

World Shadow / Nir Baram

Part I

Chapter One: Preparations for a Great Event

We each had our own story. We didn't plan on banding together: you could say that we had been summoned together by others. It was a pure moment of survival; a falling man reaches out for a hand, and what if that hand falls too? Well, you hold hands and fall together. One of us read this writer who once wrote that every person is trapped in the circle of his own destiny, in it he can move freely, choose paths and then switch between them, and he might not even be aware that he is inside a circle; most people can't see the walls surrounding them. The question is how is a person supposed to act when he suddenly realizes that those walls are closing in on him? One day they're close enough for him to touch with his arm stretched out, the next day the arm is bent, another day and he has his arm flat at his side. Finally, a nail sticking out of the wall tears off a piece of his skin. And then you have this person with a piece of his skin dangling beside him, and he realizes that these walls, well, they're kind of crushing him.

We all have memories to tell. Maybe someday we will. Does it matter now what kind of twists and turns our lives took to bring us to this place? Actually, the word "place" has nothing to do with us. There is no place, there never was a place and we never wanted any place; if we had one, maybe all of this wouldn't have happened. They said that we worked for all kinds of people who took advantage of us for their evil ends; that we were pawns in their game, pushed around by powerful forces; they also said we were responsible for destruction, great suffering and death. We don't really deny these accusations, we suppose that our actions could be seen from different perspectives, and there are obviously things we did that make some of us proud, others ashamed, and a few of us claim that they never even happened, fine. It's hard to deny that we too have paid a price, sometimes such a high one that we wanted to stop altogether.

We're not asking for understanding, or compassion, and definitely not for forgiveness. We'll never ask for forgiveness.