

2 ARIEL. Repeating myself ... You have never been in trouble with the police until now. You mean.

KATURIAN. I'm in trouble with the police now?

3 ARIEL. What else are you doing here?

KATURIAN. I'm helping you with your enquiries, I thought.

4 ARIEL. So we're friends of yours, like we've took you here like this is a social visit like we're friends of yours?

KATURIAN. You're not friends of mine, no ...

5 ARIEL. You have had your rights read. You've been took out of your home. You've had a fucking blindfold on. Do you think we do this to our good fucking friends?

KATURIAN. We're not friends, no. But by the same token, I hope we're not enemies.

6 ARIEL. *(Pause.)* I am going to hit you so hard in the fucking head.

KATURIAN. *(Pause.)* Hah?

7 ARIEL. Am I mumbling? Tupolski, am I mumbling?

TUPOLSKI. No, you're not mumbling. You're quite clear.

8 ARIEL. I didn't think I was mumbling.

KATURIAN. You don't ... I will answer everything you want me to. You don't have to ...

9 ARIEL. "You will answer everything we want you to." There was never a question, "You will answer everything we want you to." There *was* a question, "How much are you going to make us fuck you up in the meantime?" was what the question was.

KATURIAN. I am going to try not to make you fuck me up at all because the reason is I will answer everything.

TUPOLSKI. Well, that's a start, isn't it? *(Eyeing Katurian, Ariel idles to a side wall, smokes a cigarette.)* Why do you suspect we have brought you here? You must suspect some reason.

10 ARIEL. Look, why don't we just start torturing him and cut out all this shit?

KATURIAN. What...?

TUPOLSKI. Who's the Number One on this case, Ariel, me or you? *(Pause.)* Thank you. Don't listen to him. Anyway, so why do you suspect we have brought you here?

KATURIAN. I've been racking my brains, but I can't think.

TUPOLSKI. You've been racking your brains but you can't think?

KATURIAN. No.

TUPOLSKI. Well, yes or no?

KATURIAN. Yes.

TUPOLSKI. Huh?

KATURIAN. Because I've never done anything. I've never done any anti-police thing, I've never done any anti-state thing ...

TUPOLSKI. You've been racking your brains but you can't think of a single reason we might have brought you here?

KATURIAN. I can think of a reason, or, not a reason but a thing I assume there must be a linkage, although I can't see how there can be a linkage.

TUPOLSKI. The linkage of what? Of what to what? Or, of what to what?

KATURIAN. What? Just, only the thing of how you took my stories away too when you took me, and that you have them there, is the only thing.

TUPOLSKI. And that I have them where? Have you been reading the papers I've got in front of me?

KATURIAN. I haven't been reading ...

TUPOLSKI. Papers which, for all you know, may have been some immensely classified, very very secret thing.

KATURIAN. My eyes caught the titles, just glancing.

TUPOLSKI. Oh, like your peripheral vision?

KATURIAN. Yes.

TUPOLSKI. But, hang on, for it to be your peripheral vision, you'd have to be turned around this way ... *(Tupolski turns sideways on, glancing down at papers.)* See, like this way. Like sideways, like this way ...

KATURIAN. I meant ...

TUPOLSKI. See? Like this way. Like sideways.

KATURIAN. I meant my peripheral vision at the bottom of my eyes.

TUPOLSKI. Ohh, the peripheral vision at the *bottom* of your eyes.

KATURIAN. I don't know if there's a word for that.

TUPOLSKI. There isn't. *(Pause.)* Why would there be a linkage, your stories, you being taken here? It isn't a crime, you write a story.

KATURIAN. That's what I thought.

TUPOLSKI. Given certain restrictions ...

KATURIAN. Of course.

TUPOLSKI. The security of the state, the security of the general whatever-you-call-it. I wouldn't even call them restrictions.

KATURIAN. I wouldn't call them restrictions.

TUPOLSKI. I would call them guidelines.

KATURIAN. Guidelines, yes.

TUPOLSKI. Given certain guidelines, the security of the whatever, it isn't a crime, you write a story.