

NOWHERE

by

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FADE IN:

EXT.DESERT ROAD - NIGHT

We open on an empty desert road, it's a calm summer night.

SUCCESSION OF SHOTS:

An old dying tree.

The sand dunes.

The decrepit cracked road.

A lizard skidding by.

Then...

EXT/INT.DESERT ROAD_CAR - NIGHT

We see headlights coming down the road from a far.

INSIDE THE CAR:

We see bloody hands on the steering wheel.

A classic 80s song is playing, the person driving is humming along to it.

CLOSE UP ON THE PERSONS MOUTH:

They're smoking a cigaret.

CLOSE UP THE PERSONS ARM HANGING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW AS THE CAR DRIVES:

It's a mans hand holding a cigaret with smoke blown by the air on account of the car going at an incredible speed.

EXT.DESERT - NIGHT

The car pulls off the road into a dirt road.

It passes a multitude of trees and bushes, tearing through the dirt, from a distance the headlights are only thing visible, bobbing and weaving through the desert air.

EXT.DESERT - NIGHT

The car comes to a stop near a dry creak bed.

A SLOW DOLLY/ZOOM SHOT ON THE CAR.

We cant see the driver just yet...

We zoom... And zoom... And zoom.

Until... The Man comes out, opening the door with a creak of old rusty metal. He closes the door and...

SHOT FROM THE MANS BOOTS TO HIS FACE AND WE FINALLY SEE IT.

A handsome young MAN, of about... 35, tall and strong.

CONTINUOUS:

The Man takes in the middle of nowhere he just stopped at for a few seconds, then he makes his way to the back of his car.

He opens the trunk with his car key...we don't see what's inside, for now we only focus on the blank look on the Mans face. Its reads absolutetly cold and non caring. Then...

The Man takes out his phone and lights the inside of the trunk...we reveal a YOUNG unconscious woman she looks like she's between 15 to 17. She's only wearing a white tank top and panties, she's bound around the wrists and ankles and looks worse for wear, like she was just playing in the dirt.

He looks at her for a second... Then grabs her.

EXT.DESERT - NIGHT(CONTINUOUS)

The ground is passing by us, like we're being carried.

The young lady starts waking up slowly but surely, her eyes start to open, fluttering little by little. She reals and groans in pain, semi-dried blood is trickling down her face. She looks at her wrists trying to get her barrings, she sees that they've been duck taped together. She looks up and sees the open desert air inshrined with the darkness of night. She looks down and sees the back and legs of the person carrying her, panic starts to set in. She tries to scream but her voice is muffled by the duck tape gag on her mouth, she tries again, this time only a slight cry is heard.

The Man notices.

THE MAN

You're finally awake I see...

She cries and groans.

THE MAN

...well don't you worry, we're almost there.

She starts struggling to break free but she is much too weak to do so, only managing to slip slightly off his shoulder, he quickly adjusts her back and carries on his way.

EXT.DESERT - NIGHT(CONTINIOUS)

We see a giant tree, that's obviously been there for along time. Its leaves and branches swing back and forth in the night air. We stay on the tree until... in the horizon we

see the silhouette of the Man with the Woman on his shoulder. They approach the tree slowly but surely, when they arrive the Man sets her down gently against the tree.

She looks up at him.

CONTINIOUS:

WOMAN
(crying)
P***se... L*t m* **

The Man adjusts his shirt and takes off his jacket.

THE MAN
I'm afraid I can't understand you
with your mouth beign taped up and
all.

WOMAN
(sobbing)
Pl**se...

THE MAN
Here.

He peels the tape that's been holding the rag gag in place off and moves the rag down.

WOMAN
Pleeease(crying)... Please let me
go(more crying).

THE MAN
(chuckling)
I'm afraid That trick wont work on
me honey.

WOMAN
(beggin and crying)
Please, I wont tell anyone about
this.

THE MAN
Now that...

He takes gloves out from his back pocket and starts putting them on.

THE MAN
...that's for damn sure.

WOMAN
Why?...why are you doing
this?

THE MAN
You know why.

WOMAN

No... No I don't...

THE MAN

DAR!... SALEEM!

CONTINIOUS:

A knowing look comes across her face.

THE MAN

Now do you remember?

WOMAN

I...

THE MAN

That's right, the man you stole from.

WOMAN

I was going to pay him soon...

THE MAN

Soon, don't cut it... He wanted it yesterday, now... Well now all he wants from you... Is to disappear.

WOMAN

(crying)

Oh my god...

(realisation)

What...uhm is he paying you.. I can double it, whatever it is.

THE MAN

You? Pay me?

(he laughs)

This whole thing is about your inability to pay. Plus I work by word of mouth and that requires trust and trust requires loyalty.

WOMAN

So what, You're gonna kill me? Just like that?

He looks at her for second... Then smiles.

THE MAN

Just like that.

He reaches back and pulls out a large hunting knife.

WOMAN

You cant do this... You cant do
this to me... People will know,
people will know...

THE MAN

Yeah...I don't think so.

EXT.DESERT - NIGHT(CONTINIOUS)

We watch a bug crawl on the dry desert ground then...

We hear distant screams.

EXT.DESERT - NIGHT

The Man is just finishing burying, he sets last piece of dirt on the no doubt shallow grave and presses the shovel down on the dirt in an attempt to hide it. He finishes looks up at the distant rising sun.

INT/EXT.TRUNK/DESERT-DAWN

The Man throws the shovel inside the trunk and closes it.

INT/EXT.CAR-DESERT - DAWN

The Man opens his car door, and throws his jacket on the passenger seat and gets in. He's got blood on the tip of his eyebrow.

He settles himself...then as he's about to turn the key he notices something, it's his reflection in the rear view mirror. He sees the blood on him.

THE MAN

(sighing)

Oh shit!

He opens the glove box and takes out a box of tissues, he takes a couple and starts wiping it off. He looks in the mirror to check, it's gone.

He rolls down his window and is about to throw the tissues out... But then decides against it.

THE MAN

(talking to self)

You moron.

He rolls the window back up throws the tissues in the passenger seat and starts the car.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT.UNIVERSITY - DAY

We are looking at a door,like we're anticipating someone to come out of it.

We see someones feet,a womans feet tapping up and down nervously. We pan up and see...

CONTINIOUS:

ZEINEB,24, pretty and shy type.

She's sat at a bench opposite a door waiting for someone it would seem. After a beat... She gets up and starts pacing back and forth infront of this door. She bites her nails nervously and...

The door opens and an older gentelman comes out holding a piece of paper, he's a PROFESSER.

Zeineb stops and puts on a brave smile and approaches him.

ZEINEB

Professor... How'd I do?

He looks at her for awhile not saying anything...

The anticipation is palatable.

The professor sighs and hands her the paper.

PROFESSER

It's good... But not what we'd hoped for.

Zeineb looks at it for awhile not saying anything.

ZEINEB

(sighing)

I really thought... I really thoght this time would be different.

PROFESSER

So did I, but these things take time to get down, nonetheless perfect.

She looks down at the paper again and looks almost on the virge of tears.

PROFESSER

I'm... I'm sorry.

ZEINEB

No...

(wipes tears)

No, it's... It's not your falt Professor... I just need to get better.

PROFESSER

Y'know it doesn't have to be perfect, you can hand it in just like that and it would be adequate.

ZEINEB

Yeah...adequate is not really what I'm going for, but thank you for giving it your utmost attention, I really appreciate it.

PROFESSER

Don't mention it, just doing my job...

(trying to reassure)

Just keep at it... I'm sure you'll get it eventually.

ZEINEB

(sighs)

I will.

He walks away, leaving Zeineb staring at the paper.

EXT.UNIVERSITY GROUNDS - DAY

Zeineb is walking through the university passing Students and Professors.

EXT.UNIVERSITY GATE ENTRANCE - DAY

Zeineb is at the side of the road in front of the gates, smoking. She's looking out into the distance in deep thought. She looks at the paper one more time... Then throws it in a nearby trash can and walks away.

After Zeineb walks off we finally see the paper inside the trash, it has a 95% on it.

INT/EXT.CAR/ROAD - DAY

Zeineb is in a taxi texting someone, we see her phone and consequently the texts, she texting someone called AHMED, the text reads

TEXT 1

(from Zeineb)

Where are you?

There is no reply from Ahmed.

Zeineb looks annoyed.

TEX 2

I need to talk to you, are you home?

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

WE ARE IN A BUSY CITY STREET FILLED WITH VENDORS AND CUSTOMERS. WE SEE MULTITUDE OF SHOPS, ONE THAT SELLS SHOES ONE THAT SELLS CLOTHING, SHIRTS AND PANTS, OTHERS SELL STREET FOOD GRILLED IN THE HOT OPEN SUMMER AIR, WE SEE FLIES HOVERING OVER IT. THEN AS WE PASS THROUGH THE BUSY MARKET...

A young Man of about 23 is running while holding a back pack. He bumps into a few people.

Then we see the people chasing him, it's a group of thug looking men, each scarier looking then the next.

GANGSTER 1

Stop that guy! Stop him!

GANGSTER 2

We're gonna kill you!

YOUNG MAN

(taunting)

You have to catch me first.

Then the young Mans phone starts buzzing, he takes it out and...

We see that it's Zeineb texting him, he's AHMED.

AHMED

Ahh fuck! What does she want?

He puts his phone back in his pocket.

He takes a quick and turn and ducks into an alleyway.

He hides behind a big trash can, the gangsters didn't see this on account of all the people in the way so they continued ahead running after nothing.

Ahmed makes sure he's succesfully got away, he then takes out his phone and starts reading Zeinebs texts.

He replies...

AHMED(TEXT)

Hi, I'm sort of busy right now, I'm not home at the moment but feel free to stay there and wait for me, I'll be there soon, you know where the key is.

ZEINEB(TEXT)

Ok, I'll wait for you.

He puts his phone in pocket and starts running.

EXT.DOWN TOWN NOUAKCHOTT - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF THE DOWN TOWN AERIA, THE BUSIEST AND RICHJEST AERIA IN THE CITY.

We see cars in bumper to bumper traffic, we see a couple of the drivers.

BUILDINGS, PHONE SERVICE CARD SELLERS, PEOPLE WALKING DOWN THE STREETS.

EXT.PARKING LOT - DAY

We are in a parking lot in downtown Nouakchott, a beat up car pulls in, and THE MAN who we saw earlier gets out puts his sunglasses on and scans the aeria, it's an almost empty dirt parking space, with few cars here and there. After scanning for awhile he gets on the move.

EXT.HIGH CLASS NEIGHBOURHOD - DAY

The Man walks past a few residential homes, he's starting to sweat a bit, the summers and falls in Nouakchott are known for their brutality. After walking for awhile he stops at small local shop, the kind you see on almost every block in the city, they sell everything from water bottles to cigarretes, basically like convenience stores.

He greets the shop keeper.

THE MAN
Aselam aleykoun.

S KEEPER
Aleykoun selam

THE MAN
Can I get a bottle of coke and a pack of malbro reds please?

S KEEPER
Coming right up.

The Mans phone starts buzzing, he takes it out. He has a notification from his bank, a large sum of cash has been diposited into his account.

He nods his head and gives a faint smile.

The keeper comes back with his items.

S KEEPER
Here you go.

THE MAN
Thank you.

CUT TO:

EXT.AHMEDS HOME - DAY

A taxi stops in front of Ahmeds home and Zeineb gets out, the taxi drives away leaving Zeineb standing in the eerie silence of mid-day.

She takes a look around the neighbourhood it's a nice enough block, nothing fancy but not bad at all.

She starts walking towards the front door, the house is an old modern house that definitely needs renovations, she starts looking for something when she spots a big rock behind a tree, she lifts the nearby rock, under it is an old turn in key, the type that reminds you of your childhood when your mom would tell you to look away when she's about to open her mini lock on her plastic lock box.

She takes the key and opens the front door.

INT.AHMEDS HOME - DAY

The inside of this house is almost as decrepit as the outside and in desperate need of sweeping, dusting and wiping.

Zeineb is visibly disgusted by the environment.

ZEINEB

(to herself)

Place looks even worse than the last time I saw it.

Being familiar with the layout she heads straight for the kitchen.

INT.KITCHEN, AHMED HOME - DAY

She enters with a brisk confidence, dropping her bag on the kitchen counter and opening the fridge for something to drink, the fridge is almost barren, supporting only a few items, some of them expired. She spots a can of coke.

INT. AHMED LIVING ROOM - DAY

She plops on the couch while opening the can causing it to fiz on her hand and fore arm.

ZEINEB

Ah shit!

She starts sipping the coke on her hand until she reaches the can trying to stop the spilling.

She's semi successful.

CONTINIOUS:

After taking a few swigs, she starts looking around the room. The living room is your typical male bachelor living room(as is the whole house)the couch she's on is facing a small flat screen TV mounted on a small coffee table, under the tabel is an old PS4 console with a few games spread about.

The room has a single window to the left of the couch and to the right of the TV, between the TV and couch is another coffee table, only this one is even messier if that's even possible. It has chips, dirty plates with crums and stains on them that look like they've been there for days possibly weeks, A half eaten sandwich and a dirty coffee mug.

ZEINEB

Ugh.

She takes another gulp and sets the can on the dirty table. She starts looking around for something. After searching the couch, through the mountain of filth she finds the remote controle under the bag of chips.

ZEINEB

Aha!

She presses a button on the remote and the TV turns on, it's on the National Geographic channel, we see a lion chasing a gazelle in the african safari, she turns the channel to a channel showing an action movie, someone gets shot! This makes her wince, she turns it again and lands on channel showing a romantic soap opera.

ZEINEB

Now we're talking.

She takes a handful of chips and shoves them in her mouth and takes a swig of coke too.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

WE SEE A FEW CARS ON THE ROAD, WE FOCUS ON THE BUS.

INT/EXT.BUS/CITY - DAY

Ahmed is sitting in the back row of the bus, busy in thought. He takes his phone out, it's turned off. He presses the ON button, as soon as the phorn turns on, messages on messages starts flying thorough his phone. We see a few, one read: "where are you?" Another reads: "you better pray I don't find you." And another: "I'll kill you!"

Ahmed cringes and ignores almost all of them he heads for zeinebs number and texts her: " on my way." She responds: "ok."

CONTINIOUS:

After texting her, he puts his phone. He starts looking around the bus, looking to see someone recognises him. No one is paying him any attention.

He focuse on his back, he looks around cautiously one more time before opening it, inside is piles and piles of cash. He puts his hand in and pulls out a hunders ouigiya bill. A sleezy and excited expresion comes up on his face, he smells the bill and puts back back in, he zips the bag shut and looks around again.

EXT.BUS STOP - DAY

Ahmed gets off the bus. He looks straps the back pack tight round his shoulders looks around to see if anybody followed. He sees no one. He starts off.

EXT.STREET - DAY

Ahmed is walking home when his stomach starts gurggling.

AHMED

(to self)

Oh, I geuss all that running comes with a price.

He tries to continue on his way but his stomach starts gurggling again. He looks around, scanning the aeria, he then spots a restaurant on the opposite end of the block in the opposite direction of where he's headed.

He looks down at the restaurant then back at his destination, back and forth and back and forth.

His stomach makes another sound this one graver then the others.he hesitates....

Then against his better judgement he heads for the restaurant.

INT.RESTAURANT - DAY

Ahmed enrers the restaurant, he stops at the entrance, scans the restaurant, the restaurant is almost filled with customers(it's lunch time). He looks around checking to see if he recognises anyone or if anyone recognises him. No one seems to be paying him any attention, everyone is either busy eatignor chatting. He heads for an empty table.

He finds an empty table for two and takes a seat, he sets his bag under the table at his legs.

After a couple of minutes a waitress comes by.

WAITRESS
Are you ready to order sir?

CONTINIOUS:

AHMED
Let's see, hmm... What's the best thing on the menu?

WAITRESS
Well we have the roasted chicken with a side of ruce and salad that's pretty good.

AHMED
(smiling mischievously)
What's the most expensive?

WAITRESS
(jokingly)
Feeling good today are we?

AHMED
(winking)
Something like that.

WAITRESS
(smiling)
Most expensive let's see...here, the grilled onions stake.

AHMED
(handing her the menu)
The stake it is.

WAITRESS
Be right back.

She heads off,Ahmed looks at her walking away.

AHMED
Oof.

Then... THE MAN enters the restaurant, he in turn scans the place, it is filled to the brim. He starts making his way through the joint, not finding anywhere to sit... then he spots ahmed at his table sitting alone with the last available empty chair. He heads for him.

AT AHMEDS TABLE

The Man approaches Ahmed.

THE MAN
Hello sir, excuse me.

Ahmed almost instinctivly reaches down to his back pack.

AHMED

Yes?

THE MAN

Sorry to bother you... Is this seat taken?

AHMED

(still cautious)

Oh...uhm...no actually.

THE MAN

Well if you would'nt mind, I'd sure appreciate it if i can sit down with you at this here table.

Ahmed stares at him, not sure about his intentions.

THE MAN

I dont want to be a bother but you see... I've been travelling all day and well...

(chuckles)

...I have'nt even ate breakfast yet... So I'd sure appreciate it.

Ahmed looks around the restaurant.

AHMED

Are sure there is no where else?

THE MAN

I been through the whole place, not a signgle one I'm affraid.

Ahmed hesitates for a beat...

Then...

AHMED

...I don't see any other options.

THE MAN

(laughing)

Seems so does'nt it?

AHMED

...well please sit down.

THE MAN

Like I said mighty appreciated.

The Man sits down opposite Ahmed.

The waitress comes back.

WAITRESS

(re:Ahmed)

Your order's in sir...oh, I see you've got company.

AHMED

(smiling awkwardly)

Seems so.

THE MAN

Hello mam.

WAITRESS

(re: The Man)

Polite, I like that.

THE MAN

(re:waitress)

Always mam.

WAITRESS

(re:The Man)

Well, is the polite gentelman ready to order?

THE MAN

Well let's see...

(thumbs through the menu)

...I don't know...

Ahmed is watching him very intently, his every move.

THE MAN

(re:Ahmed)

Well, what are you having my friend?

AHMED

Well...

WAITRESS

(re:The Man)

Well your friend here ordered the most expensive thing on the menu.

THE MAN

(looking up at Ahmed)

Really?

Ahmed smiles an uneasy smile, he clutshes tighly his bag under the table. The Man notices this.

THE MAN

(re:Ahmed)

Wow, you win the lottery today?

AHMED

(re:The Man)

Something like that.

An awkward beat...

Then...

CONTINIOUS:

THE MAN
...good for you.

A look of relief on Ahmed.

THE MAN
(RE:Waitress)
I'll have what he's having.

WAITRESS
(re:The Man)
wow two ballers today! I like it.

They all laugh.

WAITRESS
Coming right up.

She walks away from them.

They both look at each other and smile awkwardly.

CUT TO:

INT. AHMED LIVING ROOM - DAY

Zeineb is watching one of those terrible reality shows, it's one of the many dating/romance shows, in this particular episode one of the female contenstants is waiting to see if the partner she chose has chosen her or went with someone else.

TV HOST
Brianna you've made your decision
about who you want as your partner.

BRIANNA
Yes, I have.

TV HOST
And you've chosen brad.

BRIANNA
(nods)
Yeah.

TV HOST
Now, it's time to see... If brad
has made the same choice. Brad!
Please come on out here.

The music starts to swell up in an attempt to incite anticipation and fear.

Brianna and every one else wait with supposed baited breaths, the camera cuts back and forth between Briannas face and the door where Brad is going to come out of...

Until...

The tension is finally relieved when Brad comes out alone with a big shit eating grin, the camera cuts to Brianna and she has a similar expression.

Brad and Brianna hug and kiss while everyone around them including the host are clapping, and congratulating them.

TV HOST

Brianna you have made the right choice it seems, congratulation for you both!

ZEINEB

(scoffs)

Good for them.

Zeineb turns the TV off.

ZEINEB

That's enough of that.

She takes her phone out.

ZEINEB

What's taking him so long?

CUT TO:

INT.RESTAURANT - DAY

Ahmed and The Man are eating their meals in complete silence, with Ahmed looking up at The Man periodically trying to keep an eye on him still not trusting him.

The Man looks up at him catching him by surprise.

THE MAN

This is incredible!

AHMED

(acting cool)

Yeah...it is.

THE MAN

No wonder it's the most expensive thing in here, I mean the meat, the sauce, everything is just...perfection.

Ahmed nods in agreement, The Man returns to his meal. Ahmed scans the Mans face trying to see if there is any sort of deception or ill intentions. So far, he's noticed none.

THE MAN

So, you come here alot?

AHMED

Uhm.. No actually it's my first time here.

THE MAN

Me too, but I'll tell you what...
(chewing the swallowing)
I'll definetely be coming back here.

AHMED

(still uneasy)
Yeah, me too.

THE MAN

(smiles)
Do you live around here?

AHMED

Not far.

THE MAN

Me too...
(looks out the window)
It's a beautifull neighborhood isn't it? I've lived here all my life, grew up here actually...no where else I'd rather be.

AHMED

(looks outside too)
I know what you mean.

THE MAN

(looks at him kindly)
I like you, you're a good man.

AHMED

Nah, I don't know about that.

THE MAN

No,no you're good man, you agreed to sit with a complete stranger...
(jokingly)
Who, who knows might've been a complete asshole and ruined your nice meal.

AHMED

Well, you did'nt look like an asshole.

THE MAN

(laughs)

Thank you...point is you could've just ignored my request or denied it completely, but you did it out of the kindness of your own heart...

CONTINUOUS:

Ahmed softens.

THE MAN

(continued)

...and that, makes you a good man in my books.

AHMED

Well thank you...you don't seem so bad yourself.

THE MAN

Thank you, I try...the world needs more good men.

AHMED

On that we can agree.

Ahmed lifts his drink.

AHMED

Here's to all the good men.

THE MAN

Cheers.

They klink their glass together.

Then, ahmed's phone starts ringing.

AHMED

Ohp...

(takes out phone)

Excuse me.

Ahmed gets up and goes to the bathroom, taking the backpack with him...The Man notices this too.

CUT TO:

INT.RESTAURANT BATHROOM - DAY

Ahmed enters on the phone.

AHMED

(on the phone)

I'm on my way!

ZEINEB

(on phone)

Well hurry up, I've been waiting
for over an hour.

AHMED

Look I had to stop somewhere and
get launch, my stomach was
killing...

A man comes out of one of the stalls, he nods at Ahmed,
Ahmed nods back.

Ahmed waits for him to wash his hands and go out before
continuing.

AHMED

...what are you in a hurry about
anyway? Can it wait?

ZEINEB

No it cant, so just get your ass
over here already, I'm getting
bored out of my mind.

AHMED

Ok, ok hold your horses I'll be
there soon.

ZEINEB

Hurry!

She hangs up. Ahmed looks at the phone, annoyed.

CUT TO:

INT.RESTAURANT - DAY

Ahmed returns to the table.

AHMED

Hey man I gotta go but it was nice
meeting you.

THE MAN

Oh, like wise. You have yourself a
great day.

AHMED

Thanks.

Ahmed takes out his wallet.

THE MAN

Oh, no,no! It's...it's all on me.

AHMED

I cant let you do that.

THE MAN

No please I insist, it's the least
I can do, let me repay your
kindness.

AHMED

Well...that's very generous of you.

THE MAN

You're welcome.

CONTINIOUS:

Ahmed smiles and offers his hand, The Man shakes it and
Ahmed goes on his way.

The Man looks after him as he leaves, and takes a glance at
Ahmeds backpack.

THE MAN

I wonder what's in that thing.

then...His phone starts ringing.

He picks it up.

THE MAN

Hello?...yes...yeah that's me...yup
hold on a second.

He takes out a wad of cash and signals the waitress over.

CUT TO:

EXT.RESTAURANT - DAY

The Man comes out talking on the phone.

THE MAN

(on phone)

Sorry about that, what can I do for
you?

STRANGER

(on phone)

I have a job for you.

THE MAN

Yeah?...what kind?

STRANGER

The kind that pays, and pays well.

THE MAN

Is that so?

STRANGER

Are you intrested?

THE MAN

I'll need to know more before I can decide that.

STRANGER

No, you have to decide now.

THE MAN

Look, I cant agree to a job I know nothing about.

CONTINIOUS:

STRANGER

You have to agree first, you do know who I work for right?

THE MAN

I've heard of him.

STRANGER

Then you know he does'nt mess around, and you know that he's a complete professional.

THE MAN

Still...

STRANGER

Are you in or out? You have thirty seconds to decide.

THE MAN

I...

He puts his phone to his chest, contemplating.

FLASHBACK:

The Man standing over a hospital bed with a woman on it unconscious. It's his mother.

A doctor comes in.

THE MAN

How is she doc?

DOCTOR

Not well I'm afraid,her heart is faling faster then we thought, she needs to have heart replacement surgery soon, and I mean soon... Or it could be...fatal.

The Man nods his head, he looks over at his mom and for the first time...we see sadness and pain in his eyes.

The doctor starts walking away.

THE MAN

Wait...how much is this going to cost?

DOCTOR

They don't come cheap these things, it'll cost you a heavy penny.

THE MAN

How much exactly?

The doctor hesitates then...

CUT TO:

EXT.RESTAURANT - DAY(PRESENT)

The Man puts the phone back to his ear.

THE MAN

I'm in.

STRANGER

Good. I'll send you the location and you'll be fully informed there.

CUT TO:

INT.AHMEDS HOME - DAY

Ahmed comes in.

AHMED

Hey I'm home what did you want to talk about?!

There's no response.

AHMED

Hello?! Zeineb!?

Still nothing.

He walks to the living room

INT. AHMED LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ahmed enters looking for Zeineb but she's nowhere to be found.

He moves on to the kitchen.

INT.KITCHEN, AHMED HOME - DAY

She not there either.

INT.AHMEDS HOME - DAY

Ahmed goes up the stairway.

AHMED

Zeineb are you here?!

INT.AHMEDS HOME/SECOND FLOOR - DAY

The second floor has two bedrooms and a bathroom

He opens the bathroom door closest to him, zeineb is not there, he moves on to the first bedroom she's not there either, finally he goes to the last room(his room) and sees that the door is slightly cracked open, he peeks inside and sees Zeineb taking a nap on his bed.

He opens the door, Zeineb is sleeping peacefully.

He approaches her slowly, he reaches the bed and stares at her for a second...he smiles, not like any other smile we've seen before from him.

After a beat he starts pulling the covers over, she wriggles at this and makes sleeping sound.

He turns the lights off and exits the room.

INT. AHMED LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ahmed sits down at his couch and sets his backpack on the messi coffee table.

He sloops back and does a deep sigh. He closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

INT.AHMEDS BEDROOM - DAY

Zeineb lays on Ahmeds bed in deep sleep.

THE CAMERA SLOWLY ZOOMS ON HER, UNTLI IT REACHES HER FACE.

Then...

INT.ZEINEB CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY(DREAM/FALSHBACK)

We see 8 year old Zeineb playing with her dolls.

Then... A big heavy set Man in his early 40s enters, this is Zeinebs father, MOKHTAR.

MOKHTAR

Zeineb come here.

He sits down on the couch, holding a piece of paper not to dissimilar to the one the Professor handed Zeineb.

Zeineb looks up from her toys immediatly like a soldier when his commander enters the room.

She waddles slowly toward her father.

MOKHTAR

I said come here god damn it!

She runs over.

MOKHTAR

Sit.

She sits next to him and gets almost squished by his large size.

MOKHTAR

You see this?

She innocently nods her head.

MOKHTAR

Do you know what this is?

ZEINEB

No.

MOKHTAR

Don't play koy with me! you know exactly what this is.

She shies away, terrified.

MOKHTAR

You know don't you?!

She stays silent.

MOKHTAR

Answer me god damn it, or I swear you'll see the end of my belt!

ZEINEB

It's...it's my report card.

MOKHTAR

Exactly! And do you know what's on this report card?

ZEINEB

...I think so.

MOKHTAR

You know exactly what's on it.

ZEINEB

I do.

He throws the card in her face, she flinches.

MOKHTAR

Take a look at that.

With tears bubbling in her eyes, she picks up the report card with her shaking hands.

The report card shows that she's had all straight A's except for one subject...english. She has a B+.

MOKHTAR

English? Fucking english?! Are you fucking kidding me?!

CONTINIOUS:

ZEINEB

(crying)

I'm sorry daddy.

MOKHTAR

Don't be and stop crying!

ZEINEB

(sobbing)

I'm so sorry.

MOKHTAR

I don't need to be soory, I need you t be better, this is not how I raised you.

Zeineb starts sobbing outta control.

MOKHTAR

I said stop crying!

She doesn't.

MOKHTAR

Alright that's it.

He grabs by the hair and starts dragging her accross the room.

ZEINEB

(crying)

No daddy! Please no I wont do it again! Please!

MOKHTAR

There's no escaping this you bitch!

INT.ZEINEB CHILDHOOD HOME/STAIRS - DAY(DREAM/FALSHBACK)

He drags her up the stairs while she woops and hollers.

INT.ZEINEB CHILDHOOD HOME/BEDROOM - DAY(DREAM/FALSHBACK)

They enter and he throws her across thne room.

He starts taking off his belt.

MOKHTAR
(breathing heavy)
You're gonna learn today.

ZEINEB
(crying)
Please...no, stop.

He grabs her, sits on the bed and bends her over his knee, he then lifts her skirt up revealing her bare buttocks.

He twists one end of the belt around his right hand.

CONTINIOUS:

MOKHTAR
This is for your own benefit.

She closes her eyes tight and prepares herself for she knows what's coming.

He lifts the belt high over his head and lashes her viciously.

ZEINEB
Ah!

He doest it again.

ZEINEB
(crying)
Ahhh!

MOKHTAR
Quiet!

She sobs and tries to cry quietly.

He lifts it again, only this time much higher.

We see her ass all red and bruised.

He hits her with all his strength.

She bottles her pain this time, only making a slight groan.

Tears roll down her eyes like a cascading waterfall.

He continues to hit her, again and again and again.

We slowly start fading away from the scene, with the sounds of the lashes getting fainter and fainter.

Then...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT.AHMEDS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Zeineb jolts awake with tears streaming down her face.

She looks around panicked for a few seconds, forgetting where she was. An expression of realisation on her face, remembering. She sighs a sigh of relief. She wipes away her tears and gets up.

CUT TO:

INT. AHMED LIVING ROOM - DAY

Zeineb enters. She sees Ahmed laying on the couch sleeping with the TV still on.

CONTINUOUS:

She approaches him slowly, tiptoeing across the room.

She watches him sleep for awhile, he looks peaceful. She sits next to him and clasps his nose with her index and thumb.

After a beat...

He jolts awake.

AHMED

What the hell?!

ZEINEB

Wakie wakie sleepy head.

AHMED

You're such an asshole... And you're in no position to talk, you're the one that was snoring upstairs.

ZEINEB

I know that's a lie, I never snore.

AHMED

How would you know? You're asleep.

ZEINEB

Because I'm a lady, and ladies don't snore.

AHMED

Yeah...

(he gets up groaning)

...you keep telling yourself that.

He gets up and heads for the kitchen, she follows him.

INT.KITCHEN, AHMED HOME - DAY

AHMED
Did you sleep well?

He opens the fridge and takes out a can of coke.

ZEINEB
Yeah...about as well as anybody can
sleep.

AHMED
That's good, wanna a can?

ZEINEB
I'm good, thank you.

CONTINIOUS:

He sits at the kitchen counter.

AHMED
(sips)
So...what did you want to talk
about?

ZEINEB
Oh, I totally forgot about
that...I.

AHMED
Well...

ZEINEB
It's nothing.

AHMED
What?

ZEINEB
It's not that important.

AHMED
Not that important? You were
blowing my phone up all day long
trying to reach me...well I'm here
so...

ZEINEB
Just forget about it.

AHMED
Forget about it?

ZEINEB
Yeah...

She gives him the puppy eye look.

ZEINEB

...please.

AHMED

...alright, ok.

ZEINEB

Let's just hang out, I need...a distraction.

AHMED

A distraction huh? Well I might have just the thing.

He downs the rest of his coke.

AHMED

Follow me.

CUT TO:

EXT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

It is heavily raining, the abandoned wearhouse is getting bombarded. We see a few peaces of the old roof getting pelted, then...

The Man pulls up in his car and parks infront of the building.

INT/EXT.CAR/WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Iniside the car the Man is listening to classic rock music, he turns the radio down and turns his car of except for the lights. He rolls down his window and lights a cigarette.

As he smokes he blows the smoke outside, he looks out the front windshield and cant see jack shit, he looks out the window and see the remains of this once thriving wearhouse. with old rusty crains and forklifts just left there to rott.

He takes another puff before...

Another car, a much fancier then the one he's driving pulls up beside him. It's a black classy escalade, He starts checking it out, it's windows are all tinted including the windshields. After observing them for awhile he gets out of his car.

EXT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

He walks to the other car.

When arrives the windows rolls down.

Inside is creepy looking man wearing sunglasses.

SUNGLASSES

Get in.

The Man hesitates for a second...

He goes to the passenger side and before he can get in...

SUNGLASSES
(points to cigarette)
Leave that outside.

THE MAN
You don't smoke?

SUNGLASSES
Not in this car I don't.

The Man doesn't look pleased about this but he takes a final puff and grounds the cig under his foot.

He gets in.

CONTINUOUS:

INT/EXT. CAR/WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Sunglasses hands The Man an envelope.

THE MAN
What's this?

SUNGLASSES
That...is something you'll need to accomplish the job.

THE MAN
I don't need any...

SUNGLASSES
Open it.

The Man scoffs at this show of disrespect, he then opens the envelope.

Inside is a small packet of a white substance.

THE MAN
Is this what I think it is?

SUNGLASSES
We need this job done discreetly...to look like a natural death... And that...
(re:packet)
...is a new narcotic we've obtained, that causes who ever takes it to have a blood clot in less than 30 seconds.

THE MAN
(nods his head)
Is this kind of thing...

SUNGLASSES

It's untraceable, we've made sure that it can't be detected in the blood stream or anywhere else for that matter...so...

THE MAN

(hesitating)

I gotta tell you man, this...ain't really my style...I mean I can't disappear without a trace...

SUNGLASSES

We'd prefer it if you did it this way, it's much cleaner.

CONTINUOUS:

CONTINUOUS:

THE MAN

I'm guessing this has to be injected orally.

SUNGLASSES

You guessed right.

THE MAN

That's gonna be a tricky sunuma bitch.

SUNGLASSES

That's what you're getting payed for.

THE MAN

(nods)

...who's the target?

SUNGLASSES

Here.

He hands him a file.

He opens it and we see that the target is...

NAME: AHMED SELWANY

AGE: 23

HEIGHT: 175 cm

A look of realisation on The Man's face...

FLASHBACK

The Man talking with the Ahmed.

INT/EXT.CAR/WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

THE MAN
I know this kid.

SUNGLASSES
...you do?

THE MAN
(flabbergasted)
I met him earlier today...I...

SUNGLASSES
(noticing)
Is this going to be a problem?

The Man is almost frozen in place...

SUNGLASSES
Is this... going to be... a
problem?

THE MAN
...can I ask what he did?

SUNGLASSES
Why?

The Man stares him down.

Sunglasses looks away from The Man and stares ahead.

SUNGLASSES
...he stole from us...something
incredibly valuable.

The Man let's this new information set in.

Then...

FLASHBACK

Ahmed clutching his backpack when The Man approaches.

INT/EXT.CAR/WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

A moment of silence...

SUNGLASSES
Are you up for this?

THE MAN
Such a shame.

SUNGLASSES
...

THE MAN
He seemed like a good kid.

SUNGLASSES

We need it done in 48 hours.

THE MAN

(nods)

...consider it done.

SUNGLASSES

Good, first you'll have to find him.

THE MAN

I got that covered, leave to me.

EXT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Sunglasses drives away leaving The Man standing in the rain.

We focus on his face for a second...

CUT TO:

INT.AHMEDS HOME/BASEMENT - NIGHT(RAIN)

A large tarp is lifted from something, dust flies everywhere.

AHMED

Hah, cool right?

ZEINEB

Uhm...

AHMED

What?...you don't like it.

ZEINEB

I mean...

We reveal an old dusty ping pong table.

AHMED

Come on, I'll teach how to play.

He goes to a nearby desk and the drawer.

He takes out two paddles and a couple of balls.

AHMED

(he hands her a paddle)

Here, take this.

ZEINEB

How old is this thing and when did you last use it?

AHMED

Oh, I've never used this particular table before, it came with the place.

ZEINEB

It needs seious cleaning.

AHMED

Never mind that, focus.

ZEINEB

Wait I'm not...

Before she could finish, he smashes a ball against the table, sending it her way.

ZEINEB

Fine.

CONTINIOUS:

CONTINIOUS:

She hits it back at him.

AHMED

Oh, shit!

Ahmed flinches out of fear, alowing zeineb to score first.

ZEINEB

haha,How do you like that?

AHMED

I thought you said you did'nt know how to play?

ZEINEB

I never said that, you just assumed.

AHMED

...ok, you know what?...I'm getting serious now.

ZEINEB

I don't know, you looked pretty serious to me with that ambush attack.

AHMED

Ambush...I was just testing you.

ZEINEB

Keep telling yourself that.

AHMED
 (fired up)
 Oh, you're on.

ZEINEB
 Bring it.

FADE TO:

INT.AHMEDS HOME/BASEMENT - DAY

Ahmed and Zeineb are in a fierce back and forth rally.

AHMED
 Ah!

ZEINEB
 Ugh!

AHMED
 It's mine, you can stop if you're
 getting tired, I don't want you
 hurting your delicate little hands.

CONTINIOUS:

ZEINEB
 Tired?...hah, in your dreams buddy.
 But if you need to take a break,
 I'll understand, after all you've
 never been the athlete type.

Zeineb hits the ball with all her might and scores.

AHMED
 God damn it!

ZEINEB
 (celebrating)
 Wohoo! Who's your daddy now huh?! I
 am haha!

AHMED
 (wipping sweat)
 You're so annoying

ZEINEB
 (teasing)
 Oh, you know you love me.

AHMED
 (laughs)
 Shut up.

They both sit down at a nearby bench.

Ahmed takes out a bottle of water.

AHMED
(handing it)
Here.

ZEINEB
(takes it)
Thanks.

Zeineb shugs half the bottle dry.

AHMED
Geez save some for me.

ZEINEB
(laughing)
...here.

AHMED
(smirking)
...thank you.
(drinks rest of it)
What a game huh?

ZEINEB
What a game indeed, what's the
score.

AHMED
Pfft, who cares...you clearly won.

ZEINEB
(chuckles)
I whooped your ass.

AHMED
Alright that's enough of that.

ZEINEB
(laughs)

Ahmed looks at her laughing for a beat...

AHMED
You feeling better?

ZEINEB
...yeah...I am, thanks to you.

They both stare at each others eyes...

AHMED
(breaking tension)
...so, what do you saay?

ZEINEB
(giggling)
...thank you, I...really needed
that.

AHMED

(serious)

You're welcome. Now let's go get
you something to eat.

CUT TO:

EXT.THE MAN'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT(RAIN)

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF THE MAN'S FIVE STOREY APARTMENT
BUILDING.

INT.THE MAN'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT(RAIN)

The man enters slowly into his home, he's dripping
wet...like he's been standing in the rain for hours.

He stands still in front of his front door for a beat with a
blank look on his face. A puddle starts to form where he
stands.

INT.BATHROOM/THE MAN'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT(RAIN)

The shower head turns and cold water starts streaming down
on the Mans back, we see him from the waist up, his back is
to us. We see a various cacophony of scars across his back
and arms.

We focus on his face, the water cascading down it.

Then...

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

Ahmed and the Man in the restaurant.

THE MAN

(smiles)

Do you live around here?

AHMED

Not far.

CUT TO:

INT.THE MANS BEDROOM - NIGHT(RAIN)

The Man lays still on his bed silently with a stern look on
his face.

We focus on his face for a beat...

CUT TO:

EXT.RESTAURANT - NIGHT

establishing shot of The same restaurant Ahmed and the Man were at earlier.

INT.RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ahmed and Zeineb sit at a table and enjoy their meals, they laugh and joke with one another.(we see this whole scene from afar, so we dont hear them)

CUT TO:

EXT.RESTAURANT/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Ahmed and Zeineb walking towards Ahmeds car.

ZEINEB

Thank you, I really needed that.

AHMED

The night's not over miss.

ZEINEB

No I'm really tired, I think it's best I head home and hit the sack.

AHMED

No way! The night's still young.

ZEINEB

I don't think that's such a good idea.

AHMED

Come on! Let's go some ice-cream, huh? Come on, what do say?

ZEINEB

(hesitates)

...alright,but that's it just ice cream.

AHMED

Just ice cream.

CUT TO:

EXT.BOUTIQUE - NIGHT

We see Ahmed and Zeineb inside the boutique buying ice cream

EXT.STREET -NIGHT

We see Ahmed and Zeineb walking down the road eating their ice cream and engaged in conversation.

EXT/INT.ROAD/CAR - NIGHT

Ahmed and Zeineb driving down the road, we see them inside the car laughing and having a blast.

INT/EXT.CAR/ROAD - NIGHT(LATER)

Zeineb is sleeping in the passenger seat. Ahmed looks over at her and smiles.

EXT.AHMEDS HOME - NIGHT

Ahmed pulls into his drive way.

He gets out and goes to the passenger door, he opens the door and carries Zeineb out of the car and into his house.

INT.AHMEDS BEDROOM - NIGHT

He lays her on his bed and pulls the covers over her.

He looks at her for a moment and turns the lights off.

CUT TO:

INT.THE MANS BEDROOM - MORNING

We hear sounds of an old lady coughing and weezing.

The man lays in his bed shirtless, sleeping, still as can be.

He murmurs in his sleep, he starts sweating profusely.

Then...

THE MAN
(panicked)
Nooooo!

He jolts awake! Like he's waking from a nightmare.

After taking a few, deep, panicked breaths and looking around the room frantically, The Man starts calming down(realising where he is).

He gets up.

CUT TO:

INT.THE MANS CLOSET - DAY

The Man opens his closet and takes out:

-Button up shirt.

-Tie.

-Suit pants and Jacket.

CUT TO:

EXT.THE MAN'S RESIDENCE - DAY

The Man walks out of his apartment complexe, fully suited.

EXT.APARTMENT COMPLEXE PARKING LOT - DAY

The Man gets into his beat up car.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT.ROAD/CAR - DAY

The Man driving down the road, a stern look on his face.

CUT TO:

EXT.HOSPITAL - DAY

HOSPITAL ESTABLISHING SHOT.

CUT TO:

INT.HOSPITAL - DAY

The Man stands infront of a hospital room door in the hospital hallway, he's looking into the room via the small glass window on the door. We don't see what he sees, we just see his face. He looks tortured, haunted.

He takes a deep breath and walks in.

INT.HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The sound of the heart rate monitor fills the other wise silent room.

The Man stands still for a beat at the door staring at the person laying on the bed.

He approaches slowly and carefully, his face grimacing in pain with each step.

He finally reaches the bed.

REVEAL!

An elderly woman hooked up on life support lays completly still. Wires look like they're attached to every inch of her body.

The Man stares at her pale and sickly face.

He takes a few steps closer.

THE MAN

...I...I have to do something...something that in any other circumstance would be easy for me to do but, not this time... This time it's different, and it's different because of you...what...I have to do could save your life...(sad chuckles),the thing is it also could'nt...the doctor says it's fifty,fifty...but you see, what I have to do is kill a man I believe to be good, now he may have done something bad? but...I believe him to be good nonetheless...

The Man starts to silently sob.

He takes his mother's hand and holds it tight.

THE MAN

(crying)

...I don't know what to do, I mean...are you even still here?! Or have you become a car without a driver?

For awhile there is no response whatsoever...but...

SHOT OF THE MAN HOLDING HIS DYING MOTHERS HAND.

We do a slow zoom until...

She squeezes his hand ever so lightly.

A look of shock on his face!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT.HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY(LATER)

A large group of medical staff surround The Mans mother, nurses, doctors and various other medical staff.

INT.HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

The Man watches the scene through the doors porthole with a shocked and hopefull look on his face.

CUT TO:

INT.HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY(LATER)

The Man is talking to his mothers physician.

DOCTOR

I gotta be honest with you...she doesn't have much time left.

THE MAN
 (shocked and confused)
 What?! But...she just squized my
 hand?...

DOCTOR
 (cutting him off)
 I...I know, I know, patients...tend
 to show a few signs of life, when
 they're about to reach the end.

The Man grabs hold of the doctor by the collars and slams
 him against the wall, tears fill his eyes.

THE MAN
 (angry/yelling)
 Don't talk about my mother dying
 like it's some kind of...
 statistique, or or or like it's
 normal or...something!

DOCTOR
 (scared)
 I...I deeply apologize...I meant no
 offense.

CONTINIOUS:

The incredibly tense moment lingers in the air for a beat.

Then...

The Man lets the doctor down slowly.

The doctor walks away slowly.

The Man is left standing there...alone. He stares at his
 dying mother through the porthole.

CUT TO:

EXT.AHMEDS HOME - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT.

INT.AHMEDS HOME - DAY

We scan through the cozy home room by room, the living room,
 the kitchen, the bathroom the guest bedroom and finally
 Ahmed's bedroom.

INT.AHMEDS BEDROOM - DAY

Zeineb is still sleeping. We watch as the sun shines
 brightly across the room until it reaches her face.

Zeineb eyes flutter and open slowly. She gets up and looks around thne room, she first sees Ahmeds cluttered desk with photos and various other items on it.

Zeineb smiles and gets up.

INT.AHMEDS HOME/SECOND FLOOR - DAY

Zeineb comes out into the hallway and walks around. She first checks the guest bedroom, Ahmed is not there and the bed is made.

ZEINEB

Hmm.

INT. AHMED LIVING ROOM - DAY

Zeineb enters and finds no one. She crosses over to the kitchen.

INT.AHMEDS KITCHEN - DAY

No sign of Ahmed.

ZEINEB

Where is he?

She hops up on the kitchen counter and takes her phone out.

She calls someone.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT.ROAD/CAR - DAY

Ahmed is in deep traffic.

Then his phone starts ringing.

He picks up.

Note

The next part of the scene we'll be jumping back and forth between where Ahmed is and where Zeineb is depending on who's talking.

AHMED

(on phone)

Hey sleepy head!

ZEINEB

(on the phone)

Shut up. Where are you?

AHMED

Well some of us has to work you know?

ZEINEB

(sarcastic)

Woork. Riiight... What is it you do again?...oh that's right...

AHMED

(finishing her sentence)

...cleaning toilets thats right. There's alot more to beign a Plumber then that.

ZEINEB

Yeah, you keep telling yourself that.

AHMED

(laughs)

So did you sleep well?

ZEINEB

Yeah actually...have'nt slept like that in years.

AHMED

Good. I'm glad to hear it.

ZEINEB

Yeah...I've...been meaning to tell you something.

AHMED

Shoot.

ZEINEB

...I just wanted to thank you...for well...everything you've done for me, for beign a good friend.

AHMED

(sighs then smiles)

A good friend huh?

ZEINEB

The best.

AHMED

(disappointed)

Of course...what are friends for right?

ZEINEB

(smiles)

Yeah.

AHMED

...well listen. I've made you some breakfast it's in the kitchen.

INT.AHMEDS KITCHEN - DAY

She looks around and spots a plate with a cloth covering it.

ZEINEB

What is it?

AHMED

Just a little something special I made.

ZEINEB

Ooh fancy.

AHMED

Enjoy it was made with incredible care and attention, I got to go, just make yourself at home okay? Take as much time as you need.

ZEINEB

Thanks ahmed.

AHMED

You bet.

He hangs up.

The traffic clears but Ahmed stays still for a beat, thinking.

Then...

People starts honking.

Ahmed is jolted awake from his trance. He drives off.

CUT TO:

INT.AHMEDS KITCHEN - DAY

Zeineb lifts the cloth off the plate, revealing a beautiful breakfast spread.

ZEINEB

Wow, that's what I'm talking about.

She takes the plate and crosses over to the living room.

FADE TO:

EXT.RESTAURANT/PARKING LOT - DAY

The Man drives up and parks.

He gets out of the car and stares at the restaurant for a beat.

CUT TO:

INT.RESTAURANT - DAY

The Man enters. He scans the place like he did before but only this time he has a more intense look on his face.

He keeps scanning and scanning and scanning until...

He spots a waitress, the same waitress that served him and Ahmed the day prior.

He makes his way to her.

THE MAN

Hi, excuse me, can I talk to you for a moment please?

WAITRESS

Oh, sure how can I help you? Is everything satisfactory?

THE MAN

Oh I'm not a cutomer... I wanted to ask you something.

WAITRESS

Uhm...sure.

THE MAN

Do you remeber me?

WAITRESS

Uhm, I 'm not sure, you do look familiar though.

THE MAN

I came in here yesterday with my pall, and you came by and served us.

WAITRESS

I serve hundres of people a day sir.

THE MAN

I know, but you said something about my us beign a polite pare?

WAITRESS

...oh yeaaaah. I remember now. The two gentelmen.

THE MAN

Yes.

WAITRESS

I remember, how can I help you? Oh my god! Was I too forward yesterday? If so I apoligize.

THE MAN

No, no you were a consummate professional.

WAITRESS

Well mighty thank you sir.

THE MAN

That's not what I wanted to ask...uhm the man I came in here yesterday with...did he by any chance drop by again?

WAITRESS

Oh...I'm not entirely sure, like I said I serve hundreds of people a day so...

THE MAN

I understand...well thank you for your time...mighty appreciate it.

WAITRESS

No problem... (flirtituous)and uhm if you ever feel lonely without your friend you can always drop by here anytime...

THE MAN

(smiles)

I'll keep in that in mind.

The waitress smiles cutely at him and walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT.RESTAURANT/PARKING LOT - DAY

The Man opens his car and gets into his car.

INT/EXT.CAR/RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

He slams the door shut aggressively in frustration.

THE MAN

Fuck!...fuuuuuuccckk!

He hits the steering wheel a few times. Then after releasing this burst of energy, he leans his hands and head against the steering wheel.

Then...

He raises his head as if a light bulb just went off in his.

FADE TO:

FLASHBACK

INT.RESTAURANT - DAY

THE MAN
(smiles)
Do you live around here?

AHMED
Not far.

THE MAN
Me too...
(looks out the window)
It's a beautifull neighborhood
isn't it? I've lived here all my
life, grew up here actually...no
where else I'd rather be.

FADE BACK TO:

INT/EXT.CAR/RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

A look of realisation comes onto the mans face.

After a moment he starts the car and drives away.

CUT TO:

INT.AHMEDS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Zeineb is just done getting dressed and is getting ready to leave. She looks at herself in the mirror, checking her make-up. She smack her lips together a few times and smiles.

EXT.AHMEDS HOME - DAY

Zeineb comes out and closes the front door to ahmeds homes and locks it. She puts the key under a nearby rock amd leaves.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT.CAR/AHMED'S NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

The Man is driving slowly around ahmeds neighbourhood searching for him.

THE MAN
Where are you?

He reaches an intersection and stops at the red light.

He looks out indront of him and doesnt see anything, zero movement. He looks back through the rear view mirror and again nothing. He check both sides and sighs in frustration.

The light turns green and he goes to turn left and just as he rounds the corner... Zeineb POPS! Out and he almost hits

her but he breaks in time. She falls down.

ZEINEB

Ahh!

THE MAN

Oh shit!

He gets of his car to check on her.

EXT.AHMED'S NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

He runs towards her.

THE MAN

Oh my god are you okay?!

ZEINEB

Ah! What do you think numbnuts!

THE MAN

I'm so sorry, I was'nt paying attention it was totally my fault.

ZEINEB

Damn right it was!

THE MAN

Are you hurt at all?

He helps her get up.

THE MAN

Here come on...there you go.

ZEINEB

Ah. Shit!...it's my leg. I think I twisted my ankle.

THE MAN

Here put your arm around me.

He leads her to his passenger side and opens the door.

THE MAN

Take a seat.

She hesitates for a second but sits down.

THE MAN

Let me take a look.

He neals down next to her and reaches for her leg. She pulls back.

ZEINEB

What are you doing?

THE MAN

I want to see if you're seriously hurt.

ZEINEB

What are you a doctor or something?

THE MAN

...something like that.

ZEINEB

...

THE MAN

Here...just let me see.

She stares at him for a few seconds. Then reluctantly lifts her leg up.

THE MAN

Thank you.

He examines her leg thoroughly.

THE MAN

Well, nothign seems to be broken...

He turns her leg to the side carefully, touching the back of her leg in the process, this makes zeineb blush.

ZEINEB

Ah, be carefull.

THE MAN

Hmm,there seems to be a little redness here...I think you twisted your ankle like you said. We should put some ice on it...wait here.

He gets up to leave but Zeineb grabs his jacket.

ZEINEB

Wait...it's okay, I'll be fine.

THE MAN

You sure? There's a store near by I can run to it real quick and...

ZEINEB

I'm fine! Just...

She gets up slowly while groaning.

ZEINEB

You should be on your way sir.

THE MAN

But...

ZEINEB

I said I'm fine.

THE MAN

...okay...well at least let me drive you to where you need to go.

ZEINEB

No.

THE MAN

Come on it's the least I can do.

ZEINEB

...

CUT TO:

INT/EXT.CAR/AHMED'S NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

The pair ride in silence for an awkward beat.

Then...

THE MAN

(breaking the silence)

So...you live around here?

ZEINEB

(chuckles)

You really expect me to answer that?!

THE MAN

Right right right...total stranger...I get it...trust me...

Another awkward silence.

THE MAN

Whats your name? how about that?

ZEINEB

You know we dont really need to talk.

THE MAN

Just trying to make conversation.

ZEINEB

Aint no conversation need to be had.

THE MAN

Jeez! Alright...ok...

They drive on for a bit...

ZEINEB

Zeineb...it's zeineb.

THE MAN

Nice to meet you zeineb...I'm
uh...you can call me T.

ZEINEB

T?

THE MAN

T. That's right.

ZEINEB

...alright nice to meet you
too...T.

They both look at each other for a second...they both
chuckle.

THE MAN

Well...I'm real sorry I hit with my
car Zeineb.

ZEINEB

(she smiles slightly)
...apology accepted.

THE MAN

I'd feel a whole lot better if I
could take you to a hospital.

ZEINEB

I'm fine really...

THE MAN

...I'd pay for the bills if that's
what you're worried about?

ZEINEB

No, no, no I'm ok...but thank you
for offering.

THE MAN

(smiles at her)
Alright then...it's settled.

ZEINEB

(smiles back)
It sure is.

A beat...

ZEINEB

You live in the neighbourhood?

THE MAN
Thought we were'nt asking
questions?

ZEINEB
(smiles coyly)
...yeah I changed my mind.

THE MAN
(smiles with teeth)
...no, no I...was looking for a
friends house.

ZEINEB
Yeah? Thats funny my friend lives
there as well.

THE MAN
Popular neighbourhood.

ZEINEB
It would seem.

THE MAN
Were you visiting?

ZEINEB
Yeah...I needed some help and...he
was there for me.

THE MAN
(teasing)
A male friend.

ZEINEB
Oh shut up!

THE MAN
Just messing with ya.

ZEINEB
Yeah, yeah.

THE MAN
...seems like a good friend?

ZEINEB
Yeah...that he is.

She looks out the window with remembrance.

The Man stares at her for awhile...mesmerized.

CUT TO:

EXT.UNIVERSITY GATE ENTRANCE - DAY

The Man pulls into the university parking lot.

INT/EXT.CAR/UNIVERSITY GROUNDS - DAY

They park into an empty space.

INT.CAR - DAY

ZEINEB

Thanks for the ride I appreciate it.

THE MAN

Least I can do.

She gives him an appreciative nod and takes her seat belt off.

She goes to open the door but it wont budge.

THE MAN

Here let me get it for you.

He takes his seat belt off, leans over her and grabs the door handle. He shakes it a couple of times.

THE MAN

Come on you piece of shit!

After jerking it for a little bit, the door swings open.

THE MAN

There you go.

ZEINEB

Thank you.

THE MAN

You're welcome.

She goes to get out when her phone starts ringing. She smiles awkwardly at him and pulls her phone out. On her phone is Ahmeds caller ID with his picture on it. The Man see this.

ZEINEB

Excuse me.

She takes the call. The Man looks stunned.

ZEINEB

Hi! How are you?!...just got to campus actually...yep...oh I'm fine...you don't have to worry about me...at least for awhile haha...

The Man looks utterly devastated, he looks out the window in complete shock. Zeinebs voice starts droning out in the background and gets replaced by a high pitch noise like kettle thats about to explode.

We sit with this tension for long beat.

Then...

ZEINEB

T...T!

THE MAN

Oh sorry...what?

ZEINEB

(chuckles uncomfortably)

Are you ok?...you were zoned out for a moment there.

THE MAN

...oh I'm...I'm fine.

ZEINEB

You sure?

THE MAN

Yeah, yeah totally.

ZEINEB

Well I uh...I gotta get going...it was nice meeting you.

THE MAN

(anxious)

Like wise. Have a good rest of your day.

ZEINEB

(waves awkwardly)

Bye.

THE MAN

(waves back)

Bye.

Zeineb gets out.

WE STAY WITH THE MAN AS HE PROCESSES WHAT HE JUST SAW.

After starrng out of the car for a beat, the Man slumps on the steering wheel with a deep sigh.

He looks up and after deliberating for a few seconds, he jumps into action. He starts his car up.

EXT.UNIVERSITY PARKING LOT - DAY

The Man drives next to Zeineb and gets out.

ZEINEB

Hey is something wrong?

With swift movement the Man puts a chloroform rag over zeineb's mouth.

ZEINEB
(voice muffled)
Hey! Oh my god!

THE MAN
Shhh. It's ok it's ok.

Zeineb starts to struggle but the Man is too strong and overpowers her. After a few seconds of thrashing around zeineb starts to fade away slowly, until eventually she's out cold.

He grabs her. Lifts her over his shoulder and puts her in the back seat.

THE MAN
Ok,ok...(breathes heavily).

CUT TO:

INT.PRIVATE RESIDENCE BATHROOM - DAY

Ahmed on his hands and knees trying(emphasis on trying) to stop a burst pipe.

AHMED
God!...damn it!

Standing over him is MRS SILVERLAKE a disgrunteled middle age woman. Also the lady who's sink he's trying to fix, albeit...badly.

MRS SLIVERLAKE
Are you sure you know what you're doing?!

AHMED
(struggling)
Uhm...yeah!...just!...gotta!...

Ahmed reaches to his tool box with one hand while trying to contain the water with the other.

AHMED
(grunting)
Could you...please hand me that big looking rench?!

Mrs sliverlake not impressed, reluctantly reaches for the rench and hands it over.

AHMED
(reaching)
Thank you.

Ahmed grabs the rench and starts tightning one of the bigger bolts on the pipe. The water spurts even harder.

AHMED

Come on!

MRS SILVERLAKE

Oh my god!

He tightens it some more and the water starts to subside.

AHMED

There y'go there y'go.

MRS SILVERLAKE

Oh! Oh thank god, it's stopping the waters stopping.

Ahmed sighs in relief. Face drenched. Tired.

CUT TO:

INT.DOORWAY - DAY(LATER)

Ahmed(now dry) and Mrs Silverlake stand at her doorway.she hands him his pay and thanks him.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX PARKING LOT - DAY

WE ARE USING STABLE CAM LOOKING AT A CLOSE UP OF THE FRONT WINDSHIELD OF AHMEDS TRUCK.

Ahmed opens his driver side door and throws his work bag to the back of his car. He gets in with a grunt and effort.

After leaning back in his seat for a beat, Ahmed pulls out the money Mrs Silverlake gave him and counts it. After checking it's the right amount,he pulls the briefcase(that he stole) from the back and puts the money he earned in it.

He closes the briefcase and puts it back. He looks out the window and smiles.

After a beat...

He starts the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX PARKING LOT - DAY

Ahmed starts driving off.

CONTINIOUS:

EXT.NOUAKCHOTT CITY STREETS - DAY

Ahmed driving in his truck and sailing through traffic with expert ease.

INT/EXT.AHMED'S CAR/CITY STREETS - DAY

Ahmed shouts in excitement and overwhelming happiness.

AHMED

Wooooo!

EXT.NOUAKCHOTT CITY STREETS - DAY

Ahmed weaves and bobs through cars like they were nothing.

He drives past the camera and over the horizon.

CROSSFADE:

EXT.AHMEDS HOME - NIGHT

Ahmed drives into his driveway. Blasting 80s rock music.

INT/EXT.CAR/AHMED'S HOME - NIGHT

He turns the car off grabs his bag and the briefcase and gets out.

INT.AHMEDS HOME - NIGHT

Ahmed enters his home.

AHMED

Honey I'm home!(lauhs)

INT. AHMED LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ahmed enters the living room and drops his stuff on the couch.

AHMED

Hello! Zeineb?!

He listens for a reaction...nothing.

A worried expression comes up on Ahmeds face.

He runs to the kitchen.

INT.AHMEDS KITCHEN - NIGHT

Nothing. He runs upstairs.

INT.AHMEDS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nothing.

INT.AHMED GEUST ROOM - NIGHT

Also nothing

INT.BATHROOM - NIGHT

Same story.

AHMED

(almost a whisper)

Oh my god.

Then...his phone starts ringing.

Ahmed takes it out and it's a no caller ID call.

He looks at it for a few rings, his face filled with dread.

After hesitating for a second...he picks up!

AHMED

...hello?

THE MAN(ON PHONE)

You know who this is.

Ahmed's face turns white.

THE MAN(ON PHONE)

You know what you did. So if you ever wanta see you pretty lady friend again? You'll do exactly what I instruct you to do...

Ahmed closes his eyes in frustration and stays silent.

THE MAN(ON PHONE)

...is that clear?

AHMED

...

THE MAN(ON PHONE)

I wont repeat my self again.

AHMED

Yes! Yes, I understand.

THE MAN(ON PHONE)

Good. Now, what you'll do next will determine whether or not Zeineb here lives.

AHMED

Let me talk to her...

THE MAN(ON PHONE)

(cuts him off)

I'm afraid that wont be possible at the moment...

AHMED

Bullshit! Let me talk to her!

THE MAN(ON PHONE)
Calmn the fuck down! Alright!

Ahmed puts the phone against his chest.

AHMED
(under his breath)
Fuck.

He puts it back to his ear.

THE MAN(ON PHONE)
Like I said...her life is I your
hands Ahmed.

AHMED
Ok...ok I'm calmn...I'm calmn.

THE MAN(ON PHONE)
Take the money and go to the
location I'm going to send you.

AHMED
Ok,ok.

THE MAN(ON PHONE)
You do still have the money don't
you?

AHMED
...

THE MAN(ON PHONE)
Well?!

AHMED
(sweating)
Yes, yeah! I do.

THE MAN(ON PHONE)
Good, good.

The man hangs up.

AHMED
Fuck! Fucking fuck! Just my fucking
luck!

His phone rings. He opens it sees a notification text from
the unknown number.

CROSSFADE:

INT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Blood dripped steadily from her nose like a leaky fauset.

Zeineb sat in a dimelly lit room tied to an old delapidated
chair, unconscious. Wearing only her underwear.

After a beat, she reels and awakes slowly. Her eyes blurry and unsure, she looks around dazed and confused. She looks down to her bound feet, stuck together like brand new chop sticks. She looks to her left and sees a door in the far corner of the room, to her right and sees an old mattress next to a beat up deskdrawer. She finally looks up and sees a shadow figure sitting across from her in the distance, partially blocked by old debry and heavy duty warehouse machinery.

Smoke comes belowing up from the shadowed individual. Her eyes are locked on him.

THE MAN

(stoic)

I never wanted it to come to this...but your boyfriend has gotten himself in huge trouble when he decided to steal from my client, and my client is not one to be stolen from...he's...a very dangerous man. Do you understand?

ZEINEB

(weak)

...I don't understand.

The Man gets up and drags his chair across the room making his way to her. Clinging and banging into various things on his journey. Passing under various light fixtures on his way, revealing his face and body on e glimps at a time. He finally reaches her, sets the chair right across from her and sits.

ZEINEB

(starting to sob)

...please...I...

THE MAN

(calmly)

Shushhh...it's ok.

He pulls out a handkerchief from his jacket. Reaches out to her but she jerks away from his hand.

THE MAN

I'm not going to hurt you...stay still.

She looks at him with fear and resentment in her eyes. He lifts her head up by the chin and starts to dry her blood nose.

ZEINEB

Ahh!

THE MAN

It'll only sting for a sec.

He shakes his head.

THE MAN

It's a dirty business me and your boyfriend are in...the stuff we have to do...is not pretty...at least for me it ain't...I take no glory in it...

ZEINEB

(sobbing)

What are you talking about?...I...don't have a boyfriend.

THE MAN

(contemplative)

...a friend then?

ZEINEB

...I don't know who you're talking about...there must be some huge misunderstanding or or or a...mix up, yes yes a big mistake.

THE MAN

No mistake here. You're involved with a man named Ahmed other wise known as Ghost the cat burglar.

Zeineb looks absolutely shocked!

The Man nods his head in understanding. He takes a dragg of his cigarrete.

THE MAN

(sighs)

You didn't know...(nods his head again) can't say I blame ya. My family doesn't know about what I do either, managed to hide it pretty well.

ZEINEB

...it can't be true...I mean Ahmed is not like that...he's a...he's a plumber for god sake!

THE MAN

Have you ever seen him plumb?

ZEINEB

(cries a little)

...can't say I have...fuck!

THE MAN

...are you and him close?

ZEINEB
 (defeated)
 ...yes...at least I thought we
 were...

The Man takes out his cigarette pack.

THE MAN
 You smoke?

She looks at him with disgust but eventually relents and nods her head yes. He takes one out and puts it in her mouth, then he takes out a lighter and and lights it up.

Zeineb takes a gaint dragg, the biggest one of her life.

THE MAN
 Eh eh eh eh, take it easy.

After she's finished he takes the cigarette out for her.

After a beat...she blows all that smoke in his face. He smiles and looks at her with intensity.

THE MAN
 Feel better?

ZEINEB
 Not even slightly.

THE MAN
 Understandable...you see what we have here is a dilema...and it's a dilema I intend to solve...you see I'm what you call a professional...and what that means is...I do my job well, very well and I get paid handsomely for it. What this job entails, lucky for you, only concerns our friend Ahmed...so if you play your cards right? You can come outa this situation unscathed...

ZEINEB
 And what does playing my cards right looks like? Smoke.

He gives her another puff. She inhales...and exhales.

THE MAN
 Well...I've already informed "ghost" of our whereabouts...he's probably on his way here already. Now all he has to do is hand
 (MORE)

THE MAN (cont'd)
 himself over to me and you can go
 free. Now your job is to do
 nothing...don't resist don't to do
 anything stupid like try to escape
 for the next couple of hours
 and...you'll wake up tomorrow in
 your own bed. Just...sit
 there...and wait.

ZEINEB
 ...sounds...perfect...maybe a
 little too perfect...I mean...how
 can I trust you?

THE MAN
 ...it's not a matter of trust. It's
 a matter of your own
 survival...I've got no use for
 you...no reason to hurt you.

ZEINEB
 I've seen your face...god I've seen
 your face!

THE MAN
 (smiles creepily)
 That...doesn't matter. Not in my
 field of work.

Zeineb looks at him inquisitively.

THE MAN
 So...do we have a deal?

ZEINEB
 ...(nods her head yes)

THE MAN
 (smiles a little)
 Good.

He gives another drag, this one lasting until it reaches
 the bud. He then throws it on the ground and stomps it out.

CROSSFADE:

EXT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmed drives up in his truck and parks.

INT/EXT.CAR/WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmed stares out at the giant metal structure that is this
 abandoned warehouse. It stands towering over everything
 around it, only somewhat fully visible when the lightning
 strikes.

Ahmed is frozen for a beat...then recovers and opens the passenger side glove box. Inside is a silencer pistol, he takes it out and tucks it underneath his pants behind his back and covers it with his shirt and jacket. He hesitates again for a few seconds then gets out.

EXT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

He gets out and starts for the building.

CUT TO:

INT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Zeineb is slumped in her chair, her hair covering her entire face. The Man is nowhere in sight.

INT.WEARHOUSE OFFICE - NIGHT(RAIN)

The Man sits alone in the delapidated antique office only lit by a dim old lamp in the corner and some light from the open window. He's looking at his phone.

SHOT OF THE MANS PHONE:

It's a picture of his mom in better times, looking healthy and strong with a giant smile on her face.

His face is filled with both the joy of remembrance and the sadness of the current. He looks up.

WE SEE FROM THE MANS PERSPECTIVE THROUGH A WINDOW THAT'S LOOKING INTO INSIDE THE WEARHOUSE:

We see zeineb still sitting peacefully in her chair.

CUT TO:

EXT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmed is sneaking around the building looking for a discreet entrance. He comes upon The Man's rusty old vehicle. He approaches the front driver side door and tries it, it does not budge. He tries for the one next to it, same thing. He goes around the car to the trunk, he tries it...it POPS! Open. Ahmed takes his phone and lights up the trunk.

Inside we see:

- A hammer.
- A set of pliers
- Rench
- a GIANT metal pipe.

All covered with dry Blood.

Ahmed stares at this cacophony of horror for a beat...then takes the pliers. He shuts the trunk and heads around the car to the front hood.

He tries the hood and it creaks Loudly. He stops for a second...listens...looks around slowly and continues trying the hood. After struggling for a few seconds, the hood finally opens. Ahmed again lights up the hood, he looks around for something...he finds it. He reaches down and lifts up a set of wires.

AHMED

(whispers to himself)

Bingo.

He takes the pliers and cuts the wires in half.

CUT TO:

INT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Zeineb still tied to the chair, JOLTS awake. She looks around and sighs deeply. She struggles trying to free her wrists. She tries freeing her ankles but the rope is too tight and cuts into her the more she struggles.

ZEINEB

(to herself)

Come on...come on,come on, come the fuck on!

THE MAN(O.S)

I would'nt do that if were you.

Zeineb coils back in fear.

THE MAN

Your man is on his way. You're this close close to being freed...why would risk it?

ZEINEB

...you and me both know that you're not planning on letting either of us walk out of here alive.

The Man is stumped.

ZEINEB

So don't sit here and promise me my freedom when you know you won't give it to me...or rather...you can't give to me...can you?

THE MAN

I'm sorry.

ZEINEB

That's what I thought.

CUT TO:

INT. WEARHOUSE GARAGE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmed picks up a piece of metal near him and throws at the wall as hard as he can.

CUT TO:

INT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Both Zeineb and The Man react to the loud noise coming from the distance darkness.

ZEINEB

What was that?!

THE MAN

(intense)

...don't know...I'll go check it out.

ZEINEB

(breathing heavily)

...okay.

The Man pulls out a giant butchers knife. Zeineb reacts to it.

The Man starts moving towards the direction the noise came from. Zeineb watches as he dissolves into the darkness.

After a beat...

Zeineb hears a few clangs and bangs, then.

Silence... She looks around and sees nothing. She tries to listen but hears nothing. After an intense and deafening silence zeineb starts struggling to free herself again.

ZEINEB

Hagh...unghh.

Veins start bulging on her neck and and forehead. She struggles and struggles until...Ahmed comes running out of the darkness.

ZEINEB

Fucking hell!

AHMED

Hey there you miss me?

He reaches Zeineb and starts to untie her.

ZEINEB

What the hell happened?! Where's the creepy dude?!

AHMED

Shhhsh! I created a little distraction, he's checking it out.

ZEINEB

Ahmed...what the hell have you gotten us into?

AHMED

...later.

ZEINEB

What?

AHMED

I'll tell you later. Right now we need to focus on getting out of here.

ZEINEB

Ahmed they know where you live. They'll track you down and they'll kill you.

AHMED

...maybe so...but I won't let that happen to you. Not if I have anything to say about it.

ZEINEB

...he knows my name...he knows my name Ahmed.

AHMED

...I'll take care of it...don't you worry.

He finishes untying her and they get up to leave but Zeineb falls down with a groan. Ahmed goes to help her

AHMED

Are you okay?

ZEINEB

Aghh, it's my ankle.

AHMED

Here let me see...can you walk?

ZEINEB

(shakes her head no)

AHMED

Okay, okay...I got you. Come on.(Ahmed hoists her up) here lean on me.

She leans on him and they start walking away.

CUT TO:

EXT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmed and Zeineb come out and start making their way to Ahmeds car.

CUT TO:

INT. WEARHOUSE GARAGE - NIGHT(RAIN)

The Man enters, gun at the ready, pointed inside the garage with a flashlight held by the other hand underneath the gun.

He searches for the source of the noise he heard earlier, the silenece in that room is almost deafening, he starts looking around every corner and under every table, nook and cranny. He finds nothing then...

An engine roars to life in the distance, the Man hears this.

INT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

The Man comes running in a panic and sees an empty chair with rope all around it. They got away.

EXT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

The man comes running outside just as Ahmed and Zeineb peel off. The man starts for his car.

INT.WEARHOUSE GARAGE - NIGHT(RAIN)

The door to the Mans car flies open with a creek, the man jumps in his car amd starts the engine.

INT/EXT.AHMED'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmeds truck comes AT us at BLINDING speed! TEARING THROUGH THE DIRT AND BRUSH IN THE OPEN DESSERT ROAD.

INSIDE:

AHMED

You see him?

ZEINEB

(looking back)

...no, no I don't see him...you think we lost him.

AHMED

...not by a long shot.

ZEINEB

Well get a fucking move on!

CONTINIOUS:

AHMED
I'm moving at top speed!

ZEINEB
Fuck!

EXT.WEARHOUSE - NIGHT(RAIN)

The Mans beat up toyota comes barelling out the garage and on to the road.

INT/EXT.MAN'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

INSIDE:

An intense look across his face, the Man speeds along the road, shoking the gas pedel as hard as he can changing gears accordingly and skillfully.

OUTSIDE:

He WEAVES and BOBS past and through a few cars on the road, coming just inches from slaming into each one of them.

INSIDE:

THE MAN
I'm gon get you, I'm gon get your
ass.

EXT.ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

The Man comes up behind them and is now on their tale.

INT/EXT.AHMED'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

ZEINEB
Oh my god he's on us.

Ahmed looks back through the rearview mirror and sees the man hot on them.

AHMED
Hold on!

Ahmed accelerates and shifts into fifth gear. He starts leading away from the MAN.

INT/EXT.MAN'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

The man goin at 70km/h speeds up as well.

EXT.ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmed drives into the other lane, the Man follows.

Another car is on the lane coming straight at ahmed. He dodges back to the correct lane, leaving the man heading for the car, The Man tries swerving back too but Ahmed brakes and blocks his way. Just before the Man collides with the uncoming vehicle he swerves to the left onto the sand and bushy side of the road. Busting through some rocks and greenery.

INT/EXT.AHMED'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

ZEINEB

Haha that's what you get asshole!

EXT.ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

The man tries to get back up on the road but cars going the opposite direction stop him time and time again.

INT/EXT.MAN'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

THE MAN

(screaming in anger)

God damn it! Make way!

INT/EXT.AHMED'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmed drives along the road smoothly and gains some distance from The Man.

EXT.ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

The man now left behind finally manages to get back on the road. He dodges one car from the opposite lane almost losing control of the car.

INT/EXT.AHMED'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmed now at a safe distance from the man spots a patch of dirt road off the Main highway. He heads for it.

ZEINEB

What are you doing?!

AHMED

I'm trying to lose him.

INT/EXT.AHMED'S CAR_ DESSERT DIRT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmed drives along the dirt road at top speed, smashing past some dried up brush and kicking up dirt and road behind him.

WE NOW SEE THE WHOLE SEQUENCE EXACTLY LIKE THE OPENING SCENE, MATTER OF FACT AHMED IS GOING DOWN THE EXACT SAME ROAD THAT THE MAN WENT DOWN IN THE OPENING SCENE WITH AN UNCONCIOUS HALF NAKED YOUNG WOMAN IN HIS TRUNK.

ZEINEB

Where does this lead?! Do we know where we're going?!

AHMED

I don't know. But we gained some distance from him. And he didn't see us take this path.

CUT TO:

EXT.DESERT - NIGHT(RAIN)

WE ARE STARING DOWN FROM AN UPWARD ANGLE AT GIANT TREE BRANCHES, IT'S THE SAME TREE WHERE THE MAN EXECUTED HIS LAST TARGET.

Ahmed's car pulls up and stops.

EXT.DESERT/ ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT(RAIN)

Ahmed gets out and Zeineb follows.

ZEINEB

What are you doing?! Why are we stopped?!

Ahmed runs over to the giant tree and starts to shake it violently.

ZEINEB

What the hell are you doing?!

AHMED

I'm shaking the tree!

ZEINEB

I can see that! Why?!

AHMED

We're going to cover the car with leaves and hide out in it.

ZEINEB

Are you serious?! The psycho could be right on us any minute now! Plus it's shitting cats and dogs out!

AHMED

Trust me It'll work!

ZEINEB

...trust you? Trust you?! Are you fucking kidding me?! After everything you've done?!...how could you do this to me?! How could...no, no I'm not going out this way...not because of your fucking shit!

Zeineb runs back to the car and hops in the drivers seat.

Ahmed busy shaking the tree does'nt notice he hears the roar of the engine.

AHMED
Hey! Hey! What the fuck are you
doing?! Zeineb!

He runs to the car but drives off before he could reach her.

AHMED
STOP! STOP! YOU FUCKING BITCH!
DON'T LEAVE ME OUT HERE!

Ahmed runs after her as fast as he can but she's gone.

AHMED
Fuck! Fuck fuck fuck fuck...

CUT TO:

INT/EXT.MAN'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

The man drives down the road looking for their car on the road but does'nt see them.

Then suddenly...

Zeineb comes driving out of the dirt road and onto the highway, almost hitting the man in the prosses.

THE MAN
Fucking hell!

The man chases after her awhile but then notices that Ahmed is not in the car with.

He HITS the BRAKES agressevely which brings his car to a screeching halt.

INT/EXT.AHMED'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - NIGHT(RAIN)

Zeineb looks back at the mans stopped vehicule for a second and continiues driving down.

INT.THE MAN'S CAR - NIGHT(RAIN)

The man sits in his car for a beat... thinking.

Then...realisation.

THE MAN
(small smile)
I got you now you son of a bitch.

CUT TO:

EXT.DESERT/ ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT(RAIN)

The rain has finally subsided and the mans car comes to a slow stop at the base of the ancient tree. He comes out pistol pointed and at the ready. He turns his flashlight on.

He walks around the tree slowly and mythodicaly.

The tree sways slowly in the open dessert air above him adding an eery feel to thne scene.

He finaly circles the whole tree...Ahmed nowhere in sight.

The man looks out in one diretion and sees nothing then turns and looks the other way...still nothing.

He circles the tree again and looks out past his car at the other side...no sign of Ahmed.

After an intense beat...

The Man sighs and holsters his weapon. He walks over to his car and opens the passenger side door.

INT.THE MAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Glove box opens and he takes out a pack of Malbros. And a lighter.

EXT.DESERT/ ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

The Man walks back to the tree and sit his back against the tree. He takes a cig out and puts it in his mouth.

He lights up and smokes.

After a beat he sighs deeply and drops his head.

THE MAN

God...I'm fucked.

He finishes his smoke throws to the ground and gets up to leave when he hears...

INT.ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

Ahmed is hiding inside the old trees trunk, he is breathing extremely heavely. He's peering trough a crack in the trees side at The man who's now at full attention after hearing Ahmed's heavy breathing.

EXT.DESERT/ ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

The Man not sure where the noise came from not even if he actually heard anything closes his eyes and focuses.

INT.ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

Ahmed puts his hand over his mouth in a desperate attempt to stifle any noise. Ahmed moves a little and a twig underneath him breaks.

The Man hears this and takes out his pistol and points it at the tree.

THE MAN

Alright...come on out now...come on out! I heard you.

INT.ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

Ahmed closes his eyes in fear and tears stream down his face.

EXT.DESERT/ ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

THE MAN

I'ma count to ten. If you don't come out in the next ten seconds, I'm filling this tree up with led...

No response for a few beats.

THE MAN

...alrighty then. One...

INT.ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

Ahmed whimpers.

THE MAN(O.S)

Two!

EXT.DESERT/ ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

THE MAN

Three...I'm almost half way!

INT.ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

AHMED

(to himself)

Fuck me.

THE MAN(O.S)

Four...five...six.

EXT.DESERT/ ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

THE MAN

Seven...eight...nine...

AHMED(O.S)

Alright! Alright I'm coming out.

CONTINUOUS:

EXT.DESERT/ ANCIENT TREE - NIGHT

THE MAN

Alright nice and slow now.

Ahmed slowly comes out of the tree, hands first then head and the rest of him. He's covered in soot and old dry leaves.

THE MAN

(pointing gun)

Where's the money?

AHMED

(congested)

...in my car.

THE MAN

The one your lady friend just drove off in?

AHMED

(nods)

THE MAN

...this is the end of the road...you do know that don't you?

AHMED

...(nods again)

THE MAN

...turn around.

AHMED

(starts crying)

...(shakes his head no)

Ahmed looks the Man dead in the eyes.

An intense beat passes.

THE MAN

...fine...have it your way.

WE SMOOSH ZOOM ON AHMEDS EYES IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS. THEY'RE INTENSE...FULL OF FEAR AND HATRED BUT ALSO SOME SENSE OF BRAVERY. HE'S READY. FOR THE END.

Ahmed gets shot right between the eyes and flops down with a thud kicking up a cloud of dust.

The Man holsters his gun and sighs.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. DESSERT GRAVE SITE - SUNRISE EARLY MORNING

The Man much like the opening scene has just finished burying AHMED and puts the finishing touches.

He then lifts the shovel over his shoulder and wipes away sweat.

FADE OUT

WHITE LETTERING OVER BLACK SCREEN: TWO DAYS LATER...

FADE IN

EXT. UNIVERSITY GROUNDS - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF UNIVERSITY.

INT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

Zeineb sits at the same seat in front of the same door the first time we saw her.

She taps her feet nervously staring at the door with incredible intensity.

Then the door abruptly opens and the same professor from earlier comes out holding a piece of paper.

ZEINEB

...so?!

PROFESSOR

...

ZEINEB

Spit it out!

PROFESSOR

(smiling cheekily)

You got it.

ZEINEB

...what?

PROFESSOR

(happy for her)

You got it (showing her the paper) a perfect score.

ZEINEB

(celebrating)

Oh my god! I got it! I got it!

Zeineb starts jumping up and down running down the hallway and coming back, even sparratically hugging the professor.

CUT TO:

INT.AHMED'S CAR - DAY

Zeineb jumps in the car screaming in excitement. She takes out her phone and dials a number.

ZEINEB

Hi...mom? I got it!...yes!...yes
I'm not joking mom...(starts
sobbing) I love you
too...yes...yes..ok...bye.

She hangs up and stares out into the parking lot. tears fill her eyes.she takes a deep breath and let's out a guttural sigh accompanied by tears streaming down both cheeks. She pulls down the sun visor and slides open the little mirror cover on it. She takes a deep long looks at herself in the comically small mirror and says the following...

ZEINEB

You did it...that's right, YOU! Not
your fucking parents, not your
fucking dead beat friends...but
you. You BOSS ass BITCH!

She starts laughing hysterically, almost maniacally, like she's an old witch that just delivered a poisoned apple to the unsuspecting beautiful princess.

After releasing all of that pent up frustration and stress, she starts to come down from her high. She looks outside the car, it's a beautiful sunny day. She looks back at her reflection and screams so lowly that if it weren't for the cars doors being shut with the windows rolled up, the whole neighborhood would've heard it.

WE NOW SEE THE REASON FOR ZEINEB SUDDEN SHOCK.

Sitting in the back seat directly behind the drivers where zeineb is sitting, is THE MAN.

GUN trained at the back of Zeinebs skull.

THE MAN

(calm but intense)

Where's the money?

Zeineb does'nt say a word on account of beign scared shitless.

ZEINEB

I know you have it...Ahmed told me
he left hidden in this car

(MORE)

ZEINEB (cont'd)
 somewhere...and I've turned this
 thing upside down so...I'm only
 going to ask you this one more time
 and you're going to answer me
 honestly...you got that?

Zeineb nods her head yes.

THE MAN
 I'ma need a verbal confirmation.

ZEINEB
 (shaking)
 ...yes.

THE MAN
 Yes what?

ZEINEB
 Yes...I understand.

THE MAN
 Good... Where. Is. The. Money.

ZEINEB
 At my apartment.

The Man nods his head slowly, looks around the area and says...

THE MAN
 Start the car.

CUT TO:

EXT.APARTMENT COMPLEXE PARKING LOT - DAY

Ahmed's truck pulls up into a parking spot.

The Man looks out the window and sees that it's the same apartment complex he lives in. They're neighbors.

THE MAN
 Alright. Take the keys out and hand
 them to me.

Zeineb does so.

EXT.APARTMENT COMPLEXE - DAY

The man and zeineb walk past the mans apartment door, he glances at his door as they pass. They walk past a few doors and up some stairs and finally reach her apartment.

THE MAN
 Open it.

ZEINEB

Let me find my keys.

Zeineb starts nervously fumbling through her bag.

THE MAN

Hurry up.

ZEINEB

I'm looking.

Zeineb struggles to find her keys. The Man starts getting nervous, he takes out his pistol equipped with a silencer and presses it against her. She shudders in fear.

ZEINEB

(almost in tears)

Please, I'm trying.

THE MAN

Are you playing with me?

ZEINEB

No, no, no I...I have a lot of things
in my...

The Man snatches her bag from her before she could finish and dumps all of its contents on the floor, keys come jangling down.

THE MAN

(incredulous)

There they are.

Zeineb holds her tears in with maximum effort.

The man picks up the keys and dangles them in front of her.

THE MAN

Which one?

Zeineb points to the one.

The man nods and puts the right key through and opens the door nodding zeineb in at the same time.

INT. ZEINEB APARTMENT - DAY

They walk in. The Man takes in the place.

Zeineb's doorway is aligned with a shoe rack on one side, asian style and a small armoire on the other, with a mirror propped above it. On the armoire are a few items. A key holder an ash tray and other nicknacks.

THE MAN

Where is it?

CONTINUOUS:

INT.ZEINEB APARTMENT - DAY

ZEINEB
Right through here.

He gestures for her to lead the way.

INT.ZEIEENBS LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN AREA - DAY

A small and cozy living space with an adjoined open kitchen. Pictures of Zeineb and her family throughout the years adorn the walls and desks, a small tv sits in the corner of the room.

THE MAN
In here?

ZEINEB
(she points)
My bedroom.

INT.ZEIEENBS BEDROOM - DAY

The door to her bedroom flies open and they walk in.

ZEINEB
Under the bed.

The man looks, thinks and says...

THE MAN
Get it.

Zeineb goes to get it but...

THE MAN
Stop.

She stops.

THE MAN
Very slowly.

She nods her head and continues.

INT.UNDER THE BED -DAY

Zeineb comes into frame from under the bed. It's dark and cluttered and has various items. One of them is Ahmed's gun. Zeineb reaches for it and grabs it. She takes a slight beat to think and spots a duffle bag next to the gun. She reaches for that too.

INT.ZEIEENBS BEDROOM - DAY

She comes up with the duffle bag.

THE MAN
Hand it over.

She hesitates for a second.

THE MAN
I SAID! hand it...

She points one end of the duffle bag at him and that end explodes with a loud pop. The man is sent flying back into the wall.

A loud ringing sound is all we can here after this moment.

A TIGHT CLOSE UP ON ZEINEBS EYES:

She's squinting hard and breathing just as such. She opens eyes slowly...

The Man lays there still as brick wall...DEAD.

She drops the bag, runs to her bathroom and throws up into her toilet. After relieving her guts she sits up against the wall and starts sobbing uncontrollably.

FADE OUT:

FADE BACK TO:

EXT.DESERT ROAD - SUNSET.

Ahmed's truck comes barelling down the old decrepit road.

INT/EXT.AHMED'S CAR_ DESSERT ROAD - SUNSET

Zeineb drives with a blank look on her face and a lit cigarett in her mouth.

EXT.ANCIENT TREE/DESERT - NIGHT

Ahmed's truck pulls up.

Zeineb stops the car and gets out.

She stands there for a beat, fifnishes her smoke until she reaches the nob. After that she walks to the back of the car and lifts a big blue plastic tarp from the cars open trunk revealing...The Mans dead body.

She takes some rope and wraps it around the ankles.

EXT.DESERT - NIGHT

Zeienb drags the body across the desert until she reaches another grave site with two shalow graves.

She looks at the graves for a second...and stops dragging.

EXT.DESERT - NIGHT

Zeineb has just finished digging a shalow grave of her own.

She gets out and wipes the sweat and dirt from her forehead.

She starts pushing the body into the grave until it falls into it completely. She then walks to Ahmed's old back pack thats laying there and opens it.

Inside is a giant some of money. She looks at it for a second and zips it shut.

She walks over to the grave and throws the back pack in.

EXT.DESERT - NIGHT(LATER)

Zeineb just finished burying The Man and his money.

She gets up, sticks the shovel into the dirt and looks out into the distance. After getting lost in thought for a beat...she takes out a pck og cigarrets out and pulls a stick out with her mouth. She lights it up and takes a deep drag. Then suddenly...almost out of nowhere she starts laughing uncontrollably and...

FADE TO BLACK

END.

