

Dedicated To All Women Who Wanted To But Could Not
FARKHONDE RAVA SHIVA SINAEE FATEMEH BAZYAR



Endless?

A Film By Maryam Zahirimehr

The Long Synopsis

Endless (characterized as Endless?) is a 2018 Iranian/American Drama/Tragedy Film written and directed by Maryam Zahirimehr. It stars Farkhondeh Rava, Shiva Sinaee, and Fatemeh Bazyar. It tells the story of a reclusive woman, BeMaryam, (Farkhondeh Rava) who becomes involved with a young girl, Sadaf (Shiva Sinaee) who is new to the village.

The film was inspired by the brutality and frequent occurrence of Dowry deaths, which are the deaths of women who are murdered or driven to Suicide by continuous harassment and torture by husbands and in-laws in an effort to extort an increased dowry. Dowry Deaths are found in countries all over the world, including Australia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Iran. Dowry

death is considered one of the many categories of violence against women.

Principal photography took place in Kareyak, a small village in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province of Iran, with post-production taking place in Massachusetts, MA USA.

Sadaf, a young girl who is new to the village is playing a game with Salar and another local boy in their neighborhood. Sadaf, who is excluded from the game for being a woman, sits as the two boys play their game with sticks. They encounter BeMaryam, an older woman and neighbor to Sadaf, who stops to watch the children play. BeMaryam catches Salar's stick and uses it to dig up some dirt for her flower pot. She then invites the children inside for tea.

The trio enter BeMaryam's home and witness her having a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder induced flashback to her past. After shattering her glassware, she then gives the children some sugar cubes mixed with pebbles and batteries. The two boys eat the sugar cubes, then throw the batteries and pebbles at BeMaryam's door. Sadaf does not eat her sugar cubes nor participate in

throwing the pebbles and remains by BeMaryam following the emotional episode. Sadaf encounters BeMaryam again as she washed her daughter's clothes and inquires about BeMaryam's daughter. The mother responds that her daughter, Farkhondeh, does not come by anymore. BeMaryam then asks if Sadaf plays games, much to the joy of the young girl. As BeMaryam sleeps, she is woken by drops of rain from the ceiling, only to see Farkhondeh standing outside in the pouring rain. BeMaryam follows Farkhondeh through the muddy streets of the village and witnesses a man offering his matches to Farkhondeh. Outraged, BeMaryam yells at the man only to find Farkhondeh has vanished. She later finds Farkhondeh standing in the middle of the rain to which BeMaryam asks why Farkhondeh wanted the man's matches. She later breaks down in tears at Farkhondeh's feet as Farkhondeh comforts her. Sadaf comes to assist BeMaryam and finds Farkhondeh's wedding gown and dowry. She asks BeMaryam why

Farkhondeh did not take them with her when she left. Much later, BeMaryam encounters Farkhondeh in a field and expresses sadness that Farkhondeh does not come to visit and regrets that she married her off to begin with. Plagued by grief, BeMaryam relives how Farkhondeh, in an act of defiance, committed suicide by setting herself on fire so that she would not have to be married to a man she did not love. BeMaryam grasps how Farkhondeh's death was her own doing. Passing by a wedding in the village, BeMaryam walks to Farkhondeh's grave and builds a tower of pebbles which continuously topples over. She overhears women talking about BeMaryam's grief and how she sees visions of her daughter, Farkhondeh, everywhere despite her death. BeMaryam returns home, passing Sadaf and Salar playing their stick-game. Sadaf goes to comfort her, who is sick with grief, despite Salar's opposition. As the children play again, BeMaryam is comforted by Sadaf's innocent smile.

The medium Synopsis

BeMaryam is a grief stricken, reclusive, who lives alone in her Iranian village. When a young girl, Sadaf, a newcomer to the village, begins to become close to BeMaryam, the two become intertwined by the pain of the BeMaryam's past and the buried trauma that lingers inside of her. Torn apart by her guilt for what happened to her daughter, Farkhondeh. BeMaryam confronts the tragedy of her failure in Iran's long silent history of cultural silence and dowry suicide.

The Short Synopsis

A grief-stricken, reclusive, woman and a young newcomer, become intertwined by the pain of the woman's past and the trauma that lingers.

On The Intent

Inspiration for the story primarily arose when Director Maryam Zahirimehr visited a very small village in Iran and was shown, by a close friend, the graves of 18-19 year old, women who had burned themselves to escape arranged marriage. Her friend continued to go down the line, showing Zahirimehr grave after grave of dowry suicides. Zahirimehr collapsed and pleaded for her friend to stop, asking "What is going on here? What are they doing?"

When asked about the film's premise, Maryam Zahirimehr responded: "The story is about a woman who forces her daughter to get married to someone she does not love. Meanwhile, a teenager moves with her family to the woman's neighborhood, and gets close to the woman emotionally and the woman feels it little by little. Let's see what it's like to get close to this and see what changes. I just want to bring the world attention to what is going on in 21st century.

Am I right?"

The Crew

Title: Endless?

Original Language: Farsi

Subtitle: English

Written and Directed by: Maryam Zahirimehr

Producers: Maryam Zahirimehr, Pourya Medhati

Executive Producer: Armin Blaeshzar

Director of Photography: vahid Biouteh

Edited by: Matthew Nash

Director First Assistant: Behzad Bouyeh

Director Second Assistant: Roghayeh Azad Ravesh

Scene Designer: Maryam Zahirimehr

Scene Designer Assistants: Nasim Rahmani, Behzad Bouyeh

Sound Recorder: Alireza karim Nezhad

Photographer & Poster designer: Hasti Khajae

Music by: Bahar Royae

Sound Engineer: Logan Romjue, Elissa Bazilwich

Running Time: 80 Minutes

Format: HD, Color & Black and White

Aspect Ratio: Scope





Cast:

Farkhondeh Rava BeMaryam
Shiva Sinaee Sdaf
Fatemeh Bazyar Farkhondeh
Abbas Maleki Salar
Arshia Barzin Arshia
Arash Baleshzar Bahador
Armin BaleshzarSmoking man
Diana BarzinLittle Bride

Director Biography

Independent filmmaker Maryam Zahirimehr is a native of Iran and has worked in Iran and the U.S. for the past 8 years as a filmmaker, photographer, and teacher. Maryam Zahirimehr is a native of Iran and educated in the USA. She received her master in Photography and integrated media from Lesley University, USA. Her short film, Like Pain Like Cigarette, screened at Cannes short film corner 2017, and nominated for the best New England film festival(MASSIFF) in USA-2017. "Endless?" is her first feature as a writer- director- producer. Endless? won the best international feature award at RIFFA 2018 also, won the award for best experimental director from NYCIFIF 2018. Her debut feature is going to be screened as official selection in Spain, Brazil, Croatia, Mexico, South Africa, Australia, Switzerland, India, Bangladesh, Uganda, ...

Her work is always looking into concerns of women's lives and their rights all over the world. The way of looking is like a fake dreamy scene which lets us approach the truth. being face to every single element demonstrated in the location. A sweet search in my life as a woman, mother, wife, and artist to realize my particular identity. What I was, what I am, and what I want to be as a part of the society, called a woman. Searching for something you struggling to find it out through your normal everyday life using art.

Selected Filmography:

“Talk to the fish” (2016, 14 mins)

“Inevitable Destination (2016, 7 mins)

“Invisible Woman” (2015, 5 mins)

“Identity” (2015, 10 mins)

First feature: ”Endless?” (2018, 80 mins)

Director Statement/Concern

“My burden is giving free and clear voice to invisible women from Iran”

All my works are talking about women and their rights and social impairments in Iran and all over the world utilizing forms and conceptual theme.

