

beirut vacation by tonali ©2022

beirut vacation

By

tonali

Over black. A a sound of someone's footsteps on the floor.

CARTER (V.O)
Can a camera do this huh? What are
you up to--

TONALI (V.O)
(shocked)
Where's Marissa?

A DEAFENING SOUND of a huge EXPLOSION.

FADE IN.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

A wide view of a busy building site. Beeping construction vehicles are visible nearby. With the shaking we realise we are viewing from a video camera.

TONALI (O.S)
Your turn Happy.

A blurry reflection on the glass window of the huge truck reveals TONALI (30) holding a camera and speaking into the phone.

On the phone there's three other people on the line. Two young men (HAPPY and CARTER) and a lady (MARISSA), it's a conference call.

TONALI (O.S) (CONT'D)
Name any other town in this
beautiful country?

He has a thick middle Eastern accent.

HAPPY (V.O)
Cairo.

MARISSA (V.O)
(laughs)
Goodbye Happy.

Marissa's voice throughout is heard over from the crowded place.

The camera shifts from the window to reveal a dusty workplace. Tonali's footsteps are heard.

HAPPY (V.O)
Yeah goodluck in the tension room.

MARISSA (V.O)
What?

CARTER (V.O)
(to Marissa)
Don't mind him babe.

Happy's line hangs up from the call.

A group of local workers in unoliform dig up with shovels.

They speak Arabic indistictly.

TONALI (O.S)
(akward)
So it's just the three of us huh?

MARISSA (V.O)
Please Don't make us uncomfotable.

The camera passes the foreman on the site yelling directions to two other workers.

TONALI (O.S)
(laughs)
Like your boyfriend earlier trying to film a documentary with his iPhone?

No workers insight now. He walks in a lone open space passing by; cements, planks, corrugated iron sheets etc.

MARISSA (V.O)
Get over it Tonali move on I chose Carter over you.

TONALI (O.S)
I've moved on I mean I paid for this vacation.

MARISSA (V.O)
I should've known you would regularly remind us of how a good samaritan you are.

TONALI (O.S)
Your man's the one after me trying to be what I am.

MARISSA (V.O)
You know what this--

CARTER (V.O)
It's fine babe I can take it.

The camera zooms on the large containers of chemicals that seem to be deserted there partially covered with mats.

Finally rests on the large one labelled ammonia nitrate.

TONALI (O.S)
Why don't I ask you a question and see if you really can take it.

MARISSA (V.O)
It is my turn to ask.

CARTER (V.O)
It's his turn he had two shots remember? Don't worry I got this.

The camera closes in to the nearby old flat building.

TONALI (O.S)
Oh really? Name one local rapper.

CARTER (V.O)
There are rappers in Lebanon?

INT. ABANDONED APARTMENT - DAY

Tonali climbs up the old building stairs. The walls are worn out it looks like an abandoned property.

TONALI (O.S)
I guess that's goodbye Playboy Carti.

CARTER (V.O)
Couldn't you pick a place like Dubai for the vacation--

Carter's line is cut from the call. It's Tonali.

MARISSA (V.O)
What are you doing?

TONALI (O.S)
He was out already. Now it's me and you.

INT. ABANDONED APARTMENT ROOM - LATER

The camera scans the filthy room. Dusty building materials are scattered around.

TONALI (O.S)
Why did you leave me for him
Marissa I mean I had everything
going on was at the peak of my
photojournalism career we were
happy right?

MARISSA (V.O)
(troubled)
Tonali--

TONALI (O.S)
Are you happy? Do you love him?

MARISSA (V.O)
Love? Don't talk about love at
least he's always home when I need
him.

TONALI
My work was demanding but now
things are different.

MARISSA (V.O)
Ohh you mean you are unemployed?

TONALI (O.S)
I thought you hated my work.

MARISSA (V.O)
Work wasn't the problem. The
problem was you not making time for
us you were always busy even on
your free time.

The camera comes close to the window.

Reveals the city's impressive infrastructure in distance.

TONALI (O.S)
If things had been different, or if
he wasn't in the picture would
there still be a chance--

MARISSA (V.O)
I don't know maybe.

TONALI (O.S)
Maybe is good enough for me.

Tonali's reflection on the glass window reveals him holding binoculars.

MARISSA (V.O)
What do you mean?

The camera scans Tonali's wrist watch.

WRIST WATCH: 17:00

Back to his reflection.

TONALI (O.S)
(scoffs)
In a minutes time I'm gonna earn my
maybe and then I ressurect my
career.

BINOCULARS POV: A beach in distance full of tourists. Two ships in sight.

MARISSA (V.O)
What are you talking about?

TONALI
You didn't answer me earlier. Are
you happy?

MARISSA (V.O)
Define happy--

Distant Footsteps are heard climbing the stairs.

MARISSA (V.O) (CONT'D)
If sitting here with a couple of
people I don't know while playing
this stupid game--

The footsteps increase in volume as they come closer. The camera shifts to the door.

MARISSA (V.O) (CONT'D)
Then no am not happy the beach has
become less fun--

FLASH BACK TO BINOCULARS POV: Searches the Same beach like earlier--

TONALI (O.S)
Backup a little did you say beach?
I though you were at the zoo.

The footsteps are aggressively close and back at camera POV facing the door

MARISSA (V.O)
 We cheated, I swapped with Carter
 he was the one at the zoo.

TONALI (O.S)
 No no no... You want to tell me you
 are at the port now?

The door abruptly opens to reveal CARTER (29). He's angry--

CARTER
 You know what an iPhone can do
 better than a camera? It can track
 people.

He lifts his iPhone up--

CARTER (CONT'D)
 Can a camera do this huh? What are
 you up to--

TONALI (O.S)
 (to Carter)
 Where's Marissa?

MARISSA (V.O)
 Hello! Is that Carter?

CARTER
 At the beach!

The camera quickly at Tonali's WRIST watch--

WRIST WACTH: 17:08

TONALI (O.S)
 (cries out to Marissa)
 You need to get out of there NOW!

MARISSA (V.O)
 What's wrong you are scaring me--

BOOOM! A DEAFENING BOMB SOUND AND THE ROOM IS flashed by the
 explosion fire. Camera looks out the window at the large
 forming explosion cloud.

TONALI (O.S)
 (screams)
 No! Marissa can you hear me?
 Marissa?

No answer.

CARTER
 (scared)
 What was that? An explosin?

TONALI (O.S)
 It wasn't supposed to happen like
 this.

CARTER
 What do you mean do you have
 something to do with this. Are you
 a terrorist--

BOOM! Another one this time it's so close that it cripples
 the flats balance. Carter screams.

CARTER (CONT'D)
 What the fuck is going on--

SLAM! The heavy ceiling crushes him against the floor and his
 blood splatters on the walls and door.

TONALI (O.S)
 (terified)
 Oh my god.

The room becomes slanty and the camera shakenly slides fast
 to the other window--

TONALI(O.S) (CONT'D)
 No--

The window breaks and the camera is SPINNING IN AIR
 occasionally revealing Tonali's body and the COLLAPSING
 building.

A THUDDING SOUND of Tonali's body hitting the ground together
 with the camera. Now the camera glitching with bleeding inks,
 it finally reveals Tonali's bloody face.

He is wearing a turban and has long dusty beard. He's in
 extreme pain with a contorted hand. He opens the only able
 eye and tries to speak--

TONALI (O.S) (CONT'D)
 (weak)
 Help.

He becomes still. Dead.

FADE OUT.

THE END.