

Disgrace

By

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1 EXT. RESTAURANT - EVENING 1

AMAL, a 35-year-old Arab-looking woman, wears a chic dress. She sits close to her boyfriend MARC and their friends JULIA and RIK, near the window of a restaurant. A glass of cola is positioned in front of Amal and the rest of them have champagne glasses in front of them. While Amal puts her purse on the table with one hand, with the other one she holds a ring box. They laugh together every now and then, while they have a conversation. Suddenly, a startled look appears on Amal's face after she is distracted by something from outside. She looks straight ahead through the window.

AMAL (V.O.)

My name is Amal, and these were my  
last moments before I could say  
goodbye to this world.

Amal closes her eyes. The SOUND of her HEARTBEAT is up and it is moving faster and faster. FADE OUT. The loud sound of a fired bullet is to be HEARD.

BACK TO PRESENT.

2 INT. AMAL'S BEDROOM - MORNING 2

Amal wears a pyjama and sleeps in her bed. Amal's alarm clock RINGS. She wakes up panicked with sweat on her forehead. Amal gasps for air, but slowly, she catches her breath again. Her older brother HASHIM calls her from the living room.

HASHIM (O.S.)

Amal!

3 INT. AMAL'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING 3

The clean-shaven Hashim wears a suit and pulls his tie. Amal walks into the Arabic-inspired living room and aims to kiss Hashim on his cheek, with an appealing smile on her face.

AMAL

Good morning!

Hashim turns around his head with a disgusted look on his face and takes a step back. Then he turns around again and suddenly, he throws a plastic sandwich bag with a sandwich inside of it at Amal's face. Afterwards, the sandwich bag falls on the ground. She is astonished.

(CONTINUED)

HASHIM

Haven't I told you that I don't eat this kind of shit?

AMAL

But Hashim, there are plenty of people out there, starving on a daily basis. And you are doing this with what God has given to you?

Amal bows down to pick up the sandwich bag. Hashim puts his shoe on the sandwich bag. While Amal stands up slowly, Hashim lowers his knees slowly. He looks with a wicked smile at Amal and after a couple of seconds he beats her down with a flat hand. Then, he stands up again and starts kicking against her. Amal starts screaming very quietly and at the same time, she starts coughing. Now, there are bruises on her face and the blood flows through her nose.

HASHIM

I decide what I want to do with it, not you. And besides, why do you look so tired?

AMAL

But...

Amal stands up slowly.

HASHIM

Nothing but, woman. You are going to pick up that sandwich, throw it in the garbage and fix me something else. And if you ever think of doing something else with it, then I will let you eat my shoe. How is that?

Before Amal bows down to grab the bag, Hashim puts his shoe on it for the second time. Then, he slowly moves away his shoe.

4

EXT. AMAL APARTMENT'S FRONT DOOR - MORNING

4

Hashim waves to Amal, while he smiles.

HASHIM

Bye, habibti!

At the same time, their neighbor Marc passes by and walks up to the front door of his apartment. Amal almost wants to say a word while she looks at Marc, but her position seems to be

(CONTINUED)

frozen. Before Hashim takes the elevator, he sees them looking at each other. While being frustrated, Hashim urges Amal to close the door and asks her why she hasn't put up her scarf in sign language. After Amal immediately closes the door, Marc looks at Hashim. Hashim starts moving his hand around his throat in a frustrated, angry way. Not much later, Marc enters his own apartment as well.

5 EXT. OPEN PARK - LATE AFTERNOON

5

Hashim sits on a bench in a park near RAYMOND, his boyfriend. He has a stressed look on his face, but he slowly puts his head close to that of Raymond's.

HASHIM

Ray, I really don't know what to do with this promiscuous girl. My sister, it seems that she has fallen off the right path since a long time.

RAYMOND

But you're doing the same thing, right?

Raymond winks at Hashim with his right eye. Hashim moves his head away from Raymond's and starts being angry again.

HASHIM

What are you talking about?

Raymond uses his hands to describe the situation.

RAYMOND

I mean us?

HASHIM

But that's something else.

Hashim lays his arm around Raymond and they almost start kissing. Amal appears in the far distance, this time with a headscarf around her face.

AMAL

I knew it!

HASHIM

You fucking whore!

Hashim is now on his nerves and he starts running behind Amal. Hashim is not able to catch up with Amal, who disappears in the distance. After a while, Amal does not see

(CONTINUED)

Hashim around her anymore, but she starts feeling dizzy. Amal puts her hand over her forehead and everything starts being hazy in front of her. She starts hearing a squeaky sound, which gets LOUDER. Afterwards, she falls unconsciously on the ground.

6 EXT. AMAL APARTMENT'S FRONT DOOR - LATE AFTERNOON 6

Agressively, Hashim enters the apartment and starts calling Amal and yelling at her.

HASHIM  
You fucking whore! Where are you?

Hashim throws Amal's stuff upside down and seems to be looking for something.

HASHIM  
Not tired enough of fucking around  
with the guy next door?

He is not able to find her anywhere inside the apartment. After he takes a seat on the couch in the living room, Hashim finds a note near the television. After he reads it rapidly, he starts tearing it up faster and faster. Afterwards, he throws it away and starts cursing in Arabic.

HASHIM  
Fucking whore!

Hashim leaves the apartment in a confused state.

7 EXT. RESTAURANT - EVENING 7

**SUPERIMPOSE: ONE YEAR LATER**

The front of a restaurant is to be seen.

8 INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING 8

Amal, Marc and their friends Rik and Julia are having a discussion inside the empty restaurant. A glass of cola is positioned in front of Amal and the rest of them have champagne glasses in front of them. All of a sudden, Marc interrupts the discussion by clinking the spoon against the side of his champagne glass.

MARC  
Guys, I want to bring out a toast  
on a very special person. But  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARC (cont'd)  
before that, I have something that  
I want to tell you.

The attention of Amal, Rik and Julia turns to Marc.

MARC  
First of all, I'm very lucky that I  
have met this beautiful, wonderful  
woman.

Marc points at Amal.

MARC  
Secondly, we are happy to tell you  
the exciting news, namely that...  
Amal is expecting a baby girl.

Rik and Julia laugh out of joy and congratulate Amal. Amal  
smiles out of joy. Afterwards, she kisses Marc on his mouth.

AMAL  
(whispers)  
I'll be back in a bit.

Afterwards, Amal returns. While she puts her purse on the  
table with one hand, with the other she holds a ring box.  
She looks at Marc, Rik and Julia and enjoys the  
conversation. Suddenly, a startled look appears on Amal's  
face after she is distracted by something from outside. She  
looks straight ahead through the window.

AMAL (V.O.)  
My name is Amal, and this is my  
story.

A fast rewind through all the scenes before, is to be SEEN  
in chronological order.

FADE OUT.

**SUPERIMPOSE: AT LEAST 5000 HONOUR KILLINGS ARE REPORTED TO  
TAKE PLACE WORLDWIDE EACH YEAR. THESE GO AGAINST ANY KIND OF  
RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS OR OTHER KINDS OF BELIEFS. WE MUST BRING  
AN END TO IT, TOGETHER.**

THE END