

The Nest

Screenplay by:

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Based on True Events

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INT. ALMA'S HOME - NIGHT

TITLES BEGIN

HALLWAY

ALMA (UHL-MAH), 17-years-old, walks past THREE gold-frame photos hung on the wall hallway.

CENTER photo shows family portrait (in order) FATHER, MOTHER, NANA, standing above a young Alma, and young HAMZA (HUM-ZAH)

Mother has long dark hair seen resting on the side of her shoulders, dark cat-like eye makeup over greenish-grey eyes, light blue scarf lightly placed over her head.

Father is wearing an all red kurta, and he is smiling.

Nana, slightly balding, obviously dyed jet-black hair on the sides of his head, wearing glasses, and an all white kurta.

Young Alma is wearing red, her hair is long, eyes are light greenish-Grey, and she is wearing a half-smile.

Hamza is wearing white, full smile, hair braided to the side of her shoulder.

Photo to to the left of the family portrait shows the Holy Kaabah of Mecca.

Photo to the right of the family portrait shows a Zulfiqar, a traditional GOLD Shiite Muslim sword with Arabic engravings that represent the sword of Ali.

CUT TO:

PRAYER ROOM

Alma walks into an empty room and rolls open a carpet out in front of her.

She begins performing Namaz, the daily prayers for Muslims.

The carpet laid out in front of her is not bare.

There is a circular-rock-like object on the carpet, Alma rests her head on the rock when she kneels down onto the carpet.

Alma stands up.

Whispers more Arabic prayers.

(CONTINUED)

Kneels back down.

She sits down onto the Namaz rug.

Grabs a tasbih (rosary beads).

She folds up the rug.

She walks out of the prayer room.

ALMA'S BEDROOM

Alma opens her diary.

As she flips through the pages, several photos are seen.

First photo: Alma wearing a revealing shirt, with cleavage and shoulders bare. Her arms are around DAMIEN, young handsome white male, blue eyes, surfer-boy style, and KAREN, a young girl from the Philippines, angelic face.

They are all smiling.

Second photo: Alma, Karen, and Damien are raising shot glasses into the air, all three glasses touching each other in the center, all smiles.

She finds a blank page.

Alma writes in her diary.

Alma narrates what is written in her diary:

ALMA (V.O)

"There is a candle in your heart, ready to be kindled. There is a void in your soul, ready to be filled. You feel it, don't you?"

- Rumi (Persian poet)

Alma is standing in front of her mirror.

She is fixing her eye makeup.

Her eyeliner is heavy and dark, cat-like.

Alma's phone vibrates. She reads her text.

TEXT DIALOGUE:

Karen: "Can I come yet???"

Alma: "Almost, they should be asleep soon..."

(CONTINUED)

Karen: "Okay, let me know."

Alma puts on a jacket.

Through the mirror her room is seen with blue wall paint.

Christmas lights around the bed's headboard.

Fake palm tree in corner of bed.

Poster of an eye on her wall.

She exits her room into the hallway.

FADE INTO:

THE NEST

TITLES END

HALLWAY TOWARD PARENT'S ROOM

She walks slowly through the hallway.

Peeking into her parent's room, she sees her MOTHER performing her nightly Namaz prayers.

She momentarily glances at her. Mother is folding the Namaz rug. Alma runs back into her room.

BEDROOM

Alma is under the covers of her bed. She pretends to sleep.

She is facing away from her mother, to hide her makeup.

She could hear her parents argue. She rolls her eyes.

She hears footsteps.

Alma's door opens.

MOTHER (O.S)

Alma!

Mother peaks into Alma's room.

MOTHER

Apne Namaz Para? (Have you prayed  
Namaz yet?)

(CONTINUED)

ALMA  
Yes I did.

MOTHER  
Okay. Shabba Khair, Alma.  
( 'Goodnight' in Farsi)

ALMA  
Shabba Khair, Mom.

Door closes.

Alma listens until she hears another door shut. She gets up.

She walks toward her window.

She opens the window and climbs out.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF ALMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alma slowly climbs down the side of the house.

She jumps onto the grass.

She tiptoes away from the house.

She runs towards a nearby alley.

She takes off her tights under her dress and removes her jacket revealing her real outfit: a red dress with a pleated skirt, legs bare.

Her hair is long and flowing on her shoulders.

A car drives next to her.

KAREN exits the driver's seat and walks to the passenger seat.

Alma gets into the drivers seat.

They drive away.

License plate reads: IM7TEEN

CUT TO:

INT. KAREN'S CAR - NIGHT

Alma is driving.

Karen is sitting in the passengers seat to her left.

KAREN

Ahh! I'm so excited you were able to get out tonight! It was starting to suck having to be at another party alone...all of the pressure was turning me into an alcoholic.

ALMA

Yeah, seriously. Took forever to sneak out this time. I was afraid my parents weren't gonna fall asleep.

KAREN

Yeah, I bet.

ALMA

I mean, the sad part is, most kids just tell their parents, "Hey...I'm going out...yadda yadda." With my parents, it becomes an annoying moral issue. The slightest mention of a party makes them think I'm turning too American, or they worry I'll die of rape.

KAREN

(laughs)  
Die of rape...?

ALMA (cont'd)

Yes. DIE of rape...never makes sense to me.

KAREN

I hear. Yeah, well I'm just happy you made it. Just have a good feeling about tonight...I hope I meet someone...

ALMA

Yeah I don't care, as long I get away with this.

Alma and Karen both turn to each other and smirk.

CUT TO:

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Alma enters a party.

Karen walks beside her.

The party is crowded and in action.

Alma is in LIGHT and only focus.

She walks through a crowd of people.

The music is LOUD.

She walks to RICK, tall, white-male, handsome features, head covered in a bright-yellow hat, and DAMIEN, slightly shorter than rick, also white and handsome, neat-blond hair, resembles a surfer boy with shell necklace.

Each smiling at her.

RICK AND DAMIEN  
Ayyy!! Look who made it!!

DAMIEN  
Time to celebrate.

Damien reaches for something behind a couch.

He takes out two cans of beer.

He hands Alma and Karen each a can of beer.

Alma opens the can and takes a sip.

ALMA  
Hey, can I bum a square?

DAMIEN  
No problem.

Damien pulls out a small Ziploc bag of pre-rolled cigarettes.

He hands her a cigarette.

He pulls out a lighter and lights her cigarette.

ALMA  
(smiles)  
Thanks, dude.

Pause.

(CONTINUED)

DAMIEN

Okay, question. Just curious, why don't you just tell your parents that you're going out? It can't be that bad? I mean, what are they gonna do, stone you to death?

ALMA

No. Behead me...

ALMA (cont'd)

I'm just kidding! Geez... I know them. If I told them, they are just gonna keep calling me all night, start worrying, I wouldn't have the same freedom.

RICK

What if they catch you?

ALMA

It would ruin them. I'm telling you, Ignorance is bliss when it comes to my parents. I rather not put them through the shame.

KAREN

If you say-

Karen is interrupted by a drunk ERIC, fat kid with long hair, greasy shirt, holding a glass bottle with dark alcohol.

Eric shoves himself between Alma and Karen, and throws his arms around their shoulders.

ERIC

Hey guys... ladies...

Awkward silence.

Alma and Karen appear confused.

Alma attempts to pull Eric's arm off of her shoulders.

ERIC (cont'd)

C'mon, here take a shot with me.

Eric pushes the bottle in front of Alma's face.

Disgusted, Alma walks away.

KITCHEN

Alma enters the kitchen.

She observes the room.

There is a kitchen counter with drinks and food assorted.

Alma places her beer down on the counter.

Next to the counter, there is a refrigerator, kitchen sink, and mini grill on the table.

EVAN, 18-years-old, is flipping burger meat on the grill.

Evan looks at Alma.

EVAN

Want a burger? I'm making plenty.

ALMA

Yeah sure.

Short pause.

ALMA (CONTINUED)

Are you Eric? My friends told me about this party. I just kind of showed up, but I haven't seen-

EVAN

Nah, Eric's my best friend. He's the handsome dude right over there.

Evan points at Eric as Eric chugs his glass bottle of alcohol.

Alma appears embarrassed.

ALMA

Oh...never mind, just met him..

EVAN

(sarcasm)

He's pretty charismatic.

ALMA

Ha ha, sure thing. He can throw one hell of a party.

(CONTINUED)

EVAN

Yeah. Well If your game plan with parties is to just tell as many people as possible, and just watch all the people you don't really know show up, you usually win.

Evan places a plate of a fresh made burger in front of Alma.  
Alma smirks.

ALMA

Thanks.

She takes a bite.

EVAN

I'm Evan.

Alma swallows food.

She brushes off her hands.

She reaches her hand out to shake his.

ALMA

Alma. Nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

EVAN

Uhlm-mah...Am I pronouncing correctly?

ALMA (O.S)

Perfect.

EVAN

Awesome! You probably get this a lot, where is that from?

ALMA

Its a Muslim name.

Alma takes a sip of her beer.

EVAN

Oh wow, don't take this the wrong way but...why are you drinking then? I thought Muslims aren't allowed to drink.

ALMA

You're right. I'm not. But come on, it's normal for you, everyone else here too. Why should I be shunned or sent to hell for doing the same thing everyone here does.

EVAN

You've got a point. You're one of the few special ones then. But I mean, I assume you pray 5 times a day, everyone here doesn't do that.

ALMA

You're right! Already know so much about me. But the truth is, as terrible as it sounds, I do it so my parents stay off my back. I figure, if I give them at least that, then I'm less guilty sneaking out and drinking at parties.

EVAN

Sneaky rebel girl!! Cheers to that, you are a special one!

Alma and Evan laugh, both raise their drinks and take sips of their beer.

Evan stops, and stares at her.

EVAN (cont'd)

I just feel like I've met you before, somewhere...Do you happen to go to Lane Tech?

ALMA

...Yeah...

She takes a deeper look at him.

Her eyebrows raise.

ALMA (cont'd)

Wait...Mr. Simmons history. Ring any bells?

EVAN

Yeah!!!! I knew I've seen you somewhere. You were that quiet girl!!

Evan giggles slightly at his comment.

ALMA

Okay. First period... way too early in the day for me. You were the guy that always raised his hand, how could I forget you.

EVAN

Well I love to talk. Couldn't resist, especially in that class.

ALMA

Now that I remember...you were that guy who said, "Hitler was a genius."

EVAN

Well he was...think about it.

Conversation is interrupted with a LOUD ELECTRIC GUITAR sound.

Alma and Evan turn around to see.

Eric is attempting to play music in the living room.

He is standing next to a mic, in front of a drum-set.

He speaks into the mic, in a drunk voice.

ERIC

I would...like to call up...  
my one-and only BEST  
BUD..EVAN, WHERE ARE YOU!? Come  
JAM! The drums are waiting!

EVAN

(yelling across room)  
Cmon! I'm busy!!

Eric almost trips over.

ERIC

The crowd has spoken man!

Evan appears surprised and excited.

His eyebrows raise.

He gestures to Alma to join and watch him jam. They walk over to the instruments.

Evan sits behind the drum set.

Rick is seen grabbing a bass.

(CONTINUED)

Evan, Eric, and Rick play some Hard-rock. Resembling Led Zeppelin kind of sound.

Evan starts getting into the music.

Evan has a short drum solo.

Alma, Karen, and Damien watch.

Alma observes Evan.

She is impressed, shows a half side-smile.

She watches him only.

They stop playing.

Everyone cheers.

EVAN

(smiles with sarcasm)

Ah! Now its too hot in here! Fuck  
you guys!

Evan points at Alma.

He walks toward her.

ALMA

Impressive stuff, Evan.

EVAN

Why, thank you.

(smiles)

Wanna join me outside for a sidebar  
cigarette? You smoke right?

ALMA

(smiles)

Yeah sure.

FRONT PORCH

Alma and Evan are sitting on the front steps of the party house.

Evan lights a cigarette.

EVAN

Okay another question about your  
name. Its Muslim, but whats the  
background?

(CONTINUED)

ALMA  
It's Persian.

EVAN  
Woah, sounds exotic.

ALMA  
Just means I'm from Iran.

EVAN  
Sweet. Ever been there?

ALMA  
Once. As a kid, but I was raised in  
America. What about you, where are  
you from?

EVAN  
Oh, I'm just white.

Alma and Evan laugh.

Alma picks up her beer and raises it in the air.

ALMA  
Okay then Evan, cheers to you being  
white.

Alma winks.

Evan smiles at her joke and raises a cup of beer.

They drink.

Alma places her beer down and lights a cigarette.

She appears tipsy from the beer.

ALMA (CONT'D)  
Ah...I must admit, I hate  
small talk. I think I'm asked where  
I am from at least a million times  
a day. Don't get me wrong,  
I understand it, but do you  
ever just wanna break the ice  
sooner?

EVAN  
I feel you. Just skip the interview  
shit. Hear actual stories, ideas,  
or just be normal, really.

ALMA

Exactly! Like, 'Hello, my name is Alma. Evan, I'd like to get to know you, tell me about yourself."

EVAN

Hello there, Alma.

(changes voice tone to a funny manner)

'I'm Evan...Well I can't get into my life story just yet. But I'm gonna take another sip of my beer

(takes sip)

and admit that I'm kind of nervous right now, not in a bad way

(flirty) )

and so far I think you are one cool chick.'Would you like to spend more time with me?

ALMA

(flattered)

Well...-

Evan's side pocket vibrates and interrupts Alma, he has a text from Eric.

Alma's phone vibrates a second later.

EVAN AND ALMA

Sorry, one second.

They realize they spoke at the same time.

Look at each other for a split second.

Continue looking down at their phones.

TEXT DIALOGUE

Eric and Evan's texts:

ERIC: Where R U dude?! We're gonna start the drinking game!

EVAN: Front porch dude...With cute girl...

ERIC: Tell her to join!

Alma and Karen's texts:

KAREN: Where are you? Eric is getting belligerent, its hilarious, you gotta see.

(CONTINUED)

ALMA: Oh noo. I'll be there soon. Talking to guy, I'll explain later.

They put their phones away.

Look up at each other.

EVAN

Alma. Wanna join a drinking game with Eric in the other room?

ALMA

Sweet, why not.

BEDROOM

Alma and Evan enter a bedroom filled with people. Room includes Eric taking a shot of vodka.

After taking a shot, Eric appears dizzy.

EVAN

Ah fuck...

Eric is about to throw up.

Karen is standing behind him, grossed out. Eric runs out of the room.

The rest of the group follows.

Alma and Evan are left alone in the bedroom.

EVAN (CONT'D)

That escalated quickly...

Evan grabs a couple shot glasses and hands one to Alma. They each take a shot of vodka.

Karen and Rick suddenly jump behind them.

KAREN

I wanna join you guys! Do one more with us!

Rick hands Evan and Alma each another shot glass.

They all raise their hands in the air and touch shot glasses.

They each drink.

(CONTINUED)

A LOUD-GLASS-SHATTER is heard in the background. Karen and Rick look at each other, surprised. They run out of the room.

Slightly drunk, eyes squinting, Evan jumps on the bed beside Alma.

He rests his head on a pillow.

EVAN

Join me quiet girl from class!

Slightly drunk Alma, her eyes are also slightly squinting, starts laughing.

She sits next to him on the bed.

Evan sits up.

EVAN (CONT'D)

No you gotta try this. This pillow  
is the comfiest pillow I've ever  
laid on.

Playing along, Alma rests her head on the pillow, and lays down next to him.

ALMA

Oh, it really is soft. I could fall  
asleep.

Alma pretends to sleep.

Evan believes her act.

EVAN

Alma...?

Alma abruptly opens her eyes and scares Evan.

EVAN (CONT'D)

(embarrassed and smiling)  
Shit, hate you...

Alma is laughing.

She turns to Evan as she calms down.

Evan turns to face at her as well.

Alma and Evan start moving closer to each other.

Karen walks in.

Frightened, Evan and Alma pull away.

KAREN

Oh...crap I'm sorry. Pretend  
this didn't happen...Um, have  
fun crazy kids!

Karen awkwardly leaves.

Evan and Alma look at each other, laugh and smile.

EVAN

(looking at Alma up and down)  
You have the most beautiful smile I  
have ever seen.

ALMA

You use that line on a lot of  
girls?

EVAN

(smirking)  
Made you blush, didn't it?

Alma smirks.

Evan and Alma's eyes lock on each other strong.

Evan leans in for a kiss.

Alma interrupts the moment.

ALMA

Wait...what time is it?

EVAN

Its 2AM. Why?

ALMA

Fuck...Karen is drunk, we're drunk.  
I have to get home...

EVAN

Why, who are you Cinderella? Stay  
longer!

ALMA

No, my dad's gonna be awake and  
notice I'm not there. He's gonna  
kill me.

EVAN

Its really that serious?

ALMA

Trust me, My parent's don't know what partying is. They will lose it. I have to get back, can you help me?

EVAN

Okay.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF ALMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alma and Evan exit a taxi cab in the side alley of Alma's house.

They tiptoe towards Alma's side window.

Alma slowly opens her window, she climbs in.

She signals to Evan to climb in the window.

EVAN

(loud whispers) Your dad is gonna see me!

ALMA

(Alma whispers loud) Just trust me!

Alma grabs Evans hand.

Evan climbs into her room.

INSIDE ALMA'S ROOM

Alma signals to Evan to hide under her bed.

Evan almost trips, quickly rushes under Alma's bed.

Alma, in a slight panic, jumps under her bed covers.

They stay there in silence.

Alma's FATHER peaks into the room.

He checks on Alma, she's asleep in her room.

He shuts the door and leaves.

They hear moments later, they hear the front door shut, and hear the car sounds.

(CONTINUED)

Alma signals to Evan to come out from under the bed.

EVAN

Geez, that was intense.

ALMA

Now you understand. Is it weird that you're the first guy I've ever snuck into this room?

EVAN

Really?

ALMA

Yeah. It's kind of liberating. Although if my mother wakes up, I'm gonna have a heart attack. I just wish they were a little more chill, I mean they had me in this country and all.

EVAN

Hey well, if you ever need a place to get away, you're welcome in my place...I mean you could tell them you're with a girl friend. It'll be easier than sneaking around like this. I mean if you'd like to...would you like to?

ALMA

Your parents are cool with you having girls over?

EVAN

Yeah sure. My parents...well they're kind of eccentric, but they let me do whatever I want.

Evan kneels down in one knee, he starts speaking like a fake renaissance character, or someone from a fairy tale.

EVAN (cont'd)

It is I, your prince. Let me save you from your tower and set you free my dear lady!

ALMA

(giggles) Wow you're lucky I drank tonight. Kind of dorky.

(CONTINUED)

EVAN

Hey I'm making you laugh! But seriously. You say you sneak around all the time, and your parents are strict and whatnot. Let me help you, consider me your escape.

Alma pauses, she's blushing.

Evan and Alma stop talking.

Alma looks up at Evan.

Evan leans in for a kiss.

Alma kisses back.

SPECIALTY SHOT BEGIN. The camera slowly zooms in. Evan stands up. They wave goodbye to each other. Evan leaves through the window. The camera zooms into her face. Her eyes are shut as she is laying down, smiling.

FADE INTO:

INT. ALMA'S ROOM - MORNING

Camera zooms away from her face. SPECIALTY SHOT END.

Alma is now in her room, her eyes are shut.

Her phone alarm rings and vibrates.

She opens her eyes, turns to her phone and shuts it off.

She sits up, turns on her laptop.

She is sitting on her bed, laptop on her lap.

A video chat appears, reading KAREN.

She is VIDEO CHATTING with Karen.

KAREN

Okay, what happened, tell me everything.

ALMA

What about you? You were belligerent last night!

KAREN

Oh, I ended up crashing, but what happened with you?

(CONTINUED)

ALMA

Well...Evan helped me get home...

KAREN

And...? Oh my god.

ALMA

He kissed me in my room.

KAREN

What? Holy shit, stop lying.

ALMA

I'm serious, I snuck him in and he hid under the bed.

KAREN

(screams) AHH!!

ALMA

I know, it was exciting. I never have felt that way before, but I don't know, we just clicked and it just happened naturally.

KAREN

Not to mention, you've been such a prude up until now!

ALMA

Prude? I'm not a prude...

KAREN

Come on, think about it. You do everything your parents say, you're too afraid of them most of the time. You've never even been alone with a guy, and half the time-

ALMA

Okay I get your point.

KAREN

I mean it with love. I mean, I was lucky enough that you even snuck out last night. But think about it, maybe this will be good for you. Maybe its time you should start opening up to new things.

ALMA

Okay now I feel like I'm reading my horoscope.

(CONTINUED)

KAREN  
I'm serious Alma!

Alma's phone vibrates. She picks up her phone.

TEXT DIALOGUE WITH EVAN

Evan: Good Afternoon :D

ALMA  
Holy shit its him.

KAREN  
Answer him! This is a sign!

Alma: Good Afternoon :)

Evan: Any Plans?

Alma: None today.

Evan: Chance you want to spend  
the day with me?

Alma: Sounds good :D Alma puts down her phone.  
She smiles to herself.

KAREN (cont'd)  
That's what I like to see. Are you  
going to see him?

ALMA  
Tonight. How am I going to get away  
with this?

KAREN  
Just tell them you're with me.

A muffled background sound is heard from her hallway.

The source of the sound is the Azan playing.

The musical sound of the prayer echoes from her parent's  
room.

ALMA  
Alright. I gotta go, talk to you  
later.

Alma shuts off her laptop.

She gets out of bed.

(CONTINUED)

Alma responds to the sound, she grabs a large white headscarf from nearby.

She puts it on properly to prepare for Namaz. She walks out of the room.

DISSOLVE INTO:

EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY AND NIGHT

MONTAGE START

FOREST

Alma and Evan are making out as the sunset glares behind them. Alma and Evan grab each other's hands.

They run through a redwood forest trail.

They exit the forest trail to reveal a beach and lighthouse. They run towards the nearby lighthouse.

BEHIND LIGHTHOUSE

Alma is pushed against a wall as Evan kisses her in the neck.

Alma pushes him off flirtatiously, she smiles. Alma pulls out a joint.

She lights it and takes a puff.

She shotguns the smoke with Evan. Evan blows out smoke.

They continue to look deeply into each others eyes.

Scenery in the background DISSOLVES into the scenery inside of a train.

INSIDE TRAIN

Alma gets up, gives Evan one last kiss and exits the train.

Her outfit and hairdo DISSOLVES AGAIN into another dressed up appearance as she exits.

At the same time, her setting also MATCH DISSOLVES to reveal the front of Evan's household.

FRONT OF EVAN'S HOUSE

Alma is now standing in front of a door. She is wear a large black coat, and dark tights. She rings the doorbell once.

MONTAGE END

INT. TERRY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Bottom left hand corner reads: 3 MONTHS LATER.

Evan opens the door.

Evan is holding a stuffed puppy and some obvious handpicked flowers.

EVAN

Will you be my Valentine?

ALMA

It's March.

Alma shakes her head.

Still flattered by the romantic gesture, she smiles and hugs Evan.

She takes the gifts.

Alma stops for a moment.

ALMA (cont'd)

Wait hold up, I'm burning up in these clothes.

She quickly takes off the large black coat, revealing a WHITE dress. She also takes off the dark tights under the dress.

ALMA (cont'd)

Okay I feel better, I couldn't walk out of my house looking like this.

Evan smiles, he grabs Alma's hand.

Alma and Evan walk into the dining room.

Elvis-type "Valentine's Album" music surrounds the room as they walk closer toward the dining room.

Evan and Alma stop abruptly.

Alma looks surprised. The dining room table is massive and centers the room.

(CONTINUED)

There are huge studio speakers surrounding the table.

A speaker on each corner of the dining room table.

There are also wall speakers hanging on each corner of the wall.

ELVIS-type music surrounds the dinner table.

The dinner room table is set up neatly and appears to be very romantic.

There are two red candles in the center of the table.

Four plates surrounding the candles.

The plates are set up with salmon and salad decorated in each plate.

The table also has bowls of chocolate covered strawberries, and a bowl of chopped apples with caramel gliding on the top.

EVAN

Hey, I wish this was my idea...

JAMES AND HANNAH (O.S)

SURPRISE, TO THE LOVELY  
YOUNG COUPLE!

JAMES, Evan's father, with dark hair and glasses, hairdo is combed over to one side, and HANNAH, Evan's mother, short and chubby, with long dark hair and full of energy, walk into the scene.

Evan and Alma smile as they walk towards the dinner.

CUT TO:

INT. TERRY DINING TABLE - NIGHT

JAMES

So, Alma. What's your background?

ALMA

I'm from Iran.

JAMES

So I'll assume you are Muslim?

(CONTINUED)

ALMA

Yes, a Shia-Muslim family.

HANNAH

Interesting...Are your parents strict? Are they okay with you being here with Evan?

ALMA

They are...lenient. At least compared to most parents. They don't really know what I do in my spare time...I just tell them I'm with one of my girl friends.

HANNAH

Well! As a mother, I just love to hear that!

Everyone laughs at the apparent sarcasm.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

That's fine though. Consider this home a safe haven.

Short pause as Alma smiles and everyone continues to eat.

CUT TO:

JAMES

Wanna hear something interesting about this room?

ALMA

Sure.

JAMES

Well, I designed this room myself. You hear the music? The way it takes over the room? I acoustically designed the room so that when the music comes through from those speakers, (points at speakers), the sound will bounce off the wall to specifically surround this table. You see, the music does not just leave the speakers, nor does it simply surround us. It moves onto us, onto me, right where we are sitting, to absorb its energy. Pretty cool stuff, yeah?

(CONTINUED)

HANNAH

Yeah yeah... it may be cool  
that James can control the sound.  
But remember this Alma, after  
25 years of marriage and being  
a mother, I control this household.

Hannah smiles and winks at Alma.

Everyone laughs.

CUT TO:

INT. EVANS ROOM - NIGHT

Evan and Alma are laughing.

They are feeding each other chocolate covered strawberries.

There is chocolate on Evan's cheek.

Alma attempts to wipe it off but makes it smear all  
over Evan's cheek.

Evan notices the chocolate on his face and smears chocolate  
on Alma's cheek.

Alma flinches and smears more chocolate on Evan.

Evan places the chocolate down quickly.

EVAN

(jokingly) You wanna go? huh?

Alma laughs and puts more chocolate on Evans face.

Evan and Alma start to play fight.

Evan picks Alma up and throws her on the bed.

Evan sits on top of Alma and pins her arms down.

Evan starts kissing her cheeks.

ALMA

Mercy! Mercy! Okay, you got me, you  
win, I surrender!

Evan releases her while laughing.

They both lay down next to each other.

SPECIALITY SHOT START: Birdseye view of Evan and Alma.

(CONTINUED)

ALMA (cont'd)

Okay. on a serious note. I have a question.

EVAN

Go ahead.

ALMA

Whats the deal with the dinner, the chocolate and strawberries. I have never heard of parents setting up romantic dinners for their kids.

EVAN

Its just a nice gesture, thats just how they are.

ALMA

No but seriously, I know for a fact my parents would never allow this. They would rather me married off first before any romantic dinners take place. I'd assume most parents have these boundaries.

EVAN (V.O)

Well let me give you a little backstory of my parents. My parents both grew up in the 60s and 70s, and they reveled in it. My mother, you could describe as a free spirit. She loved men and the attention of men. She wasn't afraid of speaking her mind and showing off her body. One day she was at a Beatles concert, dancing around to Sargent Peppers greatest hits and my dad saw her. My dad was the kind of Johnny Depp character that saw my mom and just knew she was the one and went for it, next thing you know they were married, and bada-bing! Thats how they got together.

YOUNG HANNAH is walking down the beach wearing nothing but a nude bathing suit. Long black hair and flowers around her head.

A random guy runs behind her and picks her up, and spins her around.

Her smile is huge could light up a room.

(CONTINUED)

She is now in the audience of a Beatles concert. She is dancing freely and smiling.

YOUNG JAMES is watching her from the side. He approaches her and they start dancing together.

James and Hannah lock eyes and smile.

James and Hannah are now at a wedding alter, smiling at each other.

Evan is now looking at Alma.

ALMA

Really? For some reason I don't believe you. Very cliché. What does that have to do with tonight, I wanna know why your parents are setting a romantic dinner up for us, not how they met...

EVAN

Well they are kind of eccentric okay, they believe in being open and, its just the way they are okay?

ALMA

Okay? I still don't believe you.

EVAN

You wanna go again?

Evan jumps on top of Alma starts tickling Alma all over.

Alma starts laughing and screaming.

Evan and Alma laugh.

Evan pins Almas arms down again and looks at her intently.

Evan stops smiling.

Something is on his mind.

Short silence.

ALMA

What?

EVAN

Okay you're right. I made up the story. I have something to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EVAN (cont'd)  
tell you...Its a secret. But I  
wanna take you to the temple first.

ALMA (O.S)  
Temple?

Alma laughs assuming it is a joke.

EVAN  
Why are you laughing? I'm serious.

SPECIALTY SHOT END.

CUT TO:

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

Alma appears apprehensive.

Evan takes hold of Alma's hand. They walk up dimly  
lit stairs. They stop at a door.

Engraved on the door is the word: TEMPLE

He unlocks a door.

They walk into a room called 'THE TEMPLE'

TEMPLE LIVING ROOM

Evan and Alma enter the room.

At first, it appears to be an ordinary looking living room.  
Yet only one detail stands out.

There are white couches surrounding the room. In the center  
of the room there is a sex swing.

The sight of the swing makes Alma halt momentarily.

Evan ignores the swing, and grabs her hand.

He leads her into a nearby hallway.

HALLWAY

As they walk deeper into the hallway, Alma views the pin- up  
girl posters framed on the hallway walls. She looks straight  
ahead into the hallway.

Through Alma's vision, the hallway  
seems never-ending through the darkness.

(CONTINUED)

As she walks through the hallways, she takes quick glances at the small rooms through the sides of the hall.

She sees glimpses of different rooms as she continues to walk through.

The first room she passes is a regular bedroom with only a bed and a lamp.

The next room she glimpses into is a classroom with desks, small school desks with books, a main desk for a teacher, and a paddle hanging on the wall.

Alma and Evan finally reach the end of the hallway and enter a vast room.

The main room that Evan intends to show Alma.

#### MASTER BEDROOM

The room feels peaceful and decorated accordingly to maintain its vibe.

There are clouds painted on the ceiling, a fireplace to the left.

Most of the room appears to be spacious and empty, but there is a single master-bed to the right of Alma's vision, it is facing the direction of the fireplace.

The master bed is luxurious. It has white sheets, black side bars surrounding the bed.

The bed is very clean, and the pillows appear fluffy and neatly placed on the bed.

It's as if Alma walked into a magazine advertisement for IKEA.

The room still overpowers the bed with its space.

There are two doors by the bed, one clear glass door to the left of the bed, and one wooden door with a master key to the right side of the bed.

ALMA

Holy Shit...this is fucking beautiful.

EVAN

Yeah, one of my favorite rooms in this house. And the next is...

Evan guides Alma to the glass door to the left side of the master bed.

GREEN LIT ROOM

The glass door reveals a smaller room, enclosed in glass walls with wooden frames.

There are green lights and bright vines throughout the walls.

The room is small, but decorated symmetrically.

The lights surround the walls in symmetry, and the windows are symmetrical.

The overall design is very detailed.

In the center of the room there is a large red couch.

Evan and Alma sit down on the couch.

Alma is in awe by the detailed decor of the room.

EVAN (CONT'D)

As you can see, my parents are...um...very detail oriented. These rooms are mostly my dad's work. But yeah, welcome to the temple!

ALMA

I gotta process all of this...was that a-

EVAN

(smirking)

Yeah. It's a sex swing.

ALMA

What about the other rooms? It could be the darkness, but its kind of eerie walking through there.

EVAN

Yeah this part of the temple is pretty nice. We have a classroom, a bedroom and-

Evan pauses. He smirks at Alma again, as if he's up to something.

(CONTINUED)

EVAN (CONT'D)  
Here. Follow me.

Evan and Alma stand up.

They walk out of the room.

HALLWAY TOWARDS THE REAPER ROOM

CUT TO:

Evan takes Alma to the end of the hallway revealing a dark room.

He opens the door.

Alma appears afraid.

Alma fearfully stands close behind Evan.

She grabs his upper-right arm.

EVAN (CONT.)  
This room right here, is  
the 'Reaper Room.'  
(spoken in demon voice  
impersonation)  
I wouldn't dare anyone to sleep  
in here. If you dared to,  
(whisper)  
it is said that there is  
always someone watching you.

ALMA  
What the...?

EVAN  
(laughs)  
Yeah. Okay, now you wanna see the  
scariest room in the house?

ALMA  
This isn't it?!

CUT TO:

INT. TEMPLE - CONTINUED

Evan and Alma walk to the wooden door with the master key on the right side of the bed.

He unlocks the door.

The door reveals a closet filled with sex toys.

(CONTINUED)

ALMA  
(laughs)  
WOW...

Alma covers her face in shock.

EVAN  
(smiling, then laughing)  
Scary stuff, eh?

ALMA  
Yeah! Well...It's...  
(nervous laughing)  
I'm speechless...your parents are  
freaks!  
(smiles)

They both laugh.

GREEN LIT ROOM

CUT TO:

Evan and Alma are sitting on the couch in the green lit room.

ALMA  
You called this a prayer room. What does all of this have to do with prayers? Your parents are clearly into the kinky stuff.

Evan laughs.

EVAN  
Well, I come from a Pagan family. That's actually the religion I grew up with. So the secret was... well all this... My parents are Polygamous. My dad has... two other girlfriends. They do occult rituals in there. They basically raised me on this kind of environment. Its been like this my entire life.

EVAN (V.O)  
When I was a kid, my parents would walk around the house naked. His girlfriends would be around too. They never believed in hiding things. Sometimes we would have camera people come over and they would film themselves together. I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EVAN (V.O) (cont'd)  
never watched them film, but I knew  
what was going on. Its just how  
they are.

YOUNG EVAN is sitting in the living room couch playing video games in front of his T.V.

James and Hannah are walking around him bare naked.

KIM and LAURA, enter the room.

Two CAMERA MEN walk into the room.

They hug James and Hannah and they exit the room.

Young Evan can hear the moans from the room.

He continues to play video games.

ALMA  
Wow.

EVAN  
Yeah. I never told anyone that part  
before...your'e the first.

ALMA  
Thats insane. What about the  
rituals, were you planning on  
telling me that part?

EVAN  
Soon...I was kind of nervous about  
when. Most girls from my past would  
leave the moment they met my  
parents. Figured you would walk out  
on me like the rest did. But you  
actually stayed throughout the  
dinner.

Alma shoots a concerned look at Evan then looks down.

Evan appears worried.

EVAN (cont'd)  
So...?

ALMA  
...Is that all of the secret?

EVAN

Well...yeah.

ALMA

(smiling)

Wow, for a second I thought you were going to tell me you have two other girlfriends too.

EVAN

(smiles and laughs nervously and holds Alma)

No... I don't think my parents could convince me to do that.

Evan looks away from Alma very seriously all of a sudden, continuing to hold her.

Alma is looking thoughtfully away and smirks.

ALMA

It's different...I gotta say it was the last thing I expected. With all this eeriness I almost thought you guys were hiding dead bodies up here.

Evan faces Alma.

He appears relieved and smiles.

ALMA (CONT'D)

Okay, why should I judge your family? They may be different and it's clearly a very liberal religion... My family's religion has their own rituals.

EVAN

Yeah, but this isn't the same. My last girlfriend practically ran away.

ALMA

I think it is. I mean come on, every religion has their own eccentric practices. That's why they need to become a religion, otherwise it's just crazy. For instance, when I was a kid, I first found out that there was this ritual going on at my mosque...

FLASHBACK INSIDE MOSQUE

YOUNG ALMA playfully runs through a room.

She is 8 years old, wearing all black attire.

Black headscarf lightly pulled over her head.

ALMA (V.O)

It is a holy day for us, and  
to perform the ritual, the men  
gathered around in a room with  
chains, long swords, and swung it  
onto their backs. It was  
very sacred yet brutal.

UNKNOWN MEN are chanting indecipherable hymns loudly.

Each man is holding a sharp object, shackles, swords, large  
knives.

They look up at the ceiling.

Each man swings their sharp objects onto their backs. They  
each bleed out.

They continue to mutilate themselves and chant nohas loudly.

ALMA (V.O) (CONT'D)

I remember, as a kid, I would enter  
the room the day after the ritual  
was performed, and the room was  
covered in blood...ceiling  
to floor. Yet it didn't bother me,  
I just understood that it was a  
part of the religion. So I  
just naturally accepted it and  
was never afraid.

Young Alma enters the room where the men previously  
performed the bloody rituals.

She stares at the room.

The room is covered in white sheets.

Blood is everywhere, on the white sheets, the walls, and the  
ceiling.

Young Alma appears calm.

She runs into the room.

Several other children run inside the room behind her.

They continue to play.

GREEN LIT ROOM

ALMA

But this...this is  
different... It's weird and out  
there, but I'm kind of curious. Why  
choose ignorance, right?

EVAN

Like I said, most girls just run  
away.

Both laugh.

EVAN (CONT'D)

I'm surprised, you're so  
calm... why can't every girl be  
like you?

Evan moves closer to Alma.

He tickles her on her waist.

Alma starts laughing, grabs his hands to stop him from  
tickling her more.

Evan kisses Alma.

Alma lays down.

Evan is now on top of her.

CLOSE-UP of Evan's face

He looks into Alma's eyes.

EVAN (CONT'D)

I think I love you Alma.

Alma pauses.

She's surprised by the sudden words.

ALMA

Can I tell you a secret?

Evan pauses.

Appears concerned.

The words scare him.

(CONTINUED)

Alma gets up.

She takes Evan's hand.

They walk to the master bedroom.

They sit down on the bed.

ALMA (CONT'D)  
Okay. I'm a virgin.

She looks down, and then looks at Evan, searching for approval.

Evan smiles at her, relieved by her secret, but quiet.

EVAN  
It's okay. And we don't have to do this if you don't want to.

Short pause.

ALMA  
No, I think I'm ready. I want you to be my first, Evan.

They look at each other for a moment.

They kiss.

CAMERA starts to BACKS AWAY from Alma and Evan as they take off each others shirts.

They appear smaller as the CAMERA moves through the hallway. Eventually, Evan and Alma are no longer seen.

The vast length of the hallway is only seen.

A poem is narrated as the camera backs up:

ALMA (V.O)  
With love, there comes  
ecstasy, With a mix of eeriness, or  
a kind of melancholy. It's an  
existential bummer, My dear  
friend. Take a look around, Soak up  
the beauty and the sound, The true  
essence of life is that, it will  
all come to an end.

FADE TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

INT. ALMA'S ROOM - MORNING

Alma is asleep in her bed.

The sound of the Azan playing wakes her up. She sits up, hair messy.

She reaches nearby to grab a headscarf. Irritated, she stares at it.

She throws it aside.

She covers her face with a blanket.

She goes back to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. ALMA'S HOME - DAY

LIVING ROOM

Inside Alma's house, a doorbell rings.

Alma walks to the door. She is wearing a black scarf draped around her head.

She opens the door.

Alma's NANA, her grandfather appears when she opens the door.

Alma lights up with excitement.

ALMA

NANA!

She lets him in.

She hugs him tightly.

She kisses the side of his cheek.

NANA

Beti!

(my daughter, or young)

(girl in Urdu)

ALMA

How are you feeling?

(CONTINUED)

NANA  
First class.

ALMA  
Good. I love you.

NANA  
Ha... (yes in Urdu) I love you too,  
beti.

Alma smiles.

LIVING ROOM

Alma takes out a 'Four Stooges' DVD from her bag.

ALMA  
I bought you something. I wanted to  
watch it with you.

NANA  
What is it?

ALMA  
Four Stooges.

NANA  
(laughs)  
Ah...Thank you!

Alma hugs him again.

Alma and Nana are watching the DVD.

Sound effects from the show are heard.

They both laugh together.

MOTHER (O.S)  
Alma, Tum ne Namaz par liya?(Alma,  
did you pray Namaz today?)

ALMA  
I will, Mom! Just here with Nana.

MOTHER (O.S)  
Bhool ney karo! (Don't forget!)

Alma looks at Nana.

She leans her head on his shoulder.

They continue to watch the show.

(CONTINUED)

Alma receives a text from Evan.

EVAN: Hey are you busy?

ALMA: Sorta, just spending some time with grandpa. Whatsup?

EVAN: Well, my parents are having one of our group meetings, I want you to finally be a part of one.

ALMA: Group meetings?

EVAN: You'll see. Just be open to it, okay? I really want you to be a part.

ALMA: Okay. I'll be there soon.

CUT TO:

INT. TEMPLE MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

There are seven chairs gathered around in a circle in the spacious temple room.

This is a GROUP MEETING FOR THE NEST.

Everyone in the room is seated.

There is a circling around the room to reveal everyone's face:

Hannah is seated to the right of Evan and Alma.

Next is BRE, a young girl around the same age as Alma, She's a white girl, seductive, and has dark red hair.

James is in the next chair.

KIM, almost perfect facial features, mixed Rosario

Dawson type lady, late 20s, is seated by James.

In the final chair is LAURA, white lady, long-dark hair, and appears to be in her mid 40s.

ALMA

I'm Alma.

EVAN

Evan.

(CONTINUED)

BRE

Bre.

KIM

Kim.

LAURA

Laura.

Hannah directs the group through their first energy work session.

Circling continues as each character is shown going through the session.

HANNAH (V.O)

Hold hands and close your eyes.  
Breathe in and out slowly... Feel  
the electricity of your partner in  
each hand transfer to your body  
like a current... Feel as the  
points you grasp pulsate...  
Our rhythms are connected  
and intertwined. We are one. Now it  
is time to meet our subconscious  
minds as it illustrates what we  
want out of this session. We must  
tap into the outside energy source,  
whether we see the sun, the moon,  
the north star, or your deity  
blessing you. Feel the energy come  
down into your head, through your  
shoulders, your arms and back to  
your hands. Into your legs, your  
torso, through your shoulders, arms  
and back to your hands. You have  
just tapped into the positive and  
negative poles of energy. We must  
find the balance.

Everyone in the room has their eyes closed.

Each person is holding hands.

They all focus on Hannah's words.

They meditate.

When Hannah stops speaking, everyone opens their eyes.

They let go of each others hands and take a deep breath.

Circling stops to focus on James as he stands to speak.

(CONTINUED)

He walks around through the circle.

JAMES

Energy...everything we do  
and believe involves energy. What  
powers that light bulb in this  
room? Energy. When two eyes meet,  
what is it in fact that we feel?

As he says this, he massages Kim's shoulders, and looks at  
Laura.

JAMES (cont'd)

Energy.

Hannah appears calm and content.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Electricity used to be seen  
as something mystical. Alchemy.  
Now it is scientific. Ladies  
and Gentlemen, as most of you may  
know already and for those of you  
that do not, everything that goes  
on in this room involves energy  
work. We believe that the best kind  
of energy is: sexual. With that  
kind of force, there is love, there  
is life, and it is the essence of  
seduction, power, and possibilities  
for any of your heart's intent.

There is a moment pause.

James looks at his "audience."

His audience silently continue to listen.

JAMES

The term for bringing about  
intent is: Magick. With a "CK."  
Without the "K" it is nothing but  
illusion and mis-direction, and  
plain fun. But Magick with a 'CK'  
is the kind of ritual work that  
allows anything to happen. Your  
heart's intent...Evan, can you  
tell everyone who is considered  
the most powerful magician of  
Magick and energy work, even to  
this day?

(CONTINUED)

EVAN

(sitting low on his chair,  
as if uninterested)  
Aleistor Crowley.

JAMES

And what was one his most  
memorable quotes?

EVAN

"Do what thou wilt."

JAMES

Yes... 'Do what thou wilt'... That is  
the essence of what happens  
in here, and what happens within  
The Nest. To those of you who are  
new to this kind of meeting, I  
welcome you to our Nest.

Short silence.

KIM

Oh! Now that we are in the topic of  
Magick, I think this is the perfect  
time to tell you what happened the  
other day. I think it would be  
insightful for the new pupils.

JAMES

Go ahead Kim. (smiles)

KIM

Well. I recently just left a very  
tough relationship. My last  
boyfriend, right around the time I  
began my work with James and  
Hannah, was... very abusive. So the  
other day, I was just thinking  
about everything I endured because  
of him. I could feel it all... the  
pain, the anger, the suffering,  
everything... I began to focus on  
it. I then told myself to take all  
of the energy I felt, and just send  
it all back to him. All of it, back  
where it came from, I sent it back.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

What happened?

KIM

Well. As soon as I felt it all disappear from my body, my phone rang...It was him. He was screaming out that he started bleeding from his nose, his ears, almost every orifice. It was so strange. The moment I knew that I sent the energy back to him, it happened.

HANNAH

Wow!!

Everyone claps.

Alma is slightly stunned, but she continues to clap.

JAMES

One hell of a story Kim. Proud of you, we all are.

Kim smiles at James.

JAMES (CONT'D)

And now to end this circle of gathering, I want to quote Tom Wolfe from one of my favorite books...

James takes out a diary.

He turns to a specific page in the middle of the book.

The group is shown as this quote is spoken.

Everyone listens intently.

The final FOCUS is on Alma.

Alma's face is serious, she is focusing on James' words.

Her face slowly fills up the screen.

JAMES(O.S)

"Their place is called The Nest. Where life transcends all the usual earthly games of status, sex, and money. No one who once shares water and partakes of life in The Nest ever cares about

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JAMES(O.S) (cont'd)  
 such banal competitions again.  
 There is a pot of money inside the  
 front door, provided by the  
 Super Hero...everything is totally  
 out front in The Nest - no secrets,  
 no guilt, no jealousies, no  
 putting anyone down for anything;  
 "...A Plural Marriage - a  
 group theogamy...therefore whatever  
 took place - or was about to  
 take place...was not public,  
 but private. 'Ain't nobody here but  
 us gods' So how could anyone  
 be offended? Bacchanalia,  
 unashamed swapping,  
 communal living...everything."

Alma is mesmerized by the words.

SPECIALTY SHOT: Camera slowly moves closer into her eyes.

Final shot is of her eyes.

FADE TO:

INT. HANNAH'S ROOM - SAME NIGHT

Camera pans away from her eyes, she is standing in Hannah's  
 room as Hannah looks through her closet. SPECIALTY SHOT END.

HANNAH  
 Found it! It's perfect for you.

ALMA  
 What's perfect for me?

HANNAH  
 I wanted to give you something.  
 Close your eyes.

Alma shuts her eyes.

She opens her eyes.

Hannah is holding a SEXY LEATHER CORSET.

ALMA  
 Wow. That's intense.

HANNAH  
 It'll be our little secret, don't  
 tell Evan. But I used to wear it  
 when I was young and your size.

(CONTINUED)

ALMA  
You didn't have to...

HANNAH  
But I do. With your family, I doubt  
you have anything like this, so its  
my gift!

HANNAH (cont'd)  
Wow...

James walks in.

JAMES  
Oh I remember that!

Alma is now standing in front of a mirror as Hannah holds  
the corset in front of Alma to see what it may look like on  
Alma.

JAMES (cont'd)  
Here I have something too.

James walks into the closet and pulls out boots with very  
high heels.

JAMES (cont'd)  
Keep these, they should be your  
size as well. It would fit  
perfectly with the corset.

Alma, surprised by the sudden gifts, accepts them from James  
and Hannah.

ALMA  
Wow, thanks you guys.

Alma doesn't shows a half smile, but she doesn't really know  
how to feel. She is surprised.

CUT TO:

INT. MOSQUE - EVENING

Alma is sitting.

The ground beneath her is covered by white cloth.

She is wearing traditional BLACK ATTIRE, scarf over  
her head, appearing very bored.

MUFFLED SOUND of the Moulana (Muslim priest) is heard around  
her, in another language.

(CONTINUED)

Chants in Arabic surround her.

CHANTING MAN (O.S.)  
NAARE HAIDRI!

MEN AND WOMEN (O.S.)  
YA ALI!

Alma is sitting but not paying any attention.

SOUND goes in and out as we are focusing on Alma's boredom.

THE MOULANA (O.S)  
(subtitle - English)  
"Blind Trust in Authority...now  
that is real self-destruction."

Alma's sister, HAMZA, sitting next to Alma quietly laughs to herself.

HAMZA (SARCASTIC)  
"Yeah sure, why am I here listening  
to him then..."

Alma smiles.

ALMA  
I'm surprised you even still pay  
attention.

HAMZA  
I think I'm just used to it all, or  
just good at pretending...

They both laugh.

Clips are shown of a typical Shia-mosque ceremony.

Clips include women chanting Nohas and hitting their hands on their chests as they chant traditional hymns.

Shrines that resemble caskets covered in a white sheet and covered with blood.

There are also other shrines called Alams being carried around the room as groups of people surround them.

Everyone gathers around the shrines to touch them.

Everyone in the room is crying.

They hit their chests.

They chant hymns, with passion.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - LATER EVENING

Alma is standing in front of a long mirror in a bathroom.  
Still in traditional mosque attire.

She strips off all of her traditional clothes. She puts on  
the corset Hannah gave her.

Over the corset, she puts on a colorful rave dress.

The dress is very revealing.

It is shiny and cut 4-inches above her knees. She is wearing  
fishnet stockings.

A huge contrast in comparison to her mosque attire. Her hair  
is long and straight now.

Her eyes are dark from her eyeliner.

She looks at herself once again. She smiles at herself in  
the mirror.

She then turns around and grabs a long black trench coat.

She puts it on and ties it's belt around her waist.

It completely disguises the top portion of her outfit.

To disguise her fishnet stockings, she puts on a pair of  
black pants.

Her secret outfit is now kept to herself.

46.

INT. ALMA'S DINING ROOM - SAME DAY

Alma is walking casually passed her parents.

They are eating dinner and watching t.v.

MOTHER (O.S)

Alma, aap kahaa jaa rahe ho? (Where  
are you going? - Urdu language)

ALMA

I'm going to Karens. I won't be  
late.

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER

Apnay mujhe pelay Que nahi bola?  
(Why didn't you tell me this  
earlier?)

ALMA

I'm sorry Mom...I forgot.

MOTHER

Forgot? That's all you have to say?

ALMA

Yeah, when I do tell you, you don't  
even remember yourself.

MOTHER

(surprised)

Aay, bouqrat nahi baano.(Hey, don't  
be a smartass)

ALMA

Sorry...It won't happen again Mom.

Alma smiles at her Mother.

Her mother kisses her on her forehead.

MOTHER

Okay. 11-o-clock. Sharp.

ALMA

Okay...

Mother walks into the kitchen.

She starts washing the dishes.

Alma looks down and notices her fishnet stockings peeking  
out on her ankles.

She covers them up with the dark pants she wore over her  
stockings.

She walks over to the door.

She puts on bright RUBY RED shoes.

She quickly rushes out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. RAVE - LATER NIGHT

Alma and Evan stand outside the rave entrance.

LIGHTS above the entrance door write "MYSTERY IS SEXY"

Alma and Evan enter the rave.

Lights of all colors illuminate the room. Half-naked teenagers are dancing.

They walk into the crowd of dancers.

The music is LOUD and the bass is STRONG.

Evan hands Alma a pill of ecstasy and a water bottle. Alma tries to speak through the music.

EVAN

Okay. Take this.

ALMA

What's in it?

EVAN

Its called *Hyde*, It's a form of molly. I know it's your first Rave, but it will completely take care of the worries.

Alma takes a look around. She sees SEVERAL very young looking teenagers walking around in rainbow colored attire, tutus, wearing Spirithoods, holding glowsticks, with pacifiers in their mouths.

One of the teenagers is giving himself a lightship by moving his glowsticks in front of his face in circular motions.

Alma looks back at Evan.

ALMA

Might as well. Why is it called *Hyde*?

Evan moves closer to Alma, he is looking directly into her eyes.

EVAN

Well Alma, because you're about to see your shadow. This is going to take you to the DARK SIDE.

Evan's voice echoes as he emphasizes the words.

(CONTINUED)

The music gets LOUDER.

Alma's surroundings are darker and more crowded.

The different colors and lights are appearing more vibrant. The appearance of the neon lights appear similar to Japan, or similar to the movie Enter the Void.

They continue to walk through the crowd.

CUT TO:

INT. RAVE - CONTINUED

Alma starts observing her surroundings.

She watches as her perspective begins to transform.

The lights surrounding the room are suddenly more apparent. She notices them, and she responds to them.

Alma's eyes slightly roll back, she shuts her eyes for a moment, natural reaction to the ecstasy.

Her breathing becomes deeper and heavier.

She could feel her energy rise in her body. Evan looks at her and smiles.

He knows that the roll is now kicking in. Evan grabs both of Alma's hands.

Alma and Evan both start dancing.

The intensity of their dancing builds up as the music builds up.

They move closer to each other.

Evan grabs Alma by the hips.

They hug.

Attached to one another, still moving to the music.

They make out.

Alma closes her eyes and raises her head and almost moans from the euphoria.

She feels alive.

Bre enters the scene.

(CONTINUED)

Standing beside Evan in amazement of seeing them.

Evan, Alma, and Bre start jumping around screaming in excitement.

It is as if they haven't seen each other in years. Alma and Evan hug Bre. They attempt to talk through the loud music.

BRE

Is this your first time rolling?

ALMA

Yes! It feels so amazing!

A stranger shouts at Bre.

STRANGER

Hey its the slut!!!! Hey slut!

The words don't phase Bre at all.

ALMA

That doesn't bother you?

BRE

What? Him calling me a slut?

ALMA

Yeah!

BRE

Look at it this way, if its so bad to be a slut, why does Media and America glorify it so much. At the end of the day I get all the attention, girls secretly wanna be me, and the rest secretly want me!

ALMA

I guess!

Giving up on any sort of conversation, Bre gives a big smile to Alma.

The two girls dance as a threesome with Evan.

Evan turns to Alma.

He holds onto her shoulders.

His eyes are wide and he looks at Alma.

EVAN  
I'll be right back. Okay?

ALMA  
(eyes wide)  
No problem!

EVAN  
You sure? I'll be right back.  
I just can't stay in one place when  
rolls kick in.

Alma grabs his shoulders, mimicking Evan.

ALMA  
I'll be okay Evan. No worries!

EVAN  
You're the best.

Evan quickly kisses her on the cheek and walks away from the dance floor.

Bre and Alma start dancing.

Bre stops.

She takes Alma's hand.

BRE  
We should go get some water, follow  
me.

Alma and Bre, holding hands, walk through the crowd of dancers.

They see an entrance to a room, from a distance they see GLOWING LIGHTS.

Bre and Alma enter the room. They look up.

the ceiling looks like the night sky.

The ceiling resembles Tokyo Japan with its vibrant glowing lights of all colors.

Bre and Alma walk in. Suddenly sheets surround them, like a MAZE.

They walk deeper.

BRE (cont'd)  
Oh shit, it's like a labyrinth!

Bre and Alma walk through the labyrinth made out of sheets. After a couple dead ends, left and right turns, they reach the end.

At the end of the labyrinth, there is a small staircase.

They go up the stairs.

There is a bar and glowing lounge.

Bre buys a couple water bottles from the bar.

Bre hands Alma a water bottle.

They sit down on the couches.

BRE (CONT'D)  
So Alma, I wanted to tell you  
I think its amazing what you  
are doing with Evan. I've been  
his friend for a long time, and  
you are the first person that  
really accepts him. Its so cool of  
you.

ALMA  
Thank you!

BRE  
No, I'm dead serious. It takes  
a commitment to be a part of  
him, and his family.

ALMA  
Who am I to judge them? I  
care about Evan, I really like  
him. Its just natural.

BRE  
Well I'm glad he met you. He's a  
great guy and deserves it.

Eric suddenly jumps onto the seat next to Alma.

Alma and Bre turn and see Eric.

Eric is covered in glow sticks, and has a glowing pacifier  
in his mouth.

Their faces suddenly appear excited and shocked.

(CONTINUED)

ALMA AND BRE

Eric!!

They group hug.

ERIC

Want a light show?

ALMA

Sure!

Bre sits behind Alma and starts massaging her shoulders.

At the same time, Eric starts moving his glow sticks in a pattern in front of Alma's face.

Alma is mesmerized by the light show.

Its as if she's hallucinating, but the sight is beautiful.

Bre's shoulder massage soothes Alma, she closes her eyes.

BRE

Hey! I'll be right back! Okay?

ALMA

Okay!

Bre walks away.

Eric sits next to Alma.

Eric turns to Alma.

ERIC

Hey Alma, I'm really glad you were able to make it tonight. You know. Evan is like my best bud, and I gotta say its really cool what you are doing and whatnot.

ALMA

Haha! I'm hearing that a lot.

Thanks, I appreciate it.

ERIC

No. But seriously. Evan's family are into some intense ass shit. Most girls run away when they hear about all of the odd rituals, the liberal-open love stuff. It

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ERIC (cont'd)  
scares girls, you know? But Evan's  
my best bud, and I always kind  
of looked up to him. He  
deserves someone like you man.

Short pause.

Alma smiles.

She gives Eric a hug.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
But seriously, Evan needs to put  
a ring on it. I've been telling  
him. You're the best Alma.

Alma starts laughing.

ALMA  
Dude! I'm only 17 years old! Haha

ERIC  
You know, there are so little good  
women out there, most girls even  
here think they have to flash their  
boobs and have big asses to be  
valued. Whatever happened to  
mystique! You gotta hold onto the  
gems when you find them! Put a ring  
on it!

Alma shakes her head and smiles.

Bre comes back and sits next to Alma.

BRE  
Hey! Evan is looking for you!

Bre and Alma walk through the crowd of dancers.

They finally spot Evan.

Evan sees Alma, he's sweating and cheering when he sees her.

He suddenly runs straight at her and picks her up.

Alma puts her arms around his neck while he lifts her in the  
air.

Evan puts her back down.

Evan, Alma, Bre, and Eric start dancing.

## ALMA'S ROOM

Alma's room is empty.

The door slowly opens.

Father peaks in, he notices that Alma isn't home.

He expression is angry.

He picks up the phone and calls Alma's phone.

## RAVE

They are all sweating, and moving to the beat.

Alma feels her phone vibrate. Her phone lights up and reads:  
DAD.

She ignores the phone call and continues to dance.

## ALMA'S ROOM

Dad notices that Alma doesn't answer her phone.

He walks out of Alma's room.

## RAVE

Bre dances, moving closer to Alma, as if to seduce her.

Evan and Eric take advantage of the moment and step  
backwards to allow Alma and Bre to dance together.

Evan and Eric watch closely with a huge grin.

Bre and Alma notice Evan for a moment.

They are putting on a show for him.

The two girls make out, the drug intensifies.

They enjoy the attention.

Evan watches with wide eyes and a big smile.

He takes advantage of the moment again by moving in between  
the girls.

Evan kisses Alma.

He turns around and kisses Bre.

Alma watches with blind euphoria.

(CONTINUED)

They all start hugging, feeling as close as ever.

The crowd of people dance and party through the night.

SPECIALTY SHOT: The camera pans up toward another light up sign that reads "MYSTERY IS SEXY"

CUT TO:

INT. TERRY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Evan walks inside his house.

The living room appears empty, the kitchen too.

The house is in silence.

EVAN

Hello?? Anyone awake? I'm home!!

Evan walks up the stairs and enters the Temple.

TEMPLE LIVING ROOM

Evan walks into the Temple.

He walks down the hallway.

He suddenly hears a sound.

As he walks closer to find the source of the sound.

There is a door nearby and he sees a light through the space of the door.

He realizes the sounds are loud FEMALE MOANS.

Evan rolls his eyes.

He knocks on the door and walks away annoyed.

Hannah exits the room.

HANNAH

Evan you're finally home!

EVAN

Yeah, you guys wanted to speak with me? I was out late.

HANNAH

Yeah we did.

(CONTINUED)

EVAN

Doesn't dad have to talk too?

HANNAH

Well he's actually preoccupied at the moment with Laura and Kim...But we were thinking. Maybe its time that you and your girlfriend get more involved with practicing rituals.

EVAN

You mean you think I'm ready?

HANNAH

Yeah, I think everyone is. You're probably going to have to let your lover know. But I believe that its in the stars. Everyone's ready.

EVAN

Wow. Thanks mom...

Evan hugs Hannah.

Laura and Kim walk out of the room with James, they all are wearing robes.

They walk passed Evan.

KIM AND LAURA

Goodnight Evan!

EVAN

Goodnight guys.

CUT TO:

INT. ALMA'S HOME - SAME NIGHT

Alma slowly sneaks inside her home.

The light turns on, she's startled.

Alma's father is sitting there, quiet, yet furious.

FATHER

(shouts)

Kidher thi aap? (Where were you?)

ALMA

Um...

(CONTINUED)

Father's face is disgusted. He looks at Alma directly in the eyes and points a finger at her face.

FATHER  
(loud) Disgusting. Do you know what  
time it is Alma??

Alma is silent.

Alma slowly attempts to walk away.

Angry, Father knocks a glass cup off the table by her feet.  
it makes a loud shattering noise.

Scared, Alma walks away faster.

Father mutters under his breath.

FATHER (cont'd)  
Chichoree. (slut)

FADE TO:

INT. ALMA'S HOME - MORNING

ALMA'S BEDROOM  
Alma's eyes open.

Eyeliner smeared under her eyes.

She sits up.

She feels an ache on her cheek, she touches her right  
cheek and rubs it.

She tightens her jaw, her jaw aches, after effects of  
the ecstasy and teeth grinding.

She steps out of her bed and exits the room.

KITCHEN  
Alma walks down the hallway, into  
the kitchen.

She yawns.

Her hair is messy.

She walks slowly down the hall, she barely slept.

She sits down in the middle of the kitchen, next to her  
mother.

(CONTINUED)

ALMA  
Salaam alaikum, Mom...

Alma touches her head.

She has a headache.

MOTHER  
Kya Howa? (Whats wrong?)

ALMA  
Long night...I don't know.

Alma's Mother places a plate of Biryani and a cup of water in front of Alma.

Alma attempts to eat.

She takes a couple bites.

She touches her cheek, her jaw hurt.

(CONTINUED)

55.

CONTINUED: (2)  
ALMA (cont'd)

Ah...your food looks great, but

I don't have an appetite. I'm

sorry...

MOTHER  
Tum ne kya kiya raat mein?(What did you do last night?)

ALMA  
Uh...I just ate too much bad food, gave me an upset stomach. Its nothing really. You don't have to worry about me Mom.

Alma smiles at her Mother.

Alma's Mother looks at Alma.

She touches her forehead.

Her facial express is concerned and worried.

Mother walks into the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

Alma picks up her phone and texts Evan.

TEXT DIALOGUE WITH EVAN

Alma: I need to get out of here. There's so much tension, my dad caught me last night...

Evan: Seriously? Can you leave?

Alma: I don't know. My dad thinks I'm a slut.

Evan: I'll pick you up, just get out of there.

Alma: Okay.

Alma puts her phone away.

ALMA (cont'd)

Mom?

MOTHER (O.S)

Jee? (yes?)

ALMA

I'm going to see Nana, okay?

Alma lies.

MOTHER

Okay. Khuda hafiz. (goodbye)

Alma gets up and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. TERRY HOUSEHOLD - SAME DAY

HANNAH

Did you have a good time?

ALMA

Oh yeah. First time rolling...My brain is still tired...and I'm pretty sure I made out with Bre...

HANNAH (O.S)

Whoa!

ALMA

I know right...I blame the roll. But I felt the closest I have ever felt with Evan.

Hannah places a plate of food in front of Alma

(CONTINUED)

ALMA (CONTINUED)

You know, I could never talk to my Mom about any of this. I can't even imagine...

HANNAH

Well that's what I'm here for. Consider me another mother. Evan may be my son, but I want you to be able to come to me about absolutely anything.

Hannah grabs Alma's hands and stares into her eyes.

HANNAH (cont'd)

Look...I've seen Evan's past relationships, so know that I will be on your side, okay? I know how young boys can be.

ALMA

(slightly concerned by the sudden comment)  
Should I be worried about him?

HANNAH

Oh no, never! I could see it in you, you are strong, open-minded, and such an understanding young girl. No matter what, you will be okay.

James walks in with Kim.

JAMES

No one go into the temple. Me and Kim are going to be doing some energy work in there.

HANNAH

Alright.

JAMES

Oh Alma, how was your night?

ALMA

I'm still recovering from it all. I'm kind of sore for some reason and Eric accidentally burned me with his cigarette at a point.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

But here's the real question: Did you enjoy it and would you do it again?

ALMA

Yeah why not, it was fun.

James starts laughing out loud.

JAMES

You're a keeper.

Hannah and Alma watch James and Kim as they exit the room.

ALMA

I see...Out of curiosity... I know that you and James are... polygamous. How do you do it?

HANNAH

Number one rule. Very important. This is a monogamous marriage. But I allow James to do what he is doing. If I don't want it, It will not happen. And I make that very clear, you understand?

(short pause)

The work me and James do...let me show you a visual.

Hannah grabs a knife and goblet-like cup.

She sets the cup on the table in front of Alma, with knife at hand.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

In modern Pagan culture. They usually take a cup like this. A knife. And...

She stabs the knife into the cup.

HANNAH (CONT'D) (cont'd)

That's it...I'm sure you understand what that symbolizes, right?

ALMA

Yeah. I think so.

(CONTINUED)

HANNAH

Yeah. Well we think its complete bullshit. How are you supposed to perform a ritual for sexual energy, if there isn't actual sex? It's not just fun and games. I'm not just letting James screw any woman that walks in that door! I am the High Priestess, and I control everything that happens in this union! You understand, Alma? Do not let any boy or man do anything unless you allow it first.

ALMA

That's the thing. I can't even talk about this at home, let alone gave it any thought. I don't really know what I want, I just think I shouldn't judge something without experiencing it first. But I never really looked at it that way...

HANNAH

Come here.

Hannah gestures to Alma to sit in her lap.

Alma gets up and sits on Hannah's lap.

HANNAH (cont'd)

Look. Evan's my son. I'm his mother, I understand your worries. At the end of the day he's a boy, with a penis, so only the gods know what goes on in their minds. Understand, you are not alone, I am completely in your team little girl.

Alma smiles at Hannah.

Hannah hugs Alma.

HANNAH (cont'd)

Love you little girl. My Persian Virgin.

Alma smirks at Hannah while Hannah laughs.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EVAN'S ROOM - DAY

Both Evan and Alma are lying down on Evan's bed, next to each other.

They move closer to each other.

They assume a position where Evan is sitting with his legs laid out in front of him and Alma sits on his thighs.

She wraps her legs around him, spread out behind his back. Alma is faced toward him as he faces her.

Alma's arms are resting on his shoulders.

This position resembles sex (and "the Rite" position). Alma plays around with his hair and touches his face. Alma stares intently into Evan's eyes.

ALMA

God, its so crazy. To the typical American parent I'm probably some angel. My parent's think my life is going downhill...

Alma pauses.

But, I was also thinking about last night. What happened with Bre...

EVAN

(smiles)

Funny, I was just thinking the same thing.

ALMA

Yeah I'm not surprised. If it went any further, I would've started to believe Bre and I were a couple.

EVAN

Well...would you wanna be?

ALMA

What do you mean?

Short pause.

EVAN

Okay so...My parents think I'm ready to try a ritual. Well...the ritual. What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

ALMA  
Which ritual?

EVAN  
"The Rite."

ALMA  
What does that have to do with me  
and Bre?

EVAN  
Its a rite of passage thing. You  
have to be there and it involves  
some energy work. I can't do it  
without you. It wouldn't be real.

ALMA  
Okay, I mean if its something your  
parents want for you, I have no  
reason to stop that. I still don't  
understand where you're going with  
this though...

EVAN  
You just have to be there. You, me,  
my parents, and Bre.  
(short silence)  
What are your thoughts  
on Polyamory?

ALMA  
I haven't given it much thought.  
Spoke to your mom a bit, but I  
can't say much myself.

EVAN  
Okay, so think about it. What  
if you lived in a world  
where cheating never existed? Where  
you can love everyone freely, get  
rid of trying to control each  
other. Never feel jealousy and  
treat everyone equally?

ALMA  
Ideally... it sounds great. But it  
could be easier said than done.

EVAN  
(ramble)  
Yeah but only people that  
truly love themselves are able to  
get rid of jealousy. It's

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EVAN (cont'd)  
perfect. Jealousy only leads to  
bad, and if we just love ourselves,  
we would never be jealous of  
others. And-

ALMA  
Okay. You're still being extremely  
general Evan. What are you trying  
to say?

EVAN  
Fine...my parents want me  
to perform the ritual with Bre  
and the last thing I want is you to  
be jealous. But it's your choice,  
and your control, do  
you understand?...It could feel  
just like last night.

ALMA  
I already said I'll be there.  
I'm not here to judge you. If it's  
my choice, then I guess I  
gotta experience it to see for  
myself. I think I can learn to  
accept it.

Evan grabs Alma and kisses her.

EVAN  
You're amazing, you know that? I  
love you.

Alma smiles at Evan.

ALMA  
So how's 'The Rite' gonna happen?

EVAN  
It's a surprise. You'll find out  
soon.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Hannah is sitting in the kitchen.

She is playing with Tarot cards.

Alma and Evan enter the room.

They quickly kiss each other.

(CONTINUED)

They both smile.

EVAN

Text me when you get home?

ALMA

Yeah, no worries.

Alma's phone rings, she answers.

Short pause.

Alma listens to the loud yells roaring from her phone.

ALMA (CONT'D)

(lying)

Hey! No...I'm on my way, Dad! Yeah  
I know its late...No I'm in the car  
right now! Nana is taking me home!

They give each other one last kiss.

Alma waves goodbye to Hannah and exits the room.

ALMA (O.S)

I KNOW DAD! I'll be there soon!

Alma's voice fades away.

Hannah SLOW CLAPS, she is staring at Evan.

Evan appears confused.

EVAN

What's your deal?

Hannah continues to slow clap.

Serious expression on her face.

HANNAH

Congrats son. I am very proud of  
you.

EVAN

Uh...why?

HANNAH

From that beautiful orchestra I had  
the pleasure to hear in there. You  
found yourself a screamer!

(CONTINUED)

EVAN

Oh..god...

Bursts into laughter.

Evan appears embarrassed, he blushes.

Both Hannah and Evan continue to laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. ALMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alma enters her house quietly.

The room is dark.

She tiptoes in slowly, and then turns into the dimly lit dining room.

She stops walking abruptly, she's surprised. Nana and Mother are sitting down at the table and talking.

MOTHER

Alma, its late, Khidar thee thum?  
(where were you?) Your Nana was  
also asking about you.

ALMA

Ended up with friends, I'm sorry  
I lost track of time.

MOTHER

(raising her voice)  
Why are you lying Alma?

Alma is silent.

Nana also sits silently.

Alma tries to walk away, attempting to avoid the conversation.

She is ignoring her, avoiding the conversation.

MOTHER (O.S)

Alma?

Alma remains silent.

Mother walks to Alma, slaps her in the face.

Mother's face is serious, but she has tears in her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

Alma remains silent and looks down, avoiding eye contact.

MOTHER

Tumare' shirt say karo (fix your  
shirt) Your father will get upset.

Alma, shocked by the moment, remains silent.

She fixes her shirt.

Mother walks away, Nana and Alma remain in the room.

Nana looks at Alma.

NANA

Alma sit down.

Alma walks to a nearby chair next to Nana, she sits down.

There is a short silence.

NANA (cont'd)

I know what you're doing Alma.

ALMA

What are you talking about?

NANA

You and the boy. I know.

Alma is frozen.

NANA (cont'd)

I didn't tell your mom.

ALMA

What? Really?

NANA

Yes. But promise me one thing only,  
you cannot lie to your mother  
again, am I clear?

ALMA

Yes Nana.

Nana looks straight into Alma's eyes.

NANA

I'm remaining patient, Alma. I  
understand you're young, and I'm  
trusting you. Don't forget about  
who you are.

ALMA

Yes Nana.

Nana hugs Alma and walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TEMPLE ROOM - DAY AND NIGHT

POETRY NARRATION START:

ALMA (V.O)

Sweet freedom, from cage to sky

I know these are temporary highs

The human embodiment, light and  
dark

The sheltered home, but love in my  
heart

Transformation from white to black

Then black to white, when I go back

Secret lives, open loves, beyond  
understanding

No longer your little girl, became  
too demanding

Seduction, love, lust, it's mind  
control

The naked truth is scary, yet makes  
me feel whole,

But who am I, really?

SPECIALTY SHOT:

TIME-LAPSE MONTAGE (as poem is narrated) sequence of her  
going in and out of these different outfits, in a single  
room.

Alma is sped up.

She is changing out of traditional mosque clothes.

She takes off the clothes.

She puts on lingerie.

(CONTINUED)

Looks at herself in the mirror.

Modeling into the mirror.

She takes off the lingerie and puts on a corset with a garter belt.

She models the clothes again.

Evan walks into the room.

He hugs her from behind.

James and Hannah walk in.

James takes a photo of Evan and Alma. James and Hannah walk out of the room. Evan walks out of the room.

The camera gradually moving closer to Alma. She puts on her regular clothes.

Alma TURNS to face the CAMERA.

She is staring STRAIGHT into the CAMERA.

CAMERA slowly zooms in closer to her face Now a closeup of Alma's face.

Her EYES are the final FOCUS when the last words of the poem are said.

FAST MOTION MONTAGE END

CUT TO:

INT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - NIGHT

TEMPLE

Alma looks in the mirror in a bathroom.

She is only wearing a WHITE ROBE.

She observes the robe.

Her face expresses disinterest and confusion.

She opens a nearby door.

Hannah is standing outside the door waiting for Alma.

(CONTINUED)

ALMA

Why do I have to wear a white robe, again? No offense, but I feel like Rocky.

HANNAH

It's the custom and tradition, honey. You can't possibly do this in your regular clothes.

ALMA

I guess.

Hannah takes Alma's hand and guides her down a hallway.

Alma is led to a ritual room in the temple.

Alma follows Hannah.

PARALLEL MONTAGE BEGIN:

MUSIC GUIDES IN BACKGROUND

She walks into the temple and sees a group standing around a circle that is drawn on the floor, facing each other.

Everyone in the circle includes: James, Evan, Kim, Laura, and Bre.

All of them are wearing ROBES too.

Hannah, Kim, and Laura are wearing NAVY BLUE robes.

Evan, James, and Bre are wearing BURGUNDY robes.

She walks toward the circle and joins the group.

On the top of the circle is the altar, with two candles, and a chalice in the center filled with wine.

There is an athame (knife) next to the chalice.

Evan and Bre walk to the center of the circle.

MOSQUE

Nana and Father are sitting on a white cloth that covers the ground.

They are surrounded by only MEN.

(Shia-Muslim tradition, men and women are segregated during mosque ceremonies.)

(CONTINUED)

They are listening quietly to the Moulana (priest) speak in front of them.

The Moulana tells a story, he yells with passion.

The men behind Nana and Father start crying.

All of their heads buried in their hands.

Nana and Father keep their head down, they listen, faces are serious.

#### TEMPLE

Evan and Bre look at each other.

They both take off their robes.

They are wearing nothing underneath.

We only see their shoulders up.

Evan gives Bre the 'Five-Fold Kiss.'

Evan kneels before Bre and kisses her on both feet, both knees, her belly, both breasts, and her lips.

Then they assume a position where Evan is sitting with his legs laid out in front of him and Bre sits on his thighs.

She wraps her legs around him, spread out behind his back.

Bre is faced toward him as he faces her.

Bre's arms are resting on his shoulders.

Alma is standing in the middle of James and Hannah.

Kim and Laura are standing opposite James and Hannah.

James and Hannah each take Alma's hands and walk out of the room.

Evan, Bre, Laura, and Kim remain in the room.

#### MOSQUE

The ceremony is finished, the Moulana stands up.

Nana, father, and all of the men stand up as well.

Everyone starts lightly hitting their chests with their hands.

(CONTINUED)

They chant, "Ya Hussain" in the muffled background.  
Everyone gathers in a circle, ONE MAN sings loudly.  
They maintain rhythm as they hit their chests lightly.

## PRIVATE TEMPLE ROOM

Alma stands outside of the room.

She looks straight ahead at the doors separating her from seeing the ritual.

The left door is shut, the right door is open. Evan and Bre are behind the left door.

Alma could only hear the moans of Evan and Bre performing the sex ritual, but cannot see them.

James is standing to the left on Alma.

Hannah is standing to her right.

Hannah and James wait with straight postures.

## MOSQUE

The MEN stand up and get into single-file lines.

Each man chants in unison.

MEN  
Hussain, Hussain, etc.

One group stands in one line, hitting their chests.

Second group forms a second line, facing the men in the first line, and they also hit their chests.

They start hitting their chests harder, still in unison with one another.

They are chanting Nohas (Muslim Hymns), some men take off their shirts and hit their chests harder with passion.

Father and Nana watch the men.

They sing along, continue to hit their chests.

## PRIVATE TEMPLE ROOM

Alma is still standing outside of the room.

James suddenly pulls a small, BLACK bandanna out of his robe pocket.

He wraps it around the bottom half of his face, hiding his nose and mouth.

## MOSQUE

Nana suddenly stops hitting his chest.

He is having a heart attack.

Father looks at Nana, he reacts.

Other men notice, they gather around Nana and help him.

Nana is carried out.

## PRIVATE TEMPLE ROOM

James walks into the temple room.

James is still seen through the open door on the right.

He walks forward, he is now hidden behind the door that is shut on the left.

Alma cannot see him, she only sees Jame's robe suddenly drop onto the ground through the right open door. James is hidden, he is naked behind the hidden door.

Alma's face appears stunned.

She just stands there.

She could hear Bre's moans louder, more intense, almost screaming.

Bre's moans stun Alma, Alma remains silent in the moment.

## OUTSIDE MOSQUE

Nana is taken to a hospital room.

Father, Mother, and Hamza wait outside.

They are worried and crying.

## PARALLEL MONTAGE END

PRIVATE TEMPLE ROOM

Alma is frozen, doesn't say anything.

She hears more sounds from the room.

Hannah whispers to Alma.

HANNAH  
You're so brave.

Her voice becomes a drifting whisper.

Alma appears to be in shell shock.

Alma hears a faint ring and looks anxiety ridden.

Her surroundings become blurry.

Hannah looks like she is in a fun-house mirror. She looks up to Hannah where she forces a smile.

She looks down.

Her eyes are swelling, she is holding back tears. Her background suddenly dissolves into her house.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALMA'S DINING ROOM TABLE - NIGHT

Alma is sitting at the dining table.

She is looking down.

She is wearing a BURGUNDY scarf lightly draped over her head.

Her hair is still seen through the scarf, resting on her shoulders.

Her parents are silent.

Mother is wearing WHITE.

Father is wearing NAVY BLUE.

They appear sad.

Alma looks up at them.

Pause.

(CONTINUED)

ALMA

What happened?

FATHER

He had a heart attack. Why didn't you answer our phone calls?

ALMA

I'm sorry...I don't know...Is Nana gonna be okay?

FATHER

Why would you care Alma? You've been neglecting this family and you never spend time with your Nana anymore. You haven't even been praying Namaz, and you see what happens?

ALMA

I didn't do anything!

FATHER

Harami...

Father walks away disappointed.

Short silence.

Alma looks down, upset.

MOTHER

Ignore Karo. (Ignore him) He's upset. Pareshan Nahi Hon, Alma. (Don't worry, Alma) Your Nana will be okay, you will see him soon.

CUT TO:

INT. ALMA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alma is laying in her bed.

She attempts to sleep, but can't help but toss and turn.

She attempts every sleeping position that could come to mind. She lays on her back. She lays on her stomach. She turns to her right. She turns to her left. She is in fetal position.

Finally she gives up, lays on her back again and stares at the ceiling.

The room is silent.

(CONTINUED)

She slowly sits up, pushing her bed covers aside.

She tiptoes toward her window, and slowly opens it. She exits the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT CONTINUED

Alma is now walking toward the lighthouse.

She is still in her night clothes.

She sits down by the water.

Tears run down her face.

She stops crying for a moment. She stares straight at the water.

The moon is shining into the water, it glistens. She stands up.

Takes off her shirt and pants.

She only has on her bra and underwear.

She walks toward the water.

She stops in front of the water.

She takes a breath, and jumps in.

She is submerged for a short while, looks up toward the moon.

She floats up above the water.

The moon shines is especially bright on her face. Alma closes her eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALMA'S HOUSE - DAY

Alma is writing in her diary.

ALMA (V.O)

(writing)

Nana is in the hospital,  
parents tell me he's okay. I'll be  
seeing him soon. But I'm suddenly  
scared all the time, full of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALMA (V.O) (cont'd)  
 anxiety. I'm in a constant dis  
 associative state... I thought I  
 wanted to be liberated, to be open,  
 free of jealousy, free sexually,  
 but now I can't stop crying. Geez,  
 I'm so confused. What happened?  
 James and Hannah are the embodiment  
 of that idea: no jealousy,  
 sexual freedom. It's all a  
 choice. That's essentially what  
 everyone wants, isn't it? A part of  
 me thinks it's wrong and selfish  
 of me to feel this way. Of seeing  
 my boyfriend with another girl  
 and being upset; for not  
 accepting his freedom. God I'm so  
 confused.

(pause)

You know what's hard? Waking up and  
 suddenly everything's different.  
 When you realize that you're in  
 love, but you still feel so  
 alone...

CUT TO:

INT. ALMA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUED

Hamza walks into the room.

She sits on the corner of Alma's bed.

HAMZA

Hey, there you are. I feel like  
 I never see you anymore.  
 You're always with Evan and his  
 family, if this keeps up their  
 gonna make you one of their own.

ALMA

Yeah, I guess.

Alma sighs.

HAMZA

Is everything okay?

ALMA

It's complicated.

(CONTINUED)

HAMZA  
What did he do?

ALMA  
You're not going to  
understand Hamza.

HAMZA  
I see.

Silence.

Hamza gets up, about to leave the room.

She stops and looks at Alma.

HAMZA (cont'd)  
I understand how it feels to be  
in a relationship, Alma. But  
please remember, the grass isn't  
always greener, so try not to  
lose yourself in the process.  
Sometimes you've just got to let go  
of what you think you want so life  
can give you what you deserve.

Alma looks up at Hamza.

She smiles at her.

Hamza hugs Alma.

HAMZA (CONT'D)  
Visit your Nana when you can, he's  
been asking about you. Maybe you  
can take him home when  
they discharge him from the unit.

ALMA  
Okay.

Alma smiles.

Alma's phone vibrates.

TEXT DIALOGUE

EVAN: Can we talk?

ALMA: When?

EVAN: Now.

CUT TO:

INT. TERRY'S HOUSEHOLD - DAY

FRONT PORCH

Alma rings the doorbell.

Bre answers the door.

BRE

Hey Alma.

ALMA

Hey.

BRE

Come in.

Bre and Alma walk through the hallway into the kitchen.

Hannah is in the kitchen.

HANNAH

Alma! Where have you been lately? I was just giving Bre some books on energy work.

ALMA

My grandpa has been in the hospital. He had a heart attack.

HANNAH (cont'd)

Oh...well I'm sorry about that. But now you're here! It's not that morbid around here.

ALMA

Yeah I guess.

HANNAH

That's nothing to be too upset about, if he dies at old age, don't worry, happens to all of us. Nothing to be down about.

Alma face appears irritated by the lack of care in Hannah's tone.

ALMA

Well he practically raised me, he lived here with my family since I was born.

Silence.

(CONTINUED)

HANNAH

Well life goes on, dear.

BRE

So, Evan and I are going  
to practice some more energy work  
later.

ALMA

Is Evan still in his room?

HANNAH

Yeah he is, go ahead.

EVANS ROOM

ALMA

What did I do wrong? I've done  
nothing.

EVAN

Exactly Alma...you've done nothing  
at all. You never get mad at me. I  
find it hard to believe you are  
okay with any of this.

ALMA

I didn't know how I was gonna  
feel, I just-

EVAN

So you're not okay with it. I knew  
it.

ALMA

I did it so I could be with you.

EVAN

So you lied. God, you know  
how pathetic you sound, you just  
let us do anything.

ALMA

What does that even mean,  
isn't that what everyone has  
been preaching since I got here?  
Do what thou wilt, the oh-so open  
and liberal ways of the Nest. What  
do you want from me? To accept you  
or be against you?

(CONTINUED)

EVAN

Oh c'mon, you look  
fucking miserable Alma. You  
can't pretend to be happy, that  
you actually accept this. You  
can't handle my family.

ALMA

Why is it so damn hard for you to  
believe that I did it because I  
actually love you.

EVAN

Do you even love yourself? How am I  
supposed to believe you even love  
me if you can't even tell me the  
truth Alma?

(silence)

You don't need me. You don't  
need anyone. No one does, and no  
one is special. You can only  
make yourself happy, Alma.

ALMA

Don't give me that bullshit or put  
it all on me. It's so obvious this  
is really about Bre. Why were you  
ever in this relationship if Bre  
was always the one? What even  
happened in there? You think I  
can't tell what's really going  
on? Well..? Am I talking to a wall-

Evan interrupts and yells.

EVAN

Because I was afraid okay! I was  
a coward! Being with you gave me  
the confidence to even talk to  
her. You never even judged me  
once. That's why we needed you  
there! You think Bre would give me  
the time of day unless she saw me  
with a girl like you? You were just  
a safety blanket.

Silence.

Tears go down Alma's face, her face is red.

She attempts to hold back the rest of her tears.

(CONTINUED)

ALMA  
Goodbye Evan.

Alma takes her bag, and walks out of the room.

INT. TERRY HOUSEHOLD HALLWAY - DAY

Alma is still in tears.

She covers her face, crying is slightly more intense. She is heartbroken.

Tears slowly fade away, the endorphins slowly rush to her brain.

She is now calm and quiet.

She puts her coat on and a royal blue scarf around her neck. Ready to leave Evan's house for the last time.

She hears Evan's parents shouting in the next room. Evans parents are fighting.

Sounds of glass breaking, more arguing.

Alma hears a loud slap as James leaves the room with a bloody face.

His eyebrow is slightly split open.

He isn't wearing his glasses.

James approaches down the hallway, notices Alma.

JAMES  
25 years of marriage...it takes a  
hell of a lot of work...

James walks away wiping the blood off of his eyebrow. Alma turns to look at him.

She watches him walk away.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

Alma walks down the hall of a hospital.

She hears 60s-psychedelic music coming from a hospital room.

She looks at the door, appearing confused.

She walks into the room.

(CONTINUED)

Nana is laying down, hands resting under his head.  
He is singing along to the song.

ALMA

Nana?

NANA

My beti!!

Nana raises his arms and smiles.

ALMA

Are you okay?

NANA

First class, beti. You came at a perfect time. I'm going to be out of here any moment. You can push the wheelchair that I don't need.

Alma laughs.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF HOSPITAL - MORNING

Alma pushes Nana on his wheelchair and exits the hospital.  
She pushes his wheelchair toward her car.

Nana stands up.

Nana gets into the passenger seat of the car.

Alma sits in the drivers seat.

CUT TO:

ALMA'S CAR

NANA

Thank Allah. After a week of being there, I almost thought you put me in a nursing home.

ALMA

What happened?

NANA

I'm old, that's what happened. But enough of that. I know how you Americanized kids are these days. So tell me...

(CONTINUED)

(leans in and whispers)  
Where do you hide your weed?

ALMA  
Nana, I didn't know you smoked!

NANA  
Hey at my age I could still have secrets. What else should I be doing anyway. Don't tell your parents.

Alma starts the car and drives down the road.

ALMA  
Isn't is Haram...I mean you all have been pushing these rules all my life.

NANA  
Alma. Ask me right now. Why do your parents make you pray Namaz? To go to Masjid?

ALMA  
Because we have to...?

NANA  
No no. Never. I do it, because it makes me feel at peace. To be a part of a community of people that will help and care for you. That's why your parents want you to do it, and that is why they do it. They just want what's best for you.

ALMA  
Hard to believe.

Alma's face appears sad.

Short silence.

Nana looks to Alma.

Alma's face appears cynical and lacking care.

NANA  
Stop the car for a moment, Alma.

ALMA

Why?

NANA

Do as I say, Alma.

Alma pulls over.

She parks the car.

Nana turns to Alma.

NANA (CONT'D)

Alma. Never let anyone. And I mean ANYONE. Your parents, me, whomever, tell you how to live your life. You'll always have a family that loves and guides you. But at the end of the day, the only thing that really matters is what you make of them on your own.

Alma looks at Nana.

Alma's face still appears melancholy.

NANA

Smile! Your parents are not as controlling as you think. There are people out there that actually don't care to hurt you. But your parents are not. I was in your position a million years ago. They just want to protect you. That's why you are in this country.

Alma smirks.

NANA (O.S.)

There it is...

Alma shows a bigger smile.

Nana opens his arms for a hug.

Alma smiles, she hugs Nana.

NANA

Okay. Back to driving. Before you get home, I know of a better medical facility you need to take me to. Better than that hospital, if you know what I mean.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NANA (cont'd)

This stays between us or you'll be sent to Saudi Arabia.

Alma laughs.

She continues to drive down a road.

INT. ALMA'S HOME - DAY

Alma and Nana enter the house.

Nana hugs Mother tightly, Father and Hamza.

They are all smiling.

Nana walks away with Mother and Father.

Alma walks toward her room.

ALMA'S BEDROOM

Alma walks into her room.

Alma lays down on her bed.

She grabs some headphones from nearby.

She puts them on.

She presses play on her music player.

She looks up at her ceiling.

Her phone begins to vibrate.

She looks at her phone.

It reads: HANNAH CALLING.

She ignores the phone call.

She receives a text from Hannah:

HANNAH: ALMA, Are you there? There is going to be another meeting soon. I heard about things between you and my son. We could still talk about it, honey. I'd still like to have you around...

More texts begin to take over her phone.

HANNAH: Answer me Alma!!! Hello?

HANNAH: Did I do something? Where did you disappear??????

(CONTINUED)

Alma's phone begins to ring again.

Hannah again.

Alma looks at the phone, ignores the calls and deletes her number.

She throws her phone away.

She turns up the music on her music player. She grabs her diary.

She holds it close to her chest.

She looks up at the ceiling again.

SPECIALTY SHOT: Camera slowly zooms in on her face. It now zooms into her eyes.

Her eyes are only seen as a CLOSE-

UP. Her eyes shut.

FADE TO BLACK.

ENDING CREDITS.