to notice
 and not to understand,
 and you see him dying inside,
 and starting to wither,
 and sinking into depression,
 and shutting down.
 And he stops exercising,
 and he eats less,
 and he loses weight,
 and he won't tell you how he feels,
 because Steffen is wonderful,
 and he would never do something that could even in certain circles be
 interpreted as forcing something on you that you don't one hundred percent
 want,
 but you feel that it's really not fair to him,
 and it's really not okay,
 and you remember –

STEFFEN

(laughing)

Do you still taste like cigarette...

GEVA

and –

STEFFEN

I am so sorry I have cleaned your bathroom.

GEVA

and –

STEFFEN

after you.

GEVA

And then you find yourself saying:

(to Steffen)

Let's move in together.

Silence.

They smile at each other.

NOAM

Oh, wow.

GEVA

But when you tell Noam he kind of says,

NOAM

Didn't see that coming.

GEVA

Didn't see what coming?

NOAM

That.

GEVA

You meant to say:

Oh my god! Mazel tov! Congratulations! Herzlichen Glückwunsch! Sana hilwa ya gamil!

NOAM

Are you sure you want to move in with him?

GEVA

(to the audience)

And this drives you nuts.

(to Noam)

Yes.

Noam takes a slow drag from his cigarette.
Silence. Finishes.

NOAM

Congratulations my love, may you have male sons.

GEVA

(to the audience)

He has this annoying tendency, Noam,
to really see you,
which is such an annoying...
Tendency,
but Noam is Noam and you are you,
and maybe, you know,
it's okay to have doubts,
because it happened pretty fast if we're honest,
and also you can take comfort in the fact that the housing market in Berlin is a
nightmare and you'll never find an apartment anyway.

STEFFEN

I will take Tuesday off work, so we can see some apartments.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Just make something up,

(to Steffen)

I can't Tuesday.

(in German)

Geht nicht.

STEFFEN

(in German)

Warum?

GEVA

(in German)

Weil ich muss arbeiten.

STEFFEN

(in German, corrects Geva)

Arbeiten muss.

GEVA

(to the audience)

When he's in the mood to correct your German it means he's not mad at you, which is good,

STEFFEN

I thought Tuesday was your day off.

GEVA

(to the audience)

On the other hand, when he insists on switching to English you might still be in trouble,

(to Steffen, in German)

Ja, aber mein Chef sagt diesem Dienstag, er möchte mit mir ein Gespräch haben.

Silence, charged.

Steffen looks at Geva, hurt.

STEFFEN

Diesen Dienstag.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And then it turns out that sometimes he corrects your German even when he's mad at you.

(to Steffen)

But I will tell him to reschedule, it's my day off, it's ridiculous.

Pause.

STEFFEN

Okay.

GEVA

(to the audience)

So then just hate all the apartments.

(to Steffen)

It's too small.

Too noisy.

Too dark.

Too depressing.

Too grandma-y.

Too chic.

Too old.
 Too lifeless.
 Too colorful.
 Too ordinary.
 Too... big.

STEFFEN

Too big?

GEVA

Too big, yeah.

STEFFEN

How is that a problem, how can that be a problem?

GEVA

We're just two people.
 We'll get lost.

Pause.

(to the audience)

Remember you're walking a very fine line

(to Steffen)

I'm kidding, it's perfect.

STEFFEN

Yeah?

GEVA

Yeah.

Steffen claps enthusiastically.

STEFFEN

Yallah!

GEVA

(to the audience)

But it's all good because even when you do find an apartment,
 It's a nightmare here in Berlin,
 you have to submit documents, and it takes forever for the landlord to review
 all the documents, and forever to approve, and forever to decide, and forever
 to -

STEFFEN

We got the apartment!

GEVA

(to the audience)

And it also takes forever until the apartment is vacated and everything,

STEFFEN

We can move in next week!

GEVA

(to the audience)

And until you sign the papers,

STEFFEN

We can go sign the papers tomorrow!

Pause.

(to the audience)

If he notices you're having a panic attack when signing the contract,

Steffen kisses Geva on the cheek.

(to Steffen)

Stop it! You're suffocating me!

STEFFEN

I was just –

GEVA

I'm trying to read the contract, can't you see I'm trying to read the contract?

(to the audience)

And he'll probably notice you're having a panic attack when signing the contract,

So just tell him it's stress from work,

and when it takes you years to pack tell him you just don't feel so good,

and when you're carrying the couch up the stairs,

and you're both sweating like donkeys,

and for a moment you forget it's a colossal disaster what you got yourself into and focus on the fact that your arm hurts –

he stops for a moment and asks for a break,

and you thank God because you've been wanting a break for an hour,

and then he sits next to you and says,

STEFFEN

We need to talk.

Pause.

I think it's time we...

Talk.

We are going to live together.

And I think this will not work if we are not honest.

And if we don't say what we feel.

And I think there is something between us.

And I think it's okay.

I think it's natural.

We are making a big step.

It's natural to feel things.

But I just think we need to talk about them.

Pause.

GEVA

And then you look at him and you realize that the reason he's doing this,
meaning taking a break from carrying the couch,
meaning carrying the couch in the first place,
meaning moving in with you,
is that he truly loves you.

(to Steffen)

I'm sorry.

I'm so so sorry.

But I don't want to move in together.

Pause.

(to the audience)

And you feel you've just said the one thing he was most afraid to hear
but you keep going –

(to Steffen)

because I don't love you.

Silence.

(to the audience)

And after that there will be a long silence.

It will feel like an eternity, and it really will be an eternity,
but in the end it will pass.

Unless the silence is followed by:

STEFFEN

There is something deeply wrong with you.

Horrible silence.

Steffen gets up and leaves, leaving Geva alone.

Suddenly loud trance music is heard.

Geva and Itai are at a party at KitKat.

The music is so loud you can't hear what they're saying.

Subtitles at the back of the stage transcribe the dialogue as they shout into each other's ears.

ITAI

Are you having fun?

GEVA

What?

ITAI

Are you having fun?

GEVA

What?

ITAI

Are you having fun?

GEVA

Yes.

ITAI

Yes?

Geva nods.

ITAI

You look a bit pale.

GEVA

I saw a woman fucking fifteen men.

ITAI

Gangbang?

GEVA

Not a gangbang. It wasn't a gangbang. They weren't fucking her. She was fucking them.

A moment of silence in the track. Geva is suddenly audible.

GEVA

(audible)

She was fucking them. She had one here, one there, one on this, one over that one, and she put his mouth there, and his dick in this, and the other one she put behind, and they turned into some kind of octopus made out of people.

The track continues.
They are silent.

ITAI

Are you okay?

GEVA

Yes.

Itai holds Geva.
They look into each other's eyes. Silence.

ITAI

Are you pretending to have fun because you're afraid that if you don't, I'll stop loving you?

Pause.

GEVA

Do you love me?

Pause.
Itai nods. He keeps nodding and turns the nod into a dance to the rhythm of the track. Geva stares at him, stunned. Slowly, he joins in. They dance.

CHAPTER FIVE: GEVA

NOAM

You've been ignoring my messages. It's been two days.

GEVA

I haven't been feeling that well.

NOAM

So I see.

Pause.

Can I come in?

GEVA

No.

NOAM

(peeks into the apartment)

Oh, Sweetheart, your sink is a disaster, God help us.

GEVA

I was just about to take care of that.

NOAM

Then take care of it, it's a disaster.

GEVA

I'll take care of it. I said I'd take care of it.

NOAM

I baked you a challah.

GEVA

Why?

NOAM

To lift up your spirits.

GEVA

What does challah have to do with it?

NOAM

Challah brings blessing into the house.

Pause.

Come on, take it.

GEVA

No thanks.

NOAM

No thanks?

GEVA

What am I, in kindergarten? Why would you bring me challah?

Silence.

(Takes the challah)

Thanks.

Silence. They stand facing each other, close.

Noam hugs Geva. Geva doesn't give in. Noam doesn't let go of him.

GEVA

Okay, okay, I get it.

Tries to pull away. Noam doesn't let him.

Come on.

Having no choice, he gives in to the hug.

GEVA

I'm going back to Israel.

Pause.

I've had enough.
I thought Berlin would be a good idea.
But I'm not doing well here.
I told the landlord.

He was happy, he really wanted to raise the rent.
 I already bought a plane ticket too.
 The flight is in three weeks.
 I have an appointment at the city office to do the Abmeldung in about a week
 and a half.
 And that's it, I guess.
 Calling it quits.

Pause.

Also with the whole thing with Steffen I realized that...
 The point is,
 I'm going back to Israel.

Silence.

NOAM

Okay.

Pause.

GEVA

Okay, I just told you I'm fucking leaving fucking Berlin and fucking going back
 to fucking Genocideland and all you have to say is "okay."

NOAM

What do you want me to say?

GEVA

"Oh my god."

"I can't believe it."

"No way."

"Can I have the string lights from your balcony, I've had my eye on them for a
 while"

NOAM

Oh my god I can't believe it no way can I have the string lights from your
 balcony I -

GEVA

Are you mad at me?

Pause.

NOAM

No, what, of course not. Why would I be mad at you.

GEVA

Not mad.

NOAM

Not mad.

GEVA

So what then?

NOAM

What then?

GEVA

You support me?

NOAM

I support you.

GEVA

That's how you're being supportive?

NOAM

That's how I'm being supportive.

GEVA

You're not very good with goodbyes, are you?

NOAM

I love goodbyes. I live for goodbyes.

GEVA

I can see that.

NOAM

Big fan of goodbyes.

GEVA

It's just me specifically you don't give a shit about.

NOAM

I love you, bro, don't be gross.

Love you too, bro.	GEVA
Wishing you all the best.	NOAM
Thanks.	GEVA
Safe travels.	NOAM
Thanks.	GEVA
Have fun.	NOAM
Thanks.	GEVA
Gute Reise.	NOAM
Thanks.	GEVA
Alles Gute.	NOAM
Thanks.	GEVA
Go forth and succeed.	NOAM
Thanks.	GEVA
May you be blessed, cherished, and fondly remembered.	NOAM
Pause.	

	GEVA
Thanks.	
	NOAM
Alright, it was nice meeting you.	
	GEVA
Mm-hm.	
	NOAM
Come visit.	
	GEVA
Yeah.	
	NOAM
Keep in touch.	
	GEVA
Yeah.	
	NOAM
Don't be a stranger.	
	GEVA
Yeah.	
	NOAM
All the best.	
	GEVA
Yeah.	
	NOAM
Warm regards to mom.	
	GEVA
Go fuck yourself.	
	Silence. Noam exits.
	(to the audience)
So anyway, that's it.	

That's how my Berlin story ends.

A Mistake.

An error.

A failure.

The important thing is being able to admit you were wrong,
that you fucked up,
that you were an idiot,

NOAM

Idiot!

GEVA

a moron,

NOAM

Moron!

GEVA

(in German)

Dumm,

NOAM

(in German)

Dummkopf!

GEVA

which means "dumb" in German,

NOAM

(in German)

Arschloch!

GEVA

and to turn back around.

NOAM

(in German)

Scheißkerl!

(to the audience)

This whole story was one huge mistake.

Geva is not...

He's not in touch with his...

He doesn't have the...

He's missing the... –

He's a son of a bitch, okay?

He's a fucking stinking stupid spineless worthless filthy useless clueless shitty miserable son of a bitch.

What is this?

Who behaves like this?

Buys a plane ticket.

Wakes up in the morning and buys a plane ticket like some fucked-up stupid asshole of a shit stain.

What is he buying a plane ticket for?!

Something doesn't sit right with you so you go buy a plane ticket like a brain dead piece of shit?

Like a fucking stinking stupid spineless worthless filthy useless clueless shitty miserable son of a -

How can he throw away all of the...

And disappears for three weeks like some—

Three fucking weeks!

The asshole went radio silent on me for three fucking weeks like some fucking stinking stupid spineless worthless filthy useless clueless shitty miserable -

Enough.

It's over.

He's gone.

Finished.

Dead.

Gone.

Enough.

Silence. He smokes.

GEVA

On my way to the airport.

NOAM

And then on the day of his flight he sends me,

GEVA

On my way to the airport.

NOAM

What's that supposed to mean?

Three weeks of radio silence and then six words he sends me—

GEVA

On

NOAM

and—

GEVA

My

NOAM

and—

GEVA

Way

NOAM

and—

GEVA

To

NOAM

and—

GEVA

The

NOAM

and—

GEVA

Airport.

NOAM

What the hell is this?

What am I supposed to understand from this?!

Is this “on my way to the airport”—

GEVA

Get out of my life.

NOAM

Or “on the way to the airport”—

GEVA

Don't let me go, Noam.

Silence.

NOAM

What am I, Hugh Grant?
 And he's what, Julia Roberts?
 He can go fuck himself.
 I'm done with this emotional disability.
 It's not funny anymore.
 You want me?
 He wants me, Geva, it's obvious he wants me.
 You want me?
 Then shut up and say that you want me.
 "On the way to the airport."
 Being clever with me. Always with all these clever little games of his.
 (Subtext of "ugh, disgusting")

 and jabs,
 and hints,
 and analyses,
 and insights,
 and clever observations,
 and attention to details,
 and those penetrating eyes,
 and this sense of authority...
 this charisma that...

GEVA

Don't let me go, Noam.

Silence.

NOAM

Oh, come on.

Pause.

And then I find myself in an Uber, yelling at the driver—
 (in German)

Zum Flughafen!

GEVA

(to the audience)

Because when it comes down to it, no matter how much German you learn, it
 still sounds like Nazis.

NOAM

(to the audience)

We start driving and my heart is pounding

GEVA

(to the audience)

And somehow between all the Nazis you suddenly realize how Israeli you are.

NOAM

(to the audience)

And I'm yelling at the driver Schnell! Schnell! Schnell!

GEVA

(to the audience)

And you never planned to move here for good anyway.

NOAM

(to the audience)

Muhammad is the driver's name, Schnell Muhammad, schnell!

GEVA

(to the audience)

And you haven't seen your parents in so long.

NOAM

(to the audience)

Es ist für die Liebe, I tell him! Es ist für die Liebe!

GEVA

(to the audience)

And your niece and nephew.

NOAM

(to the audience)

And then he asks what is the name of your beloved?

GEVA

(to the audience)

Your niece and your nephew are so cute.

NOAM

(to the audience)

And I don't want to get into it right now,

GEVA

(to the audience)

And the job market here for Israelis isn't exactly...

NOAM

(to the audience)

Not necessarily because of the gay thing, in a different constellation I would choose to challenge Muhammad with the gay thing, but mainly because Geva is a very Israeli name, so I tell him that... "Julia."

GEVA

(to the audience)

And you tell yourself that as long as you don't read the news it's actually a pretty good place to live in.

NOAM

(to the audience)

And there are traffic jams

GEVA

(to the audience)

Amazing weather.

NOAM

(to the audience)

Of course there are traffic jams.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And the beach. There is the beach. How you miss the beach!

NOAM

(to the audience)

And I look at the phone and he should already be taking off, but there's a delay, there's definitely a delay, there's always a delay.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And sirens, fine, let there be sirens.

NOAM

(to the audience)

And then I say "drop me off"

GEVA

(to the audience)

And all those questions you didn't want to face,

NOAM

(to the audience)

And I sprint.

GEVA

(to the audience)

Don't worry. You'll find the way to answer.

NOAM

(to the audience)

And I push through the crowds at security yelling "Julia! Julia!"

GEVA

(to the audience)

"How are you?"

NOAM

(to the audience)

And there's a Righteous Among the Nations security guy who lets me through

GEVA

(to the audience)

"If I can help in any way don't hesitate to call."

NOAM

(to the audience)

And a woman with tears in her eyes who's moved by the romance and lets me cut in line

GEVA

(to the audience)

"Are you learning how to carry on?"

NOAM

(to the audience)

And I'm runningggggg runningggggg how I'm runningggggg

GEVA

(to the audience)

"That's Good. That's Good. Stay strong."

NOAM

(to the audience)

And I'm a minute away from the gate, and I'm already, like, twenty minutes late, but it's fine. There's a delay. There has to be a delay.

GEVA

(to the audience)

"That's what Itai would have wanted for you."

NOAM

(to the audience)

And I can barely breathe
 And I'm flyingggg,
 I'm shocked I can run so fast,
 I'm all sweaty,
 And I don't care,
 And people are looking at me like I'm crazy,
 And they are rightttt
 You are rightttt
 Du hast rechtttttt
 Ich bin verrücktttttttttttt!!!
 And I pass A
 And I pass B
 And I reach C
 And I go down the stairs,
 I throw myself down the stairs,
 And I run
 And I'm about to fall from running so fast
 And I cross the corridor
 And I can already see the gate in the distance
 And I give one more push
 And I'm almost there
 I'm there
 I make it.
 I make it to the gate
 And—

Silence.

The gate is empty.
 The plane has taken off.
 Motherfucker.
 I Take a breath.

I swallow the shame.
 And I turn around.
 I do this humiliated little "Hallo" to the Righteous Among the Nations security
 guy who let me through
 And to the woman with tears in her eyes who's moved by the romance who let
 me cut in line.
 I go down the escalators.
 What was I thinking?
 I get to the S-Bahn platform.
 I think tears of frustration are starting to well up.
 In about an hour I'll be back at the apartment and we'll forget this whole epic
 fail ever happened.
 And suddenly,
 I see him.
 Sitting.
 On the platform.
 With his trolley.
 Pale.

Noam sits next to Geva.
 Silence.

NOAM
 (to Geva)

Why aren't you on the plane?

GEVA

I can't.

Pause.

NOAM

Legs wouldn't let you?

GEVA

Legs wouldn't let me.

Pause.

NOAM

I see.

Silence. Noam and Geva sit and stare.

Do you want to tell me?

Why they wouldn't let you?

Silence.

GEVA

(to the audience)

And you want to.

But you don't know how to say it.

There's something childish about this word.

"Dead."

"He's dead."

It almost sounds like a punchline.

Like it's disrespectful.

Now, "Passed away" is simply incorrect. Factually incorrect. Because he didn't pass away. He was killed.

But you won't say "my boyfriend was killed." That's way too melodramatic.

You can say things like:

I lost my boyfriend in the war,

My boyfriend is no longer with us,

My boyfriend didn't make it back,

But like,

There's something in that poetry that is way too...

He fell in battle?

He has departed?

You can say that, can't you?

Departed.

"My boyfriend has departed"

But that's kind of weird, isn't it?

It sounds like he's a train or something.

ITAI

So?

GEVA

So?

ITAI

You danced.

GEVA

I danced.

ITAI

You danced at KitKat.

GEVA

I danced at KitKat.

ITAI

Isn't Berlin beautiful?

GEVA

Yeah.

ITAI

Yeah.

GEVA

If we get sick of Ben-Gvir, we'll move here?

ITAI

Let's.

GEVA

Let's.

NOAM

Itai?

Silence.

GEVA

(to the audience)

The good thing about Noam is
that sometimes,
you don't need words.

Silence.

EPILOGUE

GEVA

I moved to Berlin because of Itai.
And one day I'll meet some Noam.
And he'll be alone.
Like me.
And when he tells me,

I love you,
I won't know what to say,
because the truth is
I don't think I know how anymore.
So I'll just put my head on his shoulder,
and he'll understand.

END