

CUT

BASED ON TRUE STORY

[.....]

EXT. GRAVEYARD-- MORNING

Ahmad trims the grass around a gravestone as his mother sits in silence next to him. After a moment, the two of them stand up, read a few lines from the Koran and leave.

As they leave, Khaled is seen hiding behind a tree watching them.

INT. AHMED'S ROOM- MORNING

Ahmed takes the money box from the top of the wardrobe. He breaks it. He counts the money, puts it in his pocket.

INT. AHMED'S KITCHEN. MORNING

Ahmed takes down a can from the cupboard and notices that there are just a few coins inside. Reaching into his pocket, he takes out some money and puts it in the can.

INT- SALAM'S GRANDFATHER'S SHOP- MORNING

The grandfather is sitting in front of his shop, holding a newspaper. Ahmed arrives and looks at several rifles that are hanging outside the shop. The grandfather looks at Ahmed. He nods his head and continues to read the newspaper. Ahmed takes a rifle and goes into the shop. The grandfather gets up and follows Ahmed inside. Ahmed lays the rifle on the counter, takes out the money from his pocket and puts it on the table.

AHMED

Uncle...Today is my father's martyrdom memorial service and I'm going to have a party at my house...all my friends are going to come...why don't you come today... seven o'clock...don't forget...my father's going to be happy when he knows that you came today...

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

How do you know that he'll be happy when I come to the party?

AHMED

Mum told me that you were friends.

Ahmed takes the rifle and leaves the shop. In the meantime, the grandfather picks up the phone and calls some-one.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

Hello Abu Talal...listen, I want ask a favour from you
in place of the money you owe me....yes, all of it...

INT- TEL AVIV HOSPITAL- A HOSPITAL CORRIDOR- AFTERNOON

Isaac walks in the hospital corridor, holding a football in his hands, wearing a military uniform. A DOCTOR of thirty-five comes out of one of the rooms, looking at a file he is holding in his hands. He has a stethoscope around his neck and is wearing the doctors' white attire. The doctor lifts his head and sees Isaac.

THE DOCTOR IN HEBREW

ISAAC...

Isaac looks behind him.

THE DOCTOR IN HEBREW (CONT'D)

Please come with me...I want speak to you about
something in private.

INT- TEL AVIV HOSPITAL- THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE- AFTERNOON

Isaac sits in a chair holding the football in his hands and moves it around now and then. The doctor closes the office door and sits facing Isaac. The doctor holds several x-rays.

THE DOCTOR

"Isaac...you know that we've been friends since
college and so I'm going to be frank with
you...Cohen's condition is very critical...He will not
be able to live for more than ten days...his heart is
very weak...I can't do anything if we don't get a new
heart...and you know that we do not have enough
time for that...I promise you though, that I'll try to
keep him alive for the longest time possible....you
have my word on that."

ISAAC

Are sure of what you're saying...

THE DOCTOR

All the lab tests confirm this...I didn't want to tell his
mother until you arrived....

The wireless radio cuts off their conversation.

THE WIRELESS

...Isaac, you must go to the southern district
immediately...over...

INT- TEL AVIV HOSPITAL- INTENSIVE CARE UNIT- AFTERNOON

Isaac sits next to Eve and stares at the floor. Cohen's hand is in his mother's hand. Eve catches Isaac's attention. Cohen opens his eyes slowly. Isaac smiles. Eve strokes Cohen's cheek with her hand. Isaac gets up and brings the football and puts it beside Cohen.

ISAAC

I've bought you your favourite football. It'll only be a few days and you'll catch up with your team. They're all waiting for you. They won't play the match until you're with them.

Cohen holds Isaac's hand and smiles. Eve looks at Isaac in bewilderment.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I have to go now.

Isaac leaves the room. Eve leaves the room after she kisses Cohen. She closes the door of the room behind her.

INT- TEL AVIV HOSPITAL- HOSPITAL CORRIDOR- AFTERNOON

Eve looks to the right and then to the left and sees Isaac outside the room, leaning on a wall. She goes to him quickly and stands in front of him angrily.

EVE

Are you insane?! How could you say that to Cohen when you know that it's impossible for him to get well before the next match....

Isaac turns his face to her and she sees the traces of tears on his face. Isaac looks at her in silence. Eve hugs him.

EVE (CONT'D)

What did the doctor say?!

INT- THE VILLAGE- THE HEADMASTER'S OFFICE- AFTERNOON

Ahmed's mother and Salam's mother sit in the headmaster's office. The headmaster and the Arabic language teacher enter the office. The Arabic language teacher takes a book out of his briefcase and passes it to Salam's mother.

THE TEACHER

Can you please open the book on page five?

Salam's mother takes the book. She opens the book on the requested page.

THE HEADMASTER

Do you know this story?

MARIAM

Of course I know it...this is the collection of stories that Salam's uncle wrote.

THE HEADMASTER

Salam read this story in front of the class on the basis that she wrote it!

THE TEACHER

And her attitude is becoming more rebellious. Yesterday, she drew this .. to her classmate, Ahmed.

Mariam takes the little paper from the headmaster's hand while Ahmad's mother looks at her.

THE HEADMASTER TO AHMAD'S MOTHER

And Ahmed suffers from adaptation problems with his classmates.

THE HEADMASTER

I asked both of you to come together because Ahmed and Salam ran off from school before the school day ended.

INT. SCHOOL BUILDING. AFTERNOON

A door opens and Ahmed's mother steps into the hallway. After a moment, Mariam steps out of the door. Seeing Ahmed's mother, she chases after her.

MARIAM

Om Ahmed--

Ahmed's mother turns around angrily.

AHMED'S MOTHER

Mariam, keep your daughter away from Ahmed, or I'll have him transferred to another school. We've had enough history happen!

MARIAM

What's happened? Tell me. I have been waiting five years for someone to tell me what happened!

AHMED'S MOTHER

Ask your husband what happened!

MARIAM

Khaled? In all the years he spent in prison, he only allowed me to visit him once... And it was for a divorce. He told me to start my life over without him. When he was released--

AHMED'S MOTHER

When your husband comes home from being tortured with only one eye, and then you come home with his medicine and find him lying in a pool of blood, then you will respect what I am asking from you. I lost one. I refuse to lose another. All I ask from you is to keep your daughter away from my son.

Ahmed's mother walks away and leaves Mariam alone in the hallway.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. SALAM'S KITCHEN- NIGHT

The sound of FOOD COOKING on the stove is heard. Majid and Salam sit at the dinner table, waiting for the arrival of the food.

MARIAM

Salam, darling, how's school?

SALAM

Fine...

The mother brings forth a roast chicken from the oven. She puts it on the dinner table. Mariam goes back into the kitchen.

MARIAM (O.S.)

What do you think of the stories that Uncle wrote?

SALAM

Well...there are some of them that are nice and others that are normal.

Salam looks at the chicken on the table and then looks at Majid in question. Majid shakes his head from side to side.

MARIAM (O.S.)

What was your favorite story?

SALAM

I don't remember. When I read it again sometime I'll tell you.

MARIAM (O.S.)

I have the book. After dinner we're going to read together. Ok?

Mariam walks back into the room holding a plate of steaming potatoes. Placing it on the table, she begins cutting the chicken and serving it onto the children's plates.

MARIAM (CONT'D)

You haven't told me... How was school today? Do you have any special friends?

Mariam begins to eat while Majid and Salam remain silent.

MARIAM (CONT'D)

Why aren't you eating?

Majid looks at Salam.

SALAM

Mum, where did he get you that chicken from?

MARIAM

I found it in the courtyard while I was hanging up the laundry.

Salam pushes away her plate of food. Majid does the same.

MARIAM (CONT'D)

What's the matter with you? Why don't you dig in? it will go cold.

Salam is silent.

MARIAM (CONT'D)

It's wrong that one should refuse the blessing that is given to one.

MARIAM (CONT'D)

Salam, you're not leaving this table until you've finished your plate!

After a lapse of time, we see Salam looking at her plate in silence; facing her is Majid who is sleeping with his head on the table. Salam looks in the direction of her mother's room. She sees Khaled standing in front of the room then he enters the room. After a few moments, Mariam comes out of her room, yawning. Khaled then comes out and stands in the corridor. Mariam lifts Majid gently and tenderly. Mariam leaves holding Majid and then returns to the kitchen.

MARIAM (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, darling...I fell asleep. You go off to your room to bed and in the morning everything will be right as rain...

Salam gets up and moves towards her room. She looks behind her and then sees her mother going into her room without noticing Khaled's presence in the corridor. Khaled stares at Salam, smiling. He blows her a kiss with his hand. Salam smiles.

INT- SALAM'S HOUSE- SALAM AND MAJID'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Salam enters her room. She kisses Majid's head as he is sleeping.

SALAM

Dad says hi.

She goes to her bed and switches off the light.

EXT. THE COURTYARD OF KHALED'S HOUSE- EVENING

Khaled's mother sits next to a fire. A teapot is heating over the fire. Picking up a piece of wood, she pokes at the logs.

AN OLD WOMAN in her sixties passes by, holding a small gas stove. The old woman comes and sits next to Khaled's mother setting the stove on the ground.

Khaled's mother takes some sage out from a small bag and puts it into the teapot. Taking the tea off of the fire, she pours some for herself and her guest and sets the teapot back on the fire.

KHALED'S MOTHER

Tea tastes better heated by firewood... Good bless Khaled for bringing me some sage.

OLD WOMAN

May God bring his mind back.

Khaled's mother looks at the old woman angrily. She takes the stove and hands it back to the old woman in a gesture to leave.

KHALED'S MOTHER

Take it with you. I know that you don't have another one and there's ten of you in the house... you need it more than us.

INT- ISRAELI JEEP CAR- NIGHT

The jeep is driving along one of the roads. Davie holds his rifle in one hand, in a military car that is driving along one of the village roads, and a radio in the other.

THE SPORTS PRESENTER IN HEBREW.

It seems like our national team is still in control of the match, in spite of its losing a goal to Zidane's head butt...but the changes the coach has made, have increased the attacks of our team and this has made it possible for them to level things if they keep playing as they are presently...

Isaac is sitting in the backseat of the Jeep, looking outside the car.

INT- DALIA'S HOUSE- THE LIVING ROOM- EVENING

Malek is watching the French-Israeli match, smiling. Malek gets up and brings pile of Palestinian flags and several large pictures of Zidane and puts them on the table in front of him.

THE SPORTS PRESENTER IN ARABIC

We're only a few minutes away from the end of the match, upon which the Israeli team will get the taste of failure, signed by Zidane, whose goal will fill the hearts of worldwide supporting spectators with happiness and especially those of the Arab spectators who shall celebrate for a long time, this historic victory....

EXT- IN FRONT OF DALIA'S HOUSE- EVENING

The military car arrives in front of the building. Davie, Isaac and a third Israeli soldier descend from it. They look around them in all directions, holding their rifles. They enter the building.

INT- IN FRONT OF DALIA'S APARTMENT- EVENING

The three soldiers stand in front of the door of Dalia's apartment, their rifles pointed towards the door. Davie pushes the door with his foot.

INT-DALIA'S APARTMENT- THE LIVING ROOM- EVENING

The three enter the flat as Malek is sitting in front of the television, holding a cigarette. The voice of the Arabic sports presenter fills the room. Davie aims his rifle at Malek, who remains calm.

THE ARABIC SPORTS PRESENTER.

The eyes of millions of spectators are awaiting the sound of the whistle...it seems that the Israeli team has gotten a corner kick ...the players of the French

team have retreated to the defence section while the Israeli team has increased their presence in the in the French penalty area.

Davie arrests Malek as the third solidier keeps his rifle aimed at Malek. The sports presenter is silent. Davie notices the absence of the presenter's voice and he looks at the television. A smile appears on his face. Davie finishes handcuffing Malek and quickly looks around the room for something until he finds the remote control on the floor. He changes the channel until we hear the loud voice of the Israeli presenter.

THE SPORTS PRESENTER IN HEBREW

A football miracle....not a more beautiful goal! This goal is going to go down in Israeli football history....

The solidiers watch the match for a few moments amid their happiness for the Israeli team's goal. Malek turns his head away from the television. He sees Davie approaching him. Davie holds Malek's head and twists it towards the television.

EXT- OUTSIDE DALIA'S HOUSE- EVENING

The Israeli soldiers come out of the door of the building with Davie holding Malek from his shirt. The put Malek inside the military car. Davie and Isaac get in the back of the car with Malek. They leave the place.

EXT- THE VILLAGE MARKET- MORNING

Khaled arrives beside a woman who is looking at the front of one of the shops. He looks at her shyly. He tries to get closer to her but she retreats. Mariam sees him from a distance. She moves closer to him but he moves his body away from her and walks away from her. Mariam follows him and walks beside him.

MARIAM

Khaled, is that it, have you forgotten all of our memories....do you remember when Salam was born....Khaled! Look at me when I'm talking to you...

Mariam grasps his hand and stands in front of him.

MARIAM (CONT'D)

Do you remember when you gave me this dress after we had Salam....

Khaled looks at her and then continues to walk.

MARIAM (CONT'D)

Khaled! Salam needs you at her side... you have to see her and talk to her. Her problems are growing at school...and I can't deal with her by myself...

Khaled stops walking.

MARIAM (CONT'D)

...I'm going to tell her that you're going to see her in the same place where we met the first time...

INT- ABU OMAR'S MECHANICS WORKSHOP- MORNING

Abu Omar is eating with his friend inside the workshop. His friend is holding a pen and book, which he is looking at as he eats.

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

The oil is not going to last us two days. We need another two gallons...or the Haj Fadhel's car and a motor head for Sheikh Abdul Rahman's car...

ABU OMAR

So, if we leave in an hour's time, how long do you think it'll take us to get there?

Abu Omar's friend begins to write in the book as Omar's father holds a cup of tea. He raises it to drink but discovers that it is empty. He looks at the car that is parked in front of the shop.

ABU OMAR (CONT'D)

Omar, put down what you're doing and go and get us two cups of tea from the cafeteria...and don't be late because I'm going to go with your Uncle Najeeb to Ramallah to get some things.

Omar comes out from underneath one of the cars and his clothes are stained with oil. Omar leaves the workshop.

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

If we take the mountain road, it'll take us more than half an hour to get there!

ABU OMAR

Well, you know that they've closed it... and do you think that our car can cross the mountain roads with the load that we're going to bring back from over there...

Abu Omar's friend looks at the book.

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

If we take the main road...count with your hands...one ...two...five...six...six checkpoints...say it'll take us two hours to get through each checkpoint...that means twelve hours through each checkpoint in addition to the half an hour trip for the way....that's twelve and a half hours...

Hanna arrives at the workshop with a letter in his hand.

HANNA

Hello, Uncle...can I see Omar?

Abu Omar looks at Hanna and continues talking to his friend.

ABU OMAR

Put down another two hours at the corner village checkpoint. There's a fucked up soldier there...every time he sees me he clams up and throws down my papers until he feels like letting me through...just in case, get some pillows and a couple of quilts because I expect we'll be spending the night there today.

Omar's father sees the letter in Hanna's hand.

ABU OMAR (CONT'D)

Omar's not here. If you want to wait for him then pull up a chair from inside.

HANNA

When do you expect he'll be back?

ABU OMAR

I don't know when he'll be back but he might be late.

Hanna looks at his watch.

HANNA

Uncle, can I leave something for him?

ABU OMAR

If you want to leave him something then put it beside his bag, inside the room.

Hanna goes inside. He puts the letter in Omar's bag and leaves. Abu Omar goes inside the workshop and then returns to his friend, holding the letter. He sits beside his friend. He opens the letter and begins to read it.

ABU OMAR (CONT'D)

"Hello....until now, I still don't know your name so that I can call you by it...anyway, you can tell me another time... what do you say that I see you after a half hour at the village shop... Oh, and if you're afraid of my brother, don't worry! The Israelis arrested him..., there'll be no beating... Dalia."

Abo Omar rips up the letter. His friend takes his glass of water and goes to drink, but finds it empty. Standing up, he leaves Abo Omar and walks over to a large clay vat of water.

Refilling his glass his eyes wander around the room. He spots Abo Omar's coat laying on the table. A photograph is falling out of the pocket.

ABU OMAR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Corrupt generation...where are her parents...as is we don't have enough problems...my dear friend, please tell me how am I supposed to deal with this boy?

Walking over to the coat, he takes out the photograph and looks at it. It is the picture Abo Omar took from his son's bedroom earlier. An old photograph of Abo Omar and his wife with a small child.

Sliding the photograph back into the jacket pocket, he takes his glass of water and towards Abu Omar. He begins staring at Abu Omar.

ABU OMAR (CONT'D)

I've talking to him...beating and I've skinned him alive...all of this hasn't done anything to him...this generation is exactly like that thing you've got on your foot!

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

Abu Omar, what do you think about finding a respectable woman to help you out...do you know Haj Abu Mariam?

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND (CONT'D)

The owner of the village shop?

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND (CONT'D)

Once he told me that he's looking for a respectable groom for his daughter...propose to her! Where are they going to find some one better than you?

ABU OMAR

But you know my situation! Where am I going to live with her?

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

Don't worry about that in particular. She has a house in her name.

ABU OMAR

Don't tell me she's that madman's ex-wife?!

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

The madman that you're talking about is said to have lost his mind in prison while he was defending his country!

ABU OMAR

He never entered a mosque...that means everything that he is doing is for nothing.

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

Do you remember those college days when Mariam had all those guys swooning over her...she was one of Oum Omar's best friends.

ABU OMAR

Ah, those wonderful days... I remember! You know, you have a point, the girl really is pretty...but she's not wearing the veil!

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

You say the word and leave the rest to me...maybe her father will convince her to wear the veil and shield her.

EXT. OLIVE GROVE-- MORNING

Naem runs between the olive trees with a live sheep in his arms. Stopping behind an olive tree, he sets down the sheep breathing heavily. Turning around he looks back in the direction he came from to make sure that no-one is watching.

Picking the sheep back up, he runs off down the path.

EXT. KHALED'S HOUSE-- MORNING

Khaled is sitting on his bed smoking a cigarette. Naem arrives carrying the sheep in his arms, and Khaled stares at him in silence.

Naem ties up the sheep and stares at it.

NAEM

What are you looking at? Do you think that I'm not good enough? You'll have a better life here with uncle

Khaled. I'm really sick of going everyday to bring the milk. Stay here and have fun until I take you home with me.

INT- SALAM'S GRANDFATHER'S SHOP- MORNING

The grandfather takes money from one of the customers and puts it in the drawer. Abu Omar and Abu Omar's friend enter the shop as the customer leaves.

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

Hello, Abu Mariam... we're here to speak to you about a certain matter...

THE GRANDFATHER

Welcome...please sit down...

The grandfather takes two chairs and goes outside the shop.

EXT- SALAM'S GRANDFATHER'S SHOP- MORNING

The grandfather comes out of the shop holding the two chairs and puts them next to his chair. Abu Omar and his friend follow him and sit down. He pours them coffee and Abu Omar and his friend take it and put it on the table without drinking it.

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

Abu Mariam...we're here to talk to you about Mariam...you know Abu Omar, thank God, his reputation is like that of gold in the neighbourhood and he'd like to ask for your daughter Mariam's hand in marriage...

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

Drink your coffee...Inshallah everything will be alright...

Abu Omar looks at his friend.

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

Abu Mariam...Abu Omar has a small request...well, it's about the veil...Abu Omar requests that Mariam wears the veil.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

Well, you know that the only person that has a say in this matter is Mariam...I promise you that I'll give her the full picture.

Mariam arrives at the shop with Majed. Abu Omar looks at Mariam, smiling. Leaning over to Majed, he kissed his cheek. Majed hides behind his mother and wipes his wet cheek with his sleeve.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

Mariam, say hello to gentlemen...Abu Omar...Abu Raed.

MARIAM

Welcome...

Mariam enters the shop.

INT- SALAM'S GRANDFATHER'S SHOP- MORNING

Mariam takes a bag of rice from the shelf and puts it on the counter. Majed takes the rice and puts it in a plastic bag. Salam's grandfather enters the shop.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

Mariam, Abu Omar asked for your hand in marriage just a little while ago.

MARIAM

I'll think about it....

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

Daughter, it's not good to live alone. You need a man to take care of you and your children.

Mariam goes to another shelf and picks up a tin of coffee and puts it on the counter. Majed takes the coffee and puts it in the same plastic bag with the rice. Reaching quickly for some candy, he slides that into the bag as well.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

He's asked that you wear the veil...

MARIAM

Tell him I'm not going to think about it...that's all I need Dad, someone at this age telling me what I can and cannot do...

Salam's grandfather smiles.

EXT-IN FRONT OF OMAR'S FATHER'S WORKSHOP-NOON.

Dalia stands on the road opposite Omar's father's workshop. She sees Omar standing beside a car whose bonnet is open. A bearded man of fifty stands beside the car.

INT- OMAR'S FATHER'S WORKSHOP- NOON

Omar closes the bonnet of one of the cars and wipes his hands on a piece of cloth in his hand. The bearded man takes out his wallet. He moves closer to Omar.

THE SHEIKH

What do you think about dropping in on us at the mosque after the sunset prayers... your father told me about you and I'd like to have you with the brothers at the mosque...

OMAR

Three hundred shekels please...

The Sheikh takes out some cash and hands it to Omar. The Sheikh looks at Omar after his smile disappears.

THE SHEIKH

The day that God guides you, you'll find our hearts open to you and we'll be waiting for you...

Omar takes the money as the bearded man gets into his car and leaves the workshop. Omar takes out the accounting book out of the drawer. He writes in the book and puts it back in the drawer. He puts the money in his wallet. He turns around and is surprised to find Dalia standing in front of him.

DALIA

Why didn't you come?

Omar wipes the oil from his face and looks outside the shop to the right and then to the left.

OMAR

What brings you here?

DALIA

Don't you want to see me?!

OMAR

My father might come here at any moment.

Dalia looks at Omar angrily and then leaves the shop. Omar shakes his head and then goes out to the door of the shop after a few moments.

OMAR (CONT'D)

What do you think about having lunch at the house today... my father's going to Ramallah after a little while.

Dalia continues walking, a smile appears on her face.

INT- ABU TALAL'S HOUSE- THE LIVING ROOM- NOON

Salam's grandfather and Ahmed sit in the living room. Abu Talal enters holding a tray of coffee.

ABU TALAL
Welcome...Welcome...

Abu Talal serves the coffee and then sits in silence. He looks at the grandfather.

THE GRANDFATHER
Ah, Abu Talal...Tell us about the story of the cave...

ABU TALAL
Excuse me for just one minute...I'll be right back...

Abu Talal leaves.

INT- ABU TALAL'S HOUSE- THE KITCHEN- NOON

Abu Talal opens the top door of the fridge. He takes out a small bottle of cognac. He opens it and drinks half of the bottle in one gulp. He then returns it to the fridge. He walks until he reaches the kitchen door. He stands for a few moments and then goes back to the fridge. He opens it and takes out the bottle of cognac. He drinks it all. He closes it and throws it in the dustbin.

INT- ABU TALAL'S HOUSE- THE LIVING ROOM- NOON

Abu Talal goes back to the living room and sits in his place. He takes out a cigarette and lights it. He inhales deeply. He looks at the grandfather and at Ahmed and offers them a cigarette as well.

THE GRANDFATHER
Abu Talal, you know that I don't smoke! Ah, Abu Talal, tell me about Abu Ahmed. I told Ahmed that you were on the same Jihadiyah group...

ABU TALAL
God preserve you boys....it's an honour....

Abu Talal takes a sip of his coffee and scratches his nose with his finger.

ABU TALAL (CONT'D)
No...that was nothing...it was a simple operation...there was a patrol standing on the pasture and your father and I had orders to blow it up....they told us that there were two Israelis...we attacked them...and found out that there were seven of them. Imagine, seven...I was surprised at first but I told myself that I had to be a man or else I was done for...I

aimed the clachan at them and they all became pussies and threw down their arms...

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

Abu Talal, I came to hear about Abu Ahmed not about you! What did Abu Ahmed do on that day?!

ABU TALAL

Just a minute, I'm getting there...when they all turned into pussies, Abu Ahmed went up to them and tied them all up...we then thought about where we were going to put them! What a problem...if we took a taxi then everybody would have known and we would have become heroes...but we were doing this work for God and not for anybody else...anyway, we drove them between the mountains and blew them to pieces. In any case, one week after the operation a spy, the bastard, reported your father...he was put in prison for good.

AHMED

But no-one told me that my father was put in prison!

The grandfather looks at Abu Talal angrily.

ABU TALAL

Hold on, I'm getting there...after your father was in prison for two weeks, he received an order from his people to carry out a military operation...so he killed two guards and escaped, and on that day he carried out the big operation in Tel Aviv...God rest your soul in peace, my dear friend Abu Ahmed...you'll surely go to heaven for everything that you have done for your country.

AHMED

But why didn't they arrest you with him?! Didn't you say that you both carried out the operation together?

ABU TALAL

Son, what are you saying! Your father's a man and if they had to cut open his throat, he wouldn't have revealed the names of his friends. Do you think that we had any kind of friendship?!

INT- IN FRONT OF ABU TALAL'S HOUSE'S FRONT DOOR- NOON

Ahmed walks out of the apartment door and Salam's Grandfather follows behind him.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

Ahmed, wait for me outside. I'll be right there... I just need to say a few words to your uncle.

Ahmed walks down the stairs as Abu Talal pokes his head out the door.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

God blast you! You almost disgraced us in front of the boy...seven soldiers??...if you had said two, one may have swallowed it...I'm going to pick you up at seven o'clock so that we can go to the boy's party...don't forget!

ABU TALAL

But Hajj, you know that I'm busy tonight!

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

By the Virgin Mary, Abu Talal, if you don't come today, I'm going to tell on you to the boys...

ABU TALAL

Okay, I'll come...

Salam's grandfather leaves. Abu Talal closes the door.

INT- COHEN'S HOUSE- THE LIVING ROOM- NOON

Isaac opens the door to his sister Eve's house. He enters and takes out his military uniform and puts it on in the living room that is facing Cohen's room. He looks from a distance at the scattered toys.

INT- COHEN'S HOUSE- COHEN'S ROOM- NOON

Issac enters Cohen's room and sits amongst the toys, remembering the happy times that he spent with Cohen.

THE SOUND OF CHILDREN LAUGHING AND PLAYING is heard somewhere in Issac's mind.

INT. KHALED'S HOUSE-- AFTERNOON

A pair of scissors cuts a beard. Khaled, on a chair, sits in the middle of the living room wearing a white undershirt. A towel is wrapped around his neck. His mother is standing next to him cutting his beard. Khaled stares at his reflection in the mirror in front of him.

KHALED'S MOTHER

Son, I want you to be kinder to your daughter. You can't imagine how happy I am that you are going to see her after all this time. Take her with you...

Khaled's mother's voice fades away and the sound of A MACHINE GUN takes over. Khaled continues staring into the mirror.

EXT. A PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP-- A FEW YEARS EARLIER

Black and White.

The sound of MACHINE GUNS continue. Khaled, younger and stronger, holds a gun in his hand. He has no beard. In front of him is a PALESTINIAN MAN. Behind him, Ahmed's father. They are all holding guns.

The three men move slowly along the side of the wall until they arrive in a small corner. Khaled looks around the corner and see several Israeli soldiers on the other side.

KHALED

Keep going. I'll cover you.

The Man runs off. Khaled looks at Abu Ahmed and signals with his hand towards another corner.

KHALED (CONT'D)

Go and check over there.

Abo Ahmed begins climbing over a wall. One of the Israeli solders walks towards the Palestinian. Khaled sees the soldier and aims his gun. He pulls the trigger but the gun doesn't work.

The Israeli soldier gets closer to the Palesinian. Khaled aims again and pulls the trigger. Again it doesn't work.

Abu Ahmed, still climbing the wall looks down and sees the situation.

ABU AHMED

Khaled!

Khaled finishes fixing his gun and aims once again. He shoots. Again it doesn't work.

The Israeli soldier shoots the Palestinian. At the same time, another Israeli soldier spots Abo Ahmed. He shoots at Abo Ahmed and gets him in the leg. Abo Ahmed falls off the wall.

Several more Israeli's arrive and surround Abo Ahmed and Khaled. Abo Ahmed looks at Khaled in silence as they are handcuffed and taken away.

Khaled looks away. He sees a bulldozer-like machine approach the dead Palestinian's body. It lifts the body off the ground checking for bombs.

THE SOUND OF KHALED'S MOTHER is heard in the distance.

INT. KHALED'S HOUSE-- AFTERNOON

Khaled looks at his face in the mirror. His beard is now completely shaved. A bead of sweat drips down his forehead.

Khaled's mother comes back holding a new coat.

KHALED'S MOTHER

It has been a long time since you've worn something new. Here. Try this on.

EXT- KHALED'S HOUSE'S COURTYARD- NOON

Khaled stands eight metres away from the front door of his house, wearing elegant clothes and looks at the front door. He sits beside the door and the goat that he milked walks up to him.

EXT- THE VILLAGE- THE OLIVE GROVE- NOON

Salam sets off to the olive tree. A look of fright is on her face. She reaches the olive tree. She pushes away the boxes. The birds start to screech and she discovers the loss of one of the birds. She starts to look for the lost bird around the base of the Olive tree.

Salam sees the bird about ten metres away from the tree. She runs quickly to it and tries to move it but it is already dead. Salam hugs it, digs a grave and buries it. She holds up her hands, closes her eyes and starts to recite a prayer from the Koran in a low voice. She sits by the grave silently.

EXT- ONE OF THE VILLAGE ROADS- NOON

Khaled walks silently with a small smile on his face. Naem walks down the road next to him. The shepherd comes up behind the two men with TWO MEN. He looks very angry.

The Shepherd stands in front of Khaled and Naem and walks up to Naem angrily.

Khaled stands between Naem and the Shepherd. The other two men stand behind the Shepherd.

SHEPHERD

Khaled. Stay out of my way. This doesn't concern you.

Khaled doesn't move.

EXT- THE VILLAGE MARKET- NOON

Salam walks angrily and stops as she sees one of the shops. She looks at the door of the shop silently. She starts to walk toward the shop. She enters the door of the shop.

INT- THE VILLAGE SHOP- NOON

Salam walks through one of the aisles of the shop until she reaches the bags of rice. She looks around her and sees a man looking at the facing shelf. She waits for a little while. The man takes one of the tins and leaves the place. Salam looks around her. She then looks at a large packet of rice that is open. She moves towards the bag and puts her hand in the bag of rice and stops moving.

INT- A VILLAGE SHOP- NOON

Salam leaves the shop silently. She puts her bag on the pavement and then sits. Khaled stops when he sees Salam sitting on the pavement. He sits next to her. Salam smiles. She tries to hold her father's hand but he pulls it away. Salam is silent and then looks at Khaled, smiling. She opens her schoolbag, takes out her copybook and opens it.

SALAM

Dad, listen to the story that I've written.

SALAM (CONT'D)

He was standing alone in his room and was looking at the door hesitantly and in fear.

The sound of Salam's VOICE fades away and is replaced with the sound of WATER dripping slowly in a sink.

INT- THE INDIVIDUAL CELL OF THE PRISON- NOON

A sink in the corner of a prison cell drips slowly.

Khaled is standing in the middle of the individual prison cell and looks at the door. After a few moments he opens the door of the cell and leaves.

INT- SALAM'S HOUSE- THE KITCHEN- NOON

Khaled opens the kitchen door. Salam and Mariam are surprised to see him. Salam runs to him and hugs him as he looks up from time to time and stares at

Mariam, whose tears are running and a smile is drawn on her face. Salam lets go of her father and Mariam hugs him.

KHALED

I tried to talk to you so many times but you were so busy!

MARIAM

How could you leave us?

Khaled looks at Salam and then Mariam looks at Salam.

SALAM

Do you remember when you slept in and Majid and I were sitting at the dinner table? Dad woke you up...

KHALED

Where's Majid.

SALAM

He's playing outside.

KHALED

Show me where he is.

EXT- AN OLIVE GROVE IN SALAM'S HOUSE- NOON

Majid is hiding behind one of the olive trees, looking at a rooster that is walking beside the tree. Majid prepares himself to catch the rooster. The rooster escapes as it hears Salam's voice. Majid comes out from behind the tree angrily.

MAJID

Salam, if only you had waited a minute...I was going to catch it.

SALAM (O.S.)

Majid, my Dad's here...Majid, my Dad's here...

Majid sees Salam running towards him and Khaled running behind her. Majid runs away between the olive trees until Khaled catches him and throws him into the air.

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- THE KITCHEN- NOON

Omar enters the house holding several bags in his hands. He puts them on the kitchen table. He picks up the phone and punches in some numbers and puts the receiver to his ear as he puts the pot on the stove and lights the stove.

OMAR

Hello, Auntie...it's Omar, Hanna's friend...I'd like to ask you about the maklouba...My Dad's invited his friend and he'd like me to cook it for them...yes..

Omar looks at the stove's flame and reduces it...he writes on a piece of paper...

OMAR (CONT'D)

...yeah, I bought some...yeah....do we put them before or after?

He looks at the clock on the wall.

OMAR (CONT'D)

...Auntie, can you pass me over to Hanna?...Hanna, stop by the florist at the end of the neighbourhood and get the flower that I showed you...yeah, that's the one... do what you have to...when you get here, I'll give you the money...and then I also want you to help me with the house...don't be late!

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- OMAR'S ROOM- AFTERNOON

Omar opens his wardrobe and takes out several shirts and puts them on his bed and stands looking at them. Omar drags his wardrobe to the front. He looks behind the wardrobe and reaches to take out a group of music cassettes. He takes a music tape and returns the box to its place.

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- THE KITCHEN- AFTERNOON

Omar takes the tape out of its case and puts the case by the tape recorder. He puts the tape in the tape recorder and the sound of music starts up. Omar takes a wooden spoon and starts to stir the food in the pot. The doorbell rings.

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- THE LIVING ROOM- AFTERNOON

Omar opens the door. Hanna enters holding a bunch of purple orchids. Omar takes the flowers and puts it by the door. They begin to clean the house. Omar looks at the bunch of flowers and moves it beside the dining table. Hanna cleans up the table. Omar leaves and then returns holding a package. He opens it and takes out several pictures that he hangs up in the living room.

HANNA

Do you need anything else?

OMAR

Thanks, Hanna...

HANNA

Tell me what happens later...

Hanna leaves the house.

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- THE BATHROOM- AFTERNOON

Omar takes a bath. He stands in front of the mirror. He looks at his body and sees several bruises on his body. Omar feels pain when he touches the bruises with his hand. He takes an ointment from behind the sink. He rubs some of it on the location of the pain. He takes a hanged up shirt and wears it slowly.

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- THE LIVING ROOM- AFTERNOON

Omar sits on his chair at the dining table and in front of him is an empty chair. He looks at his wrist watch. He leaves the table. He returns the bunch of flowers beside the door. He takes off his shirt and throws it on the sofa and lies down on the sofa. The doorbell rings. Omar puts on his shirt on his way to the door. He opens the door as his shirt is still open. Dalia enters. Omar greets her coolly. Dalia takes out an old camera and gives it to Omar.

DALIA

I got help up as I was looking for the camera...I didn't know where my brother had hid it...

Dalia helps set the table. They have dinner. They laugh. Dalia clears some of the dishes from the table and leaves for the kitchen.

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- THE KITCHEN- AFTERNOON

Dalia puts the dishes on a table in the kitchen. She opens the tap to wash the dishes. She takes the leftovers of the food to throw it in the rubbish bin. Dalia returns the remaining food onto the plate. She dries her hands on a piece of cloth and then puts her hand out towards the rubbish bin and takes out a torn up picture of a little girl. She puts the picture back together again. She looks at it as Omar arrives holding the plates in his hands. Dalia looks at Omar in astonishment.

DALIA

Why did you tear up this picture?

Omar is silent. He puts the dishes on the table.

OMAR

What do you think about going out...? There's something that I'd like to show you...

EXT- OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE- THE OLIVE GROVE- AFTERNOON

Omar lifts the barbed wire with his hands and then looks at Dalia. Dalia stands hesitantly.

OMAR

Come on, Dalia, my hands are beginning to hurt...don't be scared, I've been in here a thousand times. ..

Dalia enters through the barbed wire. She holds the wire with her hands. Omar passes through the wire. They walk through the olive trees until they reach a large olive tree...Omar stops and digs with his hands at the base of the tree and takes out an old box. He wipes the earth off the box. He opens it and takes out a piece of cloth.

OMAR (CONT'D)

I was born here under this tree...my mother was picking olives when she had me.

Dalia laughs and then tries to climb the tree. Omar helps her, climbs up himself and sits next to her. They then look at a large expanse of land planted with olive trees. Omar points to the land planted in front of him.

OMAR (CONT'D)

See all of this land...this is my father's and uncles' land. The Israeli army confiscated it ten years ago.

Omar walks over to his camera and starts taking pictures of Dalia.

DALIA

Why did they confiscate it?

OMAR

How should I know? They told us that it was for security reasons. They cut off a hundred and fifty olive trees and built in their place a military base and they confiscated the well and transferred the water to the colony. It was because of this that most of our trees died of thirst...after one month, my father grew his beard and became religiously committed...he opened a car mechanics workshop and the problems between him and my mother grew...

DALIA

Because of the money?

OMAR

Because of my mother's way of dressing...he said that she used to embarrass him in front of his religious friends.... He tried to make her wear the veil but she

wouldn't accept... then he gave her a choice between the veil and divorce...so she chose to get divorced...

Omar looks at Dalia and then descends from the tree. He takes the camera and starts to take several pictures of her.

EXT- IN FRONT OF OMAR'S HOUSE- SUNSET

A car stops in front of the house. Abu Omar opens the door of the car angrily.

ABU OMAR'S FRIEND

Hey man, what would have happened if you had picked up the paper off the ground and gave it to him...didn't he say, pick up the paper and I'll let you through the checkpoint...

ABU OMAR

I swear to God, if he was going to let me through the doors of heaven, I wouldn't have picked up the paper off the floor...oh man, is there anything more degrading than this... he dropped the paper on purpose so that I would kneel before him...well, that'll never happen...if I had wanted to kneel, I would've done so a long time ago..

INT. OMAR'S BEDROOM- SUNSET

The room is dark. The sound of a KEY turns in the lock. A door opens and spills light into the room from the hallway.

Abu Omar turns on the light and lights up the room.

Abu Omar stands in the middle of the room as he looks at Omar's clothes that are scattered on the bed. He moves towards Omar's wardrobe. He looks between the shelves and finds a packet of cigarettes. He opens the packet and breaks up the cigarettes. He looks behind the wardrobe and takes out the box of tapes. He takes out the cassettes, looks at them and takes them with him.

INT-OMAR'S HOUSE-THE KITCHEN-SUNSET.

Abu Omar enters the kitchen. He sees two plates on the table. He looks at the tape recorder and sees the cassette cover in front of it. He switches on the tape recorder and the sound of music turns on. He turns down the volume. He takes the cassette out of the recorder. He breaks the cassette with his hand and throws it in the dust bin. He puts his hand in the dust bin and takes out a white napkin that has some lipstick on it.

EXT- THE OLIVE GROVE- SUNSET

Dalia and Omar walk between the olive trees. Dalia looks at Omar silently.

DALIA

You're not the one that tore up the picture! Isn't that right?

OMAR

Tomorrow, before school starts, I'll meet you by the village shop so that I can give you the pictures.

Dalia puts her head on Omar's shoulder as they walk. Omar is in pain but does not move his shoulder away from her head.

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- THE GUEST ROOM- SUNSET

Omar opens the front door of the house. He enters and closes the door behind him. He walks to the sitting room.

ABU OMAR

Omar, come and sit beside me...I'd like to speak to you about something in particular...

Omar looks in the direction of the table and stops as he sees his father sitting down. Omar sits, facing his father.

ABU OMAR (CONT'D)

I promise you that I'm not going to get angry if you tell me what happened today at home!

OMAR

Nothing happened.

ABU OMAR

Okay, so can you explain where this came from?

Omar's father takes out the napkin and puts it on the table, in front of Omar.

ABU OMAR (CONT'D)

Omar, tell me her name and where she lives because I will allow sin to take place in my house as long as I'm alive... and I'm going to speak to her family about this matter.

Omar is silent. Omar's father takes off his belt. He begins to beat Omar with the belt.

ABU OMAR (CONT'D)

Don't you know that fornication is one the great sins....would you accept it for your sister!

INT- AHMED'S HOUSE- AHMED'S ROOM- MORNING

The room is dark. The curtains are drawn. Ahmed sits at his desk, drawing in the small bit of light coming between the curtains.

His mother walks into the room carrying two pillows. Setting the pillows down next to Ahmed, she pulls open the curtains and looks at him sternly.

Ahmed squints in the brightness and covers his eyes with his hand.

AHMED'S MOTHER

Son, how many times have I told you not to draw in the dark. It will hurt your eyes.

With that, she walks out of the room. The sound of a DOORBELL rings.

AHMED

(In a loud voice)

Mum, get the door! I'll be right there!

Ahmed gets up from the table, brings out a package and puts it beside him. He then returns to his drawing.

EXT- IN FRONT OF AHMED'S HOUSE- MORNING

Ahmed's mother opens the door of the house and Salam is standing outside.

SALAM

Hello Auntie...is Ahmed home?

AHMED'S MOTHER

Who should I tell him is asking?

SALAM

I'm Salam.

Ahmed's mother raises her eyebrows.

Salam lowers her eyes to the ground and stuffs her hands into her pockets.

SALAM (CONT'D)

If he is busy... I can come back later.

Salam turns to walk away, but Ahmed's mother opens the door and invites her in.

AHMED'S MOTHER

have something to drink...while he's getting ready...

INT- AHMED'S HOUSE- THE KITCHEN- MORNING

Ahmed's mother prepares the juice as Salam sits at the table in the kitchen, looking from time to time at a bag of rice on the shelf of food.

SALAM

Aren't you coming to the match?

Ahmed's mother brings the juice and sits beside Salam.

AHMED'S MOTHER

What match?

SALAM

The district team is going to play against the northern district team and Ahmed is going to play in the attack.

AHMED'S MOTHER

Don't tell him that you told me about the match. I'll make it a surprise for him and come after I've brought the things for the party.

SALAM

What party?

AHMED'S MOTHER

Today is his father's memorial day....

SALAM

I'm sorry...

Salam starts to say something, but just then Ahmed's voice is heard from out of the kitchen.

AHMED (O.S.)

Hi Salam! Let's go now.

Ahmed enters the kitchen and drinks a glass of juice quickly. Salam gets up from her chair.

AHMED (CONT'D)

Mum, do you need anything before I go out?

AHMED'S MOTHER

God bless you son...just don't stay out late. I don't want to have to worry about you!

AHMED

No mum, don't worry, I'm going to come back early...
and besides mum, I'm a man now... don't keep
talking to me like this, as if I was little boy.

The mother smiles without Ahmed noticing. Ahmed kisses his mother's hand.

AHMED (CONT'D)

Mum, buy the things that I told you about... I put
some money in the green can in the kitchen. Don't
forget...

EXT- AHMED'S HOUSE'S COURTYARD- MORNING

Ahmed and Salam go out to the courtyard. Ahmed opens the door of the house
for Salam.

AHMED

Salam go around the door of the house and wait for
me behind the house...I'll be right there...

SALAM

Don't be late. There's not much time left until the
match.

AHMED

Two minutes and I'll with you.

Salam goes out and Ahmed closes the door of the house. Ahmed walks through
the courtyard until he reaches the back door of the house. He goes in and closes
the door behind him.

INT- AHMED'S HOUSE- AHMED'S ROOM- MORNING

Ahmed locks the door with the key from inside. He opens the wardrobe. He
takes out a military uniform and puts it on. He opens the wardrobe and takes out
his rifle and puts it in his bag. He stands in respect in front of his father's picture
that is hanging on the wall. He raises his hands. He reads the fatihah with
reverence, in a low voice. He wipes his face with his hands.

EXT. SMALL STREET-- MORNING

Hussam and Jalal walk with the rest of their football team down the street. They
are all in uniform. Hussam is holding the football in his hand. As the team walks
down the street, other children begin to follow them.

EXT- OUTSIDE AHMED'S HOUSE- MORNING

Salam stands on the road looking at her watch. She is frightened when Ahmed's bag falls on her out of the sky. Ahmed laughs as he is on the wall of the house. He descends from the wall. He takes his bag and walks with Salam.

SALAM

You scared me...don't do that again!

AHMED

You're beginning to get scared just like the girls...

Ahmed and Salam walk until they reach the village stadium.

EXT- THE VILLAGE STADIUM- MORNING

Ahmed leans his rifle on the wall by Salam. The children gather in the stadium. Ahmed stands between the children as Hussam stands in front of them.

HUSSAM

Salamah, you hold the goal during the first half and if they get a penalty shot, you'll change with me...Ameen, Abdel Rahman and Raed, you're on the defence...Abdullah and Khader, you're in the middle...Saleem and I are on the attack...come on, let's warm up before the match starts.

The team players begin to warm up while Ahmed goes and sits beside Salam. Without making eye contact, he takes out his toy gun from his bag and starts to assemble it. He sits, watching the game, the rifle in his hand.

AHMED

I'm going to play in the second half...because I'm a professional. And professionals don't play except at the end of the match.

Ahmed takes out some plastic bullets and hands it to Salam. Then he hands her the gun.

AHMED (CONT'D)

Load the gun. I'm going to prepare the target.

Ahmed runs off and starts looking around for something to shoot at. Salam loads the gun.

A ways away, Ahmed's football team moves forward, trying to score a goal but the opposing team takes the ball and scores a goal against them.

Ahmed, stands watching the game. In his hand he is holding coke bottle and a carton of milk. Taking a piece of wood, he sets up a target, and walks back to Salam.

In the distance, Ahmed's team moves forward another time with the ball as Jalal passes the ball to Hussam, who hits the ball with his head towards the opposing team's goal, but the ball misses and hits the bar.

Ahmed hits the ground with his fist. Then turning to Salam, he helps her hold the gun and aim it at the target while glancing occasionally at the football game.

Salam aims the riffle and shoots. She misses the bottle. Ahmed raises the eye of the gun to Salam focus.

AHMED (CONT'D)

Look through this and really try to focus.

Salam aims again and shoots. Ahmed doesn't notice. He is too busy watching the game. Salam hits the Coca-Cola bottle and knocks it off the piece of wood.

Ahmed hears the sound and turns towards her. Salam hands him the riffle.

Ahmed aims the gun at the milk carton. The sound of the football game grows louder. Ahmed shoots and misses.

On the field, the opposing team starts an attack against Ahmed's team. One of the players passes the ball to Marwan; Marwan moves with the ball and before he reaches the goal, one of Ahmed's team mates takes over the ball. An argument breaks out between the two teams.

The opposing team gets a penalty shot. Hussam stands at the goal.

Ahmed watches tensely. Salam takes his hand in hers.

SALAM

Ahmed, I want to tell you something important after the match.

Marwan kicks the penalty shot and scores the second goal. Ahmed is disturbed.

EXY- THE ROAD- MORNING

Isaac drives along with his friend Davie in the military jeep car, towards the village.

EXT- A NEIGHBOURHOOD BESIDE THE VILLAGE STADIUM- MORNING

An old woman is putting olives in plastic containers in front of her house. Little children are playing with water outside one of the houses.

THE THREE PALESTINIAN MEN WITH MASKS walk past holding guns.

EXT- THE VILLAGE STADIUM- MORNING

The ball is thrown out of the field and rests beside Ahmed, as a result of an injury to one of his team mates in the match. Hussam follows the ball; he reaches Ahmed.

HUSSAM

Ahmed, get ready to replace Firas...

Ahmed runs and puts his gun down against the wall. He looks at Salam, smiling. Ahmed opens his bag to take out a wrist bandage and leaves the bag open. He puts the bandage on his hand and leaves for the football field. He enters the field and starts to play. Salam looks at Ahmed's bag and sees the letter that has her name on it.

EXT- A NEIGHBORHOOD BESIDE THE VILLAGE STADIUM- MORNING

The military car arrives at corner near the stadium. Isaac and Davie descend from the car.

DAVIE, IN BROKEN ARABIC

Forbidden walking....forbidden walking...everyone go back to their houses...no exit..

The woman and the children keep on working and on playing.

DAVIE IN BROKEN ARABIC

Forbidden walking....forbidden walking...everyone go back to their houses...no going out...

EXT- THE VILLAGE STADIUM- MORNING

Part of the players escape from the stadium on the arrival of the military car.

HUSSAM

All of the players get back on the field! No-one's leaving until we win! Do you hear me!

JALAL

Didn't you hear him! He said no walking!

HUSSAM

No walking, no schmalking... by the time he gathers a few people from the neighborhood, we'll have finished the game...and besides, if they come here, let me speak to them...come on then, let's finish...

The players go back to playing again. Isaac notices the match..

Hussam looks at Ahmed and smiles at him for the first time. Isaac attracts Davie's attention towards the match. They watch the match. Isaac notices Ahmed's playing. He remembers scenes of Cohen's playing in the last match that he participated in. A smile appears on Isaac's face as Ahmed scores the drawing goal for his team. Davie gets a call on his wireless radio.

WALKIE TALKIE

(In Hebrew)

There are rebelling Palestinians and arms in that area. Evacuate the area immediately, in preparation for the army to comb it....back-up will arrive soon...over.

ISAAC

(In Hebrew)

Waiting for backup. Over and out.

Isaac's features change. Davie and Isaac begin to fire warning shots in the air. The children runaway from the stadium and gather in one of the corners. Ahmed notices that he has forgotten his rifle on the stadium wall.

Salam notices Ahmed staring at his riffle.

SALAM

Ahmed. Don't go.

Jalal looks at them, walks up to Ahmed and spits in his ear.

JALAL

(Quietly)

What are you afraid of? Go get it. They won't hurt you. They know who your dad was.

Ahmed breaks away from Salam's hand and runs across the field. Ahmed is able to get his rifle and on his way back, he finds himself in front of Davie's rifle.

Davie sees the rifle in Ahmed's hand. Davie fires a shot that hits Ahmed, who falls on the ground of the stadium. The scene of Ahmed falling mixes in Isaac's mind with that of Cohen dropping on the stadium ground. Isaac's features freeze over. Davie grabs Isaac by his shirt, opens the door of the jeep and shoves Isaac in.

DAVIE

We've gotta get outa here!

Davie sets off in the military jeep car leaving the place. Salam runs to Ahmed. Both team players run to the stadium ground to make sure that Ahmed is alright but he has lost his life, clutching his rifle.

EXT- A NEIGHBORHOOD BESIDE THE VILLAGE STADIUM- MORNING

Ahmed's mother hears a GUN SHOT on her way to the stadium. When she approaches the stadium, she sees the military car leaving the area. Her eyes meet with those of Isaac's. A Palestinian ambulance arrives.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. INT- THE PALESTINIAN HOSPITAL- THE MORGUE- AFTERNOON

A DOCTOR walks down the corridor. Ahmed's mother and Salam walk behind him. They reach a door. The doctor pulls a key out of his pocket and opens the door.

Ahmed's mother and Salam enter into the room. The doctor opens one of the coffins and leaves the two of them alone.

Salam looks at Ahmed's face and sits down on the ground. Ahmed's mother kisses her son's forehead and looks toward the window. The curtain is drawn.

Walking over to the window, she opens the curtain and lets the sunlight fall into the room. Outside the window, several Palestinian children with backpacks walk down the street. She watches a woman walking with two children in school uniform.

Salam stands up and walks up to Ahmed's body.

SALAM

(whispering)

Ahmed. Do you remember when our teacher told us that when a child dies, he becomes an angel? If you see Bader, will you tell him that I did my best? So that he might forgive me?

Salam walks up to Ahmed's mother and stands next to her. She looks at the window in silence. After a moment, Salam takes Ahmed's mother's hand.

The sound of A KEY turns in the door. Salam turns towards the door. Pulling gently on Ahmed's mother's hand, she leads her back over to Ahmed. They each hold the little boy and leave the room.

INT- THE ISRAELI HOSPITAL- THE RECEPTION ROOM- AFTERNOON

The receptionist receives a phone call. She smiles and then leaves quickly.

INT- THE ISRAELI HOSPITAL- THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT- AFTERNOON

The receptionist is informing Eve about something in her ear. Eve smiles and holds on tightly to Cohen's hand.

INT. VILLAGE STREET-- AFTERNOON

Several village children walk in the back of a procession. Ahmed's teammates walk in front of them. Salam walks in front of them holding Majed's hand.

After a moment, Jalal comes up next to her. His eyes fixed on the floor.

JALAL

Salam. I didn't know that this would happen.

Salam continues walking without any reaction. Jalal steps back into the procession behind her.

All of the village walks down the street in the procession. At the very front, a coffin is being carried on the shoulder's of Khaled, Abo Talal, Salam's grandfather, Jaber, Abdullah, Omar's father and Naem.

Ahmed's body is wrapped in a Palestinian flag.

INT- COHEN'S HOUSE-COHEN'S ROOM- AFTERNOON

Isaac's mobile phone rings. Isaac hears in his mind the sound of the children after Ahmed falls on the ground of the stadium. The phone continues to ring. Isaac holds the phone's receiver. He smiles.

THE WIRELESS (V.O.)

Isaac, you must go immediately to the eastern district...over...

Isaac takes off his military uniform. He folds it. He puts it in the wardrobe. He takes his wireless radio apparel and puts it beside the uniform.

THE WIRELESS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Isaac, you must report to the eastern district, immediately...over....

Isaac leaves the house after he tern off the light.

INT- THE ISRAELI HOSPITAL- THE RECEPTION ROOM- EVENING

Eve looks from behind the glass of the operating room at the group of doctors performing an operation on Cohen. The receptionist takes out a pen and paper and puts them on the reception desk. Ahmed's mother takes the pen and paper. She signs the paper and looks at Eve's face.

Eve looks in the other direction and sees a coffee machine. Eve opens her purse and takes out a coin. She puts it in the machine. The machine waits for a moment before emitting a sound. She puts out her hand and takes the cup of coffee. She takes a sip from the cup.

Eve walks until she reaches the chairs in the corridor. She sits in silence as she holds the cup of coffee between her two hands. Ahmed's mother comes and sits in a chair next to Eve. The silence continues for a few moments.

INT- THE ISRAEL HOSPITAL- THE RECEPTION AREA- EVENING

Isaac enters the hospital running. He stands for a few moments in front of the receptionist. The receptionist points towards the operating room...Isaac sets off in the direction of Cohen's room. He stands in front of Cohen's room...after a few moments Eve comes up to him. He hugs her and the smiles mix in with the tears...

Ahmed's mother passes by in front of Isaac as he is still hugging Eve. Isaac's smile disappears from his face as he sees Ahmed's mother leaving the place. Ahmed's mother continues walking until she goes out of the hospital.

INT- THE VILLAGE SCHOOL- PRIMARY FIVE- NOON

Salam reaches the classroom and stands at the door. The teacher looks at the classroom door.

THE TEACHER

Please come in Salam.

Salam enters the classroom and reaches her seat. Walking past Jalal, his eyes fall to the floor. She looks at the picture Ahmed had drawn on the table at his seat.

She opens her bag and takes out the Arabic language book and the copybook. Salam opens the book. She looks at Ahmed's desk and sees the picture of a butterfly engraved on the desk. She touches the engraving with her hand, smiling. She takes out the picture of the butterfly and puts it beside Ahmed's picture.

EXT- ONE OF THE PAVEMENTS IN THE VILLAGE- AFTERNOON

Salam's grandfather sees Naem sitting on a pavement, shaking the top part of his body and his gaze is empty. The grandfather takes Naem to his shop. The grandfather brings a glass of water and gives it to Naem. Naem drinks the water. The grandfather sits beside Naem on the pavement.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

They told me...God blast you, Abu Imad. And you, couldn't you find anyone apart from that filthy man to steal milk from?!

The grandfather is silent as he thinks of something.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

Listen....

Naem looks at the grandfather for the first time without uttering a word.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

...Do you know where Fouad Al Araj's olive trees are?

Naem nods his head in response.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

After two hundred metres from those trees, you'll find the Abdullaha's house and its field...there, Salama herds his sheep in the mornings. Go there and milk as much as you can because Salama is always drunk, especially in the morning. But don't you tell anyone that I'm the one who told you about this...they also say that his ewes' milk can supply half the country...

EXT- THE VILLAGE MARKET- THE COFFEE SHOP- AFTERNOON

A giant barrier wall is being built in front of the village coffee shop.

Naem passes by Jaber and Abdullah as they sit at a table in the courtyard of the coffee shop. The rays of the sun begin to disappear gradually as the shadow of the barrier wall grows taller in the sky.

JABER

It's so hot! What harm would it do if one had a parasol over his head, or if we got a wall to stop the sun from getting to us....tell, me, do you see any customers walking into the shop?

Abdullah cranes his head towards the direction of the shop.

ABDULLAH

If there was anyone, they would have passed through here first.

The other half of the sun disappears from behind, as another shadow blocks off the other half of the rays shining from it.

JABER

What do you think they're doing.

Abdullah looks behind him as Jaber inhales the narghile and then returns it to Abdullah. Abdullah takes the narghile and inhales.

ABDULLAH

It looks as if they're building a bridge...

The shadow blocks off all of the sunshine.

EXT- IN FRONT OF SALAM'S GRANDFATHER'S SHOP-AFTERNOON

Salam's grandfather is standing when Salam passes by his shop. He bends over and looks into her eyes.

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

What's the matter honey?! Is there anything disturbing you?!

SALAM

Grandpa? If I tell you my secret then it won't be a secret any more, right?

SALAM'S GRANDFATHER

No, that's not right....if you tell it to grandpa, then it'll definitely stay a secret!

Remember when I told you when a person is feeling very sad, then they must speak to their best friend? Aren't we friends my love?!

Salam throws herself in her grandfather's arms. She closes her eyes. The grandfather hugs her tenderly. He smiles and runs his hand over Salam's head. The grandfather returns from inside the shop holding a handful of rice in a small bag. He gives it to Salam who smiles and hugs her grandfather.

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- OMAR'S ROOM- EVENING

Omar is developing the pictures that he took of Dalia as he hears her voice in his mind and smiles.

DALIA (O.S.)

Do you know that I've never kissed anyone nor have I been kissed during my entire life.

OMAR (O.S.)

You're joking.

DALIA (O.S.)

I swear to God, I'm serious... And you?

OMAR (O.S.)

Me?

DALIA (O.S.)

Yes, you.

INT- SALAM'S HOUSE- SALAM'S ROOM- MORNING

The alarm clock rings, indicating that it is seven o'clock. Salam wakes up. She puts the rice in her bag, takes the bag and leaves her house running.

INT- KHALED'S HOUSE- NAEEM'S ROOM- MORNING

The alarm clock rings that it is seven o'clock. Naeem wakes up. He goes into the kitchen and then comes back out with a milk container. He leaves quickly through the door of the house.

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- OMAR'S ROOM- MORNING

The alarm clock rings seven o'clock in the morning and Omar quickly gets up. He gathers the hanging pictures in his room, puts them in an envelope and then opens the door of his room.

EXT- IN FRONT OF OMAR'S HOUSE- MORNING

Dalia waits for Omar at Salam's grandfather's shop. She looks at her watch worriedly and she is wearing school uniform. She walks to and forth. Salam's grandfather looks at her in bewilderment as he reads the newspaper.

INT- OMAR'S HOUSE- MORNING

Abu Omar stands in the sitting room holding a cup of tea. Omar comes out of the bathroom wearing elegant clothes.

ABU OMAR

You're very energetic...if I'd have known this is what it was going to be like, I'd have stopped you from going to school a long time ago...

Omar comes out of his room and hastens towards the door of the house.

ABU OMAR (CONT'D)

Omar...the keys...

Omar returns, takes the workshop keys from his father's hand and leaves the house quickly.

EXT- THE VILLAGE ROADS- MORNING

Salam, Naeem and Omar keep running until Salam suddenly stops in surprise... after a few moments, Naeem arrives at Salam's left and stops in surprise...after a few moments from this, Omar arrives at Salam's right and stops in surprise...an Israeli wall appears in front of them, blocking them...

FADE OUT

THREE MONTHS LATER

FADE IN

EXT- AN ISRAELI FOOTBALL STADIUM- MORNING

Isaac and Eve sit on the bleachers of a new football stadium, watching a football match amongst the crowd. Cohen scores a goal similar to that of Ahmed's. Isaac jumps and hugs Eve. Cohen runs towards Isaac. Isaac leaves the bleachers and goes down to the field. He hugs Cohen and throws him into the air. The members of Cohen's team gather around him.

Eve senses the presence of someone. She looks around her until she sees Ahmed's mother and Salam leaving the Stadium....Ahmed's mother and Salam continue walking until they disappear between the olive trees.

THE END