

## BATHILDE / BERTHOLD

Your mother worked in a grocery store and your father was a quiet, aloof farmer. A rigidly Protestant family, very poor and proud to be. You spent your youth in a small, provincial town. When your parents died of consumption, you gathered your few belongings and left.

You came to Berlin to build yourself a new life. You began work, first as a clockmaker and then as a wood-turner. You acquainted yourself with solitude and privation. A hard life, with little to offer in terms of fulfilment. You admired the workers who toiled by your side, as strong and steady as you could only dream of becoming. Until one day, during your lunch break, you heard them talking to each other in whispers. They were communists.

You found yourself a second family, a new home. You remembered what it means to have something to fight for. You could never stand injustice and oppression, not even as a child: First in line in the workers' union, you defended your rights and those of your comrades. Then you entered the Alliance of the Red Front, a communist organisation opposing the Naziist government.

You went into hiding when you learnt that the Reich was coming for you and your comrades. You were preparing for something that would solve the problem at its root. But you haven't been able to get in contact with the others. Were they taken? Betrayed? Everything was almost ready... But you can't carry out the plan alone.

*Inclination:* Blunt, determined.

### You were part of the problem

*Choose one of these options, either right now or during the game, with the context to guide you.*

► You were forced to relocate for your safety, you felt like you were being watched all the time. So you found a well-paid position in the assembly line of a huge armament factory. You knew what they were building, you knew those bombs would kill many people, yet you went along with it. You needed the money. You did it only for your convenience. Then the Nazi troops invaded Poland, a few weeks ago. The bombs, YOUR bombs, were used on the civilians. They killed comrades and innocent people and so many Jews. You acted like everyone else. You were part of the problem.

► A Jewish family moved into an apartment near the Red Front hideout a few months ago. They stuck out like a sore thumb, and sooner or later someone would have called the police and they would have wound up arrested and deported. But the Nazi wouldn't have been satisfied with them, they would have combed through the whole neighbourhood, found you out, and dismantled the whole organisation. So you made a proposal: Blow the whistle yourselves and clear the area until the storm quieted down, then come back and resume the operation. The Alliance can make a difference, a family of Jews cannot. The fight comes first. The others listened to you and everything went as planned. The family was deported. Now the hideout is safe again. But you cannot help but regret what you did. You acted like everyone else. You were part of the problem.

## You may be part of the solution

*Choose one of these options, either right now or during the game, with the context to guide you.*

► Not everyone can make a difference. But you can. You are determined and unafraid to die, if only you can manage to take a piece of the Regime down with you. You are alone and this gives you strength, as it liberates you from the fear one feels when they still have a family or friends to protect. There is nothing else left to do: Violence must be fought with violence. They will not stop until someone finds the strength to cut down the beast's head. This is why you are planning to assassinate the Führer. All you need is a weapon, any weapon, and the right opportunity. If something happened to you, nobody would take your place. No, nobody else could. But how will you manage to do this alone? You must find a way to carry out your mission, trustworthy people to help you. It is your chance to redeem yourself, to be part of the solution.

► After years of political engagement, you are coming to terms with the fact that there is no hope in armed combat. Only people count. Only Herman / Hinga counts. You met them in the factory and you fell in rough, blunt love. When you went into hiding, you had to say goodbye, both for your own good and for theirs. Now the love of your life has been convicted. They are still alive, but for how long? You could turn yourself in in exchange for their freedom, but this would only work if you come to them willingly, not if they find you during a random search. It is your chance to redeem yourself, to be part of the solution.

*Loosely based on the life of Georg Elser*

