

WITH SORAYA TO INFINITY

REDEMPTION IN THE UNIVERSE

Inspired by a True Story

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The scorching sun beats down on the vast desert landscape. The sands shimmer under the intense heat.

EXT. DESERT - SORAYA

Soraya, a young woman in her seventeenth year, with beautiful honey eyes and long bangs framing her intelligent face, walks through the desert. Her slim body moves with grace and purpose, embodying a quiet determination. She is somewhat tall with a crown of brown hair that dances with the wind.

INSERT: THE DESERT - THIRST

She attempts to clear her throat but winces in pain, indicating her suffering.

Soraya sits on the ground, her expression contemplative, as she gathers her thoughts.

EXT. DESERT - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY

In the distance, a tunnel emerges from the desert landscape, surrounded by a weary and bewildered CROWD. They wear tattered scraps of cloth, revealing their naked bodies. There is a glimmer of hope and solidarity among them.

Soraya's gaze fixates on the tunnel entrance, a mixture of curiosity and hope flooding her expression.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

The weary crowd moves in unison, creating a surreal atmosphere. The sound of footsteps and murmurs echo in the confined space.

Soraya approaching a MAN in the crowd with an urgent inquiry.

SORAYA
(desperate)
Sir... sir... where are we headed?

The man glances at Soraya but remains silent, quickening his pace.

Soraya, determined not to be left in the dark, catches up to the man, repeating her question.

SORAYA
(urgently)
Sir... Sir... Where are we going?

MAN
(resolute)
Pilgrimage.

Soraya's face, a mixture of curiosity and realization, as she absorbs the man's answer. She knows deep down whom the pilgrimage is for, as her father had often referred to God using that name.

INSERT: TRAVEL THROUGH THE TUNNEL

The atmosphere is filled with intrigue, questioning, and a sense of shared purpose.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - DAY

Soraya, along with the other pilgrims, ascends a rugged mountain path.

INSERT: MOUNTAIN PATH - ARDUOUS

The wind howls, brushing against their faces.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SUMMIT - DAY

Soraya and the pilgrims reach their destination - the mountain summit. The world below stretches out in awe-inspiring beauty, but their focus remains fixed on their purpose.

INSERT: MOUNTAIN SUMMIT - DENSE FOG

Soraya, disoriented by the fog, her brows furrowed in confusion and anticipation. She struggles to comprehend her precise location.

INT. SANCTUARY - DAY

Soraya enters a spacious sanctuary, its walls enveloped in ethereal light.

INSERT: HAND ON SORAYA'S SHOULDER

A hand gently rests on Soraya's shoulder, radiating warmth and energy. Tears stream down her face as she feels an overwhelming sense of comfort and solace flooding her heart.

INT. ETHEREAL CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Soraya, a troubled soul yearning for answers, stands before a divine presence, their conversation filled with certainty and longing.

INT. DIVINE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Time languidly slithers by until it's SORAYA's turn. She stands, threading through the veil of uncertainty. With trepidation, she crosses the threshold into the designated space.

INT. DESIGNATED SPACE - DIVINE CHAMBER

An unseen force promptly lays a hand on Soraya's shoulder, jolting her entire being with an inexplicable infusion of warmth and energy. Tears cascade down her cheeks, cleansing the residue of anticipation and transforming her vulnerability into an act of surrender.

SORAYA

(emotional)

God... why am I unable to see you?

The voice that resonates encompasses the wisdom of eternity.

DIVINE VOICE

My warmth and vastness are so immense that no servant can comprehend or contain it within their limited understanding.

Overwhelmed, Soraya's soul pours forth in passionate devotion.

SORAYA

(devoted)

My Lord, my heart overflows with love
for you.

In response, a sacred truth reverberates through the air, unraveling the boundless mysteries of the universe.

DIVINE VOICE

(assuring)

That love you feel is merely a
fraction of the love I have bestowed
upon all of my creations.

SORAYA

(voice trembling with desperation)

Why am I here? What have I done to
deserve this suffering at such a
tender age?

A SOFT VOICE, gentle and comforting, echoes through the room,
wrapping Soraya in its embrace.

VOICE

(whispering compassionately)

Your existence is not by accident,
dear Soraya. It is part of a grander
plan beyond your own will. The
decision to end your life is not yours
to make, for that power is not granted
to any of God's devoted servants.
Instead, you are urged to return to
the world you came from.

Soraya's weariness seeps into her voice as she questions the
purpose of her return, her words mirroring her inner turmoil.

SORAYA

(struggling to comprehend)

Must I come back only to face more
hardships? With no father or mother to
support me, the weight of my household
rests solely upon my shoulders. The
challenges ahead seem insurmountable,
and I long for respite from it all.

With a flicker of hope, Soraya whispers her plea, her longing
for understanding and relief palpable.

SORAYA (CONT'D)

Oh God, please... let me stay here.

A profound silence envelops the room, as if the universe
itself is holding its breath. Soraya's tearful eyes search
for answers, her heart heavy with anticipation.

THE DIVINE PRESENCE

(assuringly)

No, you have a greater purpose. You are meant to guide many people, and through you, they will rise to remarkable heights. You must stay and continue your journey.

Soraya, still wrestling with doubts, seeks solace.

DIVINE PRESENCE

I did not bring you into this world to depart so soon, Soraya. You have a mission, a purpose to fulfill. Each of my servants on Earth is bestowed with a unique mission.

Soraya looks up, eyes wide with wonder.

SORAYA

(Confused)

Who am I to receive a mission from you?

The Divine Presence emanates a warm glow, comforting Soraya.

DIVINE PRESENCE

Soraya, your potential is immeasurable. You possess the ability to accomplish many meaningful things. The life you currently lead was not intended for you. What you have done is one of the grave transgressions of coming here without our permission. If you wish to remain, you must dwell in the realm of Purgatory and seek forgiveness relentlessly.

Soraya's face reflects a mix of sadness and hesitation.

SORAYA

(Softly)

To return means reliving the same life, enduring the same conditions. It's becoming too heavy to bear.

The Divine Presence radiates reassurance.

DIVINE PRESENCE

Fear not, Soraya. You have a greater purpose. Your guidance and inspiration

will pave the way for many to achieve greatness through your presence. Stay and ascend on your destined path.

Soraya takes a deep breath, a glimmer of determination in her eyes.

The divine presence reveals a glimmer of hope.

THE DIVINE PRESENCE

Someone will come to you now. They will show you a place, and then you can make your decision. Stay or return, the choice will be yours.

In a burst of otherworldly energy, a file materializes before Soraya. Its pages, like a photo album, display unfamiliar faces, filling her with intrigue and confusion.

SORAYA

(studying the album)

I don't recognize any of these people. Who are they?

THE DIVINE PRESENCE

You will know them in due time.

Curiosity piqued, Soraya persists, seeking understanding.

SORAYA

Why are they in this album? What purpose do they serve?

THE DIVINE PRESENCE

(enigmatic)

They will enter your life.

Soraya, still puzzled, presses further.

SORAYA

But why? What awaits us?

The divine presence's response carries both wisdom and a gentle reminder.

THE DIVINE PRESENCE

(paternal)

You will understand with time. Remember to never forget this

encounter and to hold fast to your beliefs wherever life takes you. I am always close to you. Whenever you feel lonely, seek me in your heart. I am within you, and you carry a part of me within yourself.

Overwhelmed by the divine presence's words, an incomparable sensation of love floods Soraya's being, surpassing even the tender affection of her loved ones. It fills her with an indescribable joy and warmth.

TITLE

INT. EMAD'S CHILDHOOD HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A young Emad, mature beyond his years, sits on the sofa with a serious expression on his face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Emad's early life was shaped by his parents, dedicated members of the Tudeh Party who had immigrated from the Soviet Union.

EMAD

(contemplative)

I wonder what the future holds for me. The influence of my parents' political beliefs is strong.

INT. EMAD'S CHILDHOOD HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Golnaz, Emad's beautiful mother, battles inner conflict as suitors pursue her hand in marriage after the death of her husband.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Fearing the prejudices Emad might face, Golnaz decides to marry in secret.

GOLNAZ

(anguished)

I never wanted my sons to face discrimination or be judged for their beliefs. Marrying in secret was the only way to protect them.

INT. VILLAGE - DAY

Golnaz, now pregnant, arrives at her husband's village to keep her condition hidden. Time passes, and Emad becomes determined to find his mother.

EMAD

(determined)

I won't rest until I find her. I need to understand why she disappeared and left me behind.

INT. VILLAGE PATH - DAY

Emad tirelessly searches for Golnaz, his heart heavy with confusion and incomprehension.

EMAD

(exasperated)

Where could she be? The village seems so vast, and there are so many unanswered questions.

INT. SMALL HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Emad finally finds Golnaz, physically changed and confirmed to be pregnant.

EMAD

(hurt)

Mother, how could you do this? You left without a trace, and I've spent so much time trying to find you.

GOLNAZ

(regretful)

Emad, I made painful choices to protect you, but I understand your anger. Please try to forgive me.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Overwhelmed by disappointment and sadness, Emad chooses not to forgive Golnaz.

INT. EMAD'S CHILDHOOD HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Emad returns home, determined to take care of his remaining brothers and assume sole responsibility for their upbringing.

EMAD

(resolute)

Without Mother, it falls upon me to be their protector and guide. I won't let them down.

INT. EMAD'S CHILDHOOD HOME - BROTHERS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emad tends to his injured brother, who has lost his sight due to improper use of medicine. The weight of responsibility intensifies.

EMAD

(gentle)

I'm here, brother. We'll get through this together. I will do whatever it takes to provide for you and protect you.

INT. SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND - DAY

Against all odds, Emad enrolls his blind brother, Ali, in a special school for the blind, fostering his love for art and encouraging his musical talent.

EMAD

(supportive)

Ali, this school will help you discover your potential. Embrace your love for art and music, and let it be your strength.

INT. WRESTLING TRAINING CENTER - DAY

Brother Emad, an accomplished athlete and wrestler, suffers a severe injury during training and tragically passes away.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Emad grapples with immense grief, but his sense of duty remains. His younger brothers depend on him, seeing him as their caring and strong father figure.

INT. STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

At nineteen years old, Emad immerses himself in studying and develops a deep interest in Dr. Mossadegh, a political figure. Motivated by a desire for justice, he actively participates in Mossadegh's support meetings.

EMAD

(determined)

I believe in Dr. Mossadegh's vision for our country. It's time to fight for justice and equality, to create a better future.

EXT. GARDEN ALLEY - DAY

Emad, with soil on his hands from the agricultural land, walks the foreign streets with a mix of anticipation and nervousness.

EMAD

(whispering to himself)

Today is the long-awaited day. I must summon the courage to express my emotions.

He inhales deeply, adjusting his attire, determined to seize the moment.

INT. GARDEN - DAY

Nervously, Emad approaches the grand entrance of the affluent family's garden. After a moment of hesitation, he finally knocks on the door.

GARDENER

Oh, Emad! It has been a while, hasn't it? Please, come inside.

EMAD

(with gratitude)

No, sir, I thank you.

Their conversation brims with anticipation.

EMAD

(determined)

Sir, I have come here today for a purpose. I hold deep reverence for the daughter of this family, and I yearn to propose to her.

Tears of joy well up in the gardener's eyes, reflecting the emotions of the divine spirit.

GARDENER

(with tears)

You have granted me the happiest of moments, and I believe she is my own daughter. I shall inform the family forthwith.

EMAD
(relieved)
Thank you, sir. Your support means the world to me.

INT. EMAD HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Emad waits eagerly for the answer, his mind swirling with a flurry of emotions.

INT. EMAD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY (AFTER)

The gardener enters the room, his eyes shining with excitement.

GARDENER
(with delight)
Emad, my dear son, they have accepted your proposal!

Joy radiates from Emad's face, a weight lifted from his shoulders.

EMAD
(with gratitude)
Thank you, thank you so much!

INT. VILLAGE MEETING - DAY

Emad, encircled by revered elders, stands tall before the community. Fatemeh, radiant and illuminated, enters the gathering.

EMAD
(announces)
With your prayers and blessings, we shall embark on this journey together.

The elders nod in approval, their smiles expressing unwavering support.

EXT. SHAHRIAR MANSION - YARD - DAY

Without his brother knowing, Emad, with unceasing trust in his family, decides to discover the truth with Fatima. He carefully places himself in a corner of the hidden courtyard and observes in silence.

JABER

(cunningly)

Fatima, why settle for a simple life?
Imagine the luxury, and success I can
offer you. You deserve much more.

Fatima, who is lost between her dreams and her love for Emad, stands firm.

FATIMA

(Specified)

I know your bad intentions. My loyalty
is to Emad and our family. While we
may take different paths, we are
united because of our children and the
lives we have built.

Meanwhile, Emad, struggling with his own doubts, finds it hard to believe how dishonest his brother can be?, oblivious to the deceitful brother he trusted in their family.

EMAD

(doubtful)

Can my brother really have such
malice? It is hard to imagine him
betraying our family like this.

Emad, who is hiding in the yard, sees an opportunity and suddenly jumps in front of Jaber and launches a relentless attack.

EMAD

(angry)

Did you think you could get away with
this, Jaber? I will not let you!

Surprised, Jaber tries to defend himself, but Emad's blows, which reach the point of death, fall on him.

JABER

(struggling)

Emad please! Stop!

The scene changes and we find ourselves at the end of the conflict.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The long consequences of this incident have hurt Emad's heart. He sits in the living room and stares into the distance, a mixture of anger, resentment and betrayal etched on his face.

EMAD

(disappointment)

I can't believe what greed and entitlement has done to our family. It is tearing us apart

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tired of Emad's unpredictable absences, Fatima takes matters into her own hands. He shares his decision with Soraya who is determined to be independent.

FATIMA

(defined)

I can't wait for him anymore. I have to find my own source of satisfaction, with or without his approval.

INT. SORAYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Soraya assumes the responsibility of mediating between the parents and informs her mother about her father's occasional visits.

SORAYA

(self-confidently)

When dad comes back, I will definitely let you know, mom. You deserve happiness too

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

After a business trip to Tehran where he saw Fatemeh in a taxi, Emad faces Soraya with suspicious eyes.

EMAD

(doubtful)

where is your mother?

SORAYA

(defensive)

My mom just left, I'm positive. As
always, she comes home every evening.

EMAD

Are you sure my daughter!

Emad's face shows a storm of emotions, doubts are slowly tearing apart the fragile strings of their family. Unspoken truths float through the room, threatening to tear apart their delicate balance of love, duty, and shattered aspirations.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

My mother looks at my father, who is standing in the doorway, startled. It is clear that he did not anticipate her presence at this hour. My father confronts him without introduction.

EMAD

where were you?

FATIMA

(shocked)

I had gone to my sister's house.

EMAD

(curious)

when did you go?

FATIMA

(distractor)

Suri, tell him when I was gone.

Afraid and full of shame, I lowered my head, bowing under the weight of the lie I had spun. Summoning courage, I intervene.

SORAYA

(shaking)

Father came home at 12 o'clock.

EMAD

(doubtful)

which sister!

FATIMA

(quick answer)

my older sister.

EMAD
(determined)
let's go there.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The father continues his question.

EMAD
(with insistence)
Tell me again, when did you go?

FATIMA
(slightly elusive)
Suri who told you when I was gone.

My heart swells with both love and guilt. My uncles and father respect me deeply. As the first daughter in the family, my father's words echo in my mind.

EMAD
(gently)
You are my mother, sister and daughter.

Emad slaps Soraya hard.

EMAD
(Firmly)
I did this to remind you to never lie,
no matter the circumstances.

The gravity of his words leaves an indelible impression on my soul.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - MONTHS PASS

The weight of my uncle's and mother's grudges caused a disaster that should never have happened to us. Their accusations tarnished my mother's reputation and claimed that she was having an affair. My father, a firm believer in reserved judgment, struggled to accept the charges. Deep down, he suspected his brother's hand in this, fueled by resentment.

EMAD
(vibration of voice)
Is it true? Are they just rumours?

FATIMA

(quiet but serious at the same
time)

Yes it's true. And I want a divorce.

Despite his broken spirit, my father found the strength to ask again in a low voice, struggling to believe the truth that had just been revealed.

EMAD

(a voice barely above a whisper)
Tell serious? Did you tell me these
things?

FATIMA

(Firm yet determined)
Yes it's true. I have made my decision

Uncle Ali, who came to know about this mess, came to see us to understand the tragedy that is happening in our family. But my father was absent, his absence was a void that eats my soul.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING AREA - DAY

Soraya sits on the bench, her tear-stained face buried in her hands. Uncle Ali enters, his expression filled with concern.

ALI

(softly)
Soraya, my dear, my heart aches for
you. How are you holding up?

Soraya looks up, her eyes swollen from crying. She tries to compose herself but emotion lingers in her voice.

SORAYA

(choked up)
It's... it's so hard, Uncle Ali. I
can't believe what has unfolded. The
pain in my heart is unbearable for
both Mom and Dad.

Ali takes a seat next to Soraya, placing a comforting hand on her shoulder.

ALI

(gently)

I know, my dear. This situation weighs heavy on us all. But I want you to remember your father's words, "Don't rush to judge, for it's not our place." We can't fully comprehend what led him down this path.

Soraya wipes away her tears, trying to find solace in her uncle's words.

SORAYA

(trembling voice)

I'm desperately holding onto that, Uncle Ali. I want to believe there's more to this, that my father never intended for it to escalate like this.

ALI

(solemnly)

It's a terrifying truth to accept, Soraya. Your father's actions have consequences, and right now, our focus must be on supporting your mother and you and your siblings.

Soraya's expression reveals the weight of responsibility that rests on her shoulders.

SORAYA

(determined)

I have taken on the role of both mother and father for my siblings. Despite everything going on, our home still offers some semblance of comfort. I just can't bear the thought of facing judgment and criticisms from outsiders during this vulnerable time.

Ali nods, understanding the depth of Soraya's pain and her need for stability.

ALI

(respectful)

I understand, Soraya. Your decision is respected. But please remember that you don't have to carry this burden alone. We are here for you, every step of the way. Lean on us when you need to.

Soraya finds a glimmer of strength in her uncle's support. A flicker of resilience shines through her eyes.

SORAYA

(softly)

Thank you, Uncle Ali. Your presence means the world to me and my siblings. Together, we'll navigate these dark waters and rebuild our shattered lives.

They sit together, finding solace in their shared determination to face the challenges that lie ahead.

INT. PRISON MEETING ROOM - DAY

Soraya sits on the glass partition of her father Emad. Ali is present and supports them. Emad's face bears the weight of his old and worn-out experiences.

SORAYA

(vibration of voice)

Father...

EMAD

(Calm)

My dear Soraya...

Soraya picks up the phone while her hand is trembling with emotion. She looks at his father, who has a mixture of sadness and regret in his eyes.

SORAYA

(eyes full of tears)

It's so strange, being so close, but not being able to touch you, hold your hand.

Uncle Ali is worried about the time.

ALI

(immediately)

Soraya, please ask what you need to ask. We have limited time

Soraya takes a deep breath and gathers her strength to face the truth. She pulls himself together and looks directly at his father.

SORAYA

(teary-eyed, trembling voice)
Father... I... I need to know the truth. I need to hear your side of the story. Please, tell me what really happened that day. I can't trust anyone else but you.

Emad's weary eyes meet Soraya's gaze, understanding the weight of her plea.

EMAD

(slowly, with a voice filled with pain)
My dear, from the very beginning... it was never my intention for things to turn out this way. Your mother's words, their weight, they pierced my heart, caused a grief I couldn't bear. Uncle Ali insisted that I visit your mother to bring her a bit of solace in her sorrow. It was a desperate attempt to mend what was shattered.

Soraya, holding back her tears, listens intently, searching for answers in her father's words.

FLASHBACK:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Emad and Uncle Jaber are sitting facing each other and there is tension in the air.

JABER

(axial)
Why do you want to divorce Fatima, Emad? Don't you see that this is just a trick so that she can marry her lover and make people think that you are not zealous? Give her a reason to never marry anyone else.

Emad backs down and refuses to accept such an offer.

EMAD

(Strongly)
No, I don't! Fatima deserves justice, not this!

Uncle Jaber leaves, their discussion has not been resolved.

BACK TO THE PRESENT:

Emad's voice trembles a little when he remembers the unraveling of the events.

[Flashback - Voiceover]

NARRATOR (V.O)

The memories of that tragic day echo in Soraya's mind as she recalls the events leading up to the devastating incident.

Intercut the following scenes with visuals from the past:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Emad and Fatima argue passionately, their voices filled with anger and frustration. The tension in the room is palpable.

EMAD

But after that, rumors and hearsay spread like an incurable disease. People distorted my words and the situation escalated. In a moment of madness I went to your aunt's house, as soon as I saw your mother I regretted throwing acid. I spoke to her in front of your aunt and assured her that I cannot throw acid and tolerate it. Leave the judgment to God. I told her that she had deprived our children of a loving and healthy mother, they deserved better.

Ali gets bored and intervenes.

ALI

(immediately)

Soraya, time is running out, say what you want, we can't stay here any longer.

Soraya takes a deep breath and her voice trembles.

SORAYA

(whisper)

Father, a moment in the alley... that soared. Please tell me what happened.

Father's look is full of regret with Soraya's look.

FATHER

(Unfortunately)

Aunt, insisted to your mother to follow me to the alley. She did not want any harm to come to me. We fought again, Soraya, in that narrow space. A heated exchange, the wounds were already deep... words were said, actions were taken. But please, believe me, it was never my intention to hurt him.

FLASHBACK:

INT. DARK ALLEY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

EMAD

(eyes full of tears)

In the midst of our heated exchange, your mother's hand accidentally touched the glass container I was holding. After opening the lid of the container, it hung in the air for a moment and the acid poured on your mother's face, chest and hands. And some was sprinkled on some innocent passers-by.

Soraya breaks her heart when she hears her father's words. Silent tears are flowing down his face.

SORAYA

(vibration of voice)

Father, I can't bear to imagine the pain and suffering after that. How did you feel?

EMAD

(Depressed)

My daughter, I cannot express the depth of my remorse and guilt for the pain caused. I never intended to harm your mother, although I went there with that intention. I did not foresee the disaster that happened.

Soraya's tears continue to flow as she tries to find comfort in her father's words.

SORAYA

(in a shaky voice)

Father, I understand. I believe in your remorse and the sincerity of your apology. But why did it all come to this? How did lies and separation lead to such a devastating result?

EMAD

(sincere)

Listen dear, remember this: never lie, never try to ruin someone's life. Silence can be the best choice when faced with such situations. None of this would have happened if your mother had not lied and confirmed what I heard. He carried the burden of that lie all his life because of our separation.

Soraya tries to absorb her father's words amidst the pain and confusion in her heart.

SORAYA

(whisper)

I wish everything was different, father. I wish our lives would not fall apart in such a sad way. But I also believe in the power of forgiveness and healing.

EMAD

(shaking head)

Yes dear, forgiveness and healing is what we need. It doesn't erase the past, but it can pave the way for a better future. Remember, the choices we make have consequences and we should strive to make choices rooted in truth and compassion.

Soraya is staring at her father with a mixture of love, sadness and understanding.

SORAYA

(faintly)

I will remember your words Father, I will carry them with me and strive to live a life guided by truth and compassion.

Emad smiles weakly, a glimmer of hope shines in his eyes.

EMAD

My dear, that's what I'm asking. May
we find peace together in the journey
of healing.

They share a deep and silent understanding, their connection unbreakable, even through the confines of a prison meeting room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Fatima lies in a hospital bed, her face bandaged and her body ravaged by the acid burns. Soraya sits by her side, tears streaming down his face as he holds her hand.

BACK TO PRESENT:

Soraya's voiceover continues, filled with a mix of pain and reflection.

SORAYA (V.O)

I can still hear the echoes of their
voices clashing, the sound of that
glass container suspended in the air.
It was a moment none of us could have
anticipated, and the consequences were
devastating.

The painful memories of that day weigh heavily on Soraya's heart as she tries to make sense of it all.

SORAYA (V.O)

Why did it come to this? The lies and
separation cast a dark shadow over our
lives, leading us down a path of
destruction and anguish. If only
things had been different. If only...

Soraya stands on one side of the glass, her father imprisoned on the other side. Tears stream down her face as she says her goodbyes.

SORAYA

(With tears)

Goodbye, Baba. I'll miss you. Stay
strong.

Her father, filled with love and sorrow, presses his hand against the glass.

FATHER

(Sadly)

I love you, my dear Soraya. Take care of yourself and your siblings. We will get through this.

EXT. MEDIA HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Newspaper headlines flash on a screen, showing images of Soraya's parents and the tragic events surrounding them.

NEWS REPORTER (VO)

(Voiceover)

Innocent lives affected by a tragic accident. Father sentenced to prison.

INT. BAYAT RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Soraya, now shouldering immense responsibilities, manages household chores while trying to continue her education. Her young siblings play nearby, unaware of the weight she carries.

SORAYA

(Serious)

I need to stay strong for them. I can't let them feel the weight of our circumstances.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Soraya visits her mother, who lies in a hospital bed, recovering from multiple surgeries.

SORAYA

(With determination)

Mother, you're so strong. We miss you at home. When will you come back?

MOTHER

(Weakly smiling)

My dear Soraya, I wish I could be there with you all. But I need time to heal. I'm proud of you for taking care of the family.

INT. BAYAT RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Soraya stands in her aunt's living room, where her mother now seeks solace. The void left by her absence weighs on Soraya's heart.

SORAYA

(Sadly)

Why did she leave us? We need her. I miss her every day.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Soraya, a determined and resilient young girl, enters the principal's office, finding Mrs. Azodi, the school principal, seated behind her desk.

Mrs. Azodi adjusts her glasses and looks at Soraya with a stern yet curious expression.

MRS. AZODI

Tell me, why are you here?

SORAYA

(Anxious)

Hello, I'm sorry, I am Soraya Bayat.

Mrs. Azodi motions for Soraya to take a seat. Soraya sits down, her mind racing to understand the reason for the unexpected summons.

MRS. AZODI

(Rising from seat)

The teacher informed me that you neglect to complete your homework, yet your exam grades remain remarkably high. Is this true? Are you cheating?

Soraya's face reflects sadness as the accusation lands heavily on her.

SORAYA

(Defensively)

Madam, please believe me. I have never cheated. The truth is, I simply do not have enough time to complete my homework amidst my demanding responsibilities.

Mrs. Azodi's expression softens, indicating her contemplation of Soraya's explanation.

MRS. AZODI

(Urging)

Tell your mother to come to school tomorrow.

SORAYA

(Hesitant)

Madam, my mother no longer resides with us. She has chosen to live apart.

Regret washes over Mrs. Azodi's face as she shakes her head, understanding the weight of the situation.

MRS. AZODI

(sighs)

Well, then tell your father to come.

Soraya's voice trembles as she delivers the heartbreaking truth.

SORAYA

(With a heavy heart)

Neither does my father.

Mrs. Azodi is taken aback, her eyes widening in disbelief. The complexity of Soraya's family situation becomes apparent, leaving both of them in a momentary silence, grappling with the depth of understanding.

Soraya, sitting with a concerned expression, faces an authoritative OFFICIAL. Tension fills the air.

AZODI

(Sternly)

I mean, no mother, no father, so who do you live with?

SORAYA

(Resolutely)

I live with my siblings, but my uncle visits us from time to time. He's been a constant source of support for us.

The Official sighs, clearly unimpressed.

AZODI

(Impatiently)

Very well, tell your uncle to come.

Soraya looks worriedly at the Official, her voice laced with anxiety.

SORAYA
 (Tentatively)
 Madam, it will take a few days to
 reach out to my uncle and inform him.

AZODI
 (Impatiently)
 There is no problem, just tell him to
 come sooner.

The weight of responsibility rests upon Soraya's shoulders as she contemplates the urgency of the Official's words.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Soraya enters the office and finds her uncle, sitting on a chair. Despite being blind, he senses Soraya's presence and smiles.

SORAYA
 (Excited)
 Uncle Ali! You're here!

She goes to her uncle and kisses his hand.

ALI
 (Touched)
 Soraya, my daughter, you've come.

They exchange greetings and Soraya sits next to her uncle. Uncle explains the situation to Mrs. Azodi, their school administrator. Soraya feels overwhelmed and tears start to fall.

SORAYA
 (Emotional)
 I'm sorry, Mrs. Azodi. I couldn't
 control my tears.

Mrs. Azodi, understanding the weight on Soraya's shoulders, thanks Uncle and tells Soraya she can return to her class.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY (LATER)

Soraya is called to the office again and enters nervously. Mrs. Azodi welcomes her and asks if she has eaten.

MRS. AZODI
(Warmly)
Have you eaten, my daughter?

SORAYA
(Softly)
No, ma'am.

Mrs. Azodi instructs the teachers in the room that Soraya, will eat first before Soraya returns to her class.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - LATER

Soraya sits in front of Mrs. Azodi, still in awe of her generosity. Mrs. Azodi asks about Soraya's homework.

MRS. AZODI
(Gently)
From now on, come and do your homework here, my dear.

Soraya realizes that she has found a supporter and mentor in Mrs. Azodi.

SORAYA
(Grateful)
Thank you, Mrs. Azodi. I will never forget your kindness.

TIME SKIP - DAY OF FATHER'S TRIAL

Soraya gathers her courage and decides to write a letter to the judge. She seeks Mrs. Azodi's guidance and receives encouragement.

MRS. AZODI
(Encouraging)
Of course, you can do it, Soraya.
You're a smart girl. Trust yourself.

Motivated, Soraya pours her heart into the letter.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The judge reads Soraya's letter and calls her forward. Nervously, she stands before the judge's desk.

JUDGE
(Curious)
Did you write this letter?

SORAYA
(Determined)
Yes, Your Honor.

Soraya stands before Judge Azodi, her father's fate hanging in the balance.

JUDGE
(pleading)
Your Honor, please, let me handle my father's case. Why should he be released?

(CONTINUOUS)

(curious)
This is an unusual request, young lady. Explain why I should consider it.

Soraya takes a deep breath, determined to express her love for her family.

SORAYA
(vulnerable)
I understand my father made a mistake, but why should I take on the burden? My father has to keep my family safe.

Judge remains silent, observing Soraya with a mix of curiosity and admiration.

JUDGE
(contemplative)
You possess remarkable strength, Soraya. You're a devoted and caring young girl, fighting to protect your family. I commend you for that.

Soraya is overwhelmed with emotions, tears of relief and joy streaming down her face.

SORAYA
(teary-eyed)
Thank you, Your Honor. Your words mean everything to me.

INT. UNCLE ALI RESIDENCE - DAY

Days pass, and Soraya receives the news of her father's impending release. She rejoices, hugging her supportive uncle tightly.

SORAYA
(tearful)
Finally, dad is coming home! I can't believe it!

ALI
(excited)
You did it, Soraya! Your strength and determination made a difference.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Soraya excitedly shares her news with Mrs. Azodi, the school representative.

SORAYA
(overjoyed)
Mrs. Azodi, father is coming home! I'm so happy!

MRS. AZODI
(supportive)
Soraya, your resilience and determination have been an inspiration to us all.

Mrs. Azodi embraces Soraya, acknowledging her spirit and fortitude and promises to make her the representative of the whole school

As they speak, the school disciplinary officer, approaches them with a skeptical expression.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY OFFICER
(disapproving)
Mrs. Azodi, I have some concerns about Soraya's appointment as a representative. She has a lot on her plate already. Shouldn't we be considering someone with fewer responsibilities?

Mrs. Azodi raises an eyebrow, sensing school disciplinary officer's doubts.

MRS. AZODI
 (curious)
 Ms. Anderson, how many children do you have?

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY OFFICER
 (hesitant)
 Well, I have three children.

MRS. AZODI
 (pointed)
 And who manages your housework?

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY OFFICER
 (defensive)
 I have a house servant for that.

Mrs. Azodi's expression becomes shrewd as she delivers her point.

MRS. AZODI
 (insightful)
 Consider this: while managing your household responsibilities and taking care of your siblings, you continue to represent your peers at school. Can anyone truly understand your dedication?

Soraya's eyes widen as she grasps Mrs. Azodi's point.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Other teachers enter the room, overhearing the conversation between Soraya and Mrs. Azodi.

TEACHER 1
 (amazed)
 She's been shouldering so much at such a young age! I had no idea.

TEACHER 2
 (curious)
 We should recognize her commitment and determination.

MRS. AZODI
 (decisive)

From this moment on, let us grant Soraya the responsibility of being the representative for all students. She is more than capable, competent, and dedicated to this role.

The room falls silent, everyone acknowledging the significance of Mrs. Azodi's words.

A FEW YEARS LATER

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Soraya, a determined and compassionate young girl, walks confidently through the bustling hallway. She spots Azodi, the school disciplinary officer, nearby and approaches her.

SORAYA

Good morning, Mrs. Azodi. I hope you're having a great day.

AZODI

What do you want, Soraya? I don't have time for your games.

Soraya stays calm, knowing that she needs to win her over.

SORAYA

Actually, Mrs. Azodi, I wanted to discuss an idea I have. I believe there's an opportunity to make a positive impact on our school and community.

Azodi Judge raises an eyebrow, clearly intrigued despite herself.

AZODI

Alright, Soraya. I'll give you a few minutes. Impress me.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Soraya and Azodi sit across from each other at a table, with lunch trays in front of them.

SORAYA

I've been thinking about creating a mentoring program for struggling

students. We could pair them up with successful seniors who can guide and support them.

AZODI

Why should I bother with such a program? It won't change anything.

Soraya's determination shines through as she passionately explains her viewpoint.

SORAYA

Mrs. Azodi, education is not just about grades. It's about building a supportive community that helps everyone succeed. With this program, we can provide hope and guidance to those who need it most.

Azodi leans back, contemplating Soraya's words.

AZODI

Hmm... I suppose it's worth a try. But don't expect miracles, Soraya.

INT. SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

A few weeks later, Soraya stands on stage, addressing a packed audience of students and teachers.

SORAYA

I want to thank each and every one of you for making our mentoring program a success. The impact we have made together is truly remarkable.

The crowd erupts in applause, recognizing Soraya's leadership and determination.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Soraya knocks on Azodi's office door. She opens it, looking engaged and inspired.

SORAYA

Mrs. Azodi, I wanted to share the news with you. Our mentoring program has received recognition from the Ministry of Education. They want to replicate it in other schools.

Azodi's eyes widen with pride and disbelief.

AZODI

I... I never thought it would come this far. You've proven me wrong, Soraya. Your determination and compassion are truly remarkable.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Soraya and Azodi stroll together, a newfound camaraderie evident between them.

SORAYA

Thank you, Mrs. Azodi, for giving me a chance. Together, we've shown that even the smallest voices can create the greatest of ripples in the world.

AZODI

And thank you, Soraya, for reminding me of the power that lies within every young soul.

They continue their walk, side by side, ready to tackle new challenges and make a lasting impact on her school and beyond.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

Without the school children noticing, I would sneak out of the door to meet my mother at the sports and recreation bell, which was arranged in front of my name with the coordination of the manager, and then when I returned, the bell would ring and I would follow the children to class.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Soraya enters the hotel lobby, glancing at her watch nervously. Time seems to pass too quickly.

SORAYA

(worrying)

Half an hour has already gone by, and my mother hasn't arrived. I grew increasingly anxious, not only for her but also for the repercussions at school. Whenever I returned late, I would get lost among the chaotic crowd

of students, and no one would notice me.

With each passing minute, Soraya's sense of urgency grows, and she makes a pivotal decision.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY

Soraya rushes towards the school, determined to return before the final bell rings.

SORAYA

(in a determined tone)

I couldn't afford to stay any longer.
I swiftly ran towards the school,
letting go of our meeting.

INT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - DAY

Soraya cautiously enters the school corridor. The hallway is eerily empty, with all the students gone. She pushes open a slightly ajar door, her heart pounding.

SORAYA

(confused)

Has the bell already rung? For a
moment, the world spun around me.
Hossein... What is he doing here?!

Soraya's eyes widen in both surprise and concern as she catches sight of her brother.

INT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Soraya confronts Naser, anger simmering between them.

SORAYA

Naser, what are you doing here? Why
did you come?

NASER

(fire in his eyes)

What were you doing outside the
school? Where were you, huh?

Soraya defiantly defends herself.

SORAYA

(defiant)

What's it to you? I had something to take care of, that's why I left.

The school disciplinary office, approaches upon hearing the commotion.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY OFFICER

(firmly)

Come inside, both of you. Ms. Azodi wants to see you. And you, young man, come along as well.

They all head towards Ms. Azodi's office, tension thick in the air.

INT. MS. AZODI'S OFFICE - DAY

The atmosphere is heavy with sadness and tension. Soraya enters the room, hunched over and visibly broken.

SORAYA

(whispering)

Good morning, Ms. Azodi...

Ms. Azodi, with her kind eyes behind her glasses, looks disappointed and concerned.

MS. AZODI

(raising an eyebrow)

Is it normal for you to leave school without permission, especially while representing the school?

SORAYA

(apologetically)

I'm sorry, Ms. Azodi. Please forgive me.

Ms. Azodi's gaze turns stern as she probes further.

MS. AZODI

(with authority)

Is this the first time you've done something like this?

SORAYA

(remembering father's teachings, hesitates)

No... It's not the first time, Ms.
Azodi.

Suddenly, Naser's anger erupts, as if they were at home where he feels entitled to raise his hand against Soraya. Ms. Azodi swiftly intervenes, coming out from behind her desk.

NASER
(in a fit of rage)
How dare you?!

Ms. Azodi steps between them, protecting Soraya from further harm. The superintendent watches, indifferent to the unfolding violence.

SORAYA
(crying, devastated)
Why... Why do you allow him to hurt
me, Ms. Azodi?

Ms. Azodi guides Soraya to a couch, their heart weighed down by the pain.

SORAYA
(tearfully, pleading)
Please, Ms. Azodi, don't think badly
of me. I arranged to meet my mother,
but she didn't come. I swear it's
true.

NASER
(challenging)
Prove it. Call mother right now.

Ms. Azodi, eager to verify the story, asks for the mother's contact details. Soraya provides the hospital and aunt's house numbers. Ms. Azodi dials and reaches the mother, confirming Soraya's words.

Relief washes over Ms. Azodi's face, while remorse fills Naser's eyes. He bids farewell to Ms. Azodi and instructs Soraya to meet him outside.

SORAYA
(decisive)
No, Naser. I won't go home with you.
You should go alone.

Determined, Soraya enters a pharmacy and approaches the counter.

SORAYA
 (resolute)
 I need several packages of sleeping pills, please.

PHARMACIST
 (inquisitive)
 What type of pills and for whom?

SORAYA
 (desperate, lying)
 They're for my sick father.

Soraya sits on a bench in the park, her face reflecting a mixture of pain and longing. She takes a deep breath, hoping for solace in the open sky above.

SORAYA
 (whispering)
 If only they could see the turmoil inside me... if only they knew.

She takes a sip of fruit juice, gathering her strength as she slings her bag over her shoulder.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Soraya opens her eyes, the sterile, white surroundings of a hospital room coming into focus. Her father, and Uncle Ali are by her side, their expressions etched with concern.

SORAYA
 (dazed)
 Where am I? What happened?

ALI
 (worried)
 Soraya, you passed out in the taxi. The taxi driver rushed you to the hospital. The doctors are still trying to figure out what caused it.

Soraya's mind races with confusion and fear.

SORAYA
 (panicked)

What do you mean, I passed out? How did I end up here?

ALI

(gently)

We don't have all the answers yet. But we're going to find out. Right now, just focus on getting better.

Soraya gazes at her father and Uncle Ali, seeking solace in their presence.

ALI (CONTINUOUS)

(supportive)

You're surrounded by people who care about you, Soraya. Take your time and rest.

Soraya lies on the hospital bed, her father and Uncle Ali by her side, their faces filled with concern. Soraya's tears flow uncontrollably as she releases the immense pain and suffering she has kept buried within her.

SORAYA

(through tears)

Father... Uncle Ali... I... I can't carry this burden alone anymore. Naser's relentless torment... the absence of my mother... the weight of life... it's become too much to bear.

Her father clutches her hand tighter, his eyes glassy with empathy and love.

EMAD

(softly)

My dear Soraya, you don't have to face this alone. We are here for you. Please, let it all out. We're listening.

Sobbing, Soraya pours her heart out, her words weighed down by the years of anguish.

SORAYA

(broken)

Naser's cruelty seems boundless, and I can't understand why he delights in inflicting so much suffering upon me.

And my mother... her absence haunts every corner of my existence. The weariness of life... it drains me, leaving me hollow and lost.

Uncle Ali steps forward, his presence radiating strength and solidarity.

ALI

(gently)

Soraya, my niece, we see the pain etched on your soul. We hear your cries, and we stand beside you. We will confront the darkness together and seek the light that lies beyond.

Soraya's tearful gaze shifts from her father to Uncle Ali, finding solace in their unwavering support.

SORAYA

(determined)

I don't want to be defeated by this pain anymore. In the midst of chaos, I want to find my strength, my resilience, and rewrite my story. I want to seek justice, rebuild shattered lives, and reclaim hope that was stolen from us.

Her father's eyes brim with pride and determination, mirroring Soraya's resolve.

EMAD

(firmly)

Soraya, my brave daughter, you are not alone in this battle. Together, we will untangle the web of suffering and pain. We will fight for justice, for healing, and for a brighter future.

Uncle Ali's nod confirms the unbreakable bond of unity.

ALI

(resolute)

We will wage this fight side by side. Your pain is our pain, and your triumph will be our triumph. Let these tears of despair fuel our determination to rise above adversity,

to rewrite your narrative, and to
reclaim the light that has been
snuffed out.

As the weight of Soraya's anguish begins to lift, a glimmer
of hope flickers within her eyes.

SORAYA

(whispering)

Thank you, Father, Uncle Ali. Your
unwavering presence gives me strength.
From this hospital bed, I vow to face
my demons, to heal, and to find my way
back to the light. The darkness may
have consumed me for a while, but it
will not define me.

Her father leans closer, enveloping her in a gentle embrace.

EMAD

(sincerely)

You have the resilience of a warrior
and the heart of an angel, Soraya. We
will walk this path together. You are
loved, and you are never alone.

Soraya sits on the bed, her father, Ali, by her side. They
both wear somber expressions, their eyes filled with
determination.

SORAYA

(tearfully)

Father, I can't live like this
anymore. The abuse has to stop. I
can't bear it any longer.

EMAD

(softly)

My dear Soraya, I understand your
pain. No one should endure what you've
been through. I promise you, it ends
here. I've spoken to Naser, and he
will never lay a hand on you again.

Soraya's eyes well up with a mixture of relief and lingering
fear.

SORAYA

(whispering)

Thank you, dad. Your love and support mean everything to me. But what if he doesn't change? What if the violence persists?

Ali places a comforting hand on Soraya's shoulder, looking into her eyes with unwavering resolve.

ALI

(firmly)

We won't let fear consume us. We'll take one step at a time, Soraya. Together, we'll seek help, find support. We'll break free from this cycle of abuse and create a life filled with love and security.

Soraya sits on the hospital bed, a nurse by her side, a doctor enters the room.

DOCTOR

(gently)

Soraya, we're here to help you recover and heal. You've been through a lot, but you're not alone. We have resources, therapy, and support groups that can aid you in your journey.

SORAYA

(nodding)

Thank you, doctor. I'm ready to start healing and rebuilding my life.

INT. SUPPORT GROUP MEETING - DAY

Soraya, Ali, and Emad sit among a group of individuals who share their stories of abuse and survival.

EMAD

(courageously)

I understand what you all have been through. I've faced abuse, too, but being here with all of you gives me hope. We can empower each other and overcome the darkness that tries to suffocate us.

Others in the group nod, tears and determination shining in their eyes.

INT. CAR - DAY

Soraya sits in the backseat, Emad in the driver's seat. The car moves forward, carrying them toward a future free from violence.

EMAD

(resolutely)

We're in this together, Soraya. We'll support each other on this journey to healing. No one should go through what we've experienced.

Soraya gives Emad a grateful smile, a newfound strength radiating from within.

SORAYA

(confidently)

Thank you, father. With people like you by my side, I believe we can overcome anything. Our scars won't define us; they'll become symbols of our resilience and strength.

They continue their journey, knowing that with each step, they're taking back control of their lives.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

MARYAM, Soraya's close friend, enters the room, carrying a lipstick.

MARYAM

Soraya, we need to talk. We've grown up, and it's time we take a look at ourselves and our situation.

Reluctantly, Soraya takes the lipstick from Maryam.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

NASER, finds the lipstick inside Soraya's drawer. He confronts her aggressively.

NASER

(angry)

What's this? What are you up to now?

NIMA sobs uncontrollably.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Soraya lies in bed, unable to sleep due to her pain and emotional turmoil.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Suddenly, Soraya's father, accompanied by a YOUNG WOMAN, appears before her.

FATHER

(concerned)

Why would you do this again, Soraya?
This isn't the solution.

Soraya remains silent, trying to understand who the young woman is. Her father eventually reveals his intention to marry her.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Soraya and her father return home. Soraya voices her opposition to her father's decision.

SORAYA

(defiantly)

I understand you're doing it for us,
but I don't want another woman in your
life.

Her father, understanding the distress it causes her, gives up the idea of a second marriage.

INT. COURTYARD - DAY

Soraya enters the house, exhausted from school. She notices Fariba sitting in the courtyard, visibly upset.

SORAYA

(Concerned)

Fariba, what happened? Why are you
crying?

FARIBA

(Sobbing)

Nima's condition has worsened since
this afternoon. He keeps throwing up
and wetting herself.

Without hesitation, Soraya rushes towards Nima room. They scoop up Nima and leave the house in a hurry.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The doctor tends to Nima, connecting her to a serum. The protagonist finally breathes a sigh of relief as their anxiety begins to subside.

SORAYA
(relieved)
Thank you, doctor. Please make sure
Nima gets better.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Soraya dials Uncle Ali's number from a public phone. They explain the situation, their voice filled with gratitude and concern.

UNCLE ALI
(on the phone)
Don't worry, my dear. I'll be there to
help you all.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Soraya, Nima, and Uncle Ali return home. The journey back is filled with mixed emotions, highlighting the absence of their parents.

SORAYA
(contemplative)
Sometimes, I wonder if our parents
only think of themselves. But Uncle
Ali has always been there for us,
selflessly supporting our family.

UNCLE ALI
(gently)
Remember, my child, kindness and
support can come from unexpected
places. Our family is resilient, and
together, we'll find our way.

Soraya nods, her mind still grappling with questions of fairness and justice.

INT. AUNT'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Soraya sits on a worn-out couch, her mother at her side. The room is dimly lit, emphasizing their somber mood.

SORAYA'S MOTHER
(softly, with concern)
Soraya, my dear, you need to find
something that brings you joy.

Soraya nods, but her lack of enthusiasm is apparent.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Soraya, stands on a dimly lit street, desperately looking for a ride to her uncle's house. The air is heavy with tension as she tries to navigate the dark road. After a few minutes, a taxi pulls up in front of her. Soraya hesitates but decides to get in.

DRIVER
Is this your home?

SORAYA
No.

DRIVER
How old are you?

SORAYA
Nineteen.

DRIVER
Aren't you afraid?

SORAYA
What should I be afraid of?

DRIVER
Of me.

Soraya is taken aback by the driver's unsettling question.

SORAYA
Can I sit in the backseat?

DRIVER
Why?

SORAYA
It's more comfortable for me.

The driver, with a sense of warning, turns serious.

DRIVER

In this darkness, I won't hold back.
I'll go fast.

As the journey continues, the driver suddenly hits the brakes, startling Soraya.

SORAYA

Why did you stop, sir?!

DRIVER

(angry and unstable)

I had a fight with my girlfriend. She betrayed me. You remind me so much of her. I didn't even want to pick up any passengers, but when I saw you, she came to mind.

Soraya, fearful and cautious, tries to diffuse the situation.

SORAYA

Well, I hope you reconcile.

The driver's anger intensifies, his words laced with bitterness.

DRIVER

(angrily)

No, never! I even caught her with my friend. All of you are trash. You're all garbage. Every one of you is rotten!

Soraya is left speechless, consumed by fear. The driver turns his focus on her.

DRIVER

Do you have a boyfriend too, huh?

Soraya, horrified, whispers her response.

SORAYA

No, I don't.

The tense silence hangs in the air as they continue the rest of the agonizing journey, uncertainty filling Soraya's mind.

SORAYA (CONTINUOUS)

Sir, please, trust me. I'm not lying.

DRIVER
I hate all girls.

Without warning, the driver strikes Soraya across the face. She cries out in pain.

SORAYA
Sir, why are you hitting me?

DRIVER
(angry)
You're all the same!

He hits her again and forcefully grabs her wrist, causing her immense pain.

SORAYA
(desperate)
Please, let me go! I'll give you money, anything.

Soraya's mind races, her thoughts turning to her uncle's advice and the safety of the children she cares for.

SORAYA (V.O.)
Oh God, please help me. I should have listened to my uncle. Nima needs me.

As bright lights approach, a police car comes into view. The POLICE OFFICER notices Soraya's terrified expression.

POLICE OFFICER
(through window)
Roll down the window!

The driver obeys, and Soraya seizes the opportunity.

SORAYA
(to police officer)
Please, for God's sake, save me!

The officer unlocks the car, and Soraya hurriedly moves toward the police vehicle.

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Soraya sits in the back of the police car, still shaken from her ordeal. They drive towards the police station. The police officer questions her.

POLICE OFFICER

Can you tell me what happened?

Soraya recounts her harrowing experience, sharing her fear and the assault she endured.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Soraya sits in a room at the police station, her face bruised and in pain. An officer enters, offering guidance and support.

YOUNG POLICEMAN

You must be careful when accepting rides from strangers. Many girls have suffered similar fates on this road. We work tirelessly to protect individuals like you.

Soraya nods, understanding the seriousness of the situation.

YOUNG POLICEMAN

God loves you, and you're safe now. It's not safe for you to return home alone at this hour. We'll arrange transportation for you.

Soraya expresses her concern for her sister and brother at home.

SORAYA

But my sister and brother are alone. I don't want to file a complaint.

The young officer empathizes but insists on ensuring Soraya's safety.

YOUNG POLICEMAN

We'll take care of them. Your safety is our priority. Let us help you.

Soraya reluctantly agrees, thankful for their intervention.

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

Soraya is styling Fariba's hair into a tomato-shaped bun, securing it with hairpins. Fariba excitedly stands in front of the mirror.

FARIBA

Thank you, sister! It looks so beautiful.

SORAYA

You're welcome. You look gorgeous!

FARIBA

(spinning in front of the mirror)
Really, Soraya? I look beautiful?

SORAYA (CONT'D)

Of course! It's obvious. (she takes Fariba's hand and spins her around, both laughing)

INT. WEDDING HALL - NIGHT

Soraya and Fariba sit on a couch and Emad enters the room, a grave expression on his face.

EMAD

(serious)
There's something important we need to discuss, girls.

SORAYA

(concerned)
What is it, father?

EMAD

One of our relatives has proposed for Fariba's hand in marriage for their son.

FARIBA

(surprised)
Oh... I wasn't expecting this.

SORAYA

(curious)
And what are your thoughts, father?

EMAD

(solemnly)
Well, I had previously mentioned that we wouldn't consider any proposals until Soraya, my older daughter, got married. But given the circumstances,

I think we should think about it differently.

FARIBA

(nervous, but hopeful)

What do you mean?

EMAD

If this proposal brings the possibility of a stable and happier life for Fariba, maybe we shouldn't dismiss it entirely.

SORAYA

(supportive)

Fariba, if this is what you truly want and father believes the suitor is a good person, it might be worth considering.

FARIBA

(teary-eyed)

I... I do want a change in my life. If father thinks he's a good match...

EMAD

(sincerely)

I'm open to exploring this proposal. We all just want what's best for you, Fariba.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Soraya and Fariba stand side by side, washing dishes together.

EMAD

(pensive)

So, maybe Fariba will be getting married soon.

SORAYA

(supportive)

It's a possibility, father. After considering the circumstances, you are willing to see if this match could bring stability and happiness to Fariba's life.

EMAD

(nods)

I trust your judgment. If it's what Fariba wants and they believe it's a good match, maybe it's a step towards a better future for her.

SORAYA

(agrees)

That's exactly how I see it. We want the best for our family, and sometimes that means embracing new possibilities.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Soraya rests on her bed, lost in her thoughts.

SORAYA

(whispering)

Change is in the air. Fariba's path may be taking a new direction. As for me, I've made it clear that marriage isn't my immediate priority. Let's see how this unfolds for us all.

Soraya closes her eyes, hopeful for the wellbeing and happiness of her loved ones.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Soraya is busy preparing breakfast for her children when the doorbell rings. She wipes her hands on her apron and answers the door.

SHIREEN

(excitedly)

Soraya! Guess what? The school is closing for two weeks!

SORAYA

(staring blankly)

Huh? What did you say?

SHIREEN

(teasingly)

You don't look too thrilled about it, Soraya.

SORAYA
(trying to hide her disappointment)
No, no, I'm happy! Thank you for
letting me know.

MUTTERING TO HERSELF

SORAYA
(in a low voice)
Could today be my lucky day?

INT. SORAYA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Soraya is lost in thought, staring out the window at the rain pouring down. She's frustrated with her ill fortune and the uncertainty of the next two weeks. Naser keeps his distance, sensing her troubled state.

INT. SORAYA'S LIVING ROOM - TWO WEEKS LATER

Shireen bursts into the house with a smile on her face.

SHIREEN
(excitedly)
Soraya, schools are reopening
tomorrow! We're finally going back!

SORAYA
(relieved)
Thank goodness! I can finally breathe.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Soraya coordinates a plan with her friend to distract Mr. Rahim, the school caretaker.

SORAYA'S FRIEND
(whispering)
Keep him busy until the end of class.
I have something important to do.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

Soraya sneaks out of a side exit, determined to find John at the hotel.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Soraya arrives at the hotel, hope in her eyes, only to be met with disappointment.

SORAYA
(desperate)
Please, I need to find John. Can you
give me his contact information?

RECEPTIONIST
(sympathetically)
I'm sorry, but we're not allowed to
share that information.

Soraya's heart sinks, tears welling in her eyes.

SORAYA
(defeated)
But... I came all this way.

INT. HOTEL RECEPTION - DAY

The hotel staff exchange glances, signaling to Soraya that it's time for her to leave.

SORAYA
(resigned)
I understand. Thank you.

Back to the opening scenes

INT. DIMLY LIT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Soraya, bathed in the afterglow of divine love, hears a beckoning voice, breaking the silence.

VOICE
(unseen)
Come. I must show you a place.

Intrigued and trusting, Soraya follows the ethereal sound, traversing winding corridors that hold profound mysteries.

SORAYA
(loudly)
I have made a mistake! I don't wish to
stay here!

But the voice that led her there responds, soothing her troubled spirit.

VOICE

(calming)

Come. Drink from this water. It will alleviate your distress. You must awaken, but be prepared for pain and fatigue. It will be a difficult journey, but fear not. We will guide you, support you, and help you survive. With our assistance, your life will transform in your own hands. Do not despair.

Soraya's resolve strengthens as she prepares to embrace the challenges that lie ahead.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Soraya slowly opens her eyes, struggling to see. The blurred face of Fariba gradually comes into focus. Fariba is tearful and desperately calling out to Soraya.

SORAYA

Fariba, please go and bring some yogurt and lemon juice. Nima, you go buy a watermelon from Abbas. Hurry back.

Fariba is surprised and unsure of what to do, but upon hearing Nima's suggestion, she gathers herself and rushes towards the kitchen. Nima, thrilled at the opportunity to help, holds onto Soraya's arm and says:

NIMA

I make sure the watermelon is big and let Abbas, choose a sweet one, okay? I'm going!

EXT. HOUSE COURTYARD - EVENING

SORAYA

(watching Nima run off)

Nima, wait up! What's got you so excited?

NIMA

(grinning)

I found a new game to play outside! Come on, Soraya!

Soraya follows Nima, her steps reflecting a newfound purpose in her life.

INT. SORAYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Soraya lies in bed, deep in thought.

SORAYA

(whispering)

Everyone has a mission in this world,
including me. God loves me, and I love
Him too. No more dwelling on negative
thoughts. Tomorrow will be better.

She closes her eyes and drifts off to sleep, hopeful for a brighter future.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Soraya wakes up, a renewed energy filling her. She prepares breakfast, humming a soft tune. Naser enters the kitchen, surprised by Soraya's changed behavior.

NASER

(curious)

Soraya, something's different about
you lately. You're quieter than usual.

SORAYA

(smiling)

I've realized that arguing and
conflicts only bring us down. I want
to approach things with more patience
and tolerance.

NASER

(nervously)

That's... unexpected. But if it's
making you happier, then I'm glad.

INT. SORAYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Soraya reflects on the effect her changed behavior has had on Naser. She understands his occasional surprise at her silence.

SORAYA

(whispering)

Naser pretends it doesn't bother him,
but I can see it does. I hope my
actions help heal the wounds I caused.
I wonder if, in his solitude, he sheds
tears too.

Her heart fills with empathy for Naser.

INT. CAFÉ - DAY

Soraya glances at her wristwatch, realizing the meeting is
way overdue. She walks toward the café receptionist.

SORAYA
(excitedly)
May I use your telephone, please?

RECEPTIONIST
(smirking)
Of course, Soraya. You know where it
is.

Soraya dials Fatima's work number and waits anxiously.

SECRETARY
(on the phone)
Hold on, Soraya. Let me page your
mother.

Soraya taps her foot impatiently, feeling the seconds tick
by.

FATIMA
(rushed)
Soraya, I'm so sorry, but I can't make
it today. Our boutique visit is
canceled. I'll personally choose a
dress for you and have it sent.

Soraya's disappointment is evident, but she musters a smile.

SORAYA
(reluctantly)
Alright, Mother. Thank you. Don't
worry, I'll be fine. Goodbye.

She hangs up, takes a deep breath, and collects herself.

SORAYA
(to herself)

No negative thoughts, Soraya. Stay positive.

She thanks the receptionist and heads towards the hotel exit, struggling to maintain her composure.

EXT. HOTEL ENTRANCE - DAY

Soraya takes a few steps outside when she hears a voice behind her.

JIM
(politely)
Excuse me, ma'am?

Soraya turns around and notices a man in his forties, holding her bag.

SORAYA
(surprised)
Oh... I'm sorry. That's my bag.

JIM
(smiling)
No problem. It was left on the chair.

Soraya realizes Jim is a foreigner, just like most guests at the luxurious hotel.

SORAYA
(grateful)
Thank you so much.

JIM
(extends hand)
I'm Jim, by the way. Nice to meet you.

SORAYA
(looking down)
Oh, um... Soraya. Nice to meet you too.

Jim extends an invitation to sit and have a drink, but Soraya politely declines.

SORAYA
(with a smile)
Thank you, but I have to go. Goodbye, Jim.

She walks away, feeling a strange sensation that he's following her.

INT. SORAYA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Two days later, Soraya excitedly opens the parcel from her mother, revealing a stunning dress.

SORAYA
(astonished)
Wow, it's absolutely beautiful!

She quickly changes into the dress and admires herself in the mirror.

SORAYA
(grateful)
Thank you, Mother. Your taste is
impeccable.

She knows she'll be attending Jamileh's sister's birthday party, where networking opportunities await.

EXT. JAMILIEH'S SISTER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY - NIGHT

Soraya walks into the party venue, feeling confident and ready to mingle with proper individuals and foreigners.

FRIEND (V.O.)
(enthusiastic)
Soraya, you made it! This party is
going to be amazing. You'll have a
great time, I promise!

Soraya arrives at Jamileh's house, pays the taxi fare, and rings the doorbell.

SOUND OF A WOMAN'S VOICE
(behind the door)
Come in!

Soraya enters and climbs a few steps. She notices an open wooden door to her right, and Jamileh appears in front of her.

SORAYA
(nervously)
Hi Jamileh!

JAMILEH
(excitedly)
Hello, dear... Oh my, look at you,
Souri! How beautiful you've become!

Soraya is surprised by the compliment.

SORAYA
(in disbelief)
Really? Do I look good?

JAMILEH
(emphatically)
Yes, indeed! Come in, take the flower
basket from me.

Jamileh hands Soraya the basket.

JAMILEH
(smiling)
What lovely flowers! You made an
effort, dear.

Hoori, Jamileh's sister, welcomes Soraya and expresses her gratitude for the flowers.

HOORI
(appreciative)
Thank you for the flowers. They're
beautiful.

Soraya observes that the celebration seems more focused on the parents rather than the birthday child, as there are no children present.

SORAYA
(chuckling)
This is quite a unique birthday
celebration.

Despite the unconventional nature of the party, Soraya is intrigued and knows this night will become a cherished memory as she experiences her first social gathering.

INT. PARTY HALL - NIGHT

The loud song blares through the hall, and everyone rushes to the center to dance. Jamileh encourages Soraya to join in.

SORAYA

Alright, I'm in! Let's do this!

Jamileh hands Soraya her neck scarf.

JAMILEH

Here, tie this around your waist.
You're going to rock the Arabic dance
moves!

Soraya ties the scarf around her waist and gets ready to dance.

INT. PARTY HALL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Soraya starts performing Arabic dance moves with enthusiasm and skill.

CROWD

(applause)

Soraya finishes her performance,
smiling and out of breath.

INT. PARTY HALL - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Jamileh brings Soraya a glass of cold water.

JAMILEH

Suri, my dear, you've stolen
everyone's heart!

SORAYA

Oh, come on, Jamileh. Don't
exaggerate.

JAMILEH

I swear, I'm telling the truth!

They continue their warm conversation when Hoori and a gentleman, Jim, approach them.

INT. PARTY HALL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Soraya stands up and greets Jim with a smile.

SORAYA

Hi, Jim. Nice to see you again.

JIM

Hello, Soraya. It's a pleasure to meet you properly.

Jamileh gestures to Hoori, and they excuse themselves, leaving Soraya and Jim alone.

INT. PARTY HALL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Soraya feels a bit stressed and uncertain but tries to maintain composure.

SORAYA

So, Jim, what brings you here tonight?

Jim looks at Soraya intently, creating a moment of anticipation.

JIM

You know, it's funny how we meet again. I couldn't help but notice your presence last week at the hotel.

Soraya prays silently for Jamileh's return, hoping for a conversation rescue.

INT. PARTY HALL - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Jamileh and Hoori remain away, as requested by Hoori.

INT. PARTY HALL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, a pleasant announcement is made, signaling dinner.

VOICE

Ladies and gentlemen, dinner is served!

Everyone gathers around a large table, filling their plates with delicious food.

INT. PARTY HALL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jim surprises Soraya by getting up, filling a plate with various dishes, and bringing it to her.

SORAYA

Oh, Jim, you didn't have to do that. Thank you so much!

Jim smiles warmly at Soraya.

JIM

It's my pleasure, Soraya. Enjoy the meal.

They sit down together, ready to enjoy the unique and exceptional dining experience.

SORAYA

(whispering)

I really should go home, Jamileh. It's been a long day.

JAMILEH

(hesitant)

But there's so much more to experience tonight, Soraya. Don't let this opportunity pass by.

Soraya hesitates for a moment, contemplating her decision. She looks at Jamileh, conflicted.

SORAYA

(resigned)

Alright, please let Hoori know that I need a taxi.

Hoori approaches Soraya and Jamileh, accompanied by Jim.

HOORI

(cheerful)

Hey, Soraya! Jim and I are heading back to the hotel. We can drop you off at home on our way if you'd like.

Soraya, feeling hesitant to inconvenience them, looks grateful but declines the offer.

SORAYA

(polite)

Thank you, Hoori and Jim, but I don't want to disrupt your plans. I'll manage to find a taxi.

Jamileh leans in and whispers something into Soraya's ear. Soraya chuckles, considering Jamileh's persuasion.

SORAYA

(amused)

Alright, alright. If it's not too much trouble, I'll accept your kind offer, Jim.

Jim smiles, clearly pleased by Soraya's change of heart.

JIM
(gentle)
It's no trouble at all, Soraya. Happy to help.

EXT. NEAR FARIBA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The car slows down as they approach Fariba's house. Soraya gathers her belongings, ready to leave.

SORAYA
(grateful)
Thank you, Jim, for the ride. I appreciate it.

Jim hands Soraya a piece of paper, urging her to contact him through the provided number. Confused, she asks why.

SORAYA
(curious)
Why do you want me to call?

JIM
(stern)
I need to talk to you. It's important.

Soraya reluctantly agrees to call if possible. Before she exits the car, Jim calls her name, catching her attention.

JIM
(determined)
Suri?

Soraya turns back to face him, a mix of surprise and uncertainty in her eyes.

SORAYA
(curious)
Yes?

JIM
(assertive)
If you don't call, I'll come here.

Soraya is taken aback by his declaration but assures him that she will indeed call.

SORAYA
(reassuring)
I promise I'll call, Jim.

INT. FARIBA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Soraya and Nima sit together, talking and enjoying their time at Fariba's house. They sit by the window, deep in conversation. Soraya's attention is suddenly caught by a white foreign car parked across the street. As she looks closer, a man taps on the window, startling her. Fariba notices her reaction and asks what's wrong.

SORAYA
(nervously)
I'll be right back, Fariba. Just need a moment.

Soraya quickly puts on Fariba's veil and steps outside. To her surprise, she finds Jim, a familiar face, waiting for her.

SORAYA
(surprised)
Jim? What are you doing here?

JIM
(sincerely)
I've been waiting for your contact, Soraya. I needed to talk to you.

Soraya agrees to take his number but urges him to leave.

SORAYA
(resolute)
Fine, give me your number. But now you must go.

INT. HOORI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Soraya sits with Hoori, pouring out the details of her encounter with Jim. Hoori listens attentively.

SORAYA
(confused)

I just don't understand why he's so interested in me. What does he want?

Hoori helps shed light on the situation, explaining Jim's background and his desire to marry a Persian woman.

HOORI

(calmly)

Soraya, Jim comes from a different culture, but he genuinely cares for you. He's serious about marrying a Persian woman. Give him a chance, get to know him better.

Soraya expresses her concerns about the significant age difference and her father's potential disapproval.

SORAYA

(sighs)

Hoori, the age difference is substantial, and I can't ignore my father's opinion. It seems impossible.

Hoori advises against hasty decisions and encourages Soraya to keep an open mind.

HOORI

(encouragingly)

Don't jump to conclusions just yet, Soraya. Give it some time. Love and compatibility don't always adhere to societal norms.

Reluctantly, Soraya proceeds with the engagement ceremony at her aunt's house, not having discussed it with her mother.

EXT. AUNT'S COURTYARD - NIGHT

Jim arrives with gifts, impressing Soraya's aunts and Fatima. While Soraya acknowledges his attractiveness, she can't shake off her doubts about the age difference.

INT. AUNT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Soraya and Fatima sit together, discussing the recent events and Jim's proposal. Fatima voices her concerns, knowing that Emad would likely oppose the match.

FATIMA

(worried)

Soraya, your father will never agree to this. We need to consider the consequences.

Fatima tries to convince her, highlighting the potential challenges they may face. Soraya isn't entirely closed off to the idea.

SORAYA

(contemplative)

I understand, Mother. But sometimes, unconventional paths lead to happiness. I've always felt that my life would be different, that I wouldn't follow the traditional path of marriage like others.

Both Soraya and Fatima ponder the uncertain future ahead.

INT. EMAD'S FAMILY LIVING ROOM - DAY

Emad sits, his anger evident in his expressions. Soraya stands before him, waiting for his response to Jim's marriage proposal.

EMAD

(angry)

Impossible! Who is this person? Why does his face seem familiar? You mentioned Jim introduced you, but where did I see him before?

Soraya hesitates, not wanting to mention their previous encounter in a hotel, especially with her mother present.

SORAYA

(nervously)

Father, I didn't lie. Jim is a friend of Fariba's sister's husband. That's where I first met him.

After much deliberation, Emad reluctantly agrees to the proposal, and the engagement is arranged.

INT. EMAD'S FAMILY LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hoori and her husband, Jim, arrive at Soraya's house carrying a large basket of flowers and boxes of sweets. Soraya's family gathers to meet them. Emad, in his usual manner, begins asking Jim a series of questions, seeking reassurance.

EMAD

(inquisitive)

What is your occupation, Jim? Where are you from originally? Why hasn't Soraya been married before? And why do you specifically want a Persian spouse?

Hoori contacts Soraya's family and requests permission to visit again for an answer. The night before their arrival, Emad calls her to his room for a calm conversation.

EMAD

(calmly)

Soraya, my daughter, I understand your distress and hardships, but marrying a man the same age as me isn't the solution. I came to Tehran to be with you, and I'm willing to support your education abroad. I can even arrange for Naser to accompany you. You both deserve a happy life.

Soraya chuckles, responding with a hint of irony.

SORAYA

(teasingly)

Father, I wanted to escape the torment of Naser, and now you want to send me with him?

Both share a laugh, lightening the mood.

EMAD

(playfully)

Don't worry, my daughter. I promise he won't harass you.

Soraya expresses her desire for Jim and Hoori to visit again for the proposal.

SORAYA

(resolute)

Father, if it's not a problem, let them come again for the proposal.

EMAD

(sincerely)

I have granted permission, but I've set conditions that you should know about before making a decision. If you agree to them, only then will I give my consent.

Intrigued, Soraya asks for the conditions.

SORAYA
(curious)
Father, what are the conditions?

EMAD
(slightly stern)
He must deposit an amount of 250,000 tomans, equivalent to the price of a house and a car, into your account.

Soraya's eyes widen, absorbing the weight of the condition.

INT. SORAYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Soraya stands alone, taking a deep breath, preparing herself for the realization that her marriage with Jim may not work out under Emad's conditions.

EMAD
(earnestly)
Look, my daughter, we can pay the dowry, but if this man leaves for Persia, how will you have any control over the situation? If someday he wants a divorce, at least have some financial security for the future.

Soraya acknowledges her father's point, signaling her growing understanding of the situation.

INT. SHAHRIAR HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Soraya is busy preparing food when Naser enters the kitchen, closing the door silently. Soraya is taken aback by his behavior.

SORAYA
(surprised)
What's wrong, Naser? Why did you close the door?

Naser approaches calmly, composedly.

NASER

(gently)

Soraya, I agree with Baba's condition overall, but my heart aches for poor Jim. Every day, in this hot weather, he sits outside on the street with a bag of ice on his head, just to catch a glimpse of you. Although I disagree with your actions, my heart goes out to him.

Soraya is puzzled by Naser's unexpected display of kindness. She expresses her gratitude.

SORAYA

(grateful)

Thank you, Naser. I appreciate your understanding.

Naser responds coldly and indifferently.

NASER

(bluntly)

Don't be too happy. I still have issues with you. But for the sake of going to America, I'll follow you. However, you have to promise me that you'll definitely take me along.

Soraya realizes that Naser's selfishness can work in her favor.

SORAYA

(resolve)

Okay, Naser. If I go, I promise to take you with me.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Through Naser's mediation, Soraya arranges meetings with Jim. They discuss the financial requirements, and Jim has deposited some money into Soraya's account. However, it is not yet complete.

SORAYA

(worried)

I don't know, Naser. What if Baba never forgives me? What if I lose him forever?

Soraya's indecision is palpable, weighed down by the impossibility of making a sound decision in such challenging circumstances.

INT. EMAD'S HOUSE - DAY

Soraya and Jim stand in front of Emad, who allows them to go back and forth to Jim's friend's house, believing that they are visiting his friend because of Jim's father's stroke..

JIM

(earnestly)

Sir, there is a letter that I have to deliver to my friend to deliver to my father who had a stroke in America . I think it's important for Soraya to accompany me.

EMAD

(nodding)

I wish it was time for me to prepare my visa.

INT. MILITARY AIRCRAFT - DAY

Soraya and Jim are seated on the airplane, ready for their journey. The noise in the sky is overwhelming, and Soraya's eardrums are hurting. She feels a need to use the bathroom and encounters an American lady standing there.

SORAYA

(curiously)

Excuse me, ma'am. Do you know when we'll arrive in Isfahan?

AMERICAN LADY

(surprised)

Isfahan?! We're going to Europe, to Germany! Didn't your father, sitting over there, inform you?

Soraya's world collapses in that moment as she realizes the trap she has fallen into. She feels a deep ache for her father, and everything seems to crumble around her.

EXT. FRANKFURT AIRPORT - DAY

Soraya and Jim disembark from their flight, disoriented and exhausted. Jim approaches a counter to inquire about their next flight to San Francisco.

ARTEMIS

(teary-eyed, to Jim)

Jim, Can I talk to you for a moment?

Soraya is bewildered by the woman's emotional state and looks at Jim for an explanation.

JIM

(nervously)

We're going to separate.

Soraya is startled by Jim's response and questions him.

SORAYA

(apprehensive)

This woman?

JIM

(confirming)

Yes, she is my wife, and we are planning to get a divorce.

Soraya's hopelessness and despair intensify, but she keeps up a facade of composure in front of Jim's wife. Deep down, regrets consume her.

INT. AIRPORT LOUNGE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Soraya recalls the moment when she realized she had no choice but to follow Jim's plan for their marriage, fearing she would otherwise lose the opportunity to meet her father.

PRESENT

ARTEMIS

(tearfully)

Jim, I'm going to miss you so much.
Promise me you'll stay safe.

Soraya quietly watches Artemis, feeling a pang of sadness deep within.

SORAYA

(softly)

It's going to be hard without Jim around. We'll have to take care of each other.

Soraya gazes around the bustling airport, feeling a mix of excitement and overwhelm.

SORAYA
(excitedly)
Wow, this airport is massive! So many people and so much happening.

Jim senses Soraya's unease and offers his support, guiding her through the airport crowd.

JIM
(comforting)
Don't worry, Soraya. I'm here with you. We'll navigate through this together.

Soraya's eyes are captivated by the flight attendants in their vibrant uniforms. She wonders about their diverse roles and the training they undergo.

SORAYA
(curious)
Jim, have you ever thought about being a flight attendant? It seems like an interesting job.

INT. AIRPLANE - EVENING

The captain's voice resonates over the PA system, announcing the upcoming landing.

CAPTAIN
(over the PA system)
Ladies and gentlemen, we will be landing at our destination in a few moments. Please fasten your seatbelts.

Soraya's nervousness intensifies as she realizes she is stepping into an unknown world with only Jim as her anchor.

SORAYA
(nervously)
Jim, I'm feeling a bit scared. This is all so new to me.

Jim places a reassuring hand on Soraya's shoulder, offering comfort and reassurance.

JIM
(calmly)
I understand, Soraya. But remember,
we're in this together. I'll be right
by your side.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT - DAY

Jim turns to Artemis, instructing her to return home while he and Soraya head to the hotel.

JIM
(to Artemis)
Artemis, you've done so much for us
already. It's time for you to go back
home now.

Soraya, mentally exhausted and desiring solitude, makes a request to Jim for a separate room at the hotel.

SORAYA
(weary)
Jim, I really need some alone time.
Can we get separate rooms at the
hotel?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Soraya, prompted by her need for connection, decides to contact her aunt.

SORAYA
(determined)
I need to call Aunt and let her know
we arrived safely. I miss her.

Jim takes the initiative, arranging the call and ensuring Soraya's safety and wellbeing.

JIM
(setting up the call)
I'll take care of it, Soraya. You just
focus on getting settled.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT (PHONE CALL)

Soraya's aunt expresses relief and excitement upon hearing Soraya's voice, displaying her concern and care.

AUNT

(happily)

Soraya, my dear! I'm so relieved you're finally there. How was the journey?

Soraya, drained and fatigued, shares a weary assurance with her aunt, inquiring about the state of her father's well-being.

SORAYA

(weary)

It was tiring, Aunt. But we made it. How is Dad? Is he okay?

Aunt reveals that while Soraya's father is physically fine, the emotional toll of Soraya's choices is evident, and acceptance may take time.

AUNT

(concerned)

Your father is physically fine, but he has been deeply affected by everything. It'll take him time to understand.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Soraya finds solace in extended periods of sleep, seeking respite from the constant thoughts swirling in her mind.

SORAYA

(softly)

I need some rest. My mind feels overwhelmed right now.

Jim enters the room with a purpose, leaving Soraya with the task of waiting in the car—an arrangement that makes her feel constrained and confined.

JIM

(serious)

Soraya, I have some important matters to attend to. Can you wait for me in the car?

SORAYA

(feeling confined)

Fine, Jim. I'll be in the car, waiting like always.

Soraya paces back and forth, her face filled with concern and anxiety, her hands nervously fidgeting.

SORAYA
 (in solitude, speaking to a higher power)
 God, I surrender myself to you. Grant me patience during these temporary trials.

INT. ARTEMIS HOUSE - DAY

Jim opens the door and waves Soraya inside, a warm smile on his face.

JIM
 (inviting Soraya inside)
 Come, join us.

Soraya steps into the building, looking around cautiously, taking in the unfamiliar surroundings.

Artemis approaches Soraya, extending her hand with a friendly gesture.

ARTEMIS
 (to Soraya, with familiarity)
 It's good to meet you.

Michael, standing nearby, watches Soraya with a mix of surprise and genuine interest.

MICHAEL
 (astonished, addressing Soraya)
 I'm glad to meet you!

Soraya musters a grateful smile, feeling a mixture of gratitude and apprehension.

SORAYA
 (grateful, taking a seat)
 Thank you.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Michael approaches Soraya with a warm smile on his face, his body language inviting and friendly.

MICHAEL
(approaching Soraya)
Have you studied?

Soraya nods, slightly nervous yet willing to share.

SORAYA
(responding)
Yes.

MICHAEL
(curious)
Up to what level?

Soraya responds with confidence, trying to convey her accomplishments.

SORAYA
High school diploma.

Satisfied with Soraya's response, Michael commends her achievement.

MICHAEL
(commending)
Well done. Did you come here to continue your studies?

Soraya's uncertainty shines through her expression, her eyes searching for answers.

SORAYA
(uncertain)
I don't know. I want to study law.

MICHAEL
(curious)
Did you come here to marry Jim and stay in America?

Soraya's discomfort grows, feeling the weight of assumptions being placed upon her.

SORAYA

I didn't think of coming to America at all.

Michael's surprise is evident as he tries to understand Soraya's motivations.

MICHAEL

(surprised)

So why did you come?

Soraya takes a deep breath, collecting her thoughts before responding, hoping to convey her truth.

SORAYA

(feeling the weight of assumption)

I didn't come for the sake of America.

Michael's curiosity persists, and he presses further, seeking clarity.

MICHAEL

(curious)

Then did you fall in love with Jim?

Soraya's silence speaks volumes, indicating a complex web of emotions she's grappling with.

INT. ARTEMIS HOUSE - DAY

Jim approaches Artemis, a sense of urgency in his voice as he requests the insurance card.

ARTEMIS

(objecting, hesitant)

Jim, I'm not sure if we should...

Jim interrupts, trying to convince Artemis of the necessity.

JIM

(persuading Artemis)

If we separate, the card will be useless. Please, we need it. Hand it over.

After a moment of inner struggle, Artemis relents with a sigh, reluctantly handing over the insurance card.

ARTEMIS

(yielding, reluctantly)

Fine.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A doctor examines Soraya's condition, taking notes and asking her questions.

SORAYA

(in a feverish state)

Jim, for my father's sake, we should get married.

Jim takes Soraya's hand, his eyes filled with determination and reassurance.

JIM

(reassuringly)

Don't worry, Soraya. I promise you, I love you. We'll get married.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Jim stands guard near the door, his protective instincts in full force, trying to keep Soraya safe within the confines of the hotel room.

SORAYA

(restless)

I want to go out. Take me with you.

INT. ARTEMIS' HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Soraya takes in the unfamiliar surroundings, her eyes scanning the decorated space, taking note of the differences from her home in Persia.

SORAYA

(internal monologue)

These decorations...the furniture...everything feels so different from Persia.

Gradually adapting to the new environment, Soraya observes the behavior and interactions of the people around her.

SORAYA

(internal monologue)

People here interact and carry themselves in a subtly different way. The cultural gap is vast.

INT. ARTEMIS' HOME - DINING AREA - DAY

Soraya struggles with the unfamiliar cuisine, trying to find familiarity in the flavors, but often feeling unsatisfied.

SORAYA

(internal monologue)

The flavors and ingredients are unfamiliar. I often leave the table feeling hungry and unsatisfied.

The strain of adjusting to a new environment and culture takes a toll on Soraya's health, and she falls ill.

SORAYA

(internal monologue)

The physical and mental challenges take a toll on my health.

INT. ARTEMIS' HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Michael approaches Soraya, his voice soft and curious, questioning her choices.

MICHAEL

(softly)

You're young and attractive. How did you fall in love with Jim? He's not wealthy, and there's an age gap. What do you see in him?

Soraya, maintaining her conviction, responds defiantly.

SORAYA

(defiantly)

I've made my decision. I don't care what you think. His age or financial situation doesn't matter. He's a good person.

Michael expresses doubt, challenging Soraya's choice.

MICHAEL

(doubting)

Are you sure you're not making a mistake?

Soraya stands firm, her belief in Jim unshaken.

SORAYA

(firmly)

I'm searching for a complete human being, someone from whom I can learn the path of life through their experiences.

Michael remains skeptical, questioning Jim's ability to fulfill Soraya's desires.

MICHAEL

(skeptical)

Do you think Jim can give you that?

Soraya responds with hope and resolution.

SORAYA

(hopeful)

I believe he can.

Michael suggests alternatives, implying that there are younger men who could meet Soraya's needs.

MICHAEL

(suggesting)

There are young men here who can fulfill your desires and marry you.

Soraya dismisses the suggestion, showing her disinterest.

SORAYA

(disinterested)

I have no interest in young men.

Michael, despite voicing his admiration for Soraya's youth and beauty, expresses his doubts.

MICHAEL

(admiring)

You're young and beautiful. It's a shame to make the right decision.

Soraya remains focused on her connection with Jim, her determination unwavering.

SORAYA

(focused on Jim)

I have Jim in my mind. I want this to happen soon so I can see my father.

Special people always come into our
lives without searching or seeking.

INT. CLUB OFFICE - BREAK ROOM - LUNCHTIME

Soraya shares her worries with Jim, who offers comfort and support, understanding her struggles in the castle.

JIM

(encouragingly)

Soraya, I can see that the castle is getting to you. How about I take you along with me? We could work together at the club. It'll be a change of scenery and you won't be alone anymore.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Soraya and Jim drive through the city, leaving the castle behind.

SORAYA

(relieved)

Thank you, Jim. I already feel better knowing I won't be alone in that place anymore.

JIM

(sincerely)

You're not alone, Soraya. We're in this together.

INT. CLUB OFFICE - BOARDROOM - MEETING

Soraya presents her financial analysis report to the board members, showcasing her expertise and dedication.

BOARD MEMBER 1

(impressed)

Soraya, excellent work. Your understanding of our finances is commendable.

INT. CLUB OFFICE - DAY

Soraya sits at her desk, a determined expression on her face. She has grown confident and independent in her work.

SORAYA
(to herself)

I've come a long way since that castle. I'm proud of how far I've come.

INT. CLUB OFFICE - LUNCHROOM - DAY

Soraya sits alone, her face heavy with burden and depression. She stares at the letters from her brother, Hussain, and fights back tears.

AYHAN
(softly)
Soraya, is everything okay? You seem troubled.

Soraya glances at Ayhan, a glimmer of hope in her eyes.

SORAYA
(whispering)
Naser sent me a letter. Our father's health has improved, but he won't speak to me until he sees our marriage certificate. I feel so lost, Ayhan.

Ayhan places a comforting hand on Soraya's shoulder.

AYHAN
(sincerely)
I understand the weight you carry, Soraya. Though I may not fully comprehend, know that I'm here for you.

INT. CLUB OFFICE - DAY

Soraya and Ayhan sit across from each other, going through Armenian documents, translating them into Farsi. The air is tense as they work in silence.

SORAYA
(stunned)
Ayhan, listen to this. Jim and Artemis... there's something between them. Something I never expected.

Ayhan's eyebrows furrow, his concern deepening.

AYHAN

(softly)

Soraya, I'm sorry you had to discover this. It must be difficult for you.

Soraya fights back tears, her voice trembling with anger and confusion.

SORAYA

(barely holding back tears)

How could he bring me here, make plans for our future, and still be involved with her? I can't comprehend his actions, Ayhan.

Ayhan reaches out, gripping Soraya's hand in a gesture of support.

AYHAN

(comforting)

Sometimes, the reasons behind people's actions elude us. But what matters now is what you want, Soraya. Follow your heart and make decisions that bring you peace.

INT. CLUB OFFICE - SORAYA'S DESK - DAY

Soraya sits alone at her desk, deep in thought. She looks at a picture of her and Jim, conflicted.

SORAYA

(whispering to herself)

Marriage or not, I deserve truth and honesty. If marrying Jim will bring me that, then that's the path I'll take.

INT. SORAYA AND JIM'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is dimly lit, and the atmosphere is heavy with tension. Soraya stands beside the bed, her face conflicted. She musters the courage to address Jim, who lies awake.

SORAYA

(softly)

Jim, I...I need to take a shower. I can't sleep, and I feel restless.

Jim, slightly surprised, looks at Soraya and nods.

JIM
(sympathetically)
Of course, Soraya. Take your time. It
might help you feel better

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Soraya runs towards the road, suddenly she looks through the frosty window and sees Jim behind the wheel. Surprise registers on her face.

JIM
(worried)
Soraya, what are you doing out here?
Is everything okay?

Soraya takes a moment to compose herself before responding.

SORAYA
(resolute)
Jim, there's something I discovered
about your romantic relationship with
your ex-wife. It came to my attention
through the Turkish translator. I
needed time to process everything and
consider my next move.

Jim's expression shifts to concern and regret.

JIM
(earnestly)
Soraya, it's all a misunderstanding. I
swear on my honor that I want to marry
you, as we planned. There's urgency in
returning to America to finalize the
divorce. We still have a chance to
make things right.

Soraya watches Jim carefully, her emotions mingling between doubt and hope.

SORAYA
(softening)
I need to trust you, Jim. But we must
act swiftly and return to America to
proceed with the necessary procedures.
I can't bear this uncertainty any
longer.

They both share a moment of understanding, their decisions shaping the uncertain path they are about to embark on.

Eleven Months Later

INT. COURTROOM - JUDGE'S ROOM - DAY

Jim and his ex-husband sit opposite each other, finalizing their divorce. As Jim emerges from the room, he approaches Soraya, his expression filled with a mix of emotions.

JIM
(softly)
We'll have to wait a little longer.

INT. COURTROOM - HALLWAY - DAY

Jim leads Soraya back to the judge's room, where Artemis and her brother have just left. The judge looks up, curious about their return.

JUDGE
(surprised)
You've only been separated for a few minutes, and you're already planning to remarry?

Jim's eyes meet the judge's, filled with determination.

JIM
(sincerely)
Yes, if possible, please proceed with the ceremony.

INT. COURTROOM - JUDGE'S ROOM - DAY

The judge beckons his assistant, who hands Soraya and Jim forms to fill out. They provide their personal information and signatures. Jim places a ring on Soraya's finger and tenderly kisses her forehead.

JUDGE
(with a smile)
Then, by the power vested in me, I now pronounce you married.

Soraya and Jim exchange joyful glances, hardly able to believe what just happened. They had anticipated this day for months, but the turn of events caught them off guard.

INT. SORAYA AND JIM'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Soraya sits on the couch, reflecting on their impromptu marriage. She feels a deep sense of fulfillment and anticipation about speaking to her father.

SORAYA

(whispering to herself)

I can't believe it. We're finally married. Now I can confidently approach my father and see him again.

INT. SORAYA AND JIM'S HOME - KITCHEN - EVENING

Jim eagerly discusses the enticing job opportunity in Frankfurt with Soraya.

JIM

(excitedly)

Soraya, there's an amazing job opportunity for me in Frankfurt. It's perfect since it's based in Persia. What do you think?

Soraya's face lights up with happiness. She can't contain her excitement.

SORAYA

(in disbelief)

Oh, Jim! This is incredible news. I'm so thrilled! We had planned to visit my family, and now we can explore this new as well.

JIM

Let's keep it a secret for now. We'll reveal it to your family once we arrive in Persia and assess the situation.

INT. CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Soraya turns towards Jim, a radiant smile on her face.

SORAYA

(teasingly)

I can't believe we made it, Jim. After all the twists and turns, we're finally on our honeymoon!

JIM
(grinning)
Yes, it's been quite a journey, hasn't
it? But we're here, in this beautiful
moment together.

They exchange a loving glance, their bond strengthened by the
challenges they've overcome.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - DAY

Soraya and Jim enter their lavishly decorated suite. Soraya
gasps in awe as she takes in the stunning view of the ocean
from their balcony.

SORAYA
(breathless)
Jim, this place is incredible. I can't
believe we get to experience this
together.

JIM
(content)
We deserve every bit of this
happiness, Soraya. We've weathered the
storms and found our way to each
other.

They share a tender embrace, filled with love and gratitude
for the life they've built.

THE END