

THE DARK CURSE

drama - fantasy - thriller

Imad Chelloufi

Original Script

imadchelloufi@gmail.com

bachir boukadoum N43-skikda-algeria

+213552838845

11/11/2024

EPUSODE 01 - SEASON 01

WELCOME TO THE TOWN

1. INT.THE TOWN - NIGHT.

t's a dark, cold, and rainy night,The village is empty,
devoid of any human presence.

The place feels abandoned—only parked cars line the sides of
the road, and closed shops add to the eerie silence.

Darkness has taken over, with only the streetlights casting a
faint glow, barely enough to break through the heavy shadows.

2. INT.THE TOWN NIGHT

Suddenly, Sisi appears out of nowhere, like a phoenix reborn
from ashes.

He wears a long gray cloak, flowing like silk, perfectly
fitting his enigmatic character.

A black hat rests atop his head, as dark as his heart.

He strolls calmly through the village, his gaze faint and
curious, yet he never loses his poise or his presence.

SISI

(in a calm, mocking tone,
looking around)

Death lingers around this dead
city... as if it has been waiting
for the end for ages. Every corner
here pulses with silence, as if
telling tales of hearts that have
ceased beating, of souls lost in
this darkness. Ah... is it death
that has overpowered it? Or has
life betrayed it and turned away?

He sighs, gazing into the dark horizon.

SISI

How I love this solitude... how
enchanting this stillness is. No
movement, no shouting, no noise...
just me and the darkness. Perhaps,
one day, this city will tell the
story of my death too... or perhaps
I'll be the one to tell its final
tale.

3. INT. JACK HOUSE NIGHT

Jack, a 39-year-old man of average height with a serious demeanor that rarely welcomes humor, sits on a rocking chair, sipping his British-style tea as he stares at the stormy sky.

He's trying to find a moment of peace amidst the thunderstorm but can't hide his frustration.

JACK

(speaking quietly, his face grim as he gazes at the sky)

This storm... it's like it's set on disturbing me. I wasn't asking for much, just a moment of calm. But no, it seems even nature has decided to fight me tonight. Thunder and lightning... relentless noise. It's as if the world wants to remind me that peace isn't meant for me.

He takes a sip of his tea and sighs.

JACK

I was hoping for a quiet evening, away from all the chaos... but even that seems out of reach.

Suddenly, Seedorf, Jack's 13-year-old son, rushes toward his father and starts kissing him repeatedly.

Jack smiles, sets his tea aside, then lifts Seedorf and places him on his knee, kissing him affectionately on the cheek.

JACK

(smiling, looking at him warmly)

How are you today, champ? How was school?

SEEDORF

(excitedly)

Today was amazing, Dad! We learned about the planets and how they orbit around the sun! Did you know some planets can be as cold as ice?

JACK

(chuckling softly)

Really? Sounds like you learned something fascinating. And what else? Did you behave well?

SEEDORF
(grinning widely)
Yes! I tried to help my teacher
carry the books! Everyone was
happy.

JACK
(proudly)
That's the boy I'm proud of! Keep
it up, and you'll be the star of
the school.

Seedorf rushes back toward the house with incredible speed, not bothering to say goodbye to his father or even glance back.

Jack, left behind, continues drinking his tea in a deep silence for a few moments.

Suddenly, he notices a laser pointer aimed at his chest, slowly descending until it reaches a sensitive area.

Jack speaks mockingly, maintaining his composure.

JACK
(sarcastically)
Only one crazy person would prefer
targeting that area.

From the shadows, Said, a short young man in his mid-twenties with black eyes, laughs mockingly as holding a gun.

SAID
Yeah, I love torturing men!

JACK
You did well hiding... I didn't
expect to find you in Seedorf's
tent.

SAID
Yeah, but it's cold and wet.

Said sneezes violently, then moves closer.

SAID
(complaining)
I think I'm going to get sick from
this weather!

JACK
(getting up from his
chair)
Come with me, I'll get you
something to warm you up.

Jack walks toward the house, with Said following behind.

4. INT. JACK HOUSE - THE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jack's kitchen is simple and practical, with a warm and cozy atmosphere.

The walls are covered in glossy white tiles that reflect the soft light from the hanging lamps.

A small wooden table in the corner holds empty tea cups and clean plates.

Above the sink, a collection of shiny copper pots catch the light, while open shelves hold a few old cooking utensils.

The air is filled with the scent of tea and toasted bread, creating a sense of calm and tranquility in the space.

anna Jack's wife, washing the dishes with wide smile.

ANNA
(turning to smile at Jack)
Hello, my love.

JACK
(smiling)
Hey, sweetheart.

Anna looks toward Said with a mischievous smile.

ANNA
Hello, the sexy devil.

SAID
(laughing)
Hello, ma'am Anna, how are you?

ANNA
(teasing)
I'm still alive! Where did you hide this time?

JACK (O.S.)
In Seedorf's tent, just as you expected.

Meanwhile, Seedorf runs toward Said and hugs him tightly.

SEEDORF
(excitedly, hugging Said)
I missed you, Said! Why don't you come play with me more often?

SAID
(laughing, patting his back)
You're a little troublemaker, but don't worry, I'll visit you more!

SEEDORF
 (eagerly)
 Promise?

SAID
 (laughing)
 Yes, I promise, little one!

Jack enters the kitchen, holding a towel and some clothes, to find Anna offering a glass of orange juice to Said, who pauses from playing with Seedorf.

ANNA
 (handing him the glass
 with a smile)
 Here you go, Said. This healthy
 juice is much better than that
 awful coffee and cigarette.

SAID
 (gratefully)
 Thank you very much, Anna. I'm
 actually thinking of quitting.

ANNA
 (returning to wash the
 dishes, with a playful,
 warning tone)
 You'd better, or I'll break your
 legs. And you know I'm worse than
 my kind, forgiving husband.

SAID
 (jokingly)
 Of course, Mrs. Anna, I still feel
 that punch.

ANNA
 (smiling without turning)
 Good! It's better I don't catch you
 smoking again. And you should think
 about finding a wife soon,
 especially with your beliefs... you
 know the consequences.

SAID
 (nodding thoughtfully)
 You're right. There's a girl I have
 in mind, but I don't know if she
 feels the same.

Suddenly, Jack interrupts them.

JACK
 (calmly and practically)
 Take the towel and go change in the
 bathroom before you give me a
 headache.

Said chuckles lightly, grabs the towel, and heads to the room ahead, while Seedorf follows him excitedly.

JACK
 (gently stopping Seedorf
 and setting him down)
 Where do you think you're going,
 little one?

SEEDORF
 (innocently)
 I'm going to Uncle Said!

JACK
 (smiling, motioning for
 him to stay)
 Wait for him here; he's changing
 his clothes.

5. INT.JACK HOUSE - THE LIVING-ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The living room is simple and cozy, with comfortable furniture that gives a calm, family-friendly atmosphere.

Said and Jack sit side by side on the couch, quietly sipping their glasses of orange juice.

To their right, Anna sits on a comfortable chair, holding a cup of herbal tea and taking slow sips, smiling from time to time.

Across from her, Seedorf sits at a small table, absorbed in his drawing, holding his colored pencils, his face showing signs of concentration.

ANNA
 (calmly, looking at Said)
 You know, Said, life is very
 different when you have a family...
 At first, it can be a bit
 overwhelming, but as time goes on,
 you realize there's a purpose, a
 special depth to every moment.

JACK
 (nodding in agreement,
 with a slight smile)
 Exactly. Family changes a person,
 gives you a purpose that makes you
 more responsible... and wiser, too.
 Most importantly, it gives you
 security. Nothing compares to
 knowing someone is waiting for you
 at the end of the day.

SAID

(smiling gratefully and
nodding in understanding)

I know, I know... I've been thinking
a lot about it lately. Maybe
marriage is the next step... I just
need to find the right partner
first.

ANNA

(teasing)

Oh, Said, I think you're making
excuses. The right partner doesn't
appear out of nowhere; you have to
look, and be ready for change.

SAID

(laughing)

I promise, I'll make an effort...
maybe I'll need some guidance from
you two.

They exchange smiles, but then Said surprises them by
suddenly changing the subject.

SAID

(with a serious
expression)

By the way, there's something
strange I wanted to tell you... I saw
a stranger today for the first
time, heading toward the orphanage.
I didn't feel comfortable with him,
so I decided to follow him from a
distance.

JACK

(with a concerned look)

A stranger? What was he doing
there?

SAID

(cautiously)

I couldn't quite tell, but he had
an unsettling aura. I just thought
you two should know... maybe we
should keep an eye out.

ANNA

(with concern)

Yes, we don't want any threats near
the children. It might be best to
keep watch over the place for a few
days.

6. EXT. THE ORPHANAGE - NIGHT.

The front yard of the orphanage is spacious and cheerful, with green spaces surrounded by trees.

In the center, there's a small field for football, where a colorful ball waits for children's feet to bring it to life.

Next to the field, there are various toys: small cars for children in different colors, and neatly arranged bikes, some well-worn and others looking almost new.

The atmosphere is quiet except for a gentle breeze rustling the leaves, adding a sense of safety and peace to the place.

7. INT. THE ORPHANAGE - THE FRONT DOOR - NIGHT.

Sissi approaches the orphanage door with quiet steps.

He raises his hand and knocks gently, as if wary of disturbing anyone inside.

After knocking, he stands waiting, looking around in eerie silence.

His eyes scan the surroundings calmly, the stillness of the scene unbroken as he waits for someone to open the door.

SISI
(to himself)
I hope they're not asleep.

NUN (O.S.)
hold on, I'm coming.

Sissi waits for a moment before a nun in her forties opens the door, her face adorned with a gentle, innocent smile.

NUN
(with a warm smile)
How can I help you?

SISI
(in a calm and polite voice)
Hello, Sister. How are you? Father Francis III sent me from the Vatican to bless this orphanage and the children. May I come in?

NUN
(surprised)
Father Francis sent you? Thank God!
Of course, come in. I'll prepare some tea for you.

SISI
 (smiling kindly)
 Thank you very much.

Sissi quickly steps inside, and the nun closes the door behind him immediately.

8. INT.SMALL POLICE STATION - DAY.

In the small police station, a calm atmosphere fills the room.

It contains three desks, arranged neatly across the space.

At the far corner, there's Maria's desk, where she sits playing a crossword puzzle.

In the middle, Said sits at his desk, smoking and sipping his coffee.

Next to him, Jack's desk is where he's reading a newspaper quietly.

JACK
 (without looking up from
 the newspaper)
 So, do we have more tasks today?

SAID
 (sipping his coffee
 slowly, speaking with a
 teasing tone)
 Yes, looks like we have some new
 investigations. But you know who we
 should blame... Maria!

JACK
 (raising an eyebrow,
 trying to hide a smile)
 Maria? Why blame her?

SAID
 (jokingly)
 Because she always finds a way to
 make us work twice as long! If she
 had just finished what we asked,
 we'd have time to relax!

At that moment, Maria grabs the empty trash can and throws it towards Saeed, but it misses him completely.

MARIA
 (teasing, smiling)
 You need some exercise, SaId! You
 should at least try to take me
 seriously before complaining about
 work.

SAID
 (laughing)
 When was the last time I wasn't the target?

JACK
 (flicking through the newspaper, smiling lightly)
 Maybe now we should focus more on work than on games and insults.

A beautiful young woman with a voluptuous figure enters the room, her body glistening with sweat after exercising.

She approaches said with a seductive sway to her hips, her large breasts bouncing with each step.

Her eyes lock onto yours with intense desire.

she saunters closer, her breasts swaying hypnotically with each step holding her breasts as gazing towards said

THE BLOND WOMAN
 (A seductive tone)
 Officer, I hid some marijuana there. Can you search me and take me to the cell? There are other places to search.

SAID
 (Stands up and has sexually influenced)
 my pleasure

JACK
 (without looking at him and reading in the newspaper)
 Do it, and you will pay a heavy price. Even your Prophet cannot intercede for you, as your religion says.

Maria watches from a distance, disapproving of the girl's behavior, and a sign of jealousy is evident in her eyes.

THE BLOND WOMAN
 What is your opinion, officer, or as they call you, the sexy devil?

SAID
 It's a pleasure to inspect every suspicious area, how about the cell. It's empty.

Maria stands up and heads towards said while the blonde girl precedes him and then stops to turn around and find Maria has put the shackles in a said hand and in the edge of the office.

Maria turns towards her with a tone of anger.

MARIA

(quietly, with restrained anger)

Leave before I arrest you for flirting.

THE BLOND WOMAN

(surprised)

Since when did flirting become a crime?

MARIA

(calmly, returning to her desk)

Since you started messing with my friends. He's with me, and if you approach him again, I'll take you down.

The blond woman leaves angrily without a reply.

SAID

(baffled, whispers to Maria)

What are you planning, Maria?

MARIA

(calmly)

I just saved you from a thousand years of torment in hell, as your religion says. And I saved you from her as well. She's a sex addict and has been with most of the guys here. I want you to wait for the right moment, and it better be with your wife.

SAID

(teasing)

I think you're jealous and maybe... you love me?

MARIA

(covers his mouth with her hand)

Shut up! I... love you? You're crazy!

Jack stares at her in silence.

MARIA
 (nervously)
 Don't look at me like that.

JACK
 (teasingly)
 What, me?

MARIA
 (tense)
 Yes, I don't have feelings for
 anyone right now. Said is just a
 friend.

JACK
 (adding fuel, teasing
 Said)
 Alright, then.
 (looks at Said)
 There's a girl I want you to meet,
 my wife's friend. She's beautiful
 and looking for a boyfriend to
 settle down with.

Suddenly, Maria interrupts him by firing a shot that narrowly
 misses his right ear.

Everyone is shocked. Maria aims the gun at Said.

MARIA
 Are you still considering his
 offer?

SAID
 (frantically, raising his
 hands in surrender)
 No, I'd rather stay friends... I
 mean, friends alive. I don't mean...
 to be together. Please, don't kill
 me!

They exchange playful glances, which turn into light-hearted
 and romantic banter.

9. EXT.THE OUTSIDE OF SMALL POLICE STATION - DAY.

Two police cars are parked beside a regular car.

Three girls stand on the side of the road, talking in low
 voices.

Said steps out of the station, holding a cigarette and
 lighting it.

He stands there, blowing out smoke slowly as Maria follows
 him and stands beside him, trying to start a conversation.

MARIA
(with a slight smile)
You look tired today, Said.

SAID
(exhales smoke again)
Just another day in this place.
Life here doesn't change.

MARIA
looks at him, moving closer
Maybe you need someone to take care
of you... someone to be by your side.

SAID
(smiling softly, looking
at her)
Maybe... maybe you need the same
thing.

noticing his smile, she moves even closer.

Said gently hugs Maria, the feelings between them evident but
unspoken, Maria feels it and hugs him back.

Suddenly, a short woman appears with her husband.

WIFE
(anxiously)
Where is Sheriff Jack?

SAID
He's inside.

MARIA
(kindly)
Do you need help with something?

HUSBAND
Our son George is missing.

SAID
(concerned)
When was the last time you saw him?

WIFE
Last night, after I read him a
bedtime story and tucked him in.
When I woke up in the middle of the
night, he was gone.

SAID
Maybe he went to his grandmother's
house?

HUSBAND

I don't think so. I called everyone, and there's no sign of him.

MARIA

(taking quick action)

Wait a moment, I'll get Sheriff Jack.

Maria rushes back toward the station to get Jack, while Saeed watches them, sinking into thought.

He mutters to himself quietly.

SAID

(whispering)

I hope my suspicions aren't correct.

10. INT.SMALL POLICE STATION - DAY.

The husband and wife sit across from Jack's desk, while Said and Maria stand beside him, listening in intense silence.

Jack picks up his notepad and begins asking routine, investigative questions.

JACK

(calmly and focused)

Tell me, do you have any enemies or issues that might cause someone to come near your son?

HUSBAND

(shakes his head quickly)

No, no, George is just a little boy. He has no enemies.

WIFE

(nervously)

We're a quiet family; we don't get involved with anyone.

JACK

When was the last time you saw George?

WIFE

(quietly)

Last night. I read him a story until he fell asleep, then tucked him in bed.

JACK

Did you notice anything unusual in recent days? Any strangers in the neighborhood?

HUSBAND

(thinking for a moment)

No, we haven't seen anything out of the ordinary.

JACK

Was George acting in any unusual way recently? Did he mention going anywhere?

WIFE

(shakes her head quickly)

No, he was just his usual self, playing and laughing as always.

JACK

Do you have any relatives or friends he might have gone to without telling you?

WIFE

(in a fearful tone)

No, we've called everyone, and no one knows where he is.

JACK

(looking at them seriously, taking notes)

Alright, we'll do everything we can to find him. I need you to stay calm and cooperate with us every step of the way.

HUSBAND

(pleading)

Please, do everything you can.

The husband and wife shake Jack's hand, then leave, saying goodbye to Saeed and Maria, who watch them until they disappear from sight, Maria decides to speak.

MARIA

Is there any suspect, Jack?

JACK

I don't know. There isn't much evidence yet.

(Jack glances at Said)

What do you think, you madman?

Said doesn't answer, deep in thought.

JACK
 (joking tone)
 From the days of the Crusades until
 now, Salah al-Din calls for you.

Said still doesn't respond, lost in deep thought, Maria's
 gaze reveals jealousy.

MARIA
 He's probably thinking about
 betraying me.

JACK
 (smirking)
 Since when have you two been dating
 for him to consider betraying you?

MARIA
 (glares at Jack)
 Stay out of it!
 She moves to slap him.

MARIA
 I'll show you what happens if you
 dare to think about cheat on me!

Said catches her hand with remarkable speed and then steps
 away.

SAID
 (slightly dismissive)
 Sorry, I need to check on
 something.

Saeed walks out of the room as they watching him without
 saying word.

JACK
 (chuckling to himself)
 Sometimes I think he's possessed by
 a Muslim jinn.
 (Looking at Maria)
 What are you waiting for?

MARIA
 (slightly startled)
 Oh, you're right. I'll follow him.

JACK
 Good. But don't interfere—just
 watch from a distance.

MARIA
 (defiantly)
 I'll show him who I am if he thinks
 about having sex with another
 woman.

JACK
 (slams his desk in
 frustration)
 Don't get involved! You don't know
 Said and his dark past.

MARIA
 (shocked, nods)
 Alright. I'll follow him and tell
 you everything

JACK
 I feel he knows something.

Maria dashes off, chasing after Said.

Jack stays in his office, pulls out a pack of cigarettes from
 his desk, and lights one, speaking to himself.

JACK
 Thank you so much for this pack of
 cigarettes.
 (as smoking)
 Damn you... anna, i'm smoking again,
 and there's nothing I can do about
 it.

11. EXT. THW WOODS - NIGHT

Near a large cave, Sisi stands smoking a cigarette, staring
 out at the trees in front of him.

He flicks his cigarette to the ground and moves to enter the
 cave, but he pauses near the entrance and laughs loudly.

SISI
 (smirking)
 It's been a long time, my old
 friend.

Suddenly, Said steps out of the shadows, also smoking a
 cigarette.

SAID
 (coldly)
 What are you doing here, Sisi? You
 shouldn't have shown up again.

SISI
 (smiling)
 Oh, come on, Said. Don't start
 blaming me already. Isn't this a
 good reunion?

SAID
 (determined)
 I warned you before... Don't make
 this like the children of Oran,
 Algeria.

SISI
 (chuckles)
 This time, it's going to happen.
 And there's nothing you can do
 about it.

SAID
 (defiant)
 I'll stop you, just like I did
 before.

Maria is hiding among the trees nearby, listening in.

MARIA
 (whispering to herself)
 What? He knows him? Is Said hiding
 secrets from us?

Returning to Sisi and Said.

SISI
 (grinning)
 Join us again, Said. You'll get the
 immortality you deserve—not the
 kind you're living with now.

SAID
 (firmly)
 No thanks. I'm content with the
 years I've got.

SISI
 (sighs)
 Then you leave me no choice, Said.

SAID
 (suspicious)
 Did you take George?

SISI
 (smiling wickedly)
 Yes, he's here. And if you think of
 bringing help, I'll kill him.

Maria, still hidden, clenches her fists in anger.

MARIA
 (whispering to herself)
 shit... this is worse than I thought.

SAID
 (firmly)
 I'll end this once and for all.

Sisi smoothly draws a military knife and, without turning, throws it straight toward Saeed's heart.

SISI
 (smiling)
 Not if I finish you first.

Said falling to the ground, coughing blood, severely wounded.

Sisi enters the cave, calling back.

SISI
 Farewell, old friend.

Maria rushes toward Said, dragging him toward the trees.

MARIA
 (panicked)
 You're going to be okay.

SAID
 (barely speaking)
 It... it must stay a secret. Don't tell anyone.

MARIA
 (resolutely)
 I won't tell anyone... except Jack.

Said tries to stand but stumbles.

SAID
 (grimacing)
 Good... he knows the story anyway.

Said attempts to pull the knife out, but Maria gently slaps his hand.

MARIA
 Leave it. If you pull it out, you'll lose more blood and die.

SAID
 (half-smiling)
 But... it's bothering me.

Maria, struggling to carry him, gives him a teasing smile.

MARIA
 I thought you'd be the one carrying me in our marriage, not the other way around.

SAID

(laughing weakly)

You witch... you dreamed of carrying
you on our wedding day, but here
you are... carrying me as I bleed
out.

MARIA

(shushing him)

Shut up before I leave you to die
right here.

Maria continues to carry him, disappearing into the forest.

The only things visible are darkness, tall trees, the howl of
wolves, and the distant hoot of an owl.