MARCH OF THE MARTYR

by

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FADE IN:

AMIR (30's) Middle Eastern, bearded and wearing a cap, walks down the street, tightly holding the strap on his rucksack that hangs on his left shoulder.

He looks at his digital watch, reading 08:32. His phone vibrates and startles him, he reaches into his pocket and pulls it out reading a text alert.

TEXT

We're at Kings Cross, where are you? Don't let us down.

Amir pushes the phone back into his pocket and presses his palm onto his forehead.

AMIR

(sighs)

What am I doing?

A friendship band grabs his attention, wrapped around his wrist, made by his daughter.

INT. AMIR'S HOME - FLASHBACK

SOURI (10) with long black hair and braces, takes his hand.

She pulls out a home made friendship bracelet, made out of beads and coloured string. She wraps it round his wrist.

AMIR

What's this for?

SOURI

It's a friendship band.

He looks at her finishing off the threaded knot.

AMIR

Thank you

SOURI

You're welcome daddy.

Amir opens the door, Souri runs up and hugs him.

SOURI (CONT'D)

I Love you daddy, thank you so much for letting me go on the school trip. We're gonna have an awesome day.

He smiles at her.

EXT. BUS STOP

His phone vibrates, another text.

TEXT

We're in position, detonate at 08:50. Our time to enter the garden has come.

Amir clicks off the text and sees the digital clock on the phone reading 08:47.

He looks up and sees the Bus arriving, he holds his arm out, the Bus stops.

INT. BUS - MORNING

The doors open, Amir steps onto the bus gripping his rucksack strap. His mouth goes dry, he coughs.

AMIR

...Day saver please.

The BUS DRIVER stares at Amir.

BUS DRIVER

Three pound.

Amir counts the change in his hand, then hands it over.

A Ticket prints out, Amir tears it off.

AMTR

Thank you.

He heads up to the back of the bus, the eyes of seated passengers judge him as he walks past.

INT. BACK SEAT - BUS

A strong exhale escapes past his lips as he sits down in the back seat of the bus.

His hand tightly grips on the strap of the bag, a PASSENGER looks over at him, and stares at his clenched fist.

Amir looks at the passenger, who quickly looks away when confronted by Amir's eyes.

Laughter of Souri fades in, slowly becoming louder.

Sweat runs down his forehead, his hand clenches much fiercely around the strap.

He wipes the sweat from his brow and looks around, Amir rolls up his sleeve and looks at his watch ticking the seconds away.

A bright light surges through the Bus and blinds Amir.

WHITE FLASH

Amir flexes his hand in front of himself, the beams of light run through each finger.

AMIR

...I'm here?

Voices echo around him.

WOMAN (O.S.)

She's so beautiful isn't she?

LEADER (O.S.)

I will help you bring paradise for you and your family. Follow me and we will enter the garden.

WOMAN (O.S.)

What are you doing in there? Why is the door locked?

LEADER (O.S.)

A life full of endless thrills.

Souri runs through the light carrying a rucksack. She stops in front of Amir, and hands it to him.

SOURI

You forgot this.

Amir takes the rucksack.

SOURI (CONT'D)

I love you daddy.

She smiles with a mouth full of metal, turns and runs off into the distance, fading away.

INT. BACK SEAT - BUS

AMIR

(Shouts)

WATT!

Passengers turn in shock.

Amir looks around and stands to his feet.

He presses the stop button and rushes down to the front of the bus. The Bus driver pulls over to the nearest bus stop.

EXT. BUS STOP

Amir walks off the bus holding his hands on his head. The rucksack drops to the ground.

The Bus drives off, passengers get a last minute stare.

Amir's hands press over his eyes, tears run through his fingers and down his knuckles.

He breaks out in laughter, and removes his hands.

Amir looks up at the sun beaming down at his red eyes.

AMTR

(mouths) Thank you!

INT. AMIR'S HOME

Amir rushes into his house, drops the rucksack and runs upstairs into...

SOURI'S BEDROOM

He puts his hand underneath her pillow and pulls out a unlabeled DVD.

He snaps the disc in half and sighs with relief.

A LOUD KNOCK comes from downstairs.

DOWNSTAIRS

Amir walks towards the front door and gently opens it.

Two POLICE OFFICERS stand in front of him, his face drops.

POLICE OFFICER #1

Mr. Hussain

AMIR

Yeah

POLICE OFFICER #2

Amir Hussasin

AMIR

Yes, that's me.

POLICE OFFICER #1

I'm afraid there's been an accident.

AMIR

What do you mean?

POLICE OFFICER #1

We believe your wife and daughter were passengers on a bus which exploded in london.

His eyes water up.

AMIR

This can't be... this...

POLICE OFFICER #1

We're so sorry.

AMIR

(begins to cry) Souri... oh my god.

The Police officer's look away, Amir picks up his rucksack and walks away up the stairs into...

SOURI'S BEDROOM

He closes the door and slides his back down to the floor.

AMIR

(crying)

I'm so sorry... love you baby

BANG! The bomb explodes.

INT. TV NEWS

A NEWS WOMAN (27) brunette, presents herself behind her desk professionally.

NEWS WOMAN

A martyr tape discovered on a laptop has been linked with today's bombings in London.

(Beat)

It was believed another terror attack was plotted but unsuccessful.

(Beat)

It was believed that Amir Hussain planned to take his life and leave them this video.

INT. VIDEO - ROOM

Amir stares into the camera in a plain room.

AMIR

(Exhales)

It's been a very hard decision for me, but I feel this is what I need to do.

(Beat)

I love you and your mother so much, Souri.

A slight rapping comes from the bedroom door.

WOMAN (O.S.)

What are you doing in there? Why is the door locked?

AMIR

(blows a kiss)

Goodbye.

Amir reaches forward and turns off the camera.

FADE OUT.