

The Tragedy of Aysel and Ziad

FADE IN

On September 11th, 2001, Ziad Jarrah crashed United Airlines Flight 93 into a rural area near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

On September 18th, 2001 Aysel Sengun told German authorities that she believed Ziad would return and that then they would resume their life together.

INT. CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL - DAY

AYSEL SENGUN (21), an olive skinned brunette of Turkish descent sits in the pew with her blonde haired, blue eyed, German boyfriend FREDERICK (21) and the other blonde haired, blue eyed looking wedding attendees.

Aysel covers the RAZOR BLADE SCARS on her wrists with her shirt sleeve.

CATHOLIC PRIEST

And now, you may kiss the bride.

The Bride and Groom KISS.

Everyone stands and CLAPS.

Frederick tries to hold Aysel's hand, she nudges it away but then relents and lets him hold it.

Frederick SMILES at her, she smiles back, but then looks away from him.

INT./EXT. - STREETS OF LEBANON

ZIAD JARRAH (22) a tall, handsome, well built Lebanese man and his cousin SALIM (22), a bearded Lebanese man roll LUGGAGE BAGS to the taxi.

Ziad HUGS his mother and waves goodbye to his father and two sisters.

A LEBANESE BOY (12) kicks a soccer ball to Ziad who stops it underneath his foot, kicks it over his head and then HEADBUTTS the soccer ball back to the boy.

ZIAD

When I'm back this winter, we'll play again, alright?

The boy NODS. Taxi HONKS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SALIM
C'mon Z, let's go.

But Ziad keeps showing off his football skills to the boys.

SALIM (cont'd)
(to taxi driver)
Just drive up the street a bit.

The taxi drives away.

SALIM (cont'd)
See ya later Z!

Ziad SPRINTS up to the taxi.

ZIAD
(panting)
Asshole!

SALIM
Whatever man, Deutsch land awaits!

Taxi accelerates thru a YELLOW LIGHT, past street vendors,
French cafes, horse pulled buggies and Mercedes Benzes.

INT. GREIFSWALD AIRPORT - EVENING

Ziad and Salim stand in front of a line of passengers and
STARE at a SIGN with two arrows pointed opposite directions.

One arrow points rightward with the German phrase for
'German Citizen'

The second arrow points leftward with the German phrase for
'Foreign Citizen'

Ziad brings out his ARABIC to GERMAN DICTIONARY and flips
thru it until an IRATE GERMAN WOMAN (50) waves her arms
LEFTWARD.

IRATE GERMAN WOMAN
(in German)
Left, left!

ZIAD
Thank you ma'am.

Ziad and Salim go left.

INT. PASSPORT VALIDATION LINE - MOMENTS LATER

Ziad smiles at the attractive female CUSTOMS AGENT (26) inspecting his passport, she does not smile back.

ZIAD
(in broken German)
I am Lebanon, you been there?
Exquisitely beautiful country.

The Female Customs agent SLIDES his passport back to him and without even looking up says.

FEMALE CUSTOMS AGENT
Passed. Who's next?

Ziad FROWNS and takes his passport.

INT. BAGGAGE CLAIM AREA - LATER

Ziad and Salim wait by the baggage carousel when three Middle Eastern Men approach.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 1
(in Arabic)
Excuse me, are you new to Germany.

ZIAD
Yes we are actually.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 1
Hello my brother, my name is
Muhammad, and these are my
acquaintances Ajay and Aravin.

Ziad and Salim shake hands with Muhammad, Ajay and Aravin.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 1 (cont'd)
Do you mind if we ask where you are
headed?

ZIAD
Greifswald, actually we are
prospective students. Do you know
where the taxi stop is?

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 1
Oh you don't want to do that, the
best way to Greifswald is by bus, the
eleven A line.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Muhammad, Ajay and Aravin lift Ziad's luggage off the conveyor belt.

ZIAD
It's OK, we got it.

They ignore Ziad and lift Salim's luggage off the conveyor belt.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 1
You can accept our help, we're not asking for money.

Muhammad hands FLIERS for Greifswald MOSQUE to Ziad and Salim.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 1 (cont'd)
If you need anything else with adjusting to Germany, come anytime, and sermons are Friday night at eight.

Muhammad, Ajay and Aravin DISAPPEAR around the corner.

SALIM
Religious fanatics.

Ziad LAUGHS with Salim, leaves his flier on the table and exits.

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Aysel talks on the telephone.

AYSEL
Emelda, oh my God, I'm going to go crazy, this guy's coming here tonight!

EMELDA
What do you mean he's coming here? Your parents just sent him all the way from Turkey without first telling you?

AYSEL
Apparently he's traveling to Hamburg on some business trip and wants to stop by Greifswald on the way or whatever.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EMELDA

You can't just tell him you have a boyfriend?

AYSEL

Of course not! And besides we're ..

(pause)

The point is, whatever I tell him will come back to the parental units and that's just.

EMELDA

(interrupting)

Well is he good looking? Tolerable at least?

Aysel takes out a picture of AYBERK (30) a bald, and ugly Turkish man.

AYSEL

It's not just the way he looks, he seems conservative.

EMELDA

Stop. I get you. You're not that desperate yet.

AYSEL

But I'm desperate to get out of this situation!

EMELDA

You said he was mainly going to Hamburg right? Meaning he only has a short window to stop by Greifswald, just tell him you're busy then, that you're with your student help hotline thing.

AYSEL

That's not right, I can't do that.

EMELDA

Assie, if you can't be serious about him, it's better off for you both not to meet. Don't you agree?

SILENCE. No response from Aysel.

EXT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY DORMITORY - NIGHT

Ziad and Salim walk towards the dormitory entrance, above which hangs a BANNER: 'Welcome New Students Social'

ZIAD
An undergraduate student social,
aren't we getting a bit long in the
tooth for that?

SALIM
Oh quit whining. Just look at the
right things.

Two German ladies smile at Ziad and Salim as they strut by.

SALIM (cont'd)
You know what I mean? C'mon, their
student bodies await.

Salim goes after the two German ladies, Ziad follows.

ZIAD
I'm not complaining about the
selection here ..

INT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY DORMITORY - MOMENTS LATER

ZIAD
But I still have a taste for olive
skinned, full bodied ..

SILENCE.

Ziad sees Aysel she stands on the TIP OF HER TOES stapling fliers to the top of the bulletin board.

ZIAD (cont'd)
Brunettes.

Ziad goes to Aysel and helps her staple a flier to the top corner of the bulletin board.

AYSEL
Thank you.

ZIAD
I'm Ziad, Ziad Jarrah.

AYSEL
I'm Aysel Sengun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

Are you a student here?

AYSEL

This is a student party, so yes, are you?

Ziad and Aysel LAUGH together.

ZIAD

Yes, I'm a student, just came to Germany from Lebanon where I'm from, getting my German language requirement out of the way before I apply to a real graduate school, anyway, you know the schpeel.

AYSEL

I've been there, I'm from Germany, I mean I lived here my entire life though my parents are from Turkey.

ZIAD

Cool, maybe you can help tutor me in German.

AYSEL

Maybe, we'll see.

A group of FRESHMEN who could pass for sixteen year olds walk past.

ZIAD

We are way too old to be here.

Aysel LAUGHS. Dance Music BLARES thru the speakers.

ZIAD (cont'd)

Do you want to go outside?

Ziad goes to the open doorway, Aysel follows him.

EXT. BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Ziad reads Aysel's flier to her.

ZIAD

(in Broken German)

Don't lose hope, if you need someone to talk to, call the campus helpline available 24/7.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

It's for students who may need someone to talk to as they start college. I'm just a volunteer, not the president or anything.

ZIAD

So you like to help people?

AYSEL

And you have no idea how to keep this conversation going?

SILENCE. No response from Ziad.

AYSEL (cont'd)

Relax, I was teasing.

ZIAD

Oh that's what that was? Well then, I hope you don't try to tell jokes to the callers.

Ziad and Aysel LAUGH.

AYSEL

I don't, we mainly try to steer the callers to organizations which can help them and stop them from doing things they would regret.

ZIAD

Why are you interested in that?

AYSEL

Because, well, just because. Anyway, so, what do you want to do here? What major I mean?

ZIAD

Umm, I, think, maybe engineering or medicine?

AYSEL

You have no clue, do you?

ZIAD

Give me some time, I'll find my ambition. What about you?

AYSEL

A dentist actually.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

That's a good career. Looks like you'll be the breadwinner in the house if we get married.

AYSEL

Yeah right.

ZIAD

Why do you say that?

AYSEL

Do you notice a resemblance? All I'm saying is all you Muslim boys tend to be jealous, controlling, don't like your women making more than you.

ZIAD

Some maybe, but not me.

AYSEL

Why not?

ZIAD

Because I'm from Beirut, we're not exactly a backwards city still stuck in crusade times. Trust me, Lebanese guys know how to enjoy the modern lifestyle.

AYSEL

You mean the party lifestyle.

ZIAD

You know I could go back inside and tear down those fliers I helped you put up.

Ziad and Aysel LAUGH until ..

FREDERICK (O.S.)

Ahh, there you are.

Frederick steps between Ziad and Aysel.

FREDERICK

Frederick, you can call me Fred for short.

ZIAD

Ziad, you will call me Ziad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FREDERICK
I'll wait until you're done, OK?

Aysel NODS, Frederick EXITS.

ZIAD
So we'll see each other around?

AYSEL
Perhaps.

Aysel exits.

INT. DIRTY LEBANESE RESTAURANT - DAY

Ziad, Salim and Salim's date EMELDA (21), a cute German blonde stand on line for buffet style Lebanese food.

Salim SWATS a fly away from his face.

SALIM
I thought you said this was a good
Lebanese restaurant.

EMELDA
No, no it's OK, it's a good change of
pace.

SALIM
Emelda, I will treat you to some real
Middle Eastern food, I promise. My
cousin's mind is too pre-occupied
with, how did you describe her again?
"Chocolate hair, olive skinned Ms.
HourGlass"

ZIAD
Salim!

EMELDA
Wait, hold on, you're talking about
Aysel Sengun aren't you? I'm hanging
out with her tonight.

Ziad DROPS a spatula full of food onto his tray.

INT. BARROOM - NIGHT

Aysel enters, Emelda HUGS her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EMELDA

Hey, let me introduce you to my new friends. Aysel, this is Salim.

(whispering)

God, I love that beard on those Middle Eastern men.

(normal voice)

And have you met Ziad before?

Aysel NODS, sits next to him and faces a waitress.

AYSEL

I'll have a beer and waters for these two gentlemen.

ZIAD

Well aren't we presumptuous?

(to waitress)

Two beers for me and Salim.

AYSEL

I thought you guys were Muslim?

ZIAD

Lebanese doesn't equal religious fanatic. We talked about this already, or have you forgotten.

EMELDA

Aysel, here is a girl who works hard and plays harder.

AYSEL

She's exaggerating.

EMELDA

She can out chug German guys.

SALIM

Bet she can't out chug us.

EMELDA

Wanna bet?

Salim and Emelda STARE each other down and CHUG their beers.

Ziad RAISES his glass, Aysel CLANKS it.

ZIAD

To new beginnings.

Ziad and Aysel drink their first pint of beer.

INT. BARROOM - LATER

TWELVE empty pints of beer lie on the table.

Salim and Emelda make out with one another.

The Fleetwood Mac Song 'Little Lies' plays on the karaoke speaker.

ZIAD
Oh my God, who the f put up this
song.

AYSEL
Watch your tongue! It happens to be a
good song, my favorite.

ZIAD
Mine too!

Aysel ROLLS her eyes in disbelief.

ZIAD (cont'd)
I'm serious.

AYSEL
Prove it.

Ziad grabs a microphone.

ZIAD
(sings)
If I could turn the page, in timed
then I'd rearrange just a day or two.

Ziad hands Aysel the microphone.

AYSEL
(sings)
But I couldn't find a way, so I'll
settle for one day to believe in you.

AYSEL & SALIM
(sings)
Tell me lies, tell me sweet little
lies!

The crowd ROARS with applause.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Aysel, Ziad, Salim and Emelda stop at a FORK in the road.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

On the right a GANG OF SKINHEADS hangs outside a dive bar.

EMELDA
Guys, left is faster.

Salim follows Emelda left.

ZIAD
Sal, what are you doing? Your car's
parked in the opposite direction.

Salim turns Ziad away from the skinheads.

SALIM
Z, Aysel's house is this way, you
know what I mean? C'mon, quickly.

Ziad follows Salim left.

EXT. MAIN ROAD - LATER

SALIM
So, Emelda and I are headed a
different way, bye!

Salim WINKS at Ziad and disappears with Emelda.

AYSEL
So, you're quite the party animal.

ZIAD
Only on occasion, I can also be very
serious.

Ziad stares into Aysel's eyes and tries to brush her hair,
she backs away.

AYSEL
Thank you for walking me home.

ZIAD
Sit, talk with me for a while longer.

Ziad sits on her doorstep and pats the empty spot next to
him, motioning Aysel to sit, but she remains standing.

AYSEL
So Ziad Jarrah, what drives you in
life?

ZIAD
What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

I mean, you don't know what career you want, so I'm giving you another chance, what more generally speaking are your ambitions?

SILENCE.

AYSEL (cont'd)

Your values?

Again SILENCE.

AYSEL (cont'd)

Well I'm tired now so ..

Aysel walks up the steps and opens her door.

ZIAD

Wait, hold on, before you judge me, what drives you? I mean, no offense but why do you care so much how freshmen handle their first year at college?

AYSEL

Because I know what it feels like to be lost and because someone helped me when I needed it. Otherwise

(pause)

Otherwise I wouldn't have the chance to be a dentist.

ZIAD

You serious? you sure it's not because it's what your parents want? that it's not about the money? Or proving you won't be another oppressed Muslim woman?

AYSEL

Well, maybe the last part a little, but mostly because of what I went thru, that's how I found my purpose.

ZIAD

I admire that, I really do. You know what Salim told me once: that I'm a tree without roots, that I'm just hanging out. He's right.

(pause)

I'm fucking tired of that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ziad HURLS a pebble into the wall and then LAUGHS to ease the tension.

ZIAD (cont'd)

That came off a bit dark and heavy didn't it?

AYSEL

No, we all have our hangups, but I am curious though, if you hate it so much, why not plant some roots?

Aysel and Ziad LAUGH.

ZIAD

When I was younger, all these factions shot each other up right outside my home, Muslim this, Christian that. Whatever, but I remember once, these rebels fought right in front of me, I was literally standing in the middle of them and one guys screamed: Which side are you on? Which side are you on? And then my dad pulled me inside and by the time I went up to my bedroom window, the dude was dead. And all I could think of was "which side was I on?". I guess what I want to figure out is where I belong, which side I should be on. Weird story right?

AYSEL

No one's judging.

ZIAD

That's probably the first time I told anyone that story. I guess that means I feel comfortable around you.

AYSEL

That and you're tired, drunk and a pathological flirt.

The morning sun lights up Aysel's doorway.

AYSEL (cont'd)

Take care Ziad, go home and get some rest.

Aysel goes inside her house.

Ziad stares at Aysel's closed door for a moment and exits.

INT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE ROOM - EVENING

Ziad stands by a doorway, beneath a banner which reads:
Campus Help Hotline'

He sees Aysel inside and tries to enter when a GREIFSWALD
UNIVERSITY STUDENT (21) blocks him.

GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY STUDENT
Hi, may I help you?

ZIAD
I just want to get thru.

GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY STUDENT
Are you a campus hotline volunteer?

ZIAD
If you need some help?

AYSEL
Ziad, what are you doing here?

ZIAD
I wanted to volunteer, see what it's
like.

GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY STUDENT
We're over packed as it is and you
need training to be on the phones so

ZIAD
Look, I got it.
(to Aysel)
Hi Aysel, I was just passing thru and
wanted to say hi.

AYSEL
Hi Ziad, we'll talk later OK?

As Ziad walks away, he overhears the following..

AYSEL (O.S.)
Where is the food?

SILENCE.

AYSEL (O.S.) (cont'd)
Again? You're too good at helping me
lose weight, we're going to be in
there for four hours!

INT. DIRTY LEBANESE RESTAURANT - LATER

Ziad is the only person on the buffet line.

ZIAD
Hey how much for all of this?

WAITRESS
The all you can eat special is ten marks.

ZIAD
No I meant, the entire metal tray, all of it, actually, make it two metal trays.

INT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Ziad carries two METAL TRAYS of food inside.

GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY STUDENT
What are you doing?

ZIAD
I'm getting everyone here dinner because someone else forgot to do it. Is that OK with everybody?

Aysel and everyone else flock to the food.

ZIAD (cont'd)
I'll take that as a yes.
(to Aysel)
I didn't mean to interrupt you.

AYSEL
Oh no? But you have, I'm busy now.

ZIAD
Then I won't interrupt you again.

Ziad walks away until..

AYSEL
Ziad.

Ziad turns around.

AYSEL (cont'd)
Thank you for the food, if your intent was sincere, we'll appreciate it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL (cont'd)
 (to University
 Student)
 Won't we?
 (to Ziad)
 Sunday at noon, at the library, maybe
 then I won't be as busy.

Ziad SMILES and exits.

INT./EXT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - DAY

Ziad combs his hair, sprays breathe freshener and enters.

Aysel sees Ziad walk towards her and covertly applies lipstick and eye shadow.

Ziad TRIPS on a table leg and limps the rest of the way to Aysel.

ZIAD
 Ahem, because I know you've probably
 been here for a while getting ready
 for me, I figured I should be a
 gentleman and arrive a little ahead
 of schedule to alleviate your
 anxiety.

Aysel can't stop laughing.

AYSEL
 Was that suave limp part of your
 grand plan to sweep me off my feet?
 So anyway Mister Ziad, as this is a
 study
 (emphasis on word)
 Meeting. What did you bring to study?

Ziad takes out a brochure for Greifswald Medical School.

Frederick enters, neither Ziad or Aysel notice.

AYSEL (cont'd)
 Oh very funny, c'mon Ziad the joke's
 getting old.

ZIAD
 What are you talking about?

AYSEL
 I mean you obviously whipped out that
 Greifswald Medical School book
 because I mentioned it to you the
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL (cont'd)
other day, it's obviously a ploy just
to impress me.

ZIAD
I brought it because I thought you
could answer my questions about med
school. I started considering it more
as an option after talking to you.
(pause)
So, are you impressed?

Frederick SLAMS his textbook on top of Ziad's medical school
brochure.

FREDERICK
Ziad right? Remember me? I believe
this seat is mine.

ZIAD
Excuse me?

FREDERICK
Who exactly do you think you are?

Ziad stands up and gets into Frederick's face.

ZIAD
Look guy, you have a problem with me,
let's settle this outside.

FREDERICK
You really don't know who I am, do
you? Tell him Aysel.

SILENCE. No response from Aysel.

FREDERICK (cont'd)
Tell him exactly who I am.

ZIAD
Don't talk to her like that.

Two SECURITY GUARDS enter.

AYSEL
Guys, calm down, both of you.

LIBRARY SECURITY GUARD
(to Ziad)
May I see your ID?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

My ID? There are two of us arguing here.

AYSEL

Ziad, please.

Ziad fumbles thru his wallet.

ZIAD

I'm new, I haven't had a chance to get my card yet.

LIBRARY SECURITY GUARD

Then how did you get in here?

ZIAD

I followed another student, does that answer your question?

FREDERICK

Aysel, tell him before this gets out of hand.

AYSEL

Fred was, is, I mean was my boyfriend.

ZIAD

You don't need to escort me, I'm already on my way out.

Ziad exits, Aysel goes after him.

EXT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Aysel chases after Ziad.

AYSEL

Ziad, I'm sorry, I should have said something.

Ziad just keeps on walking.

AYSEL (cont'd)

Fred explained everything to the library, you can come back if you want.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

Fred? You mean your quote unquote boyfriend? Then what the hell are you doing out here with me?

AYSEL

I meant to break it off even before you. I was confused, I couldn't face what was happening, between me and you and me and him.

Ziad walks away from Aysel until ..

AYSEL (cont'd)

But I chose to come to you Ziad, not because I messed up or because of what happened, I came just because of you, at least for today, for right now I mean, until I see how far this can go. And if there's anything at all I can do to make up for what happened back there, anything.

Ziad SMILES.

INT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - LATER

Aysel sits on the sofa with Ziad's ANKLE in her lap.

AYSEL

Your ankle is fine.

ZIAD

Are you sure?

AYSEL

Yes, now put your sock on before your dirty foot turns me off even more.

Ziad puts on his sock and moves in closer to Aysel.

ZIAD

Alright, my foot may be OK, but other parts of my body may be in need of a doctor's inspection.

Ziad KISSES Aysel until she pulls back.

AYSEL

Easy, I am a conservative Muslim woman and you have to do more to impress me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Aysel goes into her bedroom.

AYSEL (cont'd)

It's late, you can sleep on the couch. The door is closed, it will remain so the entire night unless I open it.

ZIAD

OK, so inquiring minds want to know, how would you like to be impressed?

AYSEL

How about bringing me better food than you did the other day.

Aysel closes the bedroom door behind her.

INT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY DORMITORY - MORNING

Ziad KNOCKS on the door of a Muslim student.

ZIAD

Mo, remember that Lebanese restaurant you recommended to me last time?

ZIAD'S DOORMMATE MO

Yeah?

ZIAD

It sucked, do you have any better recommendations?

Mo SHRUGS his shoulders.

ZIAD'S DOORMMATE MO

Try the Middle Eastern student association, they're meeting down the hall right now.

INT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY DORMITORY - LATER

Ziad walks into a room filled with adolescent Middle Eastern Students.

ZIAD

Hey guys, can I ask you a question? Do you know of any good Middle Eastern restaurants around here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ASSAM

Nay, not you, I am from Lebanon where the sea breeze wipes everything away. Here it is all dead air, like being trapped in front of a toilet.

Again Ziad laughs with the others.

ZIAD

Which part of Lebanon are you from?

ASSAM

By the Green zone.

ZIAD

Are you serious?

Ziad STARES at Assam.

ZIAD (cont'd)

Wait I know you, you're Assam Shariff, Omar's brother aren't you. Well, I'll be damned, I'm Ziad Jarrah, we used to play football together.

ASSAM

Yes, Yes I remember now, on the field outside the hospital, I used to whoop your ass all day long.

ZIAD

Oh yeah?! That's not what I remember.

Everyone LAUGHS.

ZIAD (cont'd)

What I would give for a good baller league around here.

ASSAM

We have one at the mosque, you are welcome to come next time.

The Greifswald Mosque brothers bows their heads for prayer, Ziad hesitates and then bows his head.

ASSAM (cont'd)

Al hamdu lil lazi at ta mana wa saqana waja-alana minal muslemeen.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ASSAM (cont'd)

(pause)

Praise be to Allah the One Who gave
us the food and the drinks. Praise be
to Him Who made us Muslim

Several men collect the dinner plates, Assam mops the table
and others fold the chairs against the wall.

Ziad takes a BROOM, Assam tries to stop him.

ASSAM (cont'd)

Brother, please, you don't have to.

ZIAD

Yes I do and I should.

Assam NODS. Ziad sweeps the floor.

INT. GREIFSWALD MOSQUE - LATER

Assam hands Ziad a PLASTIC BAG filled with food.

ZIAD

Oh no, I couldn't.

ASSAM

Yes, you can. That is why you entered
our mosque today isn't it? For the
best Middle Eastern food in
Greifswald.

Ziad TAKES the food.

ASSAM (cont'd)

Best of luck to you brother. I hope
this won't be the last time we see
you?

ZIAD

Five PM for football league.

ASSAM

And eight PM service.

Ziad nods and exits.

INT. AYSEL'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Ziad and Aysel sit across a candlelit dinner table eating
the Greifswald mosque food.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD
It's good isn't it?

Aysel LAUGHS and BLUSHES.

ZIAD (cont'd)
What?

AYSEL
You're a slick one aren't you?
Takeout food from a mosque. Did the
brothers suggest this to you as a way
to get into my room?

ZIAD
Nope, I came up with this one all by
myself.

AYSEL
And you really want to go to med
school?

ZIAD
I'm considering it, that or my backup
is aeronautical engineering at
Hamburg. It's as I said the other
day, about time for me to find my
purpose.

AYSEL
What about that little stalking stunt
you pulled the other day showing up
at my volunteer workplace like that?

ZIAD
Alright, alright I will admit that
was because I wanted to see you and
also see what you were about, why you
wanted to do the volunteering thing
and when that guy gave me a hard
time, I just thought of the first
thing I could do to cover my ass so to
speak.

AYSEL
OK, so now that you know me a little,
what do you think I'm about?

ZIAD
I think that you're kind, that you
genuinely care about other people and
you make me feel comfortable because
of the way you are, I guess.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

Alright, so I'm done with dinner now,
wait outside please.

Aysel goes into her bedroom and closes the door behind her.

Ziad sits and waits until Aysel's bedroom door opens.

AYSEL (cont'd)

You may come in now.

ZIAD

Thank you Allah, all praises and
salutations be onto Him or however
that goes.

Ziad runs into Aysel's bedroom and closes the door.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Ziad dribbles the ball past two defenders and kicks it into
the GOAL.

Ziad HIGH FIVES his teammates and walks with them towards
Greifswald Mosque.

INT. GREIFSWALD MOSQUE - LATER

Ziad, who is still in his football clothes, sits in the
congregation and BOUNCES HIS FOOT up and down as the IMAM
(45) speaks.

GREIFSWALD MOSQUE IMAM

You may be thinking right now, why
worship? Why become a more devout
Muslim now than I was before I
emigrated to this country? Then let
me ask you this: Has this country not
challenged your identity? Has being
here not forced you to ask yourself:
Who am I? What are my roots and where
am I going? And I tell you: You are
Islam, be rooted in it and you will
know where you are going.

Ziad stops bouncing his heel and leans forward.

INT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY DORMITORY - NIGHT

Ziad talks on the telephone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

Hallo Salim, I'm sorry man, I gotta cancel on the bar tonight.

SALIM

Dude, I promise I'll let you go before your meeting with Aysel.

ZIAD

Can't man, something came up before that.

SALIM

What German porn on your computer?

ZIAD

Nahh it's not that. It's

SILENCE.

SALIM

It's German porn.

ZIAD

It's something I'm not ready to talk about yet, anyway, gotta go, sorry.

Ziad hangs up the phone and exits.

INT. GREIFSWALD MOSQUE - EVENING

Ziad listens to the Imam.

GREIFSWALD MOSQUE IMAM

Today we have a special guest, one of the German Muslim community's most active members, whose work is renown from here to Hamburg, Mr. AbdulRachman Al-Makhadi.

ABDULRACHMAN (24), a tall, Middle Eastern man, with a foot-long beard and dressed in a galabeya rolls a TELEVISION and VCR to the front of the room.

ABDULRACHMAN

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, a video, a million. Those who are moved by what you see may speak to me after wards.

AbdulRachman PLAYS the following video:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

..A Palestinian woman is groped by leery Israeli soldiers at a check point along the Gaza Strip.

..Her father and brother confront the Israeli soldiers, one of whom slams the butt of his rifle into the Palestinian father.

..The Palestinian brother leads a group of unarmed men to face off against armed Israeli soldiers

..BANG, a shot is fired, the Palestinian brother lies dead, half of his friends carry his body away, the other half confront the Israeli soldiers.

..BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG, the Israelis massacre the Palestinians.

..The Palestinian woman SOBS over the bodies of the dead Palestinian men as Apache helicopters with United States Insignia flies overhead.

AbdulRachman SHUTS OFF the video, Ziad CLENCHES his fists.

ZIAD

Was that real?

ASSAM

What have you been living in a hole?
Of course it's real!

ABDULRACHMAN

Quiet brother Assam, I think brother Ziad has heard of it in the news before, but perhaps never seen it as you have today, yes?

Ziad NODS.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)

The events are not just real, they happen every day. The video however is only a re-creation, I have seen the real thing and believe me you are not ready for it.

(pause)

Look at the time, it is already past when I should have let you go, those who want to leave may, those who want to discuss may take a walk with me to my home.

Ziad and Assam goes to AbdulRachman, everyone else goes to the exit.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Ziad and Assam follow AbdulRachman.

ZIAD

But don't you think some of the prophet's sayings have to be taken in context, in today's times.

ABDULRACHMAN

How has context changed? Does prayer five times a day do less than it did then? Is alcohol not just as bad for you?

ZIAD

But in moderation.

ABDULRACHMAN

A poison in moderation is still poison. Context change, the only context change that has happened is that the Western Infidels have taken over our lands. Look at this place, what Islamic influence do you see here besides me?

Everyone CHUCKLES at AbdulRachman's joke.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)

You are both from Lebanon, yes? An Islamic land, how much Western encroachment did you experience there?

SILENCE as AbdulRachman lets the point sink in.

ZIAD

But the west is just more powerful, that's why their influence is greater.

ABDULRACHMAN

Loser mentality. The opponent beat me, he must be stronger, he must be superior. Did you ever consider that he may be cheating, may be muddling up your mind.

ZIAD

How?

CONTINUED:

ABDULRACHMAN

Name five American Hollywood movie stars.

ZIAD

Tom Cruise, Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

ABDULRACHMAN

Name five Muslim political leaders.

ZIAD

Ayatollah Khomeini

ABDULRACHMAN

He's dead

ZIAD

Elias Hrawi

ABDULRACHMAN

Go on.

SILENCE.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)

Ignorance is the infidel's greatest weapon, and knowledge its greatest shield.

AbdulRachman hands Ziad a copy of the Q'uran and a set of DVDs.

INT. ZIAD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ziad inserts a DVD into his computer.

DVD IMAM

Thank you on completing the last lesson, now if you are willing to humbly accept the teachings of Allah, empty your heart, prostrate yourself and repeat after me.

Ziad KNEELS.

DVD IMAM (cont'd)

Ash-hadu anna la ilaha illallah-wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan rasulu allah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

I bear witness that there is no God
except Allah and Muhammad is His
Messenger.

DVD IMAM

You are now a Muslim.

Ziad prostrates himself on the floor.

INT. GREIFSWALD MOSQUE - EVENING

AbdulRachman stands in front of a group of seated Middle
Eastern men.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 1

Ali Hosseini Khamenei!

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 2

Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud!

ABDULRACHMAN

That's four.

ZIAD (O.S.)

Saddam Hussein.

Ziad enters and takes a seat.

ABDULRACHMAN

Ziad Jarrah!, he does not count in
our game, he's played before.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 1

And Hussein!

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 2

What of him?

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 1

He has the courage to challenge the
West.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 2

But invaded Kuwait without to resolve
to hold it against them.

ABDULRACHMAN

Yes, exactly, that was his mistake.

AbdulRachman passes out copies of AL JIHAD MAGAZINE to
everyone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ziad looks at the magazine's cover photo of a HAND HOLDING UP AN AUTOMATIC RIFLE, he grimaces.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)
Is something wrong Ziad?

ZIAD
Nothing.

Ziad flips thru photos of women, children and elderly bearing arms.

ZIAD (cont'd)
Saddam could not have held Kuwait no matter what his resolve.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN 1
Excuse me?!

AbdulRachman raises his hand to silence the man.

ZIAD
He was outmatched, his only choice was to retreat.

ABDULRACHMAN
And then, after he retreated?

ZIAD
I don't know, build up defenses, consolidate his power?

ABDULRACHMAN
With the US in his backyard monitoring his every move, pushing his influence back further and further every day? No, had he stayed and inflicted enough casualties, the west would have retreated.

ZIAD
OK, then what about our casualties? An eye for an eye leaves both men blind.

ABDULRACHMAN
Ghandi? His methods worked because the British needed the Indian people's compliance to support their economy. Tell me Ziad, do you think the Americans need us or only the oil beneath our feet?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SILENCE. No response from Ziad.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)
 Yes Ziad, an eye for an eye because when a man maims you once for what you have and comes back for more, he will do it again, and he will not stop out of conscience, he will only stop when he thinks he has more to lose than to gain. And as to our casualties, those who died would have given their lives to a cause greater than themselves rather than eke out their remaining years hiding in cowardice and for that Allah will remember and reward.

Several men clap.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)
 Stop.

Men stop clapping.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)
 I am being harsh, I didn't mean to humiliate you, you should leave Ziad, you are not ready for this yet.

AbdulRachman takes Ziad's copy of AL Jihad but Ziad pulls it back.

ZIAD
 No, I will have it and I will figure out for myself if what you say is true.

AbdulRachman lets go of Ziad's copy of Al Jihad.

INT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Ziad reads from a GERMAN ESL textbook for Aysel.

ZIAD
 (in broken German)
 Hence, I think, I mean, believe the Greifswald Collegiate degree in Medicine and Surgery

AYSEL
 (interrupting)
 Surgical.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD
Surgical studies is the best fit for
my skills

AYSEL
(interrupting)
Skill set.

ZIAD
Skillet and career.

AYSEL
Alright, you obviously haven't been
studying German at all, what have you
been doing with all your time?

ZIAD
Besides you?

Ziad TICKLES Aysel, she pushes his hands away.

AYSEL
It's a serious question.

ZIAD
You've seen how I've become more
serious lately?

Aysel NODS.

ZIAD (cont'd)
That something's changed in me, that
maybe, just maybe I've found new
purpose in life.

AYSEL
OK.

ZIAD
Try to guess at what it is.

AYSEL
I don't know, you've committed
yourself to getting into the German
football league?

ZIAD
Aysel, I've become a Muslim.

AYSEL
Weren't you always a Muslim?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

Not truly, not until now, but the footballers, the guys at the mosque, they opened me up to something different.

Ziad grabs a handful of DVDs out of his backpack.

ZIAD (cont'd)

Just watch these and tell me what you think. As for me,

Ziad holds up his German textbook.

ZIAD (cont'd)

I gotta get cracking on this, exam is in two weeks.

Ziad exits. Aysel stares at the pile of DVDs.

AYSEL

Oh Assie, what I have gotten myself into.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Ziad passes the ball to Salim who misses it. An opponent catches it and kicks the ball into the goal.

The opponent team CHEERS, Ziad pats Salim's back.

ZIAD

It's OK, you're out of practice, you'll do better next time. Now c'mon, let's get some food.

Ziad goes to Greifswald Mosque.

SALIM

Wait, this wasn't just an attempt to get me into there is it?

SILENCE, No response from Ziad.

INT. GREIFSWALD MOSQUE - LATER

Ziad, Salim and other men sit around a buffet of Middle Eastern food.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABDULRACHMAN

Today the Muslim world is in shambles!, we suffer injustice in Israel, we suffer injustice in Saudi Arabia, in Afghanistan, in Pakistan, Egypt, you name any country and we are all suffering at the hands of Israel and the Western powers. The United States, that's what they call themselves, let us call them by their true name, Babylon!

Ziad and the others nods in agreement but Salim stops eating and pushes his chair away from the table.

EXT. GREIFSWALD MOSQUE - LATER

ZIAD

What do you think, Sally?

SALIM

Well, I'm happy for your new interest in your heritage.

ZIAD

But what do you think of the message though?

SALIM

Maybe it was a little bit politicized.

ZIAD

But look at the western powers support for Israel, a religious state, if they don't separate, why should we. There is no separation between religion and what's going on in the Muslim world today. When we fight for our country, we fight for Islam.

SALIM

Three months ago you barely knew the difference between Sunni and Shia and now you're talking about fighting for something you barely understand?

AbdulRachman peers down from the second floor window.

SALIM (cont'd)

Does Aysel know about all this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD
I've been trying to tell her.

Salim NODS and exits, then AbdulRachman enters.

ABDULRACHMAN
Ziad, I'm sorry, I couldn't help but overhear your conversation with your brother.

ZIAD
Cousin, he's only my cousin, we were once like brothers.

ABDULRACHMAN
Don't give up on him, he may yet come around.

Ziad NODS.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)
Brother Ziad are you familiar with the concept of taqiyya?

ZIAD
Taqiyha? You mean a skull cap?

ABDULRACHMAN
No, taqiyya, the art of keeping the faith in our hearts but maintaining the facade of secularism, our forefathers used it to preserve their faith when persecuted by their enemies

(pause)
And when their own brothers and wives would pressure them to abandon their faith.

ZIAD
What are you trying to say?

ABDULRACHMAN
Next time, let me know in advance if you're bringing a non-believer.

Ziad NODS, AbdulRachman hands him a new edition of Al Jihad Magazine, Ziad tosses it into his book bag.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)
Are you sure you want to keep it there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD
Relax, taqiyya, I got it. It'll be
safe, for my eyes only.

Ziad exits.

INT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ziad follows Aysel into her house.

ZIAD
This is the first time I've seen you
this quiet before, what's wrong?

AYSEL
Nothing.

ZIAD
It's something and it's written all
over your face.

Ziad CARESSES her face, she turns away from him.

ZIAD (cont'd)
I know I've been more aloof of late,
spending time at the mosque.

AYSEL
It's more complicated than just that.

Ziad ROLLS his eyes, Aysel giggles in spite of herself.

AYSEL (cont'd)
Don't do that.

ZIAD
You mean this?

Ziad ROLLS his eyes again.

ZIAD (cont'd)
Oh my unfathomably complex female
soul.

AYSEL
Stop that!

ZIAD
Stop what? Stop teasing you, charming
you in spite of myself, you know I
can't do that! So c'mon what is it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Aysel pauses and stares into Ziad's eyes.

AYSEL

I thought about what you said the other day, about watching those videos and giving Islam another chance.

ZIAD

And?

Ziad waits expectantly.

AYSEL

And I considered it deeply, thoroughly for a while and decided that it's not for me, not right now, I have school and I have you.

ZIAD

How am I getting in the way of you rediscovering Islam

AYSEL

Just hear me out, It's because I have you and I care about you and only out of caring that I have to ask:

(pause)

just how involved are you with this mosque?

ZIAD

What do you mean? I pray, I'm cutting back on drinking, I'm still trying to become a better Muslim.

AYSEL

What about ge, ge, geehad?

ZIAD

Ji'had? How did you hear that term?

AYSEL

No one in particular.

SILENCE. No response from Ziad.

AYSEL (cont'd)

Please don't just stand there and give me the silent treatment. I was scared of losing you, I saw you were getting zealous about that mosque you were going to. So I asked around

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL (cont'd)
about you and pried into your
business, it was stupid and I had no
right to do it but.

Ziad HUGS Aysel and laughs.

AYSEL (cont'd)
What's so funny?

ZIAD
Do you even know what jihad really
means? Originally, not just what the
western media demonizes it as?

Aysel SHRUGS.

ZIAD (cont'd)
It means an internal struggle between
your better and worse selves. Not
necessarily some military holy war,
see?

Ziad sifts thru his backpack.

He tucks his copy of Al Jihad magazine into another pocket
and gives Aysel a pamphlet entitled 'Jihad: The Inner
Struggle'

ZIAD (cont'd)
I have to confess, just a moment ago
I was quite upset that you would do
that, but I'll let it go this time.

Aysel NODS and wipes her tears dry.

ZIAD (cont'd)
Besides, I'm having second thoughts
about religion anyway, those guys are
too extreme.

Aysel pours herself a glass of red wine.

ZIAD (cont'd)
Why are you doing that?

AYSEL
What?
(pause)
You mean drink when I'm upset?

ZIAD
You know it's not good for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

It's not like this is the first time
you saw me do this, why now?

(pause)

Because now you think good Muslims
shouldn't drink.

ZIAD

Maybe. There are health reasons for
it too.

Ziad pulls the red wine away from Aysel, she pulls it back.

ZIAD (cont'd)

I'm not trying to be an asshole here,
I'm just trying to recommend what's
best for you.

AYSEL

I know what's best for me and I'd
rather not hear you tell me what you
think is right when it may be wrong.

ZIAD

OK, alright. I'm not trying to upset
you. But please, just let me
understand how alcohol, which we both
know is bad for you, is right for
you?

Aysel slides the red wine to Ziad.

AYSEL

I don't feel like arguing.

ZIAD

Aysel, I'm just trying to get you to
see that you're dependent on an
illusion that these infidels have
drilled into you, and we're arguing
now because you know it's true but
you don't want to face it.

AYSEL

You know what, you're absolutely
right. So next you're going to ask me
to face the truth, because you think
it's what's best? Right?

ZIAD

Why don't we both cool off a bit and
talk about this later.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

(interrupting)

You mean later when I'll be more reasonable.

(pause)

Ziad, do you know how I got this?

Aysel lays her RAZOR SCARRED WRISTS on the table.

AYSEL (cont'd)

Did it even cross your mind to ask?

ZIAD

I was going to wait until you were ready to talk about it.

AYSEL

(interrupting)

I got this because I allowed other people to bully me into something I didn't want to do, force me to accept something that I didn't want and could not and would not accept.

(pause)

I got this by cutting myself up in Turkey after my parents sent me there against my will to reconnect with my Muslim heritage and the only reason I'm alive now is because when I passed out, the landlord happened to notice that I had knocked out the power to some neon cross he had hanging outside my window.

ZIAD

I'm sorry, I didn't know.

AYSEL

Please leave.

Ziad exits.

INT. ABDULRACHMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

AbdulRachman notices Ziad's pained expression.

ABDULRACHMAN

Something wrong Ziad?

ZIAD

I got into a fight with my
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD (cont'd)

(pause)

parents. I miss them actually.

ABDULRACHMAN

Invite them to Hamburg with us.
Perhaps you can convert them to be
more Muslim as well.

ZIAD

That's a great idea actually.

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aysel is on the phone.

AYSEL

I was so dumb.

EMELDA (O.S.)

Maybe, but look, you guys will make
up and it'll be fine, my suggestion
to you though, wait it out a bit,
show him you can hold your ground.

Computer BEEPS with an INSTANT MESSAGE from Ziad.

EMELDA (O.S.) (cont'd)

What was that? It sounded like your
computer.

SILENCE as Aysel reads Ziad's Instant Message:

'I'm sorry for pressuring you the other day and can
understand that you want to take some time off. But it's
been a day and because I know you miss me ;) I will give you
this one chance to get back into my good graces, would you
come to Hamburg with me? Please, pretty please!!!'

EMELDA (O.S.) (cont'd)

Aysel, that was a message from Ziad
wasn't it? However you want to
respond, wait until tomorrow to do
it.

SILENCE.

EMELDA (O.S.) (cont'd)

Aysel?, Aysel?

Aysel types 'Yes' to Ziad.

INT. BULLET TRAIN - MORNING

Ziad touches Aysel's hand, she wraps his arm around her shoulder.

They caresses and watch the German landscape thru the window.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAMBURG - AFTERNOON

Ziad photographs Aysel standing in front of a water fountain blowing kisses at him.

Then she LEAPS into Ziad's arms and KISSES him.

EXT. MUSLIM SECTION OF HAMBURG - NIGHT

The streets are packed with Middle Eastern people, shops and mosques.

Aysel and Ziad sit in an outdoor cafe eating lamb gyros.

AYSEL

This tastes so much better than the food in Greifswald.

ZIAD

You haven't seen anything yet, just wait until I take you to Lebanon.

Aysel BLUSHES.

AbdulRachman enters.

ABDULRACHMAN

Ziad, is that you my brother?

ZIAD

Indeed it is.

AbdulRachman and Ziad EMBRACE, Aysel FROWNS.

ABDULRACHMAN

And you must be Aysel, she's even more beautiful than you described.

AYSEL

And you must be AbdulRachman, your reputation precedes you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABDULRACHMAN
All good I hope.

SILENCE. No response from Aysel.

AbdulRachman and Ziad walk away from her.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)
So, is Hamburg everything I said it
would be?

The TWINKLE in Ziad's eyes answers his question.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)
My friend, you haven't seen anything
yet.

AYSEL
(interrupting)
Ziad! I'm not feeling well, I want to
go back to the hotel, now!

Ziad goes back to Aysel, AbdulRachman exits.

INT. HAMBURG HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ziad and Aysel, both naked, stand on the balcony and enjoy
the thirtieth floor view of Hamburg's city lights.

Ziad ties a HEART SHAPED LOCKET around Aysel's neck.

AYSEL
I love you, I want this moment to
last forever.

INT. ZIAD'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ziad stares at two GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATIONS, one for
Greifswald Medical school, the other for Technical
University of Hamburg.

Ziad checks early admissions for Greifswald Medical School.

INT. GREIFSWALD MOSQUE - DAY

AbdulRachman towers over Ziad.

ABDULRACHMAN
So you will be staying in Greifswald,
even after all you saw in Hamburg?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SILENCE. Ziad does not respond, AbdulRachman SHUTS the door.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)

The mosques in Hamburg are not watered down, baby Muslim place like this! You would be at the very center of the struggle!

ZIAD

I had a change of heart, I will do Allah's work from Greifswald.

ABDULRACHMAN

Not a change of heart, another one in your heart.

SILENCE, Ziad looks away from AbdulRachman's gaze.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)

Remember the word, Allah must occupy our hearts and minds and only Allah, not to be shared with anyone else.

ZIAD

You have a family, how could you not understand?

ABDULRACHMAN

Yes, my family is a gift from Allah, they belong to him and not me. I would gladly lay everything down if Allah asked it.

ZIAD

Really?

ABDULRACHMAN

You think I'm a hypocrite yes? That these are just empty words coming out of my mouth?

SILENCE.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)

It is a good doubt to have, one cannot give his heart to Allah unless he can first give his mind to Him.

AbdulRachman gives Ziad an un-marked DVD.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)

Watch this.

INT. ZIAD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ziad watches the video of a beautiful, young PALESTINIAN GIRL (16) talking into the camera.

PALESTINIAN GIRL

My name is Rugialla Amboji, I am sixteen years old at the time of this video and by the time you see it I would have committed jihad. The Israeli's imprisoned my brother and beat my father until he lost the use of the right side of his body. For this and the suffering of my people I have decided to sacrifice myself to in the war. Mother, when you see this, do not be saddened, do not cry, be proud, for I am a mujahideen.

Ziad's eyes become WET with tears and then he looks at his application to Technical University of Hamburg.

INT./EXT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Ziad and Aysel walk past a MAILBOX marked: 'Aysel & Ziad'

ZIAD

It's not like I'll be that far away Assie, Hamburg is a straight shot Greifswald, only three hours one way. I'll be here every weekend.

Aysel play punches Ziad.

AYSEL

Ohh, but I want you here everyday! Lazy boy, mister my grades aren't good enough to get into Greifswald med.

ZIAD

I will still be here, in your fantasies, as you will be in mine.

AYSEL

I better.

Ziad and Aysel rip off each others clothes and toss their bags aside as they stumble into her apartment.

Ziad's book bag lands on the floor and BURSTS OPEN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

For a what Aysel? For a belief? A purpose greater than myself? Look, I shouldn't have lied to you and I am deeply sorry for that. But I will make that same decision a hundred times over, each and every time because it's the right one to make!

AYSEL

It's a mosque, there are mosques in Greifswald, why is this that important to you! I just want to understand who my boyfriend is inside.

ZIAD

You wouldn't understand yet.

AYSEL

Do you even understand yourself?

SILENCE.

ZIAD

You deserve better than this, you deserve an explanation, and when I have one, I'll come back, until then, take care of yourself.

Ziad EXITS.

Aysel cries.

EXT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - DAY

Ziad and AbdulRachman stand under the sign for: 'Al Quds Mosque' when ..

ASSAM

Ziad? Is that you?

ZIAD

Assam!, I haven't seen you since ..

ASSAM

..A few months back in Greifswald, I had to leave but now I'm here for school.

ZIAD

It's good to see you again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ziad and Assam SLAP HANDS and enter Al Quds Mosque together.

INT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone goes to their seats except Ziad who dials Aysel's telephone number on a payphone.

MOHAMED ATTA (28), an effeminate man whose grave demeanor is accentuated by BLACK EYELINER, stands at the podium.

MOHAMED ATTA

Ahem, you there in the back on the payphone.

Ziad motions for Mohamed Atta to wait.

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)

No sir, the message of Allah is about to be spoken, now get to your seat.

AYSEL (O.S.)

Hi, you've reached my voice mail, if you know who I am and have something to say, leave a message.

ZIAD

Aysel, it's me, I love you and I miss you, I just wanted to tell you that.

Ziad hangs up and GLARES at Mohamed Atta.

ZIAD (cont'd)

Thank you for letting me finish my call before you start.

INT./EXT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - LATER

Everyone goes to the exit but Ziad stays behind and puts away the chairs.

Assam goes towards the SMALL GROUP MEETING ROOM, in front of mosque where Mohamed Atta, MARWAN AL-SHEHHI (21), RAMZI BIN AL-SHIBH (38), SAID BAHAJI (21), ZAKARIYA ESSABAR (20) members of THE HAMBURG CELL, congregate with SHEIK MOHAMED AL-FAZIZI (45), the Al Quds Imam.

Mohamed Atta SHUTS THE DOOR on Assam.

ZIAD

Assam, don't take it too personally.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD (cont'd)
Even with Abdul's recommendation,
they wouldn't let me in. Show them
we're good Muslims and they will come
around.

Ziad gives Assam a BROOM, Assam NODS and sweeps the floor.

INT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - MORNING

Assam and a bearded Ziad and set up prayer mats when Mohamed Atta enters.

MOHAMED ATTA
You two, the toilets are unbecoming
of a place of worship, clean them.

Mohamed Atta exits to the small group meeting room.

ZIAD
You, there is some kind of big log up
your ass, take it out.

Ziad and Assam LAUGH.

INT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - NIGHT

Ziad and Assam mop the floor.

The Hamburg Cell leaves DIRT TRACKS on the floor as they walk to the Small Group Meeting Room.

Assam CLENCHES his broom, but Ziad sweeps the dirt tracks clean.

INT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - EVENING

Ziad and Assam sits in the back row of a packed congregation listening to Mohamed Atta preach.

A DISGRUNTLED SERMON ATTENDEE (21) stands up.

MOHAMED ATTA
You, what are you doing?

DISGRUNTLED SERMON ATTENDEE
Going to the bathroom.

MOHAMED ATTA
Return to your seat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SILENCE. The Disgruntled Sermon Attendee glares at Mohamed Atta.

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)
Hold yourself and listen to Allah's
message.

The Disgruntled Sermon Attendee goes to the bathroom until Ziad and Assam BLOCKS his path.

ZIAD
I do not like this guy either, but
you are still in the house of Allah,
respect.

ASSAM
Please, we do not want to start a
fight.

The Disgruntled Sermon Attendee returns to his seat.

INT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - LATER

Ziad and Assam sweep the floor.

MOHAMED ATTA
You two, come here.

Ziad and Assam enter the Small Group Meeting Room.

Mohamed Atta SHUTS the door behind them.

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)
We have a job for you.

EXT. HAMBURG UNIVERSITY CAMPUS GREEN - DAY

Ziad and Assam carry DUFFEL BAGS stuffed with PAMPHLETS and DVDs.

The Hamburg Cell surveys a crowd of students.

MOHAMED ATTA
There.

The Hamburg Cell surround a group of Muslim students.

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)
You two stay behind us and just do as
you're told.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)
 (to Muslim students)
 Excuse me brothers, we would like to
 invite you to Al Quds mosque this
 Friday. It would give us great
 pleasure if you attend.

One of the students SPITS on the ground..

DISGRUNTLED SERMON ATTENDEE
 Fuck you 'brother'.

SILENCE. Mohamed Atta stares perplexedly at the student.

DISGRUNTLED SERMON ATTENDEE (cont'd)
 You don't remember me, do you? You're
 even more of a hypocrite than I
 thought. Should I take off my pants
 and shit on the ground in front of
 you, now that you're not preaching
 the word of Allah, would that help
 you remember?

The Hamburg Cell SURROUND the Disgruntled Sermon Attendee.

Ziad tries to join them until Assam PULLS HIM BACK.

ZIAD
 What are you doing?

ASSAM
 Look.

The Disgruntled Sermon Attendee goes to the CAMPUS POLICE
 and point his finger at Mohamed Atta.

The police walk towards the Hamburg Cell.

Mohamed Atta retreats into the crowd, the Hamburg Cell
 follows him.

Other students back away from Ziad and Assam.

ASSAM (cont'd)
 Aren't we supposed to be converting
 them to us, not pushing them away?

SILENCE. No response from Ziad.

INT. MOHAMED ATTA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The Hamburg Cell and other men sit in a circle on the floor
 with copies of the Q'uran in their lap.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ziad and Assam are outside the circle, folding pamphlets and preparing food.

Mohamed Atta STAMPS HIS FOOT.

MOHAMED ATTA

Talk, talk, talk that is all we do!
We have done enough talk! We are
mujahideen, warriors of Allah, it is
time we started acting like it!

ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI

You are confusing your own desire for
vengeance with Allah's struggle. No
one said this would be easy, we
persist and go back tomorrow.

MOHAMED ATTA

That infidel would have told the
police everything about us now. We'll
be arrested and I will not lose it
all something so petty.

ZIAD

I have an idea.

MOHAMED ATTA

Who asked you?

ZIAD

I don't need your invitation to
speak, now listen, I have a plan to
spread our reputation as mujahideen
to be respected and feared and come
out of this, unscathed. After what we
do, those who feel the truth will
come, the others who would run away
from us were never be true Muslims
anyway.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Ziad, Assam, and the Hamburg Cell all wear BLACK SKI MASKS
and hide in the shadows.

The Disgruntled Sermon Attendee enters.

The Hamburg Cell GRAB the Disgruntled Sermon Attendee and
STUFF A RAG into his mouth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

You call yourself Muslim, yet you betray us to the infidels. You have one chance to redeem yourself, get out of Hamburg or we will report to the police that you've been harassing us, one testimony versus many. Do you understand?

A WOMAN (23) who resembles Aysel comes out of a house.

AYSEL LOOKALIKE

Mo, what's going on?

ASSAM

Get back inside!

Assam SHOVES her into the house, she rips off his ski mask and exposes his face.

ASSAM (cont'd)

Get inside! Get inside now, you never saw my face, you understand!

Ziad steps between her and Assam.

ZIAD

That's enough Assam, calm down.
(to Aysel Lookalike)
Now please, go inside.

The Woman runs back inside her house.

A POLICE CAR appears.

Everyone SCATTERS.

ASSAM

She saw my face and you said my name!

ZIAD

Shut up!

INT. BULLET TRAIN - NIGHT

Ziad's eyes are closed, his face WINCED with pain.

FLASHBACK: The Woman opens the door, Ziad pushes her to the ground and then he sees her face, it is Aysel. He reaches out to her, but she runs away from him.

Ziad OPENS his eyes and looks at a PICTURE OF AYSEL.

INT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Aysel opens the door for Ziad.

AYSEL
Well hey there stranger.

ZIAD
I need to see you.

AYSEL
Most surely, it's three AM in the morning, this couldn't wait until six hours from now?

Ziad HUGS Aysel and then BACKS OFF.

ZIAD
I'm sorry, I should have asked for your permission first.

AYSEL
Relax, is everything OK?

ZIAD
Just so much been going on in Hamburg with ..
(pause)
School that I feel like I was lost in another world. I just needed to, I don't know. I just needed to see you.

Aysel HUGS Ziad.

AYSEL
It's OK, I'm here for you, it's OK.

Aysel and Ziad go inside.

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - LATER

POST-COITAL.

AYSEL
So was that the reason you needed me? Muhammad Claus.

Aysel tugs at Ziad's beard.

ZIAD
Yes that was part of it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

Only a part?

Aysel kisses Ziad.

ZIAD

Let's go out after this, stop whatever you're doing and enjoy Greifswald.

AYSEL

Greifswald? Since when did you miss this place.

ZIAD

Since I left you behind here.

Ziad and Aysel kiss.

INT. GERMAN RESTAURANT - MORNING

A waitress lays two breakfast plates for Ziad and Aysel.

Aysel reaches for her food but then STOPS when she sees Ziad bow his head in prayer.

Aysel bows her head as well.

ZIAD

You're coming along there Aysel.

Aysel responds with a FAKE SMILE.

ZIAD (cont'd)

Excuse me waitress, is this halal?

WAITRESS

Hal, what?

ZIAD

Never mind.

Ziad pushes his sausages aside and eats his eggs.

Aysel puts down her knife and fork.

ZIAD (cont'd)

What are you doing?

AYSEL

Nothing, I just suddenly lost my appetite is all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOHAMED ATTA (O.S.)
Call back right away, this is an
urgent matter.

AYSEL
Strange, no name, doesn't explain
himself? He said it was an emergency
though.

Aysel picks up the phone, Ziad puts it back on the ringer.

ZIAD
Don't, it sounds strange, a scam
probably to get you to call back and
fetch your credit card information.
If it's important, he'll call back.
Hey, I have to run an errand, on the
other side of town, be back in an
hour OK?

Aysel NODS, Ziad exits.

Aysel dials Mohamed Atta's number, no response.

Aysel dials the operator.

AYSEL
Operator, give me all the information
you can on my last incoming call.

Aysel writes down the operator's response.

INT. GREIFSWALD MOSQUE - LATER

Ziad GLARES at AbdulRachman.

ZIAD
Did you give him her number?

SILENCE. No response from AbdulRachman.

ZIAD (cont'd)
Did you give him her number!

ABDULRACHMAN
It's urgent, they need you back at
Hamburg, I, I didn't have another way
to reach you.

ZIAD
Leave her out of it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ziad dials Mohamed Atta's telephone number.

ZIAD (cont'd)
Mr. Atta, what is so urgent that you
had to call my girlfriend's house
today?

Ziad listens.

INT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - AFTERNOON

Ziad, Assam and the Hamburg Cell form a ring around Mohamed Atta.

MOHAMED ATTA
We have reason to believe that the
German police have placed us on their
watch list, for the time being, our
small group will meet at the iron
factory instead. Do not tell anyone
of this.

Everyone NODS.

EXT. HAMBURG IRON FACTORY - NIGHT

An UNDERCOVER POLICE VEHICLE drives around the factory.

GERMAN POLICEMAN
There's nothing here.

ASSAM
I am certain my information is
correct, please just another round.

INT. ASSAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Assam enters, turns on the lights and sees Ziad.

ASSAM
Ziad, brother, please let me explain.

ZIAD
(interrupting)
Why the defensive attitude Assam? You
did a great service.

ASSAM
They saw my face, I had no choice!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

You see I actually believed you that time on campus when you held me back from helping my brothers. I thought our tactics were too heavy handed especially to use on fellow Muslims. I went back to Greifswald to clear my head, get some perspective on all this, even thought of leaving Al Quds. And then I got a call from him.

Mohamed Atta and the Hamburg Cell surround Assam.

ZIAD (cont'd)

I couldn't believe it, I defended you, I said Assam would never betray us to the police, that's not only cowardly, that's just plain dumb. The test would prove your innocence. And when it didn't, I realized without a doubt, on whose side I belong, and what needed to be done next.

Assam DASHES to the door but the Hamburg Cell PIN him to the ground.

ZIAD (cont'd)

Why? Why couldn't you have just run away? Or just tell us, I want out?

No response from Assam.

ZIAD (cont'd)

Why!

ASSAM

Because either way, this would be the result, you fucking fanatics. I just didn't realize you would be one of them.

Ziad kicks Assam, once, twice, three times and then lifts his bloody face off the ground.

ZIAD

They would have killed you, but your face now will serve as a reminder to everyone of what will happen to those who oppose the mujahideen. Let the so called moderate Muslims see it for five days and disappear on the sixth or we will not be so merciful next time.

EXT. GREIFSWALD MOSQUE - DAY

Ziad smiles as he watches Aysel playing with children.

AYSEL
Why are you staring at me?

ZIAD
For being you.

AYSEL
Well OK, volunteering to tutor kids,
so random, of all the things we could
have done, why this?

ZIAD
I just needed to feel like I was a
good person again.

SILENCE. Aysel has no response for Ziad.

A boy kicks a ball to Ziad, who catches it with his feet and
kicks it around himself.

AYSEL
Show off! If we have son, he better
not be as vain as you.

Ziad STOPS and smiles at Aysel, giving the boy just enough
time to steal the ball from him.

ZIAD
Oh hey, hey, that's cheating, you
caught me off guard.

Ziad chases the boy up the field.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - DAY

Ziad slides a PERSONAL CHECK to the JEWELRY STORE CLERK
(32), then the Jewelry Clerk slides him a RING BOX.

JEWELRY STORE CLERK
Congratulations.

INT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - EVENING

Ziad enters, only the Hamburg Cell and rows of empty chairs
are there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOHAMED ATTA

Your warning to the Muslim community worked too well.

ZIAD

As did your preaching.

MOHAMED ATTA

And you are happy with our work?

ZIAD

Actually yes, since now we know who are the true believers, who would commit our lives completely over to Allah. Even if it means tolerating your ugly mug, Mohamed.

MUFFLED CHUCKLING.

MOHAMED ATTA

Do you find it funny that the police have taken an interest in our mosque and have gotten to circling my home in their patrol cars, or didn't you even know? as you're not the leader.

ZIAD

Then lead us, find us a new place to meet, give us a mission worthy enough for us to commit.

INT. RUNDOWN APARTMENT - NIGHT

The Hamburg Cell sit on a wooden floor strewn with sleeping bags and boxes of bulk foodstuffs.

Ziad speaks on the telephone on the other side of the room.

ZIAD

End of the month, please.

AYSEL (O.S.)

That's the weekend before midterms, I need time to study, so do you? And Why the rush all of a sudden?

Ziad looks at his ENGAGEMENT RING BOX.

ZIAD

No reason, I just really want to see you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

Then all we're going to do is study,
no sightseeing or sitting at
restaurants where you're going to
ignore half the food, got it?

ZIAD

Yes, see you then, love you.

Ziad hangs up and goes to the Hamburg Cell.

MOHAMED ATTA

Brother Ziad, while you were talking
with your woman, we have decided to
work with Sheik Osama Bin Laden and
Al Qaeda to fulfill our mission of
jihad. Do you have any objections?

ZIAD

No.

MOHAMED ATTA

Brother Abdul. You are on the
authorities watch list, you must
leave.

ABDULRACHMAN

I belong here, you know my loyalty is
true.

MOHAMED ATTA

Which is why you will serve as part
of our support network here.

Ziad HUGS AbdulRachman and then AbdulRachman EXITS.

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)

As for the rest of us, we will be
expected in Afghanistan for training,
perhaps even as soon as the end of
the month.

Ziad SHAKES.

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)

Is there a problem?

ZIAD

No, I just need to get my things in
order.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOHAMED ATTA
And perhaps find the proper
motivation.

SILENCE. No response from Ziad.

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)
We will meet with an Al Qaeda agent
at Hamburg Steel factory tomorrow
nine pm.

INT. PUBLIC BUS - NIGHT

Ziad holds a picture of Aysel in one hand and the Q'uran in
the other.

The bus passes a sign for Hamburg Steel Factory.

Ziad PRESSES the stop button.

The bus STOPS, Ziad hesitates.

BUS DRIVER
You getting off or what?

ZIAD
No, next stop, please.

INT. AYSEL'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Aysel and Ziad STARE at each other across a red wine and two
candles, Ziad is still wearing his apron.

Aysel breaks into laughter.

ZIAD
Is something funny?

AYSEL
Well yes, I mean look at you, trying
to be all suave and all and you're
wearing that little girl's apron, it
makes you look ridiculous. Well
anyway, so what's the occasion?

ZIAD
No occasion, can't a guy just treat
his lady right because she's his
lady.

Ziad places a plate with ONE LARGE CLAM in front of Aysel.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

Oh my God it's still closed, that means I'll get food poisoning and die if I eat it.

ZIAD

Would you open it please?

AYSEL

Open it for me.

ZIAD

Please, for my sake, open it.

Aysel opens the clam, inside is a DIAMOND RING.

ZIAD (cont'd)

Would you?

Tears stream down Aysel's cheek and she nods YES.

INT. MISTER SENGUN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Aysel and a clean shaven Ziad sit on the sofa facing AYSEL'S FATHER (50).

AYSEL'S FATHER

You are a young man to afford such a ring, did your parents help you buy that?

ZIAD

No sir I have a part time job while I am in school, I wanted to get it for her from what I earned myself.

Aysel squeezes Ziad's hand but lets go when her father looks at her.

AYSEL'S FATHER

You are a Muslim man, no? from ..

ZIAD

Lebanon.

AYSEL'S FATHER

Your family lived thru tough times then, these past ten years.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

We have a house in the country side,
away from the fighting, so we were
spared.

AYSEL'S FATHER

And how do you feel about that war?

ZIAD

I was too young to remember sir, I
guess you could say I used to have no
opinion at all.

AYSEL'S FATHER

And now?

ZIAD

And now, as many young men do, I
developed an interest in my heritage.

AYSEL'S FATHER

So you would support the Muslim side
yes?

Ziad sees a copy of the Q'uran lying on the coffee table.

ZIAD

Yes.

AYSEL'S FATHER

Good man, then I guess you and I
agree on the current state of affairs
in the Islamic world.

ZIAD

Perhaps, I'm not sure what your views
are exactly sir but as a proud Muslim
man you must feel that injustice is
being done.

AYSEL'S FATHER

And what would you do to correct that
injustice?

ZIAD

Anything

(pause)

Actually, I'm not sure I haven't
thought about it that much, I've been
busy with my studies.

Aysel's father OPENS the front door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL'S FATHER

Leave my house and never let me see you again.

ZIAD

I don't understand, Mr. Sengun.

AYSEL'S FATHER

I do not need to explain myself in my own house.

Ziad stares at Aysel's Father, Aysel's father stares back.

ZIAD

Yes sir.

Ziad EXITS, door shuts behind him.

AYSEL'S FATHER (O.S.)

I will not marry you off to that man!

AYSEL (O.S.)

Why because he's not Turkish!?
Because he's Middle Eastern!?

AYSEL'S FATHER (O.S.)

Because he is an extremist! You think he would accept you as a doctor, as your own woman?

AYSEL (O.S.)

He loves me.

AYSEL'S FATHER (O.S.)

There is more to a man than how much he loves his woman.

Aysel opens the door, goes to Ziad, hugs him and squeezes her hand into his.

Then she goes back into her house and shuts the door.

Ziad opens his palm and sees his ENGAGEMENT RING.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - DAY

Ziad PUSHES the engagement ring back to the store clerk.

The store clerk pushes a REFUND SLIP to Ziad.

INT. RUNDOWN APARTMENT - NIGHT

The Hamburg Cell sits around a table.

RAMZI BIN AL SHEED

We must move now! We cannot afford to wait for the transfer, look I have access to other funds.

MOHAMED ATTA

Measures have been taken to assure their transfer is clean, untraceable, are you so certain about your sources?

SILENCE.

ZIAD (O.S.)

I have enough funds, the check was cashed in Turkey, it is clean, if you would have me back.

Everyone turns to Ziad.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN - MORNING

Sound of HORN BLASTING. The Hamburg Cell yawns as they crawl out of their tents, except for Ziad who is already dressed.

MOHAMED ATTA

Too early, even for me.

Ziad YANKS his shoelaces tight.

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)

You want rip your shoelaces apart?

ZIAD

Like I do the life of infidels who would repress Islam and shame us for wanting what is rightfully ours.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN - DAY

The Hamburg Cell CRAWL beneath barbed wire with Ziad in the lead until a razor blade cuts a FOUR INCH GASH into his back.

Ziad SCREAMS but then crawls even faster.

The stragglings Hamburg Cell see this and pick up the pace.

INT. AL QAEDA MOSQUE - EVENING

Ziad and the Hamburg Cell listen to an AL QAEDA IMAM (55).

AL QAEDA IMAM

You are the chosen mujahideen, you are chosen because you have chosen yourselves to be soldiers in this war, to restore pride to the Islamic world where it has been lost. The infidels will turn the world against us, label us evil, extremists, shame us by their secular standards.

Ziad NODS and clenches his fists.

AL QAEDA IMAM (cont'd)

The infidels will turn even our own against us, our parents, brothers and wives will tell us to stop, will plead us to come back to them, to come back to our senses, will even leave us, sometimes never to return. But this is all a test of resolve by Allah, will we yield under the pressure or will we stay the course and prove that we are a force to be reckoned with!

ZIAD

Aie!, Aie!, Aie!

EXT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

DOORBELL RINGS, Aysel opens the door and sees a line of ROSE PETALS.

She follows the line around the corner to Ziad who is wearing a T-SHIRT emblazoned with a symbol of a heart on top of the American Flag.

ZIAD

Hello Aysel.

SILENCE. No response from Aysel.

ZIAD (cont'd)

I won't beg for you to accept me, I've done nothing wrong. I won't rationalize or excuse my beliefs or my bloodline. I am proud of them and
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD (cont'd)
will not change it for anyone, not
even you.

Ziad pauses and stares into Aysel's eyes.

ZIAD (cont'd)
But I promise, I swear on my blood
that I will not hurt anyone in the
name of my beliefs. I've missed you
and I ask you now: Aysel, would you
accept me back into your life as your
husband?

He reaches out his hand, she takes it, then they walk back
to Aysel's house.

AYSEL
Did your brothers pick out that shirt
for you? It's atrocious.

ZIAD
It's just a shirt, to let the world
know we are moderates and we mean no
harm.

INT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - DAY

Ziad and Aysel enter, hand in hand.

MOHAMED ATTA
Ziad and you must be his lovely
betrothed Aysel.

Aysel tries to KISS Mohamed Atta's cheek, he BACKS away from
it.

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)
I'm sorry, we are backward and not
used to your cosmopolitan ways here,
won't you forgive my meekness.

Ziad puts a BLACK shawl over Aysel's exposed shoulders, she
wraps it around her body and runs it thru her fingers.

AYSEL
I like it actually, the feel of the
fabric.

But then Ziad rips the shawl off her shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

Not long enough, it must cover your hips as well.

Aysel notices the other men SNEERING at her.

INT. ZIAD'S HOUSE - LATER

Aysel, ARMS CROSSED, sit across from Ziad.

ZIAD

It's my mosque.

AYSEL

And our marriage, I'm sorry I don't like the feel of that place. It's not a good fit for me.

ZIAD

Do I need to repeat myself, it's my mosque!

AYSEL

I'm not going to throw a fit Ziad, or make ultimatums, but if you can't compromise with me on this, then do you really want to marry me? You can have it at your mosque if it is that important to you.

SILENCE.

INT./EXT. AL NUR MOSQUE - DAY

SIGN ON THE BUILDING READS: AL-NUR MOSQUE

Ziad KISSES Aysel.

AbdulRachman and the Hamburg Cell, except for Mohamed Atta, clap their hands.

After a moment Mohamed Atta CLAPS.

INT. ZIAD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

POST-COITAL. Aysel caresses Ziad's chest.

AYSEL

How does it feel to be a husband now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD

Same as before. I am still with the woman I love and I could never imagine myself with someone else.

Ziad TURNS onto his back, Aysel sees his FOUR INCH RAZOR WIRE SCAR.

AYSEL

Z, tell me again about Afghanistan?

ZIAD

Enlightening like nothing I've ever done, it hardened my sense of purpose from coal into a diamond.

Aysel pulls aside the bed sheet covering Ziad's lower body and sees FRESH SCARS on his leg and thigh.

AYSEL

Sounds like you were preparing for a war rather than doing humanitarian work. Was it dangerous? Did you do anything physical like scale mountains or build mosques?

ZIAD

No, just preach and listen to preaching, though I did ride a horse.

(pause)

Listen, I want to start a family with you, have a son and name him after your dad just to spite him.

Aysel SMILES.

AYSEL

We will see what happens.

INT./EXT. ZIAD'S HOUSE - MORNING

Sound of BANGING on the door wakes Aysel.

AYSEL

Do you want me to get it?

ZIAD

No!, I mean don't worry about it, probably just the mailman, stay inside, I'll get it.

Ziad goes outside where Mohamed Atta is waiting.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD (cont'd)

What is so urgent that you had to disturb me six am the night after my wedding?

MOHAMED ATTA

There's been a change in plans, everyone needs to come back to Afghanistan.

Aysel PEAKS out the second floor window and sees Mohamed Atta put an AIRPLANE ticket into Ziad's hands.

INT. ZIAD'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Aysel lies in bed, pretending to be asleep. Ziad taps her shoulder.

ZIAD

Morning beloved.

AYSEL

Is there something you need to tell me?

ZIAD

You read me like a book, is my face that obvious?

SILENCE. No response from Aysel.

ZIAD (cont'd)

I, have to return to Afghanistan, there is an issue with one of the mosques that we set up there, people's lives are at stake.

AYSEL

OK, but how long will you be gone? Is there a way I can reach you.

ZIAD

Don't worry, I'll be fine and as always when I return there will be rose petals at your feet.

INT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - DAY

Aysel sits besides Emelda and stares at her text book.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EMELDA
You alright there?

Aysel NODS.

EMELDA (cont'd)
You've been stared at that page for
over ten minutes, talk to me.

AYSEL
How are things with Salim?

Emelda points to her ENGAGEMENT RING and sees the ring on
Aysel's finger.

EMELDA
Can I assume it's the same with you?

AYSEL
Yeah, of course.
(pause)
Does Salim keep secrets from you? Not
bad ones, just things he'd rather not
tell you like with his Muslim
brothers and such.

EMELDA
Yeah I know, it feels like an old
boys club, no girls allowed.

AYSEL
Does he take it seriously, Islam?

EMELDA
Not as seriously as your Ziad from
what I've heard and yes Aysel I have
heard.

Aysel's eyes wet with tears.

AYSEL
There's a part of his life that I
don't know about and I don't want to
know about because it scares me. But
I know he loves me, I know that much.

EMELDA
The things men are capable of doing
while supposedly being in love.
Assie, it doesn't matter that you
have a ring on your finger or how
many years you've been with him, you
have to think about your own life and
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EMELDA (cont'd)
 whether this is a workable
 relationship you can see yourself
 being in. God forbid you realize it
 can't work out after you have kids
 and family involved.

SILENCE.

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Aysel dials Ziad's telephone number.

RANDOM FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
 Hello?

AYSEL
 Hello, who is this? I'm looking for
 Ziad Jarrah.

RANDOM FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
 Ziad Jarrah, you mean the guy I'm
 subletting from.

AYSEL
 Yes, did he tell you how long he
 would be gone for?

RANDOM FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
 His landlady said I can stay one to
 two months, possibly three months,
 she couldn't give me an exact time.
 She did leave me with some number in
 case of emergency.

AYSEL
 Can you give it to me?

Aysel writes down a telephone number and then dials it.

HUSKY MALE VOICE (O.S.)
 Hello?

AYSEL
 Hi, may I speak with Mr. Jarrah, I am
 his classmate from Hamburg
 University, I need his part of a
 project we worked on.

HUSKY MALE VOICE (O.S.)
 I'm sorry, I do not know how to help
 you with that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

His landlady gave me this telephone number as a way to contact him, please is there any way?

HUSKY MALE VOICE (O.S.)

I'm sorry I cannot help you, no one at this number knows anything about Ziad Jarrah.

AYSEL

Since when did I tell you his first name was Ziad?

CLICK.

INT./EXT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - AFTERNOON

Aysel and Salim enter, the room is empty except for AbdulRachman and one other man sweeping the floor.

ABDULRACHMAN

Greetings Ms. Aysel.

AYSEL

Hello Abdul

ABDULRACHMAN

Greetings Salim.

SILENCE. Salim just glares at AbdulRachman.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)

Let us dispense with pretenses then, I asked every brother in attendance about Ziad last Friday, but no one knows anything.

AYSEL

Please brother Abdul.

SALIM

He said he doesn't know anything, we should not waste his time or ours any further.

AYSEL

Please. Brother Abdul, I respect your concerns for Ziad's safety, but I'm begging you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABDULRACHMAN

I'm sorry.

AYSEL

I'm not asking you to tell me where he is or give me information that might jeopardize their work. But please, if you can let me know he is OK, give me some signal that he is OK. For my sake and his family's. I have his child Abdul, I am pregnant with Ziad's child!!

AbdulRachman, Salim, and the man sweeping the floor stare at Aysel.

INT. AL QAEDA MILITARY COMMAND TENT - DAY

Mohamed Atta and the man sweeping the floor from Al Quds Mosque, in fact an undercover AL QAEDA INTELLIGENCE OFFICER are in the room.

MOHAMED ATTA

If he discovers that we knew and did not tell him.

AL QAEDA INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

(interrupting)

She could have said that to provoke us to give away our position. Al Qaeda will not allow Ziad Jarrah to contact this woman directly.

MOHAMED ATTA

Because it might put one of us clean recruits on some U.N. watch list?

Al Qaeda Intelligence Officer SCOFFS and walks away until ..

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)

How many times has she tried to contact one of ours already? How sure are you that this woman is not on a watch list herself and everyone of us she tries to contact isn't also being logged for investigation?

The Al Qaeda Intelligence Officer STOPS.

AL QAEDA INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

What do you suggest we do?

EXT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Aysel takes a HANDWRITTEN ENVELOP from her mailbox, looks at it and then RUNS inside.

INT. JARRAH HOUSE - DAY

ZIAD'S FATHER is on the telephone, ZIAD'S MOTHER sits besides him.

ZIAD'S FATHER
Are you sure it's from him?

AYSEL (O.S.)
Yes, it's his language, his handwriting.

ZIAD'S FATHER
All blessings and salutations be onto Allah, our son is safe!

Ziad's mother SIGHS with relief.

ZIAD'S FATHER (cont'd)
Does it say anything about when he will be back?

AYSEL (O.S.)
A few weeks more, he doesn't get more specific than that, but he says he is safe and will continue to be, that we don't need to keep searching for him.

Salim enters.

SALIM
(whispering)
Ask her if she knows it's a boy or girl yet.

ZIAD'S FATHER
Is there anything else you want to tell us Aysel?

AYSEL
Besides that I'm relieved as you are? No, nothing at all.

ZIAD'S FATHER
Are you sure? You are like family, a daughter. You can tell us anything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD'S MOTHER
(interrupting)

Samir.

Ziad's mother SHAKES HER HEAD NO and then takes the phone from Ziad's father.

ZIAD'S MOTHER (cont'd)
Thank you Aysel, you've done so much already. Do not worry too much about my son, you have your own life as well.

Ziad's mother hangs up the phone.

INT. AL QAEDA MILITARY COMMAND TENT - NIGHT

Ziad faces Mohamed Atta and the Al Qaeda Intelligence officer.

ZIAD
I don't understand, just one call, there's no way they'll trace it back to here.

AL QAEDA INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
And how do you know?

ZIAD
You order me here the day after my wedding, I say nothing and just accept it. You ask me to write a letter, and I do it. I have been more than patient with you, now I want an explanation!

MOHAMED ATTA
Aysel called several operatives in Europe, the officers were scared that their identities would be uncovered, we had you write a letter to appease her.

ZIAD
This is not my first absence, why was she asking for me?

MOHAMED ATTA
We don't know, she was wise enough not to tell us her reasons.

Ziad EXITS.

INT. AL QAEDA MOSQUE - LATER

Ziad sits in the back row, listening to the Al Qaeda Imam

AL QAEDA IMAM

And what of the innocent Muslims who may suffer inadvertently from jihad, you may ask. Does Allah not mourn for them? Or can we just write them off as 'collateral damage'?

ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI (40) and HANI HANJOUR (25) sit besides Ziad and scream 'Aie'.

Ziad STARES at them.

AL QAEDA IMAM (cont'd)

No, no, no! My brothers, Allah mourns, Allah cries, Allah remembers and Allah recompenses by bringing those who suffered because of us into heaven to celebrate for eternity.

The entire congregation says 'Aie' except for Ziad.

AL QAEDA IMAM (cont'd)

All of them, as long as they have declared their faith in Allah and Allah alone. Irregardless of race, color, creed, Arab, Lebanese, Turkish or blonde hair blue eyed Aryan. All of them will get seventy two virgins in heaven whether they can handle them or not.

Zacarias Moussaoui LAUGHS, Ziad remains silent.

ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI

What is the matter? Are you intimidated by the prospect of so many virgins? I will gladly take them from you if you can't handle them.

ZIAD

Seventy two women? My brother, can you even handle one?

Ziad walks out on the sermon.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN - DAWN

Ziad sits alone, watching the sunrise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BANG, BANG, the sound of rifle fire.

Ziad sees Zacarias Moussaoui and Hani HanJour shoot rifles at STRAW MEN.

The rest of Hamburg Cell enter, the two shooters point their rifles at them.

ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI
Don't move Infidel!

HANI HANJOUR
Bang!, Bang!, Bang!

ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI
Haha, this is more work than we will have to do in real life, in real life rifles will do the bang sound for us.

Everyone laughs. Ziad SPITS on the ground and walks away.

INT. AL QAEDA MILITARY COMMAND TENT - LATER

Mohamed Atta faces the Al Qaeda Intelligence Officer.

AL QAEDA INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
This is absurd, Jarrah is too vital!

The Al Qaeda Intelligence Officer COCKS HIS PISTOL.

AL QAEDA INTELLIGENCE OFFICER (cont'd)
He will not leave.

MOHAMED ATTA
You are going to send a disgruntled operative with every opportunity to betray us on a solo flight to America?

SILENCE.

MOHAMED ATTA (cont'd)
I will talk to him, alone, he is my duty.

The Al Qaeda Intelligence Officer exits, Ziad enters.

ZIAD
You? Of all the people they could have sent to try to persuade me, they sent you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ziad walks away from Mohamed Atta until.

MOHAMED ATTA

You think this is easy Ziad? Putting up with your insolence, with their "leadership"? With the stupidity of some of the people we have to work with?

(pause)

Yes, I said it.

(pause)

You made a vow Jarrah! Do you break it so easily.

ZIAD

I break nothing! My commitment is to Allah, not to you and not to Al Qaeda!

(pause)

I will do logistical support with AbdulRachman.

MOHAMED ATTA

You assume that you have a life to go back to, that you can go back to her so easily? Jihad today, Aysel tomorrow, how many times before she's had enough?

ZIAD

Don't talk about her like you know anything about her!

(pause)

You know what? Why am I even taking you seriously? Since when have you had experience with any woman?

MOHAMED ATTA

I know more than you think Ziad. I know what it feels like to believe in someone without doubt, without question and then be disappointed and that's when you know, only Allah is real.

ZIAD

What are you ranting about? Am I a psychologist for you to vent about your mother?

SILENCE. Mohamed Atta's pained expression answers Ziad's question.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ziad walks towards the exit.

MOHAMED ATTA

She'll disappoint you, she's an infidel! She'll cheat on with another man and then what? You won't have her, you would dishonored yourself to Allah, you'll have nothing!

Ziad SLAMS the door as he exits.

INT./EXT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Aysel OPENS her door, rose petals swirl around her feet.

Ziad enters, holding a bouquet of flowers and a jewelry bag.

AYSEL

Your entrances are getting a bit cliched.

ZIAD

As are your reactions.

Aysel runs to Ziad, lifts her off her feet and carries her inside.

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - LATER

Aysel and Ziad lie next to each other in bed.

ZIAD

When I looked out at the mountains of Afghanistan, at the work my brothers and I were doing, I just thought of you and I realized that I was meant for something else.

AYSEL

Oh, like what?

ZIAD

Like making sure that Allah has a new generation of warriors after what will happen. I want to start a family Aysel, I want a son.

Aysel NODS and they kiss.

Ziad's arm KNOCKS OVER Aysel's purse, he reaches over her to pick it up until Aysel guides his hand onto her NECK.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL
I want your hand, your eyes, your
entire being right here.

Ziad KISSES her.

Aysel shoves her BOTTLE OF CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS back into her
purse and snaps it shut.

EXT. BARROOM - NIGHT

Ziad and Aysel walk towards the bar.

AYSEL
It's been too long.

ZIAD
Not long enough, I told you I don't
drink any more and neither should
you.

AYSEL
Oh relax will you.

Salim enters.

AYSEL (cont'd)
Salim!

SALIM
Aysel, stomach still as as flat rock.

AYSEL
(whispering)
Shh, he doesn't know.

ZIAD
What are you two whispering about?

SALIM
Just that we have a surprise for you
inside!

Ziad stares perplexedly at Aysel and Salim.

INT. BARROOM - LATER

Everyone CHUGS down beer except for Ziad and Aysel who chug
WATER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Aysel pushes Ziad's beer glass into his nose until Ziad SQUIRTS water out of his nostrils.

Aysel and Salim laugh then Ziad laughs.

Aysel stands.

AYSEL

Dance with me

She grabs Ziad's hand, but he does not budge, so she goes to the dance floor herself.

Aysel BLOWS a kiss to Ziad and WAVES for him to come.

Instead an AMERICAN JOCK (22) pushes himself into Aysel's personal space.

AMERICAN JOCK

(slurred speech)

Hey there little lady, what's your name?

AYSEL

Aysel and that right there is my boyfriend, actually my husband.

AMERICAN JOCK

What did you say, you want to dance with me?

The American Jock DANCES around Aysel, who GIGGLES as she pushes him away.

AYSEL

Thank you but that's my husband over there.

The American Jock ignores Aysel and dances even closer until Ziad TAPS his shoulder.

ZIAD

Excuse me.

Ziad steps into the American Jock's personal space, the American Jock FALLS ONTO HIS BACK.

SILENCE. Everyone stares.

Ziad grabs Aysel's hand and goes to the exit when ..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMERICAN JOCK

What's the matter? Scurrying back to where you're from.

Ziad and Aysel ignore the taunt and continue to the exit.

AMERICAN JOCK (cont'd)

Don't play high and mighty with me Ghandi.

Salim gets into the American Jock's face.

SALIM

Say that one more time.

ZIAD

Salim, back off!

Everyone STOPS at the intensity of Ziad's declaration.

ZIAD (cont'd)

The morning will come, soon, when the ground will shake beneath your feet, I bow now, but the day of my victory over your kind is coming.

Aysel DROPS Ziad's hand, Ziad grabs it and yanks her out of the bar.

INT. AYSEL'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ziad SLAMS his fist on the table.

ZIAD

You were leading him on!

AYSEL

You're out of your mind, I was trying to tell him that you were my husband! He was drunk, he wouldn't listen, I didn't want things to turn out the way it did.

ZIAD

You say you're my wife yet you show no respect to what I say. Still you listen to Western music.

Ziad BANGS the radio shut.

ZIAD (cont'd)

Still you drink and you dress like.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL
(interrupting)
Like what Ziad? Say it! What do I
dress like?

Ziad throws a SWEATER at Aysel.

ZIAD
Cover yourself, just cover yourself.

AYSEL
My dad warned me about Muslim men
when he kicked you out of the house,
maybe he was right.

Ziad SLAPS Aysel.

SILENCE.

ZIAD
I'm sorry.

Ziad EXITS.

INT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - DAY

Ziad sits next to AbdulRachman.

ABDULRACHMAN
You were right to be angry.

ZIAD
I shouldn't have laid hands on her.
Just seeing that infidel try to get
his claws on her and seeing her and
Salim.

ABDULRACHMAN
Salim, you mean your cousin, why do
you mention him?

ZIAD
Nothing, just my imagination got the
best of me.

ABDULRACHMAN
Well, what happened exactly? What did
you imagine?

SILENCE. No response from Ziad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)
I am your brother, tell me it will
lift a burden off your chest.

ZIAD
I saw Aysel whisper something to
Salim, for a moment I thought they
may have been.

ABDULRACHMAN
May have been ..

Ziad LAUGHS, then AbdulRachman LAUGHS.

ZIAD
Ridiculous right, can you imagine
Salim and Aysel together, one too
many days under the Afghan sun.

ABDULRACHMAN
Cheating on her husband with her
unborn child's cousin, not even the
Infidels would forgive that.

ZIAD
Aysel is with child?

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Ziad watches Aysel DRINK WINE.

ZIAD
So I'm going to complete my degree
soon and then how many years before
you complete your doctorate?

AYSEL
Oh stop teasing, you know I'm already
done with class.

Aysel KISSES Ziad.

ZIAD
Funny, but seriously, that means we
can start thinking about our future
together, wouldn't you think?

Aysel nods.

ZIAD (cont'd)
Like buying a house, trying to talk
sense to your dad one more time. I
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD (cont'd)
mean seriously, I have just the
method to persuade him.

AYSEL
What method is that?

ZIAD
Why we'll tell him you're pregnant,
it's true right?

SILENCE.

AYSEL
I didn't know where you were, I was
scared for you and not just me, your
parents as well.

ZIAD
It's OK, I mean it's not OK that
you're drinking wine now.

Ziad pushes Aysel's wine glass away from her.

ZIAD (cont'd)
I mean, c'mon, what are you thinking?

AYSEL
Ziad, the reason, I didn't tell you
about my pregnancy was because I'm
not pregnant anymore, I had a
miscarriage. You had just returned
and you were so happy, I didn't want
to ruin it for you.

Ziad HUGS Aysel.

ZIAD
We can try again, maybe even right
now.

Aysel NODS.

Ziad goes to the bathroom and closes the door behind him.

Aysel SIFTS THRU HER PURSE.

AYSEL
C'mon, c'mon.

Ziad re-enters holding a BOTTLE OF CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS.

ZIAD
What's this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SILENCE.

ZIAD (cont'd)
I asked what the hell is this!

AYSEL
They're from Emelda, she must have
left them when she was here.

Ziad THROWS the bottle to the ground, it shatters into a
thousand pieces.

AYSEL (cont'd)
I didn't know where you were, I had
no idea when you were coming back! If
you would come back at all and I will
not raise a child whose father is a
religious fanatic that's going to get
himself killed.

ZIAD
The work I do in Afghanistan is
peaceful.

AYSEL
"The work I do in Afghanistan is
peaceful." If what you were doing in
Afghanistan was peaceful then we can
have a future together and my father
wasn't right about you. If the plans
you have from Afghanistan are
peaceful then I really had a
miscarriage and not an abortion.

SILENCE.

ZIAD
Good bye Ms. Sengun, may Allah's
mercy shine upon you a thousand times
over.

Ziad goes to the door.

AYSEL
Ziad! Wait please listen to me,
listen to me! please.

Aysel grabs Ziad's arm, Ziad stops.

AYSEL (cont'd)
I still love you! We can have a
future together! We can have a son!
Please just turn back from this path,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL (cont'd)
 stay with me, please, don't go back,
 stay with me!

ZIAD
 No, you disappoint me.

Ziad exits. Aysel crumbles onto her knees.

INT. AL QUDS MOSQUE - DAY

Mohamed Atta and the Hamburg Cell prostrate themselves towards Mecca in the presence of an Al Qaeda Imam and Al Qaeda Military Intelligence Officer.

AL QAEDA IMAM
 You are the mujahideen, sent forth to
 carry out Allah's jihad.

MOHAMED ATTA
 (interrupting)
 Wait, there is one more.

Ziad enters and prostrates himself to Mecca.

AL QAEDA INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
 Are you sure we can trust him?

MOHAMED ATTA
 Yes, him most of all.

Ziad NODS to Mohamed Atta, Mohamed Atta NODS back.

AL QAEDA IMAM
 You are the mujahideen, sent forth to
 carry out Allah's jihad against the
 western Infidels. You give up
 everything in this life for the
 cause. Your family, your beloveds..

Ziad eyes are WET WITH TEARS.

EXT. FLORIDA FLIGHT SCHOOL - DAY

A SECRETARY stamps Ziad's application form.

SECRETARY
 Welcome to flight school Mr. Jarrah,
 by the end of the semester you'll be
 able to fly a seven fifty seven.

Ziad SMILES.

CONTINUED:

ZIAD'S MOTHER (cont'd)
responded yet. His father will have
open heart surgery three weeks from
now, he needs his son.

AYSEL
Mrs. Jarrah, Ziad and I ended things
before he left for the United States.

Aysel WIPES AWAY A TEAR.

AYSEL (cont'd)
Listen to how selfish I'm being, of
course I'll talk to him Mrs. Jarrah.

ZIAD'S MOTHER
He won't budge on just a phone call
Aysel. We both know he's in way too
deep for that.

SILENCE. Aysel and Ziad's Mother exchange a knowing glance.

ZIAD'S MOTHER (cont'd)
Dearest Aysel, I know my son's heart
and you're still in it. I'm not
asking you to get back together with
him, but I am begging you on a
mother's behalf to see him, talk to
him, let him feel your presence.

Ziad's mother pushes an AIRPLANE TICKET to Aysel.

AYSEL
Mrs. Jarrah, I can't.

ZIAD'S MOTHER
You're the only one who can. You're
the only one who can pull Ziad back
from this religious fanaticism that
has taken over him. I'm here for more
than an old man's last wish, I'm
trying to save my son's life the only
way I know how.

Aysel takes the airplane ticket.

EXT. FLORIDA FLIGHT SCHOOL - DAY

Ziad laughs with the other students.

Aysel appears, Ziad stops laughing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

So you've had a change of heart about the United States.

Other students leave Ziad alone with Aysel.

ZIAD

Should we go somewhere to talk?

AYSEL

No, right here is fine, I won't be long, I have other business to attend to. So let's cut to the chase shall we: Why have you kept your poor parents waiting?

ZIAD

I

AYSEL

(interrupting)

No, don't open your mouth with another lie.

Aysel hands Ziad a pair of AIRPLANE TICKETS.

AYSEL (cont'd)

Your mother came to my house to personally deliver these to me.

ZIAD

Then tell her to get a refund.

Ziad takes out a second pair of AIRPLANE TICKETS from his pocket.

ZIAD (cont'd)

I'm going back tomorrow.

Ziad SQUEEZES Aysel's hands as he hands back her ticket, she squeezes back.

ZIAD (cont'd)

Now, can we go somewhere to talk, please?

AYSEL

I'm not leaving this place with you, you want a chance, we talk right here.

Ziad SMILES.

INT. FLIGHT SIMULATOR - LATER

Ziad TURNS the steering wheel and aims the airplane at a virtual SKYSCRAPER.

AYSEL
I'm not impressed, this is juvenile.

Ziad PRESSES the accelerator.

AYSEL (cont'd)
What kind of pilot are you, you're going to crash right into that building!

Ziad ignores Aysel.

AYSEL (cont'd)
Ziad!

The virtual airplane SMASHES into the virtual skyscraper.

The flight simulator JOLTS.

Aysel GRABS Ziad's hand, Ziad LAUGHS, Aysel laughs as well.

EXT. AIRPORT - AFTERNOON

Ziad faces Aysel.

ZIAD
I'll tell my mom that you changed my mind. It'll make her feel capable to believe that she was the one who influenced me.

Aysel NODS and goes thru the airport gates.

Ziad waits.

Aysel turns around and WAVES at him, he waves back.

EXT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Aysel stands in front of a mailbox that still reads 'Aysel and Ziad', opens a THICK ENVELOP and flips thru a set of pictures of:

..Ziad sitting alongside his father in the hospital.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

..Ziad and his family huddled around a birthday cake as Ziad's father blows out the candles.

..Ziad and his parents pointing to Leaning Tower of Pisa.

..Ziad and his mother on top of the Eiffel tower.

..Ziad by himself next to a slab of the Berlin Wall.

..Ziad standing outside her apartment holding a BOUQUET OF ROSES and a SIGN that reads: Hello Aysel, I have missed you.

A ROSE PETAL falls beneath Aysel's feet.

Ziad enters, holding a bouquet of roses.

ZIAD

If you want me to leave I will, but just for today, I wanted to see you one last time.

AYSEL

That was the cheesiest line you've said yet, and roses again?

Tears stream down Aysel's cheeks as she hugs Ziad.

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - LATER

POST COITAL, Fleetwood Mac's 'Little Lies' plays in the background.

AYSEL

So what now?

ZIAD

I don't know Aysel, I just know that I need you, for what's to come, I just need to feel that you will still be there, after everything.

Aysel HUGS Ziad, his body TREMBLES.

ZIAD (cont'd)

I must return to the US to complete flight school but then I'll be back for Salim and Emelda's wedding on September twenty second

(pause)

For good.

Aysel stares into Ziad's eyes, he looks away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

You mean it this time! At least you look like you do, I mean usually when you lie, you stare right at me without blinking like you're trying to convince me.

A tear streams down Ziad's eye.

ZIAD

Does that mean you'll take me back?

Aysel throws a bed sheet over Ziad's head and pulls him towards her.

AYSEL

Only if I can tie this around your waist and pull you back whenever I want.

Ziad TICKLES Aysel, she laughs.

The verse 'Tell me lies, Tell me Sweet Little lies' plays in the background.

INT. MOTEL BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ziad sits on the toilet, writing a LETTER.

Sound of airplanes landing in background.

BANGING on the bathroom door.

AHMED AL-NAMI

Ziad, you've been in there for over twenty minutes, what are you doing, jerking off?

Ziad opens the bathroom door.

SAEED AL-GHAMDI (21), AHMED AL-NAMI (23) and AHMED AL-HAZNAWI (20) flip thru ADVERTISEMENTS for PROSTITUTES in the PHONE BOOK.

AHMED AL-NAMI (cont'd)

There, two two for one specials comes to eight hundred bucks, let's split that four ways.

ZIAD

Nahh, you guys go ahead.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AHMED AL-NAMI

By this time tomorrow, we'll be in heaven with seventy two virgins, this world doesn't matter anymore, live a little.

Ziad gives Ahmed TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS IN CASH and goes back to the bathroom.

ZIAD

Then enjoy yourself, I'm going to save my ammo for my seventy two.

Everyone LAUGHS.

Ziad closes the door and continues his letter.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

SLUG LINE: 6 a.m. September 11th, 2001.

Ziad DIALS Aysel's number.

AYSEL (O.S.)

Hey, my tonsils are out, but I have a sore throat, I can't talk too much.

ZIAD

I love you, I love you, I love you.

Ziad hangs up.

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aysel is asleep.

MONTAGE:

..An airplane smashes into the pentagon, Aysel WINCES.

..An airplane hits the first twin tower, Aysel SHUDDERS.

..An airplane hits the second twin tower, Aysel JERKS her head.

..A LEBANESE SOLDIER (20) shouts at TEN YEAR OLD ZIAD, Ziad's father pulls Ziad into their house.

..An airplane NOSE DIVES towards the ground.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

..A BLAST hits the Lebanese soldier, he clutches his SILVER CROSS NECKLACE and falls to his death.

..An airplane CRASHES into an open field, Aysel SCREAMS and SITS up.

AYSEL

It's not true, it's not true, calm down Assie, it was only a dream.

Aysel CALLS Ziad, waits FORTY RINGS and hangs up.

She turns on the TV and sees LIVE COVERAGE of the twin towers CRUMBLING.

Phone RINGS, Aysel picks it up.

AYSEL (cont'd)

Ziad!

AYSEL'S FATHER (O.S.)

It's me honey.

SILENCE.

AYSEL'S FATHER

Have you heard what happened in America.

SILENCE.

AYSEL'S FATHER (cont'd)

Have you heard from your Ziad?

AYSEL

Yes!, Just yesterday, he said he'd be

AYSEL'S FATHER

(interrupting)

Today, have you heard from him today?

AYSEL

I, I don't know what you're talking about, what are you trying to say?

AYSEL'S FATHER

You're safe, that's all that matters.

Aysel's father HANGS UP.

Aysel turns off the TV and calls Ziad again.

INT./EXT. GREIFSWALD UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Aysel walks past a room with the banner 'Campus Help Hotline' posted overhead.

Everyone in the room STARES at her until one of them SLAMS the door closed.

Aysel continues down the hallway to Emelda and a group of students huddled around the TV.

TV ANCHOR

This just in, the United States CIA believes the terrorists responsible for taking down all four planes on September Eleventh are Muslim extremists originating in Germany.

Emelda shuts off the TV.

EMELDA

Aysel.

AYSEL

Hey, are you ready for your big day yet?

EMELDA

If you need something, anything.

AYSEL

Keep an eye out for my Ziad at the wedding, he promised he would be there.

Aysel avoids eye contact with Emelda and exits.

EXT. LEBANESE MOSQUE - DAY

Aysel, dressed in a GOWN enters and walks down the aisle.

All the wedding guests STARE at her and whisper.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

That's her, the suspect's girlfriend.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

There's no way she didn't know

The whispers rise to a deafening pitch until ..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD'S MOTHER

(loudly)

Please welcome my daughter Ms. Aysel Sengun.

SILENCE. Ziad's mother goes to Aysel's side, holds her hand and leads her down the aisle.

ZIAD'S MOTHER (cont'd)

Hold up your head with dignity.

Aysel follows Ziad's mother.

EXT. 2ND FLOOR BALCONY OF LEBANESE MOSQUE - LATER

Aysel and Ziad's mother look at the long line of guests entering.

A man resembling Ziad appears in the distance.

Aysel and Ziad's mother HOLD HANDS and STARE at the man as he comes closer and closer until they see it is not Ziad.

Ziad's mother WOBBLER, Aysel pulls up a chair for her.

AYSEL

He'll be here, I know it, we both know it.

Aysel LEANS over the balcony and searches the crowd.

EXT. 2ND FLOOR BALCONY OF LEBANESE MOSQUE - EVENING

Only a handful of guests remain.

Ziad's mother is still sitting on the chair and Aysel is still leaned over the balcony when Ziad's sisters DANIA (22) and NISREN (18) arrive.

ZIAD'S SISTER DANIA

Miss Sengun, Aysel, he's not on the guest check in. I don't think he came today.

Ziad's mother shakes her head NO, Dania STOPS.

ZIAD'S MOTHER

Perhaps he called home to say he would not make it in time.

Aysel SMILES.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

Mrs. Jarrah, you should go home and rest, I'm going to stay just a little bit longer just in case.

Ziad's mother and her two daughters exit.

INT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Aysel enters, she looks like she hasn't slept in days.

Her answering machine flashes, she hits play.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Hi Ms. Sengun, I'm a representative from United Airlines calling in regards to your inquiry about the passenger list on United 93. There was indeed a second Ziad Jarrah who was supposed to board but was a no show.

Aysel RUNS to the answering machine.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.) (cont'd)

The no show Ziad Jarrah was an Egyptian citizen, birth date November 10th, 1939. I do sincerely hope this is the man you are looking for.

Aysel deletes the message and gulps down a full glass of red wine.

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Aysel sits against the wall, staring into space.

The answering machine plays a new message.

AYSEL'S FATHER (O.S.)

Mrs. Jarrah, Ziad's mother called. Aysel, please pick up.

SILENCE.

AYSEL'S FATHER

Fine, then I will come in the morning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

Dad, I'm here, I'm OK, tell mom I'm OK.

AYSEL'S FATHER

Are you sure?

A NOOSE made out of bedsheets hangs over Aysel's bed.

AYSEL

Positive, I mean, as well as can be expected. I guess I'll just throw myself into studying to get over it, become a good dentist for you and mom's sake.

DOORBELL RINGS.

AYSEL (cont'd)

The doorbell just rang. I need to go get it, thank you for calling, I'm OK really.

EXT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Aysel opens the door for two CIA AGENTS.

CIA AGENT 1

You are Ms. Aysel Sengun?

AYSEL

Yes, what do you want from me.

The first CIA Agent hands Aysel an HANDWRITTEN ENVELOPE.

CIA AGENT 1

We discovered this in the mail system several weeks ago, would you please read it and attest in your personal opinion if you believe the note is from Mr. Ziad Jarrah.

AYSEL

Isn't that your job?

CIA AGENT 1

We already have Ms. Sengun and our team has poured over it for every piece of data we can get from it. Quite frankly there's not much in here except for a personal message to you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

How do I know that this isn't some attempt to draw him out of hiding?

CIA AGENT 1

Please judge for yourself.

The CIA Agents exit.

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Aysel opens Ziad's letter.

ZIAD (V.O.)

I love you and I will always love you into eternity; I don't want you to become sad, I still live somewhere else, where you can't see me and can't hear me, but I will see you and know how you are. And I will wait for you until you come to me.

Aysel's hands TREMBLE.

ZIAD (V.O.) (cont'd)

I am guilty that I raised your hopes about wedding, marriage, children, family and many other things. I am what you wish for, but unfortunately you must still wait until we will be together again. I did not flee from you, but I did what I had to do. You should be very proud of it, it is an honor, and you will see the result, and everybody will be happy.

MONTAGE:

..Fire consumes an airplane cockpit.

..A person falls from the crumbling world trade center.

..A Muslim child wearing a TAQIYAH sobs in front of a memorial to his father.

..A mosque burns.

..An explosion hurls the Al Qaeda Intelligence Officer into the wall, killing him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIAD (V.O.) (cont'd)
I want you to stay strong just like I know you, do whatever you always should do. Chin up, but with a goal, never be without goal, always have a goal before you and always think: "What for, why." Always remember who you are and what you are. Chin up, the winners never have their chin down!

Aysel LAUGHS and then FLINGS the envelope off the table.

AYSEL
Chin up.

Aysel stands on top a chair and WRAPS THE NOOSE around her neck.

AYSEL (cont'd)
Chin up! Is this all you have to leave me with Ziad Jarrah. Your last words "Chin up!" Is this the kind of bullshit that I bought into these past five years?

Then Aysel notices two extra pages sticking out of the envelope.

She steps down from the chair and reads the remaining pages.

ZIAD (V.O.)
Hold on to what you have until we meet again. And then we will have a very beautiful eternal life, where no problems exist and where there is no mourning, in castles of gold and silver and, and, and if you marry again, don't be afraid. Remember what you are and who would deserve you. I hug you and kiss you on your hands and on the head. And I thank you and apologize for the very wonderful, hard five years that you spent with me. Goodbye!! Your man forever Ziad Jarrah.

Aysel lays her head between her hands and SOBS.

INT. AYSEL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Aysel climbs on top of the chair, moves her head close to the noose ..

And then UNTIES it from the ceiling.

EXT. AYSEL'S HOUSE - MORNING

ROSE PETALS blow onto Aysel's face, she sees the SHADOW OF A MAN and runs to it.

The shadow belongs to a ROSE BUSH underneath her mailbox which now reads 'Aysel Sengun', Ziad's name has been erased.

SOUND OF TAXI HONKING.

Aysel goes to the taxi.

AYSEL
Airport, the international Gate.

Taxi drives away.

EXT. GREIFSWALD MOSQUE - AFTERNOON

Taxi STOPS besides a mob of GERMAN SKINHEADS that includes Frederick.

Aysel ROLLS down her window and MAKES EYE CONTACT with him.

Frederick pauses and then ..

FREDERICK
Alright, back off everyone, these people have had enough. C'mon, police are coming soon, no need to get arrested for pelting rotten eggs.

Aysel eyes lock on a MIDDLE EASTERN MAN hiding his face under his arms as he is being pelted by ROTTEN EGGS.

MIDDLE EASTERN MAN (O.S.)
I am innocent, please, I knew nothing of them, I had nothing to do with any of these attacks, we Muslims are your friends! I am your friend!

The Middle Eastern Man lifts up his head, it is AbdulRachman.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He makes eye contact with Aysel.

ABDULRACHMAN

Aysel, thank goodness it's you,
please help me.

A tomato hits AbdulRachman, Aysel does nothing.

ABDULRACHMAN (cont'd)

Aysel what are you doing? Please just
come here, they wouldn't hit a woman,
please!

Aysel rolls up the window, the taxi drives away.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Aysel sits by an outdoor table, underneath a NEON BLUE CROSS
hanging outside the second floor window.

A short, bald, and ugly Turkish man, AYBERK (39) sits down
next to her and smiles.

Aysel SMILES back.

AYSEL

You must be Ayberk.

AYBERK

And you must be Aysel, it is a
pleasure to finally meet you.

AYSEL

The honor is mine that you would take
time out of your busy schedule to
meet me.

AYBERK

That's quite an ironic thing to say,
you probably don't remember this, but
your family had tried to introduce me
to you, must have been five years ago
now.

AYSEL

Six actually.

AYBERK

Ahh, so you do remember. Ehh, pardon
my directness, but may I ask you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSEL

(interrupting)

Why I changed my mind? Because at the time I thought I wanted one thing but as I grew older ..

AYBERK

(interrupting)

You realized you want something else.

AYSEL

I realized that I would consider other options.

AYBERK

Well then thank you for your honesty. So tell me, is this your first time to Turkey, do you like it?

AYSEL

I have been here before, but then I didn't appreciate it, there were parts of my heritage that I thought I could not accept, but now I can.

FADE TO BLACK.