

Note on the Texts

This volume contains Philip Roth's novels *Operation Shylock* (1993) and *Sabbath's Theater* (1995).

Operation Shylock was published in New York by Simon & Schuster and in England by Jonathan Cape in 1993. A limited edition of the novel was brought out that year as well by the Franklin Library, which contained a short introduction by Roth also published as "A Bit of Jewish Mischief," *New York Times Book Review*, March 7, 1993; in the present volume, this introduction is included in the Notes. Because corrections were made to the text of the paperback edition when published in Random House's Vintage Books series in 1994, the text printed here of *Operation Shylock* is taken from the Vintage paperback edition.

Sabbath's Theater was published in Boston by Houghton Mifflin and in England by Jonathan Cape in 1995. A two-part pre-publication excerpt had appeared in *The New Yorker* as "The Ultimatum" (June 26 and July 3, 1995) and "Drenka's Men" (July 10, 1995). Corrections were made for the 1996 Vintage paperback edition, which contains the text of *Sabbath's Theater* printed here.

This volume presents the texts of the original printings chosen for inclusion here, but it does not attempt to reproduce nontextual features of their typographic design. The texts are presented without change, except for the correction of typographical errors. Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization are often expressive features and are not altered, even when inconsistent or irregular. The following is a list of typographical errors corrected, cited by page and line number: 518.7, de Carlo (and *passim*); 532.17, *tchotchkees*; 545.14, side-kicker. . . . and; 774.1, mother.

Notes

In the notes below, the reference numbers denote page and line of this volume (the line count includes chapter headings). Biblical quotations are keyed to the King James Version. Quotations from Shakespeare are keyed to *The Riverside Shakespeare*, ed. G. Blakemore Evans (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1974).

OPERATION SHYLOCK

I.I OPERATION SHYLOCK] A limited edition of the novel published by the Franklin Library contained the following prefatory note by Roth:

In January 1989 I was caught up in a Middle East crisis all my own, a personal upheaval that had the unmistakable signposts of the impossible, as opposed to those of the predictable, plausible reality to which I am as hopelessly addicted as any other human being. A man of my age, bearing an uncanny resemblance to me, turned up in Jerusalem shortly before I did and set about proselytizing for "Diasporism," a political program he'd devised advocating that the Jews of Israel return to their European countries of origin in order to avert "a second Holocaust," this one at the hands of the Arabs. Inasmuch as his imposturing constituted a crisis I was living rather than writing, it embodied a form of self-denunciation that I could not sanction, a satirizing of me so bizarre and unrealistic as to exceed by far the boundaries of amusing mischief I may myself have playfully perpetrated on my own existence in fiction.

Now, in life as in art, mischief can be a relief from all the prescriptions. The more scrupulously exacting the prescriptions, the greater the relief afforded by the mischief. Perhaps because of the abundance of prescriptions both internally and externally generated by Jewish history, perhaps because of the singular sort of care that living as a Jew has generally required, perhaps because of the exaggerated seriousness with which a thoughtful Jew is often burdened, Jewish mischief—as couched, say, in the inexhaustible jokes about their peculiarities that Jews themselves so much enjoy—flourishes, surprisingly enough, in even the most superdignified Jewish circles. The mischief subverts all the strategies that the Jewish predicament imposes, affords immeasurable if transitory relief not only because it is counterprohibitive but because it is counterparanoid as well, indifferent to threat, to enemies, to all the defenses.

As a writer, of course, I have myself been not merely labeled mischief maker but condemned by any number of affronted readers—among them some of the most superdignified Jews alive—as very much a dangerous operative in behalf of the “radical, primitive impulse” that Edgar Allan Poe accurately christened “the Imp of the Perverse.” With my mischief, whose malice is alleged to outstrip its playfulness far too energetically, I have enraged a community whose members wish understandably to divest themselves of a slanderous reputation for the very wickedness that I have appeared to exhibit to a suspicious world all too eager to find Jews odious.

In their eyes I commit not amusing mischief but serious mischief, not responsible mischief but irresponsible mischief; with a crazy intensity that is unremitting, I enact a farce about issues that are anything but farcical, and trivially misrepresent things that all Jews are haunted by, including themselves as Jews. They have reminded me more than once that my impertinence imposes on even our gravest concerns a demeaning and most ridiculous shape. Because of this my mischief-making is something other than a relief. It is a menace and a scandal.

Well, having only barely outmatched the double who turned up in Jerusalem in 1989 to demythologize Israel and pathologize me—that criminal impersonator who usurped my biography as well as my name while all but calling himself the Messiah—I now understand a little more subjectively something of the disorienting extremes of distress with which my books are said to bedevil these readers. In him I confronted an impertinence as galling, enraging and, yes, personally menacing as my own impertinence could ever have seemed to them. With a crazy intensity that was unremitting and that did indeed, in my estimation, give our gravest concerns a demeaning and most ridiculous shape and trivially misrepresent all the things that Jews are haunted by, he drove me no less crazy than I had driven them, and maybe more so.

Though to this day I have never found out what was hidden in this stranger’s trickery or what his secret was, my impossible adventure with an impostor who aspired to become as much a “co-personality” as he was a physical facsimile has, at this late date, forged an astonishing affinity between myself and the audience that has long considered me exactly what I considered him: deformed, deranged, craven, possessed, an alien wreck in a state of foaming madness—someone, in short, who isn’t really human at all. Those whom I’ve offended should be happy to hear that I now have more than a faint idea of why they have wanted to kill me and of what, rightly and wrongly, they have been through.

Essay in Experimental Psychology (1843), translated from the Danish by Walter Lowrie (1941).

7.12 the Mossad] HaMossad LeModi'in U'Letafkidim Meyuhadim (Institute for Intelligence and Special Duties), founded in 1951, conducts espionage, covert action, and counterterrorist operations outside of Israel and the occupied territories.

7.13 Demjanjuk case] Ukrainian-born John Demjanjuk (b. 1920) immigrated to the United States after World War II and became an American citizen. After he was accused of having been "Ivan the Terrible," an especially brutal guard at the Treblinka extermination camp, Demjanjuk was stripped of his American citizenship by a federal district court in Ohio and was extradited in February 1986 to Israel. An Israeli court convicted Demjanjuk of war crimes and sentenced him to death in 1988, but his conviction was overturned in 1993 when evidence from the former Soviet Union cast doubt on his identification as "Ivan the Terrible." He returned to the United States and had his citizenship restored, but in 2002 it was again revoked after a federal district court ruled that Demjanjuk had become a citizen under false pretenses by concealing his wartime service as a guard at the Sobibor and Majdanek extermination camps. In May 2009 Demjanjuk was deported to Germany to face war crimes charges; his trial began in Munich on November 30, 2009.

14.7-8 King David Hotel] Five-star hotel in Jerusalem opened 1931. See also note 119.19-20.

17.1 Bernie Avishai] Bernard Avishai (b. 1949), Canadian-born academic, editor, and writer, author of *The Tragedy of Zionism* (1985).

20.38-39 much-praised . . . Kafka] Most famously in Kafka's novella *The Metamorphosis* (1915), in which Gregor Samsa wakes up one morning to discover that he has been transformed into a monstrous bug.

21.35 Lech Walesa . . . Gdansk] Polish labor leader and statesman (b. 1943), head of the Solidarity union suppressed by Poland's Communist regime in December 1981, winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace (1983), and president of Poland (1990-95). Solidarity was founded in the Baltic port of Gdansk in September 1980.

22.30-31 Spain . . . Jews] Spain's Catholic monarchs, Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile, issued an edict of expulsion against Spain's Jews in 1492.

23.23-25 authentic Jewish homeland . . . Hasidic Judaism] Rabbinic Judaism, which incorporated and codified the Oral Law of rabbinic scriptural interpretation, emerged after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 C.E. and the resulting dispersion of the Jews; Hasidism, an eighteenth-century movement emphasizing mysticism and spiritual enthusiasm, was founded in the Polish-

Lithuanian Commonwealth by Israel ben Eliezer (c. 1700–1760), known as the Baal Shem Tov (Master of the Good Name).

23.38–39 Shalom . . . Heine] Shalom Aleichem, pen name (meaning “peace be unto you,” a Hebrew greeting) of Yiddish writer Sholem Rabinovitch (1859–1916), best known for stories featuring his character Tevye the milkman; German Jewish poet Heinrich Heine (1797–1856).

24.15 *mishigas*] Yiddish: craziness.

28.37 East Jerusalem] The area of the city controlled by Jordan after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War.

28.38 Old City] Ancient walled area within East Jerusalem that contains the Western Wall and Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa mosque.

30.21–22 that French . . . Kaye] French actor Charles Boyer (1899–1978) spoke English in his roles with a cultured, seductive accent; Jewish comedian Danny Kaye (1913–1987) had a routine where he spoke nonsense with a mock-French accent.

30.25 Philippe Sollers] Pen name of Philippe Joyaux (b. 1936), French novelist, critic, and editor, co-founder of *Tel Quel*, influential French literary and political journal (1960–82).

31.4 robbery . . . Jean Genet] The early career as petty criminal and prostitute of French novelist, playwright, and activist Jean Genet (1910–1986) was the basis for books such as his autobiographical novels *The Miracle of the Rose* (1946) and *The Thief's Journal* (1949).

31.10 Pierre Roget] English lexicographer Peter Mark Roget (1779–1869) published his English thesaurus in 1852.

35.39 Ramallah] West Bank city six miles north of West Jerusalem.

36.2–3 Dizengoff Street] Central boulevard in Tel Aviv, named for the city's first mayor.

37.9 Brandenburg Gate] The only one remaining of a series of gates built in Prussian Berlin.

37.15–19 President Ceaușescu . . . selling Jews] In 1969 Israel secretly negotiated an agreement with Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu (1918–1989) permitting the immigration of Romanian Jews to Israel in exchange for cash payments of \$2,500 (later increased to \$3,300) per immigrant. The payments continued until 1989; by then more than 40,000 Jews had immigrated in return for the payment delivery of an estimated \$112 million into clandestine accounts controlled by Ceaușescu and the Romanian secret police.

37.25–26 Herzl's negotiations . . . Constantinople] The Hungarian-born founder of Zionism, Theodor Herzl (1860–1904), met with Ottoman sultan Abdul Hamid II (1842–1918) in 1901 in an unsuccessful attempt to secure territory for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, then under Ottoman rule.

38.15 *Der Spiegel*] “The Mirror” in German, a weekly news magazine based in Hamburg.

38.35–36 *Le Monde* to *Paris-Match*] Eminent left-of-center Parisian daily newspaper and glossy weekly magazine featuring celebrity profiles and gossip as well as lifestyle and news items.

40.28 KGB] Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti (Committee for State Security), the Soviet intelligence and internal security organization, 1954–91.

40.36 DP camp] Before emigrating from Germany to the U.S., Demjanjuk lived in several Displaced Persons camps that were built to house war refugees.

41.28–29 Mishkenot Sha'ananim] Built in 1869 as an almshouse by British philanthropist Sir Moses Montefiore, since 1973 Mishkenot Sha'ananim has served as a guesthouse for internationally recognized artists visiting Israel.

43.4–7 Lebanon war . . . criminal murderers] Israel invaded Lebanon on June 6, 1982, beginning a campaign aimed at destroying the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which had been using southern Lebanon as a base for attacking Israel since 1969. After defeating PLO and Syrian forces in the south, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reached the suburbs of Beirut on June 13 and began a prolonged siege of West Beirut that ended with the evacuation of thousands of PLO fighters in late August. During the invasion and siege Israel came under intense international criticism for thousands of civilian casualties caused by IDF air raids and artillery bombardments. On September 14 Bashir Gemayel, the president-elect of Lebanon and leader of the Christian Phalange movement that had been allied with Israel since 1976, was assassinated by a Syrian agent; two days later Phalangist militiamen murdered several hundred Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps in Beirut. (In 1983 an Israeli investigating commission found that Israel bore “indirect responsibility” for having failed to prevent the massacre.) Although Israel succeeded in expelling the PLO from southern Lebanon, it was unable to force the Syrian army to leave the country or to sign a peace treaty with the Lebanese government. By June 1985 the IDF had withdrawn to a six-mile-deep security zone along the Israel–Lebanon border first established in 1978 (the security zone was evacuated in 2000).

44.13–18 Transnistria . . . Bukovina] After German and Romanian

forces overran western Ukraine in 1941, the Nazis gave administrative control over Transnistria, an area between the Dniester and Bug rivers, to Romanian military authorities (October 1941–March 1944); it was the site of two concentration camps and several ghettos for Jews from Transnistria, Bukovina, and Bessarabia. Bukovina is a region on the northern side of the Carpathian mountains now in Romanian and Ukrainian territory. Bessarabia is a region between the Dneister and Prut rivers, once part of the principality of Moldavia. After a brief period of independence in 1918 as the Moldavian Democratic Republic, it united with the kingdom of Romania. It is now divided between Moldova and Ukraine.

46.16 Bruno Schulz] Bruno Schulz (1892–1942) was one of the Eastern European writers included in the Penguin paperback series, *Writers from the Other Europe*. Roth conceived of the project and served as general editor from 1974–1989. It was influential in bringing certain Eastern European writers to prominence in the West.

46.21–22 Max Brod . . . circle] Kafka's close friend and literary executor Max Brod (1884–1968) wrote the biography *Franz Kafka: A Life* (1937), from which the quote is taken.

48.16 St. Stephen's gate] Also called Lion's Gate, one of eight gates in the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. It is supposedly built on the site where Christian martyr Stephen was stoned to death (see Acts 6:13–14) in 35 C.E.

49.13 Magrittishly] In the manner of Belgian surrealist artist René Magritte (1898–1967).

49.23–24 Knesset and the museum] The buildings of the Israeli parliament (Knesset) and the Israel Museum are located in the Givat Ram neighborhood in the western part of the city.

59.18 Ticho House] Nineteenth-century mansion, one of the first houses built outside the Old City walls, and now a branch of the Israel Museum that includes a vegetarian restaurant. It was the residence of painter Anna Ticho (1894–1980) and her husband, the Moravian-born ophthalmologist Abraham Ticho (1883–1960), who ran a clinic at the house from 1924 until his death.

61.8–9 Love . . . Dial] The story "The Love Vessel" was published in the first issue of *The Dial* (Fall 1959), a journal that took its name from the long-running literary magazine that had ceased publication thirty years earlier.

62.14–15 Marcel Marceau] French mime (1923–2007).

62.23 nebbishly] In Yiddish, a *nebbish* is a poor unfortunate, weak-willed and timid.

- 62.31 shlimazl] A Yiddish word that combines *schlimm* (German for “bad”) and *mazel* (Hebrew for “luck”).
- 63.13 Swados] Novelist, essayist, and editor Harvey Swados (1920–1972), author of *A Radical’s America* (1962), *The Will* (1963), and *Standing Fast* (1970).
- 63.15 Podhoretz] Critic Norman Podhoretz (b. 1930), editor of *Commentary* magazine from 1960 to 1995.
- 63.16–17 Gilman . . . Good] Critic Richard Gilman (1925–2006), reviewing Roth’s *When She Was Good* in *The New Republic* (June 24, 1967), called the novel “a flawed but energetic melodrama on the highest level of ladies’ magazine fiction.”
- 63.19 Professor Epstein] Critic Joseph Epstein (b. 1937), whose essay “What Does Philip Roth Want?” was published in *Commentary* in 1984.
- 63.20 Ms.] Feminist magazine founded in 1971.
- 63.21 Wolcott] Critic James Wolcott (b. 1952).
- 63.33–34 Capote . . . mafia] In interviews given during his later career, writer Truman Capote (1924–1984) would often invoke a “Jewish mafia,” which he claimed “control much of the literary scene” and ensure that “members of their particular clique rise to the top.” He was a frequent guest on NBC’s *The Tonight Show*, hosted by Johnny Carson.
- 69.7 Jung on ‘synchronicity.’] In *Synchronicity: An Acausal Connecting Principle* (1952) by Swiss psychologist Carl Jung (1875–1961).
- 69.12 *The Secret of the Golden Flower*] Taoist treatise translated from the Chinese by Jung’s friend Richard Wilhelm (1873–1930) with Jung’s encouragement and help. Jung also wrote a foreword and commentary to Wilhelm’s translation.
- 70.23 schmatas] Yiddish: rags.
- 70.32 Jonathan Pollard] Jonathan Jay Pollard (b. 1954), a civilian analyst working at a U.S. naval intelligence center in Suitland, Maryland, met in the late spring of 1984 with an Israeli air force officer studying in the United States and offered to supply Israel with highly classified information. Pollard became an agent of Lakam (Bureau of Scientific Liaison), an intelligence unit within the Israeli ministry of defense, and eventually gave his handlers more than one million pages of documents, including detailed information about Soviet weapons, Arab military capabilities, and U.S. intelligence collection methods. Despite assurances that he would be “taken care of” if discovered, Pollard’s Israeli contacts quickly left the country after he fell under suspicion; when Pollard and his wife sought asylum in the Israeli embassy in Washing-

ton, D.C. on November 21, 1985, they were refused entry, and he was arrested by the FBI. After pleading guilty to espionage charges, Pollard said that he was motivated by concern for the security of Israel, while admitting that he had accepted cash payments of \$1,500 a month (later increased to \$2,500), as well as thousands of dollars in travel expenses and jewelry. Pollard was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1987. The Israeli government initially described his spying as the result of an unauthorized operation, but subsequently granted him citizenship and has sought his release without success.

72.6 Ashkenazis] Yiddish-speaking Jews from Central and Eastern Europe (“Ashkenaz” means “Germany” in Hebrew), one of the major branches of Jewry.

72.13 pure commedia dell’arte] Largely improvisatory form developed in sixteenth-century Italy in which traveling troupes made use of stock characters given to exaggerated gestures and played by masked actors.

72.21–22 Oliver Sacks] British-born neurologist and author (b. 1933) whose widely read books based on unusual medical cases include *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* (1985).

74.27–28 Kosinski’s *The Painted Bird*] Novel (1965) by Polish-born Jewish writer Jerzy Kosinski (1933–1991) recounting a boy’s horrific journey through Eastern Europe during World War II.

74.30–31 landscape . . . *Molloy*] In the novel *Molloy* (1951) by Samuel Beckett (1906–1989), the title character and the detective Moran wander through desolate landscapes that offer little comfort; both commit murders.

74.38–39 tale . . . incarceration?] Italian writer and chemist Primo Levi (1919–1987) wrote about his experiences in Auschwitz in *Se questo è un uomo* (*If This Is a Man*, 1947; English translation published in the United States as *Survival in Auschwitz*) and other works.

80.38 Sarah Bernhardt] Celebrated French actress (1844–1923).

81.18 Strindberg] Swedish playwright, poet, and novelist August Strindberg (1849–1912), author of *Miss Julie* (1888), *The Ghost Sonata* (1907), and many other works.

82.21 Near North, Rush Street] The Near North is a Chicago neighborhood south of North Avenue, between the Chicago River and Lake Michigan. Rush Street is the area’s entertainment district.

95.6 the golem . . . Prague] According to legend, Rabbi Judah Loew (Liva) ben Bezalel (c. 1525–1609), a Talmudic scholar and astronomer from Prague, created the golem, a clay automaton, to protect the Jews.

100.37 Ohel-Moshe] Working-class neighborhood in Jerusalem.

- 101.8 the Rothschilds] Family of German Jews with family ties to other nations who have been prominent in investment banking and philanthropy in Europe since the late eighteenth century.
- 102.39–40 Dr. Jekyll . . . Second] The doubled selves of Robert Louis Stevenson's novella *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886) and Fyodor Dostoevsky's novella *The Double* (1846).
- 103.32 omphalos at Delphi] Delphi, an ancient Greek site sacred to Apollo, was the seat of the most famous oracle of antiquity; the *omphalos* (literally, "navel") there was a stone said to mark the center of the earth.
- 104.5 Paul Bunyan] Legendary giant lumberjack of North American folklore.
- 108.15 Nablus] West Bank city thirty miles north of Jerusalem.
- 109.24 Zabar's] Popular specialty-foods supermarket on Manhattan's Upper West Side.
- 110.21 Preston Roberts] Professor of literature and religion at the University of Chicago Divinity School (1948–68).
- 110.22 Herb Haber and Barry Targan and Art Geffen] Roth's friends from graduate school.
- 111.15 Shin Bet] Sherut HaBitachon HaKlali (General Security Service), often called Shin Bet (after its first two Hebrew initials) or Shabak (its Hebrew acronym). Founded in 1948, Shin Bet is responsible for internal security, counterespionage, and counterterrorism in Israel and the occupied territories, and the protection of Israeli delegations in foreign countries. Like the Mossad, it is a civilian agency that reports directly to the prime minister.
- 111.25 Kahanes and Sharons] American rabbi Meir Kahane (1932–1990) founded the militant Jewish Defense League in 1968 and immigrated in 1971 to Israel, where he founded the extreme right-wing Kach political party. Kahane was elected to the Knesset in 1984, but in 1988 his party was banned from participating in new elections because of its incitement of racism. He was assassinated in a Manhattan hotel in 1990 by an Egyptian immigrant. Ariel Sharon (b. 1928), a retired general, was minister of defense during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. He was removed from office after an Israeli investigating commission found him "remiss in his duties" for not preventing the massacre in Beirut refugee camps of hundreds of Palestinians by Phalangist militia in September 1982. Sharon later served as prime minister (2001–6) of Israel. See note 43.4–7.
- 111.26 Yehoshuas and Ozes] Left-leaning Israeli writers: A. B. Yehoshua (b. 1936), author of nine novels, plays, and nonfiction including *Between Right and Right* (1980); novelist and essayist Amos Oz (b. 1939), whose

books include the novel *A Perfect Peace* (1982) and the essay collection *The Slopes of Lebanon* (1987).

112.27 Saul Alinsky] Chicago-based labor activist and writer (1909–1972), author of *Reveille for Radicals* (1946) and *Rules for Radicals* (1971).

112.27 David Riesman] Influential sociologist (1909–2002), best known as one of the authors (with Nathan Glazer and Reuel Denney) of *The Lonely Crowd* (1950).

112.27–28 Meyer Schapiro] Art historian and critic (1904–1996), long-time professor at Columbia University, and a co-founder in 1954 of the magazine *Dissent*.

112.28 Leonard Bernstein] Conductor and composer (1918–1990), music director of the New York Philharmonic (1958–69), and composer of many works for orchestra and musical theater, including *On the Town* (1944), *Candide* (1956), and *West Side Story* (1957).

112.28 Bella Abzug] Outspoken feminist activist (1920–1998) and Democratic U.S. congresswoman from New York (1971–77).

112.28–29 Paul Goodman] Social critic, novelist, poet, and prolific writer (1911–1972) whose best-known book is *Growing Up Absurd* (1960).

112.29 Allen Ginsberg] Poet (1926–1997), one of the foremost members of the Beat Generation, author of *Howl* (1956), *Kaddish* (1961), and many other books.

113.13–14 The Golden Calf] In the book of Exodus, an idol made by Aaron and worshipped by the Israelites when Moses was at Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments.

113.15 Samaria and Judea] Biblical Hebrew names for territory now comprising the West Bank.

113.37 Molotov cocktails] Homemade firebombs named after Vyacheslav Molotov (1890–1986), Soviet premier (1930–41) and foreign minister (1939–49, 1953–56).

119.6–7 Brenda Patimkin] In Roth's novella *Goodbye, Columbus* (1959), the girlfriend of protagonist Neil Klugman.

119.7 Anne Frank] Anne Frank (1929–1945) died of typhus at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Her twenty-six-month diary, nearly all of which was written while she and her family were in hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam, was first published posthumously in the Netherlands in 1947 as *Het Achterhuis* (*The Back House*) in a small printing. It was translated into some fifty languages, with sales in the millions for the American edition (1952)

alone. Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett adapted it into a successful and Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway play (1955); it was later made into a film (1959).

119.7–8 Big Ten basketball] Collegiate basketball conference that has consistently been competitive in the NCAA championship tournament.

119.19–20 terrorist Begin] Menachem Begin (1913–1992), prime minister of Israel (1977–83), led the Zionist underground organization Irgun Zvai Leumi from 1943 to its disbanding in 1948. The Irgun's attacks against the British in Palestine included the 1946 bombing of the British military headquarters at the King David Hotel that killed ninety-one people.

119.28–29 blowing off the limbs of Arab mayors] Bassam Shak'a (b. 1930), the mayor of Nablus, and Karim Khalaf (1935–1985), the mayor of Ramallah, were maimed on June 2, 1980, by car bombs planted by extremist Jewish settlers.

119.40 *Shoah*] The Nazi mass murder of European Jews (the word means "catastrophe" in Hebrew). The reference at 120.5 refers to the documentary film (1985), running nine and a half hours, by the French Jewish filmmaker Claude Lanzmann (b. 1925).

120.6–7 *Holocaust*. . . Streepl] The four-part television miniseries *Holocaust* was broadcast on NBC on April 16–19, 1978, and subsequently in other countries. American actress Meryl Streep (b. 1949) plays Inga Helms-Weiss, a Christian woman who marries into the fictitious German Jewish Weiss family.

121.2 gangster Shamir] Yitzhak Shamir (b.1915), twice prime minister of Israel (1983–84, 1986–92), was a leader of Lehi, an underground organization that split away from the Irgun in 1940; it was known as the Stern Gang after its founder, Avraham Stern (1907–1942).

122.11 Law of the Return] Israeli law (1950) that declares the right of Jews to immigrate to Israel and claim citizenship.

122.13 Ingathering of the Exiles] *Kibbutz galuyot*, Hebrew phrase referring to the arrival of Diaspora Jews in Israel.

122.29–30 smear campaign . . . Spinoza] Philosopher Baruch Spinoza (1632–1677) was excommunicated from his congregation in Amsterdam in 1656 because of his purported "evil opinions and acts."

122.32 B'nai B'rith] Jewish service organization founded in 1843.

123.7–8 the underground man] Anonymous protagonist and narrator of Dostoevsky's *Notes from Underground* (1864).

125.4 the Mandate] Period of British rule over Palestine (1922–48) as es-

established by a League of Nations mandate after the breakup of the Ottoman Empire.

125.22 Sephardic boys] Jews who originated from North Africa and Spain. In contrast to Ashkenazim or “German Jews.”

127.10 a Druze] A member of a religious sect that developed from Islam in the eleventh century and evolved to incorporate elements of Judaism, Christianity, and Gnosticism. Druze volunteers fought in the Israel Defense Forces during the 1948–49 war, and Druze men in Israel have been subject to compulsory military service since 1956.

130.28 schmucks] Yiddish: dopes, fools. Obscene: pricks.

130.35 Stockholm] City where the Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded.

131.13–14 Jewish Jesse . . . Chomskys] Civil-rights leader Jesse Jackson (b. 1941) and linguist and leftist polemicist Noam Chomsky (b. 1928) have been outspoken critics of Israeli policies.

132.1 Shi'ite Islam] Second largest branch of Islam, whose members believe that Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammed, was his rightful successor.

136.40 Coolidge Hall] Since demolished, the former site of Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, among other programs.

137.2–4 WGBH . . . Netanyahu] From 1977 to 1991, journalist and media personality Christopher Lydon (b. 1940) hosted *The Ten O'Clock News* on WGBH, Boston's public television station. Benjamin Netanyahu (b. 1949) was the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations from 1984 to 1988 and became a frequent guest on American news programs; he has since served twice as the prime minister of Israel (1996–99, 2009–).

137.14–15 Newton] Prosperous Boston suburb with a large Jewish population.

138.34 agitprop] Soviet term for “agitation and propaganda.”

141.18 Woody Allen . . . *Times*] “Am I Reading the Papers Correctly?” a *New York Times* editorial critical of Israel, published on January 28, 1988.

141.29 in Tunis] The headquarters of the PLO, 1982–91.

143.26 up with the bonnet!] Irving Berlin's “Easter Parade” (1933) begins “I could write a sonnet / About your Easter bonnet.”

143.31 people . . . Jewish] Actor Cary Grant, born Archibald Alec Leach (1904–1986), was believed by some (such as the film critic Pauline Kael) to be of Jewish ancestry on his father's side.

- 143.33–34 Bing Crosby . . . Easter!] Bing Crosby sang both “White Christmas” (whistling part of it) and “Easter Parade” in the movie musical *Holiday Inn* (1942), featuring Berlin’s music.
- 146.14 Abu Nidal] Palestinian terrorist (1937–2002).
- 150.6 mot juste] French: the precise word—the finding of which was Gustave Flaubert’s aim as a writer.
- 150.14–16 Jesse Jackson . . . leader] Jackson was photographed with PLO leader Yasser Arafat (1929–2004) when they met in September 1979; actress Vanessa Redgrave (b. 1937), a supporter of the PLO, interviewed Arafat while working on the documentary *The Palestinians* (1977).
- 150.22 Gramsci] Italian Marxist theorist Antonio Gramsci (1891–1937), Italian Communist Party leader who was imprisoned by the Fascists in 1926. His *Prison Notebooks* were published posthumously after World War II.
- 150.23–24 Mitterrand . . . Pinter] American novelist William Styron (1925–2006), author of *The Confessions of Nat Turner* (1967) and *Sophie’s Choice* (1979), and French president François Mitterrand (1916–1996) were mutual admirers; Mitterrand invited Styron to his first inauguration in 1981. Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez (b. 1927) was an enthusiastic supporter and friend of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro (b. 1926). English playwright Harold Pinter (1930–2008) hosted Daniel Ortega (b. 1945), Sandinista leader and Nicaraguan president, at his home in England and visited Nicaragua as a guest of the Sandinistas.
- 150.25 character . . . fate] Cf. *On the Universe* by Greek philosopher Heraclitus (c. 540–c. 480 B.C.E.), frag. 121: “A man’s character is his fate.”
- 152.20–21 Meir Kahane . . . Shimon Peres] Meir Kahane, see note III.25; Shimon Peres (b. 1923) has held several government positions in Israel, including prime minister (1984–86, 1995–96) and president (2007–).
- 153.3 Israeli settlers] Israeli citizens who have settled in the West Bank and other occupied territories.
- 159.23 Jack Ruby] Nightclub owner Jack Ruby (1911–1967) fatally shot Lee Harvey Oswald on November 24, 1963, two days after Oswald was arrested for the assassination of President Kennedy.
- 162.31–32 your dialogue . . . himself] Roth’s interview with Levi was published in the *New York Times Book Review* on October 12, 1986. Levi committed suicide on April 11, 1987.
- 164.9 Meema] Yiddish: aunt.
- 165.21 Studebakers] Make of American automobiles popular from the 1920s through the 1940s; the company manufactured its last car in 1966.

- 168.10 *shivah*] Week-long period of mourning conducted at the home of the deceased.
- 171.6 NBA] National Book Award.
- 172.9 *tuchas*] Yiddish: backside.
- 174.27 Dreyfus case] In October 1894, the French Jewish artillery officer Alfred Dreyfus (1859–1935) was wrongfully arrested on charges of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment. The intense controversy that followed resulted in the case being reopened, and in September 1899 Dreyfus was pardoned by President Emile Loubet. He was fully exonerated by a military commission on July 12, 1906, and one week later publicly decorated with the Legion d'Honneur.
- 175.19–20 your friend Styron] See note 150.23–24.
- 180.24 Ron . . . Segal] Well-known Jewish-American actors George Segal (b. 1934) and Ron Liebman (b. 1937).
- 182.30 Magnum . . . Minutes] *Magnum, P.I.* (1980–88), popular CBS television series starring Tom Selleck about a private investigator living in Hawaii; weekly CBS news magazine *60 Minutes* (1968–).
- 185.11–12 Eugenio . . . anti-Semite] Eugenio Pacelli (1876–1958), Pope Pius XII, was elected pope in 1939; he never publicly criticized the Nazi regime during World War II.
- 186.1–2 oversized pole . . . *Lysistrata*] In Aristophanes's sexually frank play (fifth century B.C.E.), the women of Athens resolve to withhold sex from their husbands until the Peloponnesian War is ended.
- 186.10 Mortimer Snerd] A dummy used by the ventriloquist Edgar Bergen (1903–1978).
- 188.1 Shave . . . *bits*] Simple call-and-response phrase: the first five notes are the call, "two bits" (twenty-five cents) the response.
- 192.38 Lenny . . . Mason] Two blunt, outspoken comedians: Lenny Bruce (1925–1966), convicted for obscenity in 1964, was posthumously pardoned; Jackie Mason (b. 1936), ordained as a rabbi, has starred in several one-man shows on Broadway.
- 193.13–17 in Mailer . . . Gilmore] Sergius O'Shaugnessy, protagonist of Mailer's novel *The Deer Park* (1955) and short story "The Time of Her Time" (1959); Stephen Rojack, narrator and hero of his novel *An American Dream* (1965); murderer Gary Gilmore (1940–1977), the subject of *The Executioner's Song* (1979). Louis "Lepke" Buchalter (1897–1944) was a Jewish labor racketeer and leader of the gang of hired killers popularly known as

“Murder, Incorporated,” which he founded with fellow racketeer Jacob “Gurrah” Shapiro (1899–1947).

200.32–33 *Hellzapoppin*] Popular Broadway musical comedy revue (1938) and film (1941).

200.38 Chancellor Kohl] Helmut Kohl (b. 1930), chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany (1982–98).

201.6 England’s green and pleasant land] Phrase from the preface to *Milton: A Poem* (1804–10) by William Blake (1757–1827), widely known because of the English hymn “Jerusalem” (1916) by Hubert Parry (1848–1918) a musical setting of the poem.

203.17–18 boy . . . Jodie Foster] John Hinckley, Jr. (b. 1955), who tried to kill President Ronald Reagan in 1981, was obsessed with actress Jodie Foster (b. 1963), who had played a child prostitute in *Taxi Driver* (1976). The film depicts the attempted assassination of a presidential candidate.

203.40–204.2 little couplet . . . I.”] The epitaph for his wife attributed to English poet John Dryden (1631–1700).

205.39 Hare Krishna] Popular name for the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, founded by A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (1896–1977) in 1966. The group is known for their orange robes, shorn heads, and chanting of the “Hare Krishna” mantra in public.

210.3 the Phil Donahue show] Nationally syndicated talk-show (1970–96) hosted by the television personality Phil Donahue (b. 1935), a pioneer of the genre.

212.36 *goyische nachis*] Yiddish: Gentile pleasure (used ironically).

215.28–29 roman-fleuve] French term for a fictional narrative told over multiple volumes, such as Romain Rolland’s *Jean-Christophe*.

216.3 underground with Persephone] Greek goddess who was abducted and taken to the underworld by Hades. Her grieving mother, Demeter, made the earth barren until it was arranged that Persephone be allowed to return for part of every year, starting in spring.

223.33 deus ex machina] Latin: God from a machine; a term in ancient drama indicating the sudden appearance and intervention of a god late in the play to resolve a seemingly intractable plot dilemma.

227.1 the *Guardian*] British left-wing newspaper.

229.29 Pirandellian effect] Italian playwright and novelist Luigi Pirandello (1867–1936) explored the uncertain relation between reality and artifice in works such as *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (1921).

- 231.22–23 Did . . . Die?] Six million is the generally accepted number of Jews killed in the Holocaust.
- 232.6–7 Masson . . . false] Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson (b. 1941), a non-practicing psychoanalyst who taught Sanskrit at Berkeley, argued in *The Assault on Truth: Freud's Suppression of the Seduction Theory* (1984) that Freud had deliberately dismissed the real sexual abuse of his female patients as fantasy in order to win acceptance for psychoanalysis.
- 232.12 Oppenheimer] J. Robert Oppenheimer (1904–1967), physicist who directed the design of the first atomic bombs at Los Alamos, New Mexico, 1943–45.
- 232.15 Elie Wiesel] Romanian-born Jewish writer (b. 1928), author of more than forty books, most notably *Night* (1958), an account of his experiences surviving the Holocaust.
- 232.35–36 Paget's disease] A degenerative bone condition.
- 232.36 Ted Koppel] Journalist (b. 1940) and longtime host of ABC's late-night news program *Nightline*; he was born in England to German Jewish parents who had fled the Nazis in 1938.
- 232.37 Mike Wallace] Television journalist (b. 1918), for decades a fixture of CBS's *60 Minutes* news magazine.
- 233.11–12 Wiesel, Singer, and Bellow] Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1986; Saul Bellow (1915–2005) and Isaac Bashevis Singer (1902–1991) won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1976 and 1978, respectively.
- 233.12 Graham Greene . . . it] English author Graham Greene (1904–1991) was often named as a likely recipient of the Nobel Prize but did not receive the award.
- 233.12 Isaac Stern] Ukrainian-born Jewish classical violinist and internationally popular recording artist (1920–2001).
- 233.15 Wannsee Conference] Meeting of SS leaders with other German officials held in the Berlin district of Wannsee on January 20, 1942, to coordinate plans for the deportation and murder of European Jews.
- 233.15 A. J. P. Taylor] English historian (1906–1990) whose controversial *The Origins of the Second World War* (1961) argued that Hitler did not invade Poland as part of a plan for wider European conquest.
- 233.17 Hilberg] Austrian-born historian and Holocaust scholar Raul Hilberg (1926–2007), author of *The Destruction of the European Jews* (1961) and *Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders: The Jewish Catastrophe, 1933–1945* (1992).
- 233.40 Schoenberg] Austrian-born composer Arnold Schoenberg (1874–1951).

- 233.43 Pissarro] French Impressionist artist (1830–1903).
- 234.1 Richard Wagner on the Jews] See, for example, the anti-Semitic tract *The Jew in Music* (1850; expanded edition, 1869).
- 234.4 Herman Wouk] Popular novelist Herman Wouk (b. 1915), whose novels include *The Caine Mutiny* (1951) and *Marjorie Morningstar* (1955).
- 234.11 Arthur Miller] Playwright (1915–2005), author of *Death of a Salesman* (1949), *The Crucible* (1953), *After the Fall* (1964), and many other plays.
- 234.17 Boesky] Investment banker Ivan Boesky (b. 1937) was convicted of securities fraud in connection with illegal insider trading in 1987 and sentenced to three years in prison and a \$100 million fine.
- 234.24 Norman Lear] Television producer, director, writer, and liberal activist (b. 1922), best known for creating and producing 1970s situation comedies such as *All in the Family*, *Sanford and Son*, *Maude*, and *Good Times*.
- 234.42–235.2 Miller . . . *Hot*] Arthur Miller was married to Marilyn Monroe from 1956 to 1961; Monroe starred in director Billy Wilder’s film *Some Like It Hot* (1959) opposite Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon, and *The Misfits* (1961), starring Clark Gable, for which Miller wrote the screenplay.
- 236.6 a Farrakhan guy] Member of the Nation of Islam, militant black nationalist organization led since 1978 by Louis Farrakhan (b. 1933).
- 237.3 extract money . . . government] West Germany paid reparations to Israel under the terms of an agreement signed in September 1952 between the two governments.
- 241.9 *Gan Eden*] Hebrew: Garden of Eden.
- 242.1 *Jerusalem Post*] Israeli daily English-language newspaper founded in 1942.
- 242.8–12 defense minister . . . Beatings] Yitzhak Rabin (1922–1995), then defense minister, visited Ramallah after Palestinians had been beaten there by Israeli soldiers in accordance with a policy announced by Rabin in January 1988 that “force, might, and beatings” rather than live ammunition would be used against Palestinian protestors.
- 242.13 “Hezbollah” and “Mubarak”] Hezbollah (“Party of God” in Arabic), Lebanese militia, terrorist organization, and Shi’a Islamist political movement; Hosni Mubarak (b. 1928), president of Egypt (1981–).
- 242.36–37 Shevat . . . 1408] The date “January 27, 1988” in Hebrew and Arabic.

- 244.24 making aliyah] Immigrating to Israel (*aliyah* is a Hebrew word meaning “ascent”).
- 244.30 Kinneret Lake] The Sea of Galilee.
- 245.12 *hozer b'tshuva*] Hebrew: returned to the answer; i.e., became a newly observant Jew.
- 246.27 Sandhurst] The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) is the British Army officer-training center.
- 247.22–23 Sammy Davis, Jr. . . . Wall] In the summer of 1969, American singer and actor Sammy Davis, Jr. (1925–1990), a convert to Judaism, visited Israel and prayed at the Western Wall.
- 251.34–35 Shylock . . . Keans to Irving] English actor Edmund Kean (1789–1833) and his son Charles (1811–1868) both played Shylock, as did English actor Henry Irving (1838–1905), who wrote, “I look on Shylock . . . as the *type* of a persecuted race; almost the only gentleman in the play, and the most ill-used.”
- 251.39 Crucifixion pageants at York] The crucifixion was among the subjects dramatized by the Mystery Plays performed at York, England, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.
- 252.25–27 Jew-hating dramas . . . Marlowe] Playwright, poet, and actor Christopher Marlowe (1564–1593) wrote *The Jew of Malta* (1592), a play about a Jew’s unrestrained revenge against the Maltese authorities.
- 252.31 *Judenrein*] German: cleansed of Jews.
- 253.14 diary of Anne Frank] See note 119.7.
- 253.35 André Gide’s] For most of his life, the French writer André Gide (1869–1951) kept a revealing diary, which was published in three volumes between 1939 and 1950. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1949.
- 254.23–24 *Achille Lauro* hijacking] On October 7, 1985, four members of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) hijacked the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro* in the eastern Mediterranean and threatened to kill the ship’s passengers if their demanded release of fifty Palestinian prisoners was not met. The next day the hijackers murdered Leon Klinghoffer (1916–1985), a disabled sixty-nine-year-old American passenger, and threw his body overboard. They then brought the ship to Port Said, where they surrendered on October 9 to Egyptian and PLO officials. Despite American demands for their arrest, President Mubarak granted the hijackers safe passage to Tunis on an Egyptair plane along with Abu Abbas (1948–2004), the leader of the PLF. President Reagan ordered that the airliner be intercepted, and U.S. Navy fighters

forced it to land at a NATO base in Sicily. The hijackers were tried and convicted in Italy, but the Italian government allowed Abu Abbas to leave the country. He was captured in Iraq during the 2003 American invasion, but died of a heart attack before being brought to trial.

255.22–23 made Anne Frank . . . work] In *The Ghost Writer* (1979).

263.7 Xanadu] Byword for an idealized luxurious place, from Coleridge's poem "Kubla Khan" (written 1797, pub. 1816).

266.22–23 uprising . . . 1943] On August 2, 1943, Jewish prisoners, forced to work for the SS in *Sonderkommandos* (special units), staged a revolt at the Treblinka death camp using kerosene and small arms stolen from the camp's arsenal. Of the hundreds who were able to escape about sixty survived the war.

268.26 *Vachmanns*] In German, *Wachmann*: guard.

269.13 critical prefaces of Henry James] James wrote prefaces to accompany the New York Edition (1907–9) of his novels.

273.10 *landsmen*] Yiddish: fellow Jews coming from the same town or region in Europe.

273.11–12 famous prison letters . . . Vanzetti] Nicola Sacco (1891–1927) and Bartolomeo Vanzetti (1888–1927) were anarchist Italian immigrants convicted of murder and armed robbery in 1920. They were executed in 1927 despite international protests that their guilt had not been proven.

279.9 Chmielnicki] Cossack leader Bohdan Chmielnitzski (c. 1595–1657), at whose instigation at least one hundred thousand Jews were massacred in 1648 and 1649.

279.10–11 national hero . . . Garibaldi] Jan Hus, Czech religious reformer (1369?–1415) condemned to death as a heretic and burnt at the stake; Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807–1882), Italian nationalist and soldier who was one of the primary figures in the struggle for Italian unification.

279.17 Volodymyr] Ukrainian form of the name of Vladimir the Great (c. 956–1015), grand prince of Kiev and the first Christian ruler of Kievan Rus.

279.23 Bandera . . . Petlura] Stepan Bandera (1909–1959) joined the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists in 1929 and became the leader of its militant faction (OUN-B) in 1940. He collaborated with the German army before the invasion of the Soviet Union, but was imprisoned in Germany from July 1941 to September 1944 because of his support for an independent Ukraine; during this period, many of his followers in Ukraine collaborated with the Germans in the mass killing of Jews. Bandera was assassinated by the KGB in Munich in 1959. Symon Petliura (1879–1926) commanded the Ukrain-

ian national army during the civil war in Ukraine (1919–20), during which his troops killed thousands of Jews. Petliura was assassinated in Paris in 1926 by Shalom Schwartzbard (1886–1938), a Jewish anarchist seeking to avenge the deaths of family members during the 1919 pogroms. Schwartzbard was acquitted of murder by a French court after a trial during which the prosecution accused him of being a Soviet agent.

280.6 Canarsie] Brooklyn neighborhood near Coney Island and the Atlantic Ocean.

280.27–28 Hitler . . . Bessarabia] See note 44.13–18.

281.38–40 Pipik . . . forever] Cf. the closing of Psalm 23: “Surely goodness will follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

284.26–27 Talmud Torah] Hebrew School, instructing Jewish boys in preparation for Bar Mitzvah at age thirteen.

287.3 shtetl-born] Immigrants from the small rural Jewish towns of Eastern Europe.

288.6–9 Popkin . . . Oswald] Richard H. Popkin (1923–2005), a philosophy professor at the University of California, San Diego, put forth this argument in his book *The Second Oswald* (1966).

295.21 Edith Wharton’s] American novelist and short-story writer (1862–1937), best known for the novels *The House of Mirth* (1905) and *The Age of Innocence* (1920).

295.27 *Nostromo*] Novel (1904) by Joseph Conrad (1857–1924).

295.35 *The Bellarosa Connection*] Novel (1989) by Saul Bellow.

296.16 Nineveh’s] Ancient Assyrian city near the Tigris river.

296.22 Rorschachish] Swiss psychiatrist Hermann Rorschach (1884–1922) developed the Rorschach test, which analyzes a person’s perception of inkblots.

298.8 Chaim Weizmann Institute] The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, established in 1933 and renamed in 1949 after its founder, Chaim Weizmann, chemist and statesman (1874–1952), who served as the first president (1949–52) of Israel.

298.18 Kibbutz] Hebrew: A collective community in Israel. In the first decade of the twentieth century, Eastern European Jews began settling in Palestine en masse. Kibbutzim were originally small agricultural communities that were socialist in organization and Zionist in political outlook.

- 298.25 shrine of the Holocaust] Yad Vashem, complex of museums, libraries, and memorial sites dedicated to the Holocaust.
- 298.27 Billy Rose's art exhibit] The Billy Rose Art Garden, designed by Japanese American artist Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), is part of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. It is named for its founder, the theater producer and lyricist Billy Rose (1899–1966).
- 304.39 Second Temple] The rebuilt temple in Jerusalem that succeeded Solomon's temple, destroyed in 586 B.C.E. when the Jews were sent into Babylonian exile. The Second Temple, dedicated in 515 B.C.E., was razed in 70 C.E. when the Romans sacked Jerusalem.
- 305.17 Vilna Gaon] Elijah ben Solomon (1720–1797), Lithuanian rabbi, revered scholar, and leader of non-Hasidic European Jewry. "Gaon" was the Hebrew term given to Talmudic scholars who headed Yeshivas.
- 305.18 the Midrash] Body of rabbinical commentary and scriptural exegesis.
- 305.34 Chofetz Chaim] "Desirer of Life" in Hebrew, the popular name for the Polish rabbi Israel Meir HaCohen Kagan (1838–1933); also the title of his most famous treatise (1873), concerning proper speech and the avoidance of slander.
- 309.26 Eretz Yisroel] Hebrew: land of Israel.
- 310.5 *pisherkehs*] Yiddish: little squirts.
- 310.5 *Ha'aretz*] Israeli daily newspaper, founded in 1918.
- 310.17 bill of attainder] Legislative act that exacts punishment without a trial.
- 312.2 hysterical aphonia] Loss of voice due to emotional stress.
- 313.24–25 the government . . . visa] Born Maier Suchowljansky (1902–1983) in Russia, Meyer Lansky immigrated to the United States as a child, became a gangster in New York City, and helped form a national crime syndicate in the 1930s. Fearing that he was about to be indicted for tax evasion, he fled to Israel in 1970, but after American authorities requested extradition, he was declared a "threat to the state" and expelled in 1972.
- 314.12–13 Mr. Vanunu . . . nuclear secrets] Modechai Vanunu (b. 1954) worked as a technician at the Israeli nuclear research center at Dimona from 1976 to 1985. After leaving Dimona, Vanunu traveled to Australia and England, where he gave the *Sunday Times* detailed information about the Israeli nuclear weapons program, along with photographs he had secretly taken in-

side the Dimona complex. Although the Mossad succeeded in using a female agent to lure Vanunu to Rome, where he was abducted and returned to Israel to stand trial, they were unable to prevent his revelations from being published by the *Sunday Times* in October 1986. Vanunu was sentenced to eighteen years in prison in 1988 and was released in 2004.

317.25 Oliver North] A lieutenant colonel in the Marines, North (b. 1943) served on the National Security Council staff from 1981 to 1986 and was a central figure in the Iran-Contra affair, involving the secret sale of weapons to Iran in an attempt to obtain the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon, and the use of funds from the arms sales to illegally funnel supplies and funds to the Contra rebels seeking to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

320.16 Ambassador Pickering] American diplomat Thomas R. Pickering (b. 1931) served as ambassador to Israel (1985–88).

323.11–12 Gush Emunim] “Bloc of the Faithful,” religious Zionist movement founded in 1974 that established Jewish settlements on the West Bank and opposed the return of any of the territory occupied by Israel in 1967.

325.1 UJA] United Jewish Appeal.

328.5 Slough of Despond] Bog in which Christian, the protagonist of John Bunyan’s *The Pilgrim’s Progress* (1678), sinks under the weight of his sins.

340.34 Charles Manson] Leader of a cultlike “family,” Manson (b. 1934) ordered his followers to go on a killing spree in Los Angeles in the summer of 1969.

343.14 Céline-like way] Louis-Ferdinand Céline (1894–1961), French writer whose first novel and best-known work, *Journey to the End of the Night* (1932), is the violent and sexually candid story of its nihilistic hero, Bardamu.

347.30–31 Miami Beach’s Fontainebleau] Designed by architect Morris Lapidus, the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach opened in 1954, and set a standard for glitzy elegance and ebullient conspicuous consumption.

348.3 kasha . . . fish] Traditional Jewish side dish mixing toasted buckwheat groats with egg noodles; fish patties of ground deboned whitefish.

348.38–39 “Our revels . . . air”] See Prospero’s speech in Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, IV.i.148–50.

349.17 Negev] Desert region of southern Israel.

349.22 Beersheba] Largest city in the Negev, populated by large number of Jews who emigrated from Arab countries after 1948.

- 352.7 put a contract . . . Rushdie] Iran's Supreme Leader, the Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini (1900–1989), declared in a 1989 fatwa that British author Salman Rushdie (b. 1947) should be put to death because of alleged blasphemy in his novel *The Satanic Verses* (1988).
- 354.25 Mr. Yagur and Mr. Eitan] Yosef Yagur, the scientific attaché at the Israeli consulate in New York, became Jonathan Pollard's handler in the fall of 1984. Rafi Eitan (b. 1926), the director of Lakam, was the senior Israeli official in charge of the Pollard operation and met with Pollard in Paris and in Israel. (A former officer of the Mossad and Shin Bet, Eitan led the team that captured Adolf Eichmann in 1960.)
- 355.II the book about baseball] *The Great American Novel* (1973).
- 355.I3 a bit like reading *Finnegans Wake*] James Joyce's notoriously difficult novel (1939).
- 357.II *tsuras*] Yiddish: trouble, aggravation.
- 359.I4 Ted Solotaroff] Literary critic and editor (1928–2008), author of *The Red Hot Vacuum* (1970) and *A Few Good Voices in My Head* (1987) and editor of the *North American Review*.
- 359.I7–I9 parking garage . . . Deep Throat] Bob Woodward (b. 1943) and Carl Bernstein (b. 1944) were the two *Washington Post* reporters who investigated the involvement of senior officials in President Nixon's reelection campaign in the burglary at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. During their investigation Woodward met in an underground parking garage with an informant identified only as "Deep Throat" (until 2005, when he was revealed to have been FBI associate director Mark Felt [1913–2008]).
- 360.6–7 chained . . . shadow] See Plato *Republic* 7.514a–516b, the "parable of the cave" where people confuse shadows projected on the wall of a cave with real things.
- 361.22–23 pound of my flesh] The payment Shylock demands from Antonio for his defaulted loan in *The Merchant of Venice*.
- 361.35 Mazel tov] Hebrew: congratulations.
- 364.8 shtupped] Yiddish: stuffed. Obscene: fucked.
- 365.22–23 remember . . . Kosinski!] Kosinski's (see note 74.27–28) reputation suffered in the 1980s after he was accused of employing ghostwriters and of misrepresenting his past. He committed suicide in 1991.
- 366.3 *tzaddik*] Hebrew: righteous one. Also the Hasidic term of respect for their rabbi.