

Sword and Sorrow

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١. Outdoors/ Around noon/ the yard of an old house/ Madain/ Persia

We see a beautiful but old yard, and a man, the father, who is milking a cow. A woman, the mother, is sifting and cleaning beans and grains with a girl, her older daughter (١٨ years old). A young girl (١٠ years old) is running away from a young boy (٧ years old), who is holding a wooden sword.

The boy (laughing and being mischievous)

- Stop sis! Don't run away! I won't hurt you. I just want to kill you.

The ten-year-old girl (laughing and joshing)

- Do you really think I will stop running? No way! You still have to run with that ridiculous sword of yours!

The parents look at their children and smile. Their eyes meet and they smile at each other with love. The mother looks at the father and nods her head as if she's getting his approval to do something. The father also nods with confidence. The mother looks away from the father and looks at his son and says

Mother (with affection and friendliness)

- Karen, my dearest, come here for a sec! I have something good for you.

Karen, who is ٧ years old, and is running after his sister, stops when he hears his mother's voice. He smiles from ear to ear and says to his mom

The ٧-year-old boy (laughing and being mischievous)

- Yaaay! What do you have for me? Hooray! A birthday gift?

He sticks his tongue out at his sister, and runs towards his mother, throwing himself onto her in a hug. The mother squeezes her son, holds his hands and caresses them. She takes out a leather bracelet, which has an agate stone on it, from her pocket (beside her hand) and puts it on his hand and says

Mother (with affection and friendliness)

- This agate is your father's most valuable gift from a very very good man. Always keep it close to you, my son, always!

Then she kisses her son's forehead. Karen is obviously feeling proud because of receiving a gift that belonged to an important adult. He shows the bracelet to his ١٠-year-old sister and says

The 9-year-old boy (laughing and being mischievous)

- Look what I have! Eat your heart out!

The ten-year-old girl (laughing and joshing)

- I have the most beautiful one myself. In your face! You couldn't even catch me, and you stayed with mom COWARD! You're no match for me!

Little Karen who is now furious about what his sister has said, wants to show how bold he is, so he screams and runs towards her with his wooden sword. Again we hear laughter and scream for a few seconds, which cause the mother, the father, and the older sister to laugh. Suddenly, we hear a man yelling. We also hear someone running, and suddenly the wood door is kicked open. A young 17-year-old man, who is sweating and panting shouts.

The young 17-year-old man (nervous and frightened)

- Soldiers! Soldiers! Run away! Run!

When the young man is shouting, he gets shot in the back and falls on the ground. Parviz (the father), who now recognizes the seriousness of the situation, shouts to his wife.

Father (Parviz) (nervous and frightened)

- Take the kids inside, hurry up!

The mother tosses the tray aside and holds her older daughter's hand and says to her two other kids.

The mother (nervous and stuttering)

- Kids! Come on! Didn't you hear what your dad said? Run!

The 10-year-old girl runs towards her mother, but the boy is shocked and is staring at the wooden sword in his hand.

The mother (frightened, shouting)

- Karen! Didn't you hear what I just said? Come in! Run! Hurry up!

Meanwhile the father takes out a sword from the saddle of the horse that is tied next to the barn. He gazes at it for a couple of seconds, and then comes to his senses and shouts at Karen.

The father (nervous, shouting)

- Karen, go inside! Take care of your mother and sisters! Go Karen! Go!

The father goes towards the door and outside of the house without looking back at Karen and seeing his reaction as if he tries to keep the war outside. Karen that is still staring at the door and

squeezing the wooden sword in his hand, sees the blood spilled on the ground (we cannot see the father's body, just the blood). Someone outside the house shouts.

An unknown tough guy (shouting)

- Check inside the house! None of these traitors should survive! Vile rebels!

Karen is staring at the door, scared and nervous, and the soldier comes in, wearing Umayyad police uniform. The boy (Karen) holds his wooden sword pointed at him. The soldier stands there hesitating. Karen and the soldier are standing eye to eye. The soldier does not know what to do with the child. Meanwhile the commander (it should be obvious from his appearance) and some soldiers enter. The commander addresses the soldier.

The commander (with malice)

- What are you waiting for? Kill him!

The soldier (hesitating, with respect)

- But, commander! This is just a kid!

The commander (yelling)

- What's the difference? It's caliph's order. Anyone who has been with Hassan's army must taste his betrayal. No matter how old he is!

The soldier (hesitating, with respect)

- But... commander!

The commander (angry)

- No excuses! If you do not obey the command, you will have to pay for it yourself.

The soldier is still hesitant, and Karen is still pointing his sword at them. The commander dismounts the horse angrily, stands behind the soldier, and stabs him in the back while whispering in his ears.

The commander (with malice, whispering)

- No one is allowed to disobey the caliph's order. Do you understand, idiot?

Being appalled, Karen is looking at the body that is falling on the ground. He holds the wooden sword even more powerfully. The commander comes closer, and gazes at Karen. Karen is terrified, but points his sword at him, and shouts with his childish voice.

Karen (the 7-year-old boy) (Angry and terrified, with childish voice)

- I will not allow you to harm my mother and sisters. Get out of our house!

The commander smirks and says.

The commander (with malice)

- Like your father... arrogant, stubborn and of course clumsy!
 - The commander hits Karen's head with his sword hilt ruthlessly, and he falls face down on the ground towards the home. Blood covers his face and he blacks out.
٧. Indoors/ night/ the green palace/ Sultan's palace/ Damascus/ Syria

We are in a cold and almost scary, but enormous dark palace (similar to the atmosphere of a wizard's palace- reference to Sleeping Beauty). A man in clothes made with brocade fabric with a relatively large physique (who is clearly a king) is walking on a fixed path with his hands clasped behind his back, thinking fretfully. A man who seems to be a commander based on his appearance (the same commander we saw in the previous sequence) is standing in front of the throne and a number of advisers (ministers) are standing on both sides with worried faces, watching the king walk up and down, expecting his angry outburst. All of a sudden, the king turns to the man, moves towards him and says.

The king - Sultan (٥٥ years old) (Furious, yelling)

- Alas! I can't believe this much ignorance and stupidity! As far as the east is from the west, just by the use of this sword...

Suddenly Sultan puts the sword to the commander's neck and continues his speech.

The king - Sultan (٥٥ years old) (Furious, yelling)

- they have remained loyal. I swear, if for a moment they don't see the sword shine behind their eyes, they won't listen to a word you say.

The king - Sultan (٥٥ years old) (Furious but flippant)

- An example is the support of the Persians for Hasan ibn Ali... putting one's life on the line in the way of belief

Meanwhile, Sultan turns around and moves his sword, pointing at all the individuals there. He continues to speak, but he is still addressing the commander.

The king - Sultan (٥٥ years old) (Furious, being forcible)

- This sword is thirsty for the blood of enemies and insurgents. Noooooo, this sword is thirsty for the blood of who, that even for a moment, thinks he can stop being one of us, and I swear to God, whoever is not with us is against us, so ...

Mu'awiyah turns to the commander again and points his sword at him, speaking to him angrily.

The king - Sultan (٥٥ years old) (Angry)

- Ash'ath, do not have mercy on Ajman Madain for a moment. If you hesitate to shed the blood of our enemies, I will shed your blood and all your family, honest to God!

He then puts the sword in his (Ash'ath) hands, turns his back on him (Ash'ath) and goes towards the throne. In the meantime, Ash'ath kneels, squeezes the sword in his hand and puts his hand on his chest and says.

Ash'ath – the commander (٤٢ years old) (with a serious tone)

- The caliph should know that his faithful and devoted soldier will sacrifice his life and will fight to the last drop of his blood for what the caliph has ordered. I assure you that I will not fail to carry out your orders even for a moment and I will not show mercy on anyone in any way.

Sultan who is lolling on the throne, shakes his head and says.

The king - Sultan (٥٥ years old) (Angry)

- You know that I trust you, Ash'ath. Don't disappoint me! Go and show no pity!

Sultan moves his hand to show Ash'ath that he is discharged. Ash'ath stands and pounds his fist against his chest. He bows and leaves the palace. While Ash'ath is going away, Sultan guffaws and says delightfully and with laughter.

The king - Sultan (٥٥ years old) (cheerful with an evil laugh)

- He's as fierce as a tiger. He'll tear them apart like a wild animal... Ha ha ha...

The ministers (individuals standing there) who see that the king is happy and calm now, breathe a sigh of relief and smile ingratiatingly.

٣. Outdoors/ evening (around sunset)/ the yard of the old house/ Madain/ Persia

Little Karen opens his eyes slowly, having blurry vision. He hears the sound of something being burned. He is now seeing more clearly, and he sees their house on fire. It is getting dark and the sparks are everywhere. The kid stands with difficulty and because of the strike he falls on the ground again. He closes his eyes for a second and dreams.

٤. Outdoors/ evening/ garden/ an unknown place

In a dreamy place, in a beautiful garden, small fires are burning, and the kids are running around them happily. Karen's mother is singing a Chaharshanbe Suri song, and Karen and his sisters are cheerfully jumping over the fires, running and jumping again. They sing along the last part of the song with their mother. We can hear the mother's voice, who is sitting beside the samovar on a seat.

The mother (cheerful)

- Chaharshanbe Suri, the last Wednesday of the year
- The winter is gone, the spring is near
- This was a great celebration for our ancestors
- It is Persia's noble ancestors' dear

The ١٠-year-old girl (jolly, laughing)

- Hey shrub, shrub, shrub
- Don't forget what it remark

- Hey shrub, shrub, shrub
- Listen to what it remark
- My yellowness to thee
- and your redness to me

The 16-year-old girl (jolly, laughing)

- Hey shrub, shrub, shrub
- Don't forget what it remark
- Hey shrub, shrub, shrub
- Listen to what it remark
- My yellowness to thee
- and your redness to me

17-year-old Karen (jolly, laughing)

- Hey shrub, shrub, shrub
- Don't forget what it remark
- Hey shrub, shrub, shrub
- Listen to what it remark
- My yellowness to thee
- and your redness to me

The father is coming towards the mother and the kids from the end of the garden shouting with laughter while they are laughing and playing.

The father (Parviz) (shouting cheerfully)

- Kids! Look who's here!

Kids stop playing and jumping over the fires, and look in surprise at the guy their father is talking about. A man is riding on a galloping horse towards them, wearing a niqab. He pulls on the reins and stops the horse in front of Karen. He dismounts the horse and hugs him. Karen who is shocked and a little scared, closes his eyes. The man has a niqab, but he nervously says.

The man with a niqab (nervous)

- Karen! My dear nephew! How are you big guy?

Karen's eyes are still closed, but we can hear his sisters' voices.

Karen's sisters (shouting cheerfully)

- Uncle Mahan! Uncle Maahaan!
- . Outdoors/ evening (around sunset)/ the yard of the burning old house/ Madain/ Persia

Karen opens his eyes and sees his uncle Mahan's face. He says tiredly and unwell.

Karen (tired and unwell)

- Uncle Mahan!

Mahan, holds Karen close to his chest. The house is on fire and smoke is everywhere. It is getting dark. While Mahan is holding the child, pressing him against his chest, he says sobbing.

Mahan (with kindness, sobbing)

- Don't be afraid sweetheart! Uncle is by your side. God damn those inglorious bastards! We'll leave here. We'll leave this sorrowful place. Don't be sad champ!

Mahan lifts Karen up and goes towards the horse. He jumps on the horseback and wants to go that Karen whispers something.

Karen (the 9-year-old kid) (whispering painfully)

- Uncle, where's my sword? My sword!

Mahan looks at him affectionately, and then looks at the wooden sword, which is on the ground. He dismounts the horse, takes the sword, and gives it to Karen. Karen holds the sword tight. Mahan makes a turn with the horse in the yard, leaves the house, and the horse starts galloping. The camera moves upwards and we can see Mahan leaving the town (he fades into the horizon).

٧. Outdoors/ night/ snowy/ the back alleys of Mahoza – the mountain town (Masuleh) / Persia

While two men are removing snow from the roofs, they see someone, who has covered his face, riding a galloping horse in the back alleys. He is heading to the house of one of the lords uptown while he seems to be holding something/someone very important. The rider passes the alleys full of snow (blizzard) one by one, and finally reaches the house of a lord. He pulls on the reins, and ties the horse to a column in the yard. He moves the thing under his cloak in his arms. His face is covered with snow and his eyebrows are covered with ice. He stands at the back door of the mansion, knocks on the door and shouts.

Mahan (tired, trying to be loud)

- Sir Bruchim, can you hear me? Sir Bruchim?

Mahan knocks on the door hopelessly. Suddenly he hears steps. The light is turned on. We can see it through the two side windows. Someone behind the door asks.

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (nervous and surprised)

- Who are you? it's the middle of the night! Are you a genie or a human? What do you want in the middle of this snowstorm?

Mahan (tired, trying to be loud)

- Sir Bruchim, it's me; Mahan, Parviz's brother. I've come from Madain. Open the door, please.

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (surprised, seems he is whispering to himself)

- Mahan? Parviz? Madain? It's a bad joke on this snowy night, woe betide you if...

Meanwhile, he opens the door, really surprised to see Mahan.

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (surprised and baffled)

- Mahan, what are you doing here? My God, you are freezing! Come in, come in!

Mahan shakes his head, passes Bruchim and enters the house.

∇. Indoors/ night/ heavy snowfall/ Bruchim's house/ Mahoza

We see that Mahan puts Karen (the ∇-year-old kid) to bed in a room with a fireplace, in which a fire is lit. The room has a simple design and we can clearly see the blizzard from the window. He wants to take the sword from Karen, but he groans in sleep, so Mahan withdraws. He then covers Karen with the quilt and goes towards the door. He then turns and looks at Karen, who is sleeping deeply, for a few moments. After that he goes out of the room, and goes downstairs. We can see the stairs of the duplex house in the beautiful dining room. The room is quite spacious, and there is a fireplace in the middle. There are some seats on the sides, on one of which we can see Mahan's belongings (his cloak). There is also a small pool (howz) in the middle that is connected to the private area of the house, called andaruni, through a corridor. We can see Bruchim on a seat, stroking his beard and contemplating. On the other side, we can see a woman sitting while a girl (her daughter, almost √ years old) has taken shelter in her arms (it seems they are Bruchim's wife and daughter). Bruchim notices Mahan as he hears footsteps walking down the wooden stairs. He nods his head and invites Mahan to sit beside the fire. Mahan moves towards the fireplace, and warms his hands over fire. Bruchim shakes his head to show how sorry he is while Mahan is staring at the fire.

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (sad and nervous)

- They finally did what they wanted! I knew they would not leave him alone. I had warned Parviz many times that opposing these ruthless people wouldn't end well!

Mahan (tired, trying to be respectful)

- Don't blame Parviz for God's sake! He lost everything for what he believed in.

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (trying to calm Mahan down)

- I know; I know he had good intentions, but when you can't defeat the enemy, don't walk into the lion's den! It's just like committing suicide!

Mahan (tired, trying to be respectful)

- And enduring it means slavery, and that's the shithole we are in!

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (trying to calm Mahan down)

- Parviz was a great man. I'm sorry that he couldn't achieve his goal. I'm sorry that they didn't even have mercy on his family.

Mahan (having a lump in his throat, grieving)

- They didn't have mercy on anyone. There's a bloodbath in Madain. God willed that Karen could stay alive. Even for a second, I don't forget the grief in his eyes when I found him.

Mahan bursts into tears. Bruchim looks at his wife, who is signaling to him to help Mahan calm down. Bruchim stands up, goes towards Mahan, and hugs and consoles him.

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (trying to calm Mahan down)

- Calm down man! Thank God that you weren't injured and you can be safe here. Bruchim always welcomes his old friends to his home, brother. Stay here and get married.

Mahan looks at Bruchim kindly, wipes his tears, and puts his hands on Bruchim's shoulders.

Mahan (serious and respectful)

- Thank you Sir Bruchim! But I have to go back. We may be shattered now, but I have to find the survivors. We have to get together again. We shouldn't forget Parviz's dream for freedom. Eventually, one day, it will be our turn... I'm sure. Until then, I prefer this solitude.

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (nervous and surprised)

- Only a few days have passed since we lost Parviz because of what they did! Please think twice! Mahan, you know this very well that they have no mercy.

Mahan (kind but determined)

- They are ruthless indeed, but we have no choice. They have to pay for what they have taken from us. Eventually, one day, everything will be OK. Sir Bruchim, I have a request to make.

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (with affection while surprised)

- Please, I'll do everything in my power.

Mahan (grieving)

- My nephew, Karen, he's too young for what's happening. I want to ask you for a favor. Could he stay with you so you can take care of him as long as he can decide his own future. Until then he'll be safe here.

Bruchim is surprised by the request Mahan has made; looks at his wife, and she nods to show that she has accepted it. Bruchim turns to Mahan.

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (with affection)

- Rest assured man! I'll protect him like I protect my daughter, Andia.

Mahan looks at him kindly, and goes and hugs him while saying.

Mahan (sad but with affection)

- Thank you! Thank you very much!

Mahan turns to Bruchim's wife and bows.

Mahan (respectful with his head down)

- Thanks a lot madam! I know it can bother you a lot, but I swear to God, I had no choice. Please take care of him. He's all I have left of my brother.

Bruchim's wife (٤٦ years old) (with affection and warmth)

- Two years ago, my brother-in-law and his wife were captured by bandits and were killed on the way to Mahoza. When their only son survived and arrived here, I said to myself that I'd look after him just like I look after my own son. Today, God gave me another son. I'll take care of Karen just like Andia and Javid, Mr. Mahan. Don't worry at all! Karen's mother and I were good friends. I'll carefully raise his son with affection.

Mahan (respectful with his head down)

- Thank you ma'am. I hope these kids can learn to love, be kind, and live a good life from you. Thank you again ma'am.

Meanwhile, Bruchim wants to change the subject, so he shakes his head and says with a fake laughter.

Bruchim (a middle-aged man) (with affection and warmth)

- Well, well, well! We don't have much time. You're tired Mahan. You'd better go and get some rest.

Mahan looks fondly at Bruchim, and goes towards the seat where his cloak has been put. He picks up his cloak and turns to Bruchim.

Mahan (with affection and warmth)

- Your hospitality is second to none, but I'd better leave Mahoza tonight. It's safer for you and Karen, sir Bruchim.

Bruchim that knows Mahan is right, nods and says.

Bruchim (with affection)

- May God be with you. Don't worry about Karen, and please take care of yourself.

Mahan (with affection and warmth)

- Sure! Thank you for everything!

Mahan puts on his cloak, shakes hands with Bruchim and hugs him. He then goes towards Bruchim's wife, and bows to show his gratitude. He then crouches to talk to Andia, who is standing beside her mother.

Mahan (with affection and warmth)

- Can you look after Karen?

Andia (7 years old) (with affection, shy and childish)

- If he doesn't touch my dolls like Javid, and he doesn't follow me everywhere... well... yes, I will.

Mahan (laughing)

- I promise he won't touch your dolls. Thank you sweetie!

Mahan goes towards the front door, and just before opening it, he says sadly without turning to the family.

Mahan (sad and grieving, somehow sobbing)

- Please take good care of him.

Mahan opens the door and a little snow comes in. He leaves the house and mounts his horse. He then rides the horse, galloping away from the house. The camera moves upwards and we can see Karen holding his sword through the window and Mahan fading into the horizon.

Here the title of the work is shown.

Sword and Sorrow

The screen fades to black.

^ . Indoors/ night/ the green palace/ / Sultan's palace/ Damascus/ Syria

We see Ash'ath walking through dark corridors with exotic architecture and rough carved-wall designs. His clothes are a bit bloody and dusty. At the end of the corridors which are quite bright because of the torches there, we arrive at a door guarded by two soldiers. They prevent him from entering, and one of them says.

The guard (77 years old) (serious, with respect)

- Sir Ash'ath, you can't see the caliph at the moment. He's having his dinner, and no one is allowed to enter.

Ash'ath glares at him and says seriously.

Ash'ath - the commander (47 years old) (angry)

- I need to give him important news. Please let him know that Ash'ath has arrived from Madain. I'm sure he'll make an exception.

The soldier becomes hesitant and looks at the other soldier so as he may help him, but he shrugs his shoulders. Meanwhile, Ash'ath, who is tired of them behaving like this and not listening to him, says with a rather loud voice.

Ash'ath (the commander) (angry)

- Go and let him know! I have something urgent to tell.

The guard yields and goes in. It takes a few minutes until he is back. Meanwhile, Ash'ath looks at the walls and the carvings, pressing his fingers on the sword hilt in the scabbard. Eventually, when the guard is back, he signals to Ash'ath and says.

The guard (٣٢ years old) (serious, with respect)

- Caliph gave the permission to enter. Please Mr. Ash'ath...

Ash'ath looks at the soldiers, who are holding the large door, with disdain, and enters the caliph's room. The room is spacious and full of luxury furniture, with a large tandoor in the middle and beautiful seats all around it. Ash'ath bows to the caliph, who is sitting at a seat on the other side of the room, as soon as he enters the room and says.

Ash'ath (the commander) (angry)

- Please forgive my untimely arrival Caliph, but I'm bearing urgent news.

The king says, as he is holding a chicken leg with one hand and wiping his mouth with the other.

The king - Sultan (٥٥ years old) (without any emotion)

- Come closer Ash'ath. I hope the news is worth disturbing me.

Ash'ath bows again and says.

Ash'ath (the commander) (respectful)

- I have good news. If you allow me, I'll come closer and tell you.

Sultan the king nods and says.

The king - Sultan (٥٥ years old) (curious)

- Come closer, come on Ash'ath!

Ash'ath bows and goes towards the king. In front of the king, there is a tablecloth, on which there are various kinds of food. Ash'ath averts his eyes from the foods and tells the caliph.

Ash'ath (the commander) (serious, with commanding vocal tonality)

- God bless the caliph! Your commands were executed in Madain. Parviz, the commander of the city rebels and his fellow men were croaked, and only a few of them fled from the city to the deserts, which undoubtedly...

Sultan interrupts him by yelling.

The king - Sultan (๐๐ years old) (furious, yelling)

- Fled?! Didn't I order that every single person should be killed? Indigenous freedom fighters are saboteurs. They destroy everything. They grow like weeds, and build bases. Shame on you Ash'ath! What have you done idiot?!

Ash'ath who did not expect him to react that way, is shocked and says stuttering.

Ash'ath (the commander) (afraid, stuttering)

- Your majesty! I did my best. I had no mercy towards anyone, but...

The king - Sultan (๐๐ years old) (furious)

- No excuses Ash'ath! Go back there! I don't care how much it'll take you... a day, a month, a year, a lifetime! You have to go back and kill every creature there. I swear, if I haven't killed you yet, it's only because of your good services in the past. Otherwise, I should have given an order to hang you in this palace. Go Ash'ath and don't return until you've exterminated all the Indigenous freedom fighters.

Ash'ath breathes a sigh of relief, pounds his fist against his chest, posing like a commander, and says.

Ash'ath (the commander) (with warmth, sounding convincing)

- Thank you very much sir. I'll turn everything upside down to find them. I won't disappoint you this time.

Sultan moves his hand and starts eating again. Ash'ath knows he has to leave the room. He bows and while going out, he does not notice Sultan's looking at him smiling like a devil.

๑. Indoors/ before noon/ sunny weather/ bruchim's house/ Mahoza

We see a woman (Andia's mother/ Bruchim's wife), who is cooking lunch in the kitchen. A girl (Andia) runs towards her and starts pulling her dress and says.

Andia (๗ years old) (complaining, with childish voice)

- Mommy! Mommy! I don't like Karen. I'm cross with him.

Anika (Andia's mother) (affectionate, with warmth)

- Why sweetheart? Haven't I told you that you should be kind to Karen?

Andia (๗ years old) (complaining, with childish voice)

- He doesn't play with me. He always sits in the corner, looking at his girlish bracelet or cleaning his stupid wooden sword!

Anika (Andia's mother) (laughing)

- I don't get you! Javid longs for playing with you, and you ignore him! Karen wants to be alone, and you don't leave him alone!

Andia (7 years old) (with childish voice)

- I DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH JAVID. He's so spoiled. I really like Karen. I want to play with him, but he's so unkind!

Anika (Andia's mother) (laughing)

- That's OK sweetie! He's missed his parents. You have to be kind to him!

Andia (7 years old) (with childish voice)

- Well, how can I be kind to him when he doesn't even pay attention to me?

Andia stomps her feet and stands there with folded arms. Anika sits on her knees and caresses her daughter's cheeks and hair affectionately, and says patiently.

Anika (Andia's mother) (affectionate, with patience)

- Andia, my beautiful daughter! Maybe Karen seems to be unkind, but we have to show him we love him. Kindness is the key. Why don't you invite him to your hiding place in the hayloft? You can gain his trust this way. Don't you agree?

Little Andia, who is now on cloud nine because of her mother's suggestion, happily kisses her mother and runs towards the door emitting a scream of joy.

Andia (7 years old) (with childish joy)

- Hooray! I can take him to my hiding place. Love you my beautiful mommy!

Seeing her daughter happy, Anika smiles and before Andia leaves the room, she says with a loud voice (the little girl does not stop).

Anika (Andia's mother) (affectionate but in a serious way)

- You have to be here for lunch. Come back soon! Be careful sweetie!

Andia, who has left the room and we can only see her hands through the window, says screaming.

Andia (7 years old) (happy, with childish joy)

- Ok, mommy! Sure thing mom!
 1. Outdoors/ the small garden in front of Bruchim's house/ sunny weather – spring/
 Bruchim's house/ Mahoza

Andia is running towards Karen happily, who is sitting on a rock next to the stable, and is cleaning his sword with a piece of cloth. A quite short boy with olive skin (about 1 years old) comes out of the house, following Andia like a shadow. He hides behind the wall so, no one can notice him (hiding childishly).

Andia (7 years old) (excited, with childish joy)

- Karen! Karen! Do you know what I want to do?

Being indifferent, Karen who is looking down cleaning his sword, says.

Karen (9 years old) (quite indifferent, with childish voice)

- I don't care! You either want to play with your dolls or you want to throw a tea party with hens and roosters.

Little Andia who is obviously upset because of Karen being indifferent, tries to be kind as her mother said, so with folded arms, she says slowly and sarcastically.

Andia (7 years old) (smug)

- Yeah, like you play with your girlish bracelet. I wanted to take you to my hiding place, but we don't have to go if you don't want to!

Hearing the word "hiding place", Karen pricks up his ears and looks up. He then looks at his bracelet and tries to ignore what he just heard about it. Instead, he tries to win Andia's heart flatteringly. On the other hand, Javid is not fond of the suggestion made, he turns red with anger and stomps his foot angrily.

Karen (9 years old) (enthusiastic)

- Do you really have a hiding place? Is it really yours? Can I see it?

Javid murmurs.

Javid (8 years old) (angry, murmuring)

- She really does, idiot.

Andia, who has noticed Karen's enthusiasm, turns her back to him and says with folded arms.

Andia (7 years old) (smug)

- I wanted to show it to you, but you acted like a baby. I'll take you there if you beg me now.

Karen becomes hesitant and upset when he sees Andia acting that way. Meanwhile, Javid closes his eyes and rubs his hands, begging like Koreans, and says.

Javid (8 years old) (begging)

- Don't beg her! Don't apologize! Please don't! For God's sake!

But eventually, the temptation of seeing that hiding place results in Karen relenting. He then stands up, puts his sword in his pocket, goes towards Andia, and stands in front of her and says.

Karen (9 years old) (fake apology)

- I'm sorry! Could you please show it to me?

Andia immediately yields and says with laughter.

Andia (7 years old) (energetic, laughing, with childish voice)

- Of course! If you're so friendly all the time, I'll always take you to my hiding place.

Karen (9 years old) (friendly, smiling)

- I'm always kind, Andia. How should we get there? Is it too far?

Andia points at the horses in the stable and says.

Andia (7 years old) (energetic, laughing, with childish voice)

- It's not too far. Don't you know how to ride a horse? I saw it myself that you rode to the city with my dad.

Karen (9 years old) (smug)

- Of course I can ride a horse! My dad taught me. I can even carry you as the pillion passenger.

Andia (7 years old) (energetic, laughing, with childish voice)

- So, go and bring the horse then! We should come back home soon. We have to be here for lunch.

Javid is upset about Andia's suggestion and is angry that Karen can ride a horse. While Andia and Karen are talking, Javid goes to the stable and loosens the bridle of the horse. He laughs evilly (childishly) and whispers to himself.

Javid (8 years old) (mischievous)

- Yeah, you can ride a horse. Prove it now!

Karen goes towards the stable. He wants to grab the bridle of the horse, which Javid has loosened, but the horse resists and moves, which scares Karen. We can hear Andia giggling. Karen, who is frustrated, finally controls the horse so skillfully (not expected from a 9-year-old kid). He tries again and this time he can hold the bridle. He then opens the door and comes out with the horse. He goes near the rock and mounts the horse with difficulty. He then signals to Andia and says.

Karen (9 years old) (smug but kind)

- Come on little girl! Step on this rock and get on the horse.

Andia (7 years old) (upset)

- I'm not a little girl. I won't get on the horse. I'm not coming.

Karen (9 years old) (sorry)

- I was just kidding. I'm sorry! Come on! I'll help you.

Andia (7 years old) (laughing)

- OK... OK...

Andia happily runs towards the rock. As she is shorter than Karen, she puts her feet in the stirrups with difficulty. Karen helps her with one hand while holding the horse with the other. When Andia mounts the horse, Karen says.

Karen (9 years old) (bossy)

- Hold me tight! Which way should we go?

Andia (7 years old) (serious)

- I don't want to hold you. I can hold myself on the horse. Go up the road next to the house. It's not very far.

Karen (9 years old) (indifferent)

- As you wish. Sit tight!

Karen clucks to the horse, and it starts to walk slowly. They disappear after the first twist beside the trees. Javid who is looking at them going away, comes out of the stable surprised, kicks the stone near him with his foot angrily, and starts running.

\\ . Outdoors/ near a hand-carved cave/ sunny weather – spring/ woody mountainous region/ Mahoza

We see Andia and Karen riding the horse uphill next to the foothill. When Andia sees the hand-carved cave, she screams and says.

Andia (7 years old) (excited)

- Hoorayyy! Here we are. It's here!

Karen rides the horse until they arrive in front of the cave. He stops the horse near some large rocks and dismounts it with difficulty. He holds the bridle, looks at Andia and says.

Karen (9 years old) (cautious)

- OK, I hold the horse. Put your feet on the rocks here, and get off.

Andia (7 years old) (excited)

- I know how to get off. You're so bossy. I don't like it at all.

Karen (9 years old) (apologizing)

- I didn't say anything bad. I'm worried about you. Be careful! I don't want you to get hurt.

Andia smiles in a way that it seems she is happy because of Karen being affectionate. She then dismounts the horse carefully and with difficulty. As soon as she dismounts the horse, she runs towards the door.

Andia (7 years old) (excited)

- This is it! Let me find my dad's lantern. I always put it here.

Andia starts searching so carefully, and Karen ties the horse to a trunk and joins Andia. Ultimately, she finds the lantern under a wooden box beside the door. She emits a scream of joy and says.

Andia (7 years old) (enthusiastic)

- I should light it so we can enter the hiding place.

Andia lights the lantern carefully, and signals to Karen to enter the cave. With a little push, the door opens and they enter as Andia is holding the lantern.

12. Indoors/ hand-carved cave in highland/ the light of the lantern/ mountainous region/
Mahoza

Holding the lantern, Andia moves forward in the cave, and Karen follows her cautiously. We can see various things inside the cave such as undressed stones and bale packed hays in different parts of the cave, showing that food for animals is stored for the winter. It seems that the cave is long, but it is blocked by some rocks. The hays have blocked the way, but when they go near them, Karen notices that there is a narrow path next to the hays, but we cannot see the end of it in the dark. Suddenly, Karen notices a shadow that has passed swiftly. He stops. Andia goes a little further and turns back to Karen and asks while puzzled.

Andia (7 years old) (puzzled)

- What's wrong? Why have you stopped?

Karen (9 years old) (cautious)

- Didn't you see a shadow? I think somebody's here.

Andia (7 years old) (excited, laughing)

- Oh, Karen is frightened! There's nobody here. You'd better not be afraid and follow me.

Karen (9 years old) (objecting)

- I'm not frightened, but I'm sure I saw a shadow. Well, let's go! I'll follow you.

Andia laughs and moves forward happily until they reach a rather big space inside the cave after passing a narrow corridor. We can see large holes on the upper part of the walls, but they are totally dark because of the absence of light. Andia stands in the middle of that space, does a turn happily, and turns to Karen and says.

Andia (7 years old) (excited)

- Here we are! This is my hiding place. No one can find us here.

Karen, who is looking around curiously, says.

Karen (9 years old) (sad)

- This is great. It's awesome that you have such a hiding place. If we had this in our home, all of my family members could be alive.

Karen sits on the ground and bursts into tears. Andia, who is very sorry to see him crying, leans the lantern against a rock, which is quite distant from the packed hays and approaches Karen. She sits next to him on her knees, holds Karen's hands and says with a lump in her throat.

Andia (7 years old) (affectionate and sad)

- Don't cry! This place can also be yours. Whenever you want to hide, you can come here. Come on Karen! Stop crying!

Meanwhile, when Andia and Karen are sitting next to each other, we see something behind one of the holes above the space there. The light of fire helps us see Javid's face, which is not vivid, looking at Andia and Karen while being angry and upset.

Karen (9 years old) (comforted but still sad)

- You're so kind Andia. I really love you.

Andia (7 years old) (affectionate, laughing)

- For real? If you tell the truth, shout you love me. My dad says that if you love someone, you should say it out loud. So, shout!

Karen (9 years old) (shouting)

- Andia you're so kind. I love you!

Karen shouts so loud and his voice echoes in the cave. Javid shouts in anger at the same time and suddenly tens of bats start flying from where he stands. Javid throws himself on the ground and the bats fly through the narrow corridor. Andia and Karen are frightened and Karen shouts.

Karen (9 years old) (frightened, shouting)

- Close your eyes, Andia. Cover your face.

Andia and Karen cover their faces, and bats pass them swiftly. Meanwhile, one of the bats hits the lantern and it falls on the ground, causing the hays to burn. Javid, who is scared seeing this, does not know what to do, so he runs away. Down there, Andia and Karen still have their eyes closed. The hays burn one after another and we can see the flames coming out of the cave. Andia and Karen open their eyes after they do not hear bats flying anymore, and they find

themselves surrounded by fire. They both start screaming. Andia is petrified and cannot hear Karen shouting at her.

Karen (9 years old) (screaming and shouting)

- Andia, we have to go. Why don't you move? We'll burn to death here. Hurry up! Let's go!

Karen keeps shouting, but Andia is still shocked. Karen piggybacks Andia with difficulty and tries hard to run and pass the fire while the burning hay packs fall on the ground behind them. Karen reaches the first section of the cave, where is full of bats flying here and there. He draws his wooden sword and moves it in the air to keep the bats away from Andia and himself. They finally reach the entrance. Meanwhile, Karen hits a stick and his bracelet falls on the ground. He looks at it for a second, but prefers to leave it there and save Andia instead. He then kicks the door open and comes out of the cave. They both fall on the ground outside the cave, and hundreds of bats fly out of the cave after them. Karen looks at Andia and breathes a sigh of relief when he sees that her eyes are open and she is breathing (she is shocked and both of them are covered with soot). He then runs into the cave. Andia nervously stares at the cave until Karen comes out of it while holding the bracelet. He throws himself on the ground and lies next to Andia. While closing his eyes, he hears Andia's voice.

13. Outdoors/ near a hand-carved cave/ sunny weather – spring/ woody mountainous region/ Mahoza

Karen opens his eyes hearing Andia's voice.

Andia (7 years old) (in a little pain, afraid)

- You're insane! Are you OK Karen? Can you hear me? You were about to kill yourself.

Karen stands up slowly, looks at Andia standing next to him, and smiles. He shakes the dust off his clothes and says.

Karen (9 years old) (with nervous laughter)

- I'm fine. Thank God you're OK. You were scared to death!

Andia (7 years old) (being stubborn)

- I wasn't scared. I'm totally fine.

Karen (9 years old) (with nervous laughter)

- I know. We should go back home. Your mom's going to be worried about us.

Andia, who is still frowning, shakes her head. Karen, who is squeezing the bracelet in his hand, approaches Andia, holds her hand and ties the bracelet around her wrist, but she does not react. Karen shrugs and goes towards the horse. He unties it, brings it beside the rock, and mounts the horse. He then signals to Andia and says.

Karen (٧ years old) (friendly)

- I know you weren't scared. Come on! Hurry up or we'll be late.

Andia goes towards the rock and mounts the horse. Karen steers the horse slowly, so they can head towards the home. We see Javid, whose clothes are slightly covered with soot, on top of a rock (in a higher place), watching Andia and Karen while clenching his fists. After a while, Andia wraps her hands around Karen's waist tightly, and Karen who is happy as a result of this, clucks to the horse and it starts cantering. They both laugh loudly and the horse starts galloping. The camera moves and a tree blocks it for a moment. Then we can see adult Andia and Karen while they are laughing and riding the horse (exactly like the previous scene; Andia wrapping her hands around Karen's waist tightly) down the hill to Bruchim's (Andia's father) house.

١٤. Outdoors/ noon/ mountain road near Bruchim's house/ Mahoza

At the bottom of the screen: ١٣ years later...

Andia and Karen are riding down a hill towards Bruchim's (Andia's father) house that they see a group of officers (Umayyad soldiers) in front of the house. Karen, who is surprised, pulls on the reins and he hears Andia say.

Andia (١٩ years old) (worried)

- Karen! What's going on? What are these soldiers doing here?

Karen pulls on the reins again.

Karen (٢٠ years old) (nervous and afraid)

- I don't know. They're caliph's soldiers. They're not local. We should get closer and nose around a little.

Karen releases his tension on the reins and moves them so the horse begins moving slowly towards the house. After taking a few steps, Andia pokes at Karen and says.

Andia (١٩ years old) (nervous, shouting)

- Karen! Karen! Look over there! Isn't that my dad?

Karen pulls on the reins.

Karen (٢٠ years old) (shocked)

- What? Dad? Where?

Andia (١٩ years old) (angry)

- Oh My God! Over there! Over that narrow road near the mountain.

Karen pulls on the reins again and looks in the same direction Andia points. He sees Bruchim hiding behind rocks and trees and signaling to them to approach him. Karen clucks to the horse and while talking to Andia, he rides towards Bruchim.

Karen (٢٠ years old) (worried)

- Yeah, that's him! Let's go!

We see Bruchim signaling to Andia and Karen to calm down. After a few moments, they reach near where Bruchim is. He comes towards the road, holds the bridle, and asks Andia and Karen to remain silent while he pulls the horse towards the rocks and trees. When the horse stops, Andia and Karen dismount it. Andia turns to her father anxiously and asks.

Andia (١٩ years old) (anxious)

- What's wrong dad? What are all these soldiers doing here? Where's mom? What has happened?

Karen, who is holding the bridle, is staring anxiously at Bruchim. He wants to say something, but Bruchim raises his hands and asks him to calm down. He then says.

Bruchim (Andia's father) (٦٣ years old) (nervous but serious)

- Calm down kids! It seems that Mahoza's turn has come. Caliph's old now and he's worried about the future of his son, Salim. Sabat and Darzanidan are not safe, either.

Bruchim looks at Karen and says seriously.

Bruchim (Andia's father) (٦٣ years old) (nervous but serious)

- It's not safe here, anymore. These heartless soldiers have come after the chieftain now, but if they come looking for Karen's father-in-law, we can't do anything. Take Andia with you and leave Mahoza. Javid will help you get out of Mahoza today before sunset.

Karen who is surprised, shakes his head, and looks at Andia helplessly. Andia, who can't stand this, says.

Andia (١٩ years old) (disappointed, objecting)

- I don't want to go dad. I won't leave you and mom here. I won't! I don't know about Karen.

Karen who is now courageous because of seeing Andia disagreeing with her father, supports Andia and says.

Karen (٢٠ years old) (affectionate but serious)

- How can I leave you alone after all this time? You've always been so caring and kind to me. No way! Andia and I will stay with you. We shouldn't give up. We have to find a way.

Bruchim, who is angry because of the disagreement, thumps the ground with his wooden walking stick, and says angrily with a rather loud voice (he is trying to control himself, so he would not shout)

Bruchim (Andia's father) (٦٧ years old) (angry, serious, trying not to yell)

- I can't believe it. It's a war, and war is not a joke. They show no mercy on anyone.

He then turns to Karen and says more angrily.

Bruchim (Andia's father) (٦٧ years old) (angry, serious, trying not to yell)

- Have you forgotten the promise you made? You promised to protect and take care of Andia. If they besiege Mahoza, they'll kill her without a second thought. Do you understand?

Karen who is shocked seeing Bruchim this much angry, falters a bit and wants to say something that furious Bruchim turns to Andia, who is also shocked seeing her father this much angry, and says.

Bruchim (Andia's father) (٦٧ years old) (furious, serious, trying not to yell)

- And YOU... Is this the daughter I've brought up? "My husband is free to go, but I won't go anywhere", huh? Isn't this the Karen you said you'd stay with him until death do you part? I can't believe my ears now!

Andia, who is really sad hearing these words and seeing her father this much angry, bursts into tears and says.

Andia (١٩ years old) (sobbing)

- Dad, I didn't mean to hurt you. I just don't want to leave you and mom. I don't want to leave you in this situation.

Bruchim, who has turned his back on them after saying those harsh words angrily, shakes his head. Karen comes closer, sits on his knees and tells Bruchim.

Karen (٧٠ years old) (affectionate, apologizing)

- I'm sorry if I hurt you with my words. Andia is my world. We can't leave you. I haven't forgotten my promise. This is just too hard.

Bruchim turns back to Andia and Karen with his face wet with tears. We understand that the reason he turned his back on them was because he was shedding tears. Bruchim raises Karen, who is sitting on his knees, up and hugs him. He addresses both of them.

Bruchim (Andia's father) (٦٧ years old) (affectionate, with quavering voice)

- You know that the distance between us will kill me, but I want to be completely sure that you're fine, safe, and happy. Don't worry about us. We'll take care of ourselves.

Andia throws herself onto Bruchim in a hug and they both cry. While hugging Andia, Bruchim turns to Karen.

Andia (١٩ years old) (sobbing)

- Daddy, my kind daddy!

Bruchim (Andia's father) (٦٣ years old) (affectionate, with quavering voice)

- Karen, I've checked with Javid and he'll help you get out of Mahoza as I said. Wait here till the sunset, and get out of the town by his caravan. His caravan will go to Madain. Your uncle Mahan is there, and he can take care of you both.

Karen who is surprised hearing "Madain" and cannot believe his ears, says to himself.

Karen (٧٠ years old) (surprised)

- Madain? Are you serious?

Andia, who cannot believe her ears, either, distances herself and turns to her father surprised.

Andia (١٩ years old) (sobbing)

- Madain? The city where Karen's family were murdered?

Bruchim (Andia's father) (٦٣ years old) (affectionate, speaking distinctly)

- Caliph is taking the lives of all his opponents. Someone should protect you. Mahan is a well-to-do person in Madain, and he can take care of you. Moreover, Madain is a very large city, and you can easily hide from the informants and spies there. Your safety is the most important thing now. Do you understand?

Karen nods and puts his hand on his chest.

Karen (٧٠ years old) (affectionate)

- Rest assured! I'll be absolutely careful.

Andia looks at her father affectionately. She does not know what to say, but finally she says.

Andia (١٩ years old) (embarrassed, faltering)

- Can I see mom before leaving, dad? Can you bring her here?

Bruchim looks at Andia with a heavy heart.

Bruchim (Andia's father) (٦٣ years old) (affectionate, speaking distinctly)

- Not here, but I'll bring her to the square in the evening as if she wants to say goodbye to Javid. I mean I'll try. You should cover your faces. I don't know what is expecting you there.

Bruchim hugs them both and goes out of sight through the narrow path beside the road. Andia and Karen look at each other and think about their unknown future.

١٥. Outdoors/ around sunset/ near the gate/ all set caravan/ Mahoza

Several camels with camel-litters are ready to leave the town through the gate, and several individuals on horses, who are holding bows, are guarding the caravan. A lot of travelers and the people who have come to say goodbye to their beloved ones are standing in the square. We can see Andia and Karen, who have covered their faces, standing beside Andia's parents in the corner. Andia hugs her mother and Karen tries to kiss Bruchim's hand; however, he does not let him do it and hugs Karen instead and whispers in his ear.

Bruchim (Andia's father) (73 years old) (affectionate, speaking distinctly)

- Take care of Andia. Take care of my only daughter.

Karen (20 years old) (affectionate)

- I will. I'll take care of her until my last breath. Don't worry at all!

Andia throws herself onto her father in a hug and Karen hugs Anika (Andia's mother). Meanwhile, Javid, who is now a 21-year-old man and the head of the caravan, is sitting on a horse, carrying a bow on his back and a sword is hung from his belt. He shouts.

Javid (21 years old) (bossy, commanding)

- Get set everybody. We're going to depart soon.

Bruchim and Javid look at each other and Bruchim gestures with his head to show he has something to do with him. Javid also gestures with his eyes that he will see him on the other side of the caravan. Bruchim holds Karen's hands and says.

Bruchim (Andia's father) (73 years old) (affectionate, speaking distinctly)

- I'd better go. We shouldn't draw attention. Please be careful.

Karen (20 years old) (affectionate)

- Thank you for all your kindness and support over these years. We'll be careful. Don't worry at all.

Bruchim hugs him and then kisses Andia, who is in her mother's arms, on the forehead. He then goes towards the other side. Javid has dismounted his horse and is holding its bridle, waiting for Bruchim. Bruchim smiles at Javid and when he approaches him, says.

Bruchim (Andia's father) (73 years old) (affectionate, worried)

- Javid, as I said yesterday, Mahoza isn't safe anymore, not for Andia, not for Karen, and not for you! I'm really worried about the informants.

Javid (21 years old) (friendly, regretful)

- I know, uncle. I'll take them to Madain, and maybe I'll stay there, too. I'll watch over them. You know how much I love them.

Bruchim looks at Javid, who is looking at Andia with regret. He sighs and says.

Bruchim (Andia's father) (٦٧ years old) (affectionate, worried)

- I know, Javid, and I know that you understand Andia's choice. You're all I have left from my brother. I love you as much as I love Andia. Please be careful!

Javid (٧١ years old) (affectionate)

- I will, uncle. Don't worry! We have to go now. We should arrive at the first house before midnight.

Javid (٧١ years old) (commanding)

- Let's go!

Karen hugs Andia, whose face is wet with tears, and they say goodbye to Anika and Bruchim. With the help of Karen, Andia sits on the camel-litter, and Karen holds the reins and rides the camel, leaving the town through the gate while Anika and Bruchim wave to them. The camera moves upwards slowly and we can see the caravan going away from the gate of Mahoza.

١٦. Indoors/ night/ the green palace/ Sultan's palace/ Damascus/ Syria

We can see the caliph sleeping on a brocade bedding having a nightmare. He is very anxious and his body is drenched in sweat. We can see the pain in his face as he squeezes his eyes shut. Finally, the caliph opens his eyes and gives a loud cry, and crouches on the bed.

Sultan (٦٨ years old) (with a loud cry of pain)

- Ash'ath! Ash'ath! Where the hell are you?

We see that Ash'ath is coming swiftly towards the bed. The camera moves upwards and we see several commanders and ministers in the room, who are obviously worried about the king. A ٧٨-year-old man is standing in front of all of them (Salim, Sultan's son), very worried. We recognize him as the prince because of his fine clothes and his manner.

Salim (the ٧٨-year-old prince) (sad, weeping)

- My father! Help my father!

When Ash'ath reaches the bed, the king says.

Sultan (٦٨ years old) (scared)

- Where is Salim? Where is Salim, Ash'ath?

Ash'ath holds the king's restless hands and says.

Ash'ath (the commander) (respectful, sad)

- Don't worry your highness! He's here. He's fine.

The king/ Sultan shakes his head and says.

Sultan (٦٨ years old) (angry, yelling)

- No! He's not fine. Insurgency! Rebellion! They won't have mercy on my son.

The caliph leans towards Ash'ath with difficulty, grabs him by the collar, and yells.

Sultan (٦٨ years old) (angry, yelling, teeth grinding/ at the end, his voice changes with lunacy)

- You have to find the Indigenous freedom fighters. They have a greedy eye on the throne. They'll encourage people to rebel against my son. They say he's corrupt, cruel, a womanizer. Let's assume he is. What's it to you? Here's my territory, my son's, and his sons'. Ash'ath, look for them from city to city, alley to alley, house to house and kill every one of them. Would you do that? Would you, Ash'ath?

Ash'ath is shocked hearing the caliph, but tries to control himself, and says.

Ash'ath (the commander) (scared, stuttering)

- Don't worry your highness! I won't hesitate to kill all your enemies.

Sultan who seems to have calmed down because of what Ash'ath has said, squeezes his hands and lies on the bed. Ash'ath stands up and goes towards the exit. Meanwhile, the ministers, the commanders, and Salim go towards Sultan's bed.

١٧. Indoors/ night/ oasis – inside the tent

Andia and Karen are talking to each other in a tent. Karen is sitting and Andia brings him a soft drink or fruit.

Andia (١٩ years old) (affectionate, worried)

- I'm still afraid of this forced displacement. What if we've made a mistake?! Oh! I can't stop repeating this sentence to myself!

Karen (٢٠ years old) (confident)

- Andia, Mahoza wasn't safe for us, anymore. Remember what your dad said. Do you really think Umayyad soldiers will show mercy on us or your parents? They're the ones who don't even show mercy on kids. We're heading to Madain, and Javid is also with us. You're safe, and that's what is important.

Andia (١٩ years old) (pretending to be disappointed)

- Yes, that's it! You just talk about me as if it's not about you and the fact that you want to go and see your uncle and take revenge on those soldiers.

Karen (٢٠ years old) (laughing)

- Oh, Goodness! What am I going to do with you? It's killing two birds with one stone. Right? (he laughs) It's safe for my sweetheart, Andia, and well... there are some other matters, you know. (he laughs)

Andia (١٩ years old) (she seems to be convinced)

- I hope you're right. How long are we going to stay in this oasis?

Karen (٢٠ years old) (affectionate, happy)

- Maybe by tomorrow noon. We have to wait until we can get more food and water. Poor animals need to rest, and I need...

Karen reaches out his hand and wants to hug Andia that suddenly they hear a terrifying loud noise. The bandits have attacked the oasis and they are warning people.

One of the bandits (٣٢ years old) (blustering and laughing and joking at the end)

- We don't want to kill you. We just want all your possessions. That's it!

Andia (١٩ years old) (scared, stressed)

- Oh My God! What's happening, Karen?

Karen takes his sword.

Karen (٢٠ years old) (shouting)

- Stay here! Don't leave the tent!

And he goes out of the tent.

١٨. Outdoors/ night/ oasis on fire – fighting with the bandits

Karen faces a rampage and a war outside of the tent. The bandits have set the oasis on fire and the helpless people are running, seeking a place to hide from the bandits. Karen draws his sword and starts fighting with the enemies. He mostly tries to save the women and the children there. Suddenly, he hears Andia screaming.

Andia (١٩ years old) (shouting, begging)

- Karen! Hllllp!

Karen looks at their tent, which is pitched on a higher ground, and notices a bandit, who is trying to tie a gag around Andia's mouth and throw her in the back of a cart drawn by two horses.

Karen (٢٠ years old) (furious)

- Leave her alone bastard! Leave her alone!

Karen makes a dash for Andia, reaches a bandit's horse. He mounts the horse by jumping, dismounts its rider, and rides swiftly towards Andia and the bandit there. When he nearly approaches the bandit who is riding the cart, in which Andia is lying with her eyes covered and her mouth tied with a gag around it, he draws his bow and shoots an arrow. The arrow hits the bandit's neck and he falls off on the ground; however, the horses bolt and gallop off while Andia is on the cart. Karen makes the horse canter and whispers in its ear.

Karen (٢٠ years old) (begging)

- Run faster for God's sake! Run!

Finally, the horse reaches the cart. Karen stands on the horse, jumps onto the cart, and pulls on the reins of the horses. The cart eventually stops, and Karen goes to Andia. When he wants to uncover her eyes, his hands touch Andia and she thinks that he is the bandit; therefore, she flounders and struggles.

Karen (٢٠ years old) (affectionate, sad)

- It's me sweetheart. Andia, it's me... Karen.

Andia calms down. Karen uncovers her eyes and they stare into each other's eyes. Andia cuddles Karen and says.

Andia (١٩ years old) (affectionate, scared, crying)

- Promise me Karen! Promise you'll never leave me alone.

Karen (٢٠ years old) (affectionate, sad)

- Only death can do us part.

Karen hugs Andia so tight and closes his eyes. (The screen fades to black)

١٩. Outdoors/ around noon/ Madain – ٦١ A.H.

At the bottom of the screen: ٧ years later...

We see a cloud of dust that has risen in the air because of a rider riding a galloping horse in an alley far away. He is riding towards the southern part of a square, which is almost dilapidated (where the camera is set). When the rider reaches a house, someone comes out and holds the bridle. The young rider dismounts the horse, smiles at the other man holding the bridle, and goes towards him energetically.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (cheerful)

- Javid! My loving cousin!

Javid lets go of the bridle, approaches Karen and hugs him.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (very friendly, being sarcastic)

- Hi Karen! Sir Mahan's favorite! The leader of the rebels! (he laughs) Oh, I'm sorry! The devotees. I've heard that you killed them all, but you know I'm impatient. I was so worried about you. I've been waiting here for about an hour to see you. (he laughs)

Karen (٢٧ years old) (laughing, joking)

- Let's say you're stronger than me, Javid, but are you stronger than Mahan, too? Just try calling us rebels to his face. We're different man! It's impossible that I can't handle my

responsibilities. I'm afraid you're mistaken, especially when the heads of your missions are some stupid officers...

Karen is still speaking that suddenly a lot of officers appear in the square, approaching Javid and Karen from three directions. They somehow besiege them. Javid looks at Karen arrogantly and says.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (mocking)

- You were saying... what kind of officers?

While looking at the officers relaxed, Karen says with a naughty laugh.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (being naughty)

- Yes, I was saying Javid that some stupid officers...

One of them who seems to be the head says.

The chief (angry, shouting)

- How stubborn you are, Karen! You can't run away from me this time. You should go to jail again and be beat up by me; maybe then you'll come to your senses.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (laughing but self-assured)

- Calm down Bin Horays! Take it easy! Talk is cheap. Let's assume that we're divided into two groups: Your leader and your soldiers, and my comrade, Javid and I. Which group is smarter?

Karen draws his sword, but Javid stands still, and then he goes towards the square and sits on a stone bench there indifferently.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (laughing)

- Please leave me alone, bro. I have back pain. After the feast comes the reckoning, comrade! (he laughs)

He then takes a piece of cloth out of his pocket and starts cleaning his sword. Karen shakes his head in surprise, and the officers laugh out loud.

The chief (shouting)

- Stop it! Arrest him!

Here we can see Karen and the officers start a fight. Karen hits and kicks them all. They are all beat to a jelly even by his clumsy kicks. The officers run away and Karen goes towards bin Hurays (the chief), who is holding his sword to defend himself (in a guard fighting pose). Karen suddenly jumps towards him and bin Hurays, who is scared, drops his sword and runs away with the others.

Karen goes towards Javid, who is still sitting on the stone bench.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (mocking)

- Good job bro! The sword is shining BRIGHT. To be honest, you know sword polishing better than sword fighting.

Javid stands up and puts his hand on Karen's shoulder.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (calm, smiling)

- Don't be upset, Karen. A little bit punishment is all you need to remind yourself that discretion is the better part of valor, so you won't throw yourself to the wolves. You're Mahan's trusted confidant. Even I have no idea where the rural people's hiding places are. (he laughs) You're an adult now! Mahan is waiting to see you.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (smiling)

- What? Mahan? Is he back? Have you snitched on me again? (he laughs) Let's go!

Javid (٢٨ years old) (calm, smiling)

- He'll be back by evening. It seems that tonight is the night.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (smiling)

- Perfect! We have so much left to say. What a night!

We see two men walking down the square and fading in an alley.

٢٠. Indoors/ around noon/ the yard of the house – the basement/ Basement hideout

The camera shows us inside a house, which does not have any windows, and it seems to be a basement as it has a high ceiling, and there are lit wall torches, which are the only light source there. At the end of the hall, we can see several people sitting with a cut watermelon in front of them. Karen approaches them and bows. (only the upper part of the body moves)

Karen (٢٧ years old) (respectful, trying to be serious)

- Sir Mahan! I am so glad to see you. The city has been calm and the mission has been a great success.

The man who seems to be Mahan and is sitting in the middle, says.

Mahan (smiling affectionately, but with a serious voice like a commander)

- Karen! I'm happy you're OK. A great success? Do you mean fighting with half of the Madain officers is a great success?

Karen (٢٧ years old) (laughing, floundered)

- Well, I mean I have helped Lady Delaviz and your daughter to get out of the town by Khorasan's caravan and stay in a safe place, which was the most important order. I don't

think even the ruling house of Madain has suspected a thing. However, I had some trivial problems dealing with the guards, but fortunately, everything came up roses.

Mahan (worried and serious)

- Did anyone suspect you? Especially after the argument you had with the officers over that farmer's taxes.

Karen (٧٧ years old) (laughing, confident)

- Oh, news travels fast! Rest assured! No one has suspected, but sir, we have to do something about the informants.

Karen looks daggers at Javid and Javid shakes his head, smiles and moves towards the stairs (the exit).

Mahan (angry)

- Karen! I've told you a hundred times that you have to focus on the mission and nothing else. You know how long we've been waiting for today to take the city back from the enemies. To help with the uprising. Being careless exactly when the new governor is coming to the town, when Sultan is dead, and when we should keep the town calm, equals suicide! Do you know what they are going to do to us?

Karen (٧٧ years old) (sad, with a cold tone of voice)

- I know! I'm totally aware of that.

Mahan exhales and tries to say something to compensate for what he said earlier to Karen.

Mahan (affectionate, apologizing, speaking distinctly)

- I'm sorry for what I said. I didn't mean it. ٧٠ years have passed from that gloomy day, and we have worked hard ٧٠ years to make it here. Please have patience. We're close to achieving our dreams, Karen.

Karen (٧٧ years old) (smiling)

- I've been counting down the seconds for years to make this dream come true. What has brought you to the town? Is everything alright there?

Mahan (a little calmer)

- I had to be sure everything's OK here. I also wanted to see some of our friends. Thank God everything's taken care of. I'm going to leave the town before the gates are closed, and I'll be waiting for you at midnight. Is everything arranged?

Karen (٧٧ years old) (smiling, with a good vibe)

- Yes, yes! Everything is perfect! I'm going to see Behnam and Behdad after our meeting. Their duties are clearly defined. I'm going to explain the way we should join you

according to your order around sunset at Janmehr's house. We're going to join you at midnight.

Mahan (a little calmer)

- Good! Just be careful and avoid any confrontation with the enemy (takes a deep breath). Are you ready to transfer your wife?

Karen (٢٧ years old) (respectful, bowing)

- I'll be absolutely careful. For Andia's safety, they're going to gather together in your house at night as everybody thinks the house is empty.

Mahan (affectionate)

- Perfect! Be careful, Karen! Good luck!

Karen bows, goes towards the end of the hall, and walks up the stairs. We then enter a yard, which is small but very beautiful. Karen's horse is eating grass (alfalfa) and Javid is standing next to it. He smiles at Karen when he sees him.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (being sarcastic)

- You don't seem to be fine, apple of Mahan's eye. Was he mad at you?

Karen shakes his head and stomps a clod.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (mocking, complaining)

- Quick check your face Javid because I just found a nose in my business! Ah, the usual complaints and reprimands! We don't have enough time, Javid. I'm going to see Behnam in the bazaar, and I think I can find Behdad in the mosque at prayer time. And of course you know that ...

Javid interrupts Karen, poses and tells flippantly.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (being flippant)

- Yes, I have to load about ١٠٠٠ illegal weapons with Bardia, the bladesmith, and take them to Janmehr's house while I'll be surrounded by the officers. What an easy thing to do!

Karen (٢٧ years old) (affectionate)

- Be careful, Javid! Be very careful, man!

Javid (٢٨ years old) (with warmth)

- Sure, Mr. favorite! A bad thing never dies!

Karen smiles and goes towards the front door.

٢١. Indoors/ night/ the green palace/ Salim's palace/ Damascus/ Syria

Sultan's dark palace is now a little brighter. We can see the comings and goings with the camera movement. It seems a party is held at the palace. We can hear the music. The character we see from behind is Ash'ath, who is almost ٦٠ years old, and a powerful and bad tempered commander. Ash'ath opens the main door in the corridor with a little anger and enters the room. The room is very spacious and it is the one shown in the first sequence, where the throne was placed. Now, we can see women dancing and individuals wearing colorful clothes. It seems that it is such a low-class party. We can also see Salim (the ٣٠-year-old caliph), who has reclined on the throne, wearing a brocade cloak, shirtless, and the girls are feeding him grapes. Two women are also there playing with two dogs. Ash'ath is about to explode with anger that suddenly a monkey jumps from one side to another before his eyes. Ash'ath is shocked, he stumbles and everyone laughs at him. Eventually, he approaches the throne, bows with respect to the young caliph (Salim) and says.

Ash'ath – the commander (٦٢ years old) (trying to be respectful)

- God bless our great caliph! I hope you are in good health, sir. I am bearing important news that I would like to share with you.

Salim swallows a single grape and says flippantly.

Salim (the ٣٠-year-old caliph) (flippant, mocking)

- Ash'ath! I'm so happy to see you again. I missed you so much. Tell me, tell me!

After saying this, while Ash'ath is still holding his head down, Salim makes a face to show others that he is not happy seeing Ash'ath there, and this makes people start laughing. Ash'ath, who is surprised and a little upset hearing the guests laugh, stands upright and tells Salim.

Ash'ath – the commander (٦٢ years old) (trying to be respectful)

- Your highness, unfortunately, in spite of all my efforts, we could not find individuals to declare their allegiance to you. There may exist the possibility of rebellion. We must find a solution.

Salim gets angry and tries to sound serious while he seems flippant.

Salim (the ٣٠-year-old caliph) (quite angry, being immature)

- Don't show mercy on them. Kill all of them, Ash'ath! You were my deceased father's companion. He was an intelligent politician. What do you think he would command now? You know I'm very busy Ash'ath, and I don't have enough time to take care of these affairs.

Ash'ath moves a little and being shocked seeing Salim being so immature and unwise, shakes his head and says.

Ash'ath – the commander (٦٢ years old) (trying to be respectful, angry)

- We cannot get rid of them without getting into trouble. Husayn ibn Ali has many followers, and many Iraqis are his advocates. In addition, things are not going well in Madain. I have some news regarding the possibility of mawlas' rebellion. I think we have to ... (Salim interrupts him)

Salim (the ٣٥-year-old caliph) (yelling, pretending to be very angry)

- Didn't you understand what I just said? Take care of it yourself! Send Obaidullah to Kufa to hear Husayn pledge allegiance or to kill him if he doesn't accept to do so. Kill the vassals, as well. And Madain ... (scratches his head) kill the residents, too. Phew! See? I'm too busy! Bring me a drink!

Someone brings him a drink immediately. He takes a sip and he gestures with his hand to Ash'ath and says.

Salim (the ٣٥-year-old caliph) (cheerful, stuttering)

- Go and handle it man! You can go now. Go!

Ash'ath bows and while leaving the room, whispers to himself.

Ash'ath – the commander (٦٢ years old) (angry and fretful)

- This idiot will destroy Umayyad caliphate. He'll destroy it!

Meanwhile, Salim makes a face showing Ash'ath has exhausted his patience and has made him crazy. Again, Ash'ath hears people laugh, and when he leaves the room, a soldier (seems to be his deputy) approaches and asks him.

Ash'ath's deputy (٤٠ years old) (respectful)

- Sir Ash'ath, a messenger has arrived with news he says is very important. He demanded that you read the scroll as soon as possible. He insisted so much I have brought it myself.

Ash'ath shakes his head, take the scroll from his deputy, opens it and starts reading it. By reading each sentence, he becomes more and more angry; even the messenger gets scared and takes a step back. Ash'ath crumples the scroll. He then walks away ignoring his deputy. We can then hear him saying angrily with a loud voice, trying not to yell, while he is going away.

Ash'ath – the commander (٦٢ years old) (angry and fretful)

- We'll go to Madain right now. We shouldn't waste our time. Get ready!

The deputy looks shocked while looking at Ash'ath walking along the corridor.

٢٢. Outdoors/ afternoon (at ٢:٣٠)/ Madain bazaar

We see Karen entering the bazaar in the crowd through a twist. It is a crowded bazaar where some vendors work there, as well. We go near a fabric store, in which a good-looking man is selling fabrics. Karen starts talking to him (we face Behnam).

Behnam (cheerful)

- Hey, Karen! Long time no see! I have heard good news. Well done man, well done!

Karen (٢٧ years old) (energetic, laughing)

- The king of Madain drapers! Hi, news travels fast! Or was it Javid having a big mouth Behnam?

Behnam (laughing)

- Your bravery is undeniable, man. Don't beat around the bush. Tell me!

Karen (٢٧ years old) (with a low voice)

- Mahan is back in town. We have to get it done tonight. Is everything arranged?

Then he says with a loud voice and a fake laughter.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (with a fake laughter)

- I've come here with chapped lips. Don't you want to bring your friend a cold drink?

Behnam laughs.

Behnam (laughing)

- Of course! (he nods) Of course my lord! (he winks)

Karen (٢٧ years old) (with a low voice)

- See you at Janmehr's house at sunset.

Behnam then goes inside the store to bring Karen a drink. Meanwhile, we see two officers approaching an elderly woman who is selling goods. They kick the goods and yell.

The first officer (Yelling, insulting)

- Stupid old woman, have you forgotten that you're not allowed to sell a thing without paying your taxes?

The elderly woman (begging, crying at the end)

- I swear I haven't sold anything. I haven't earned a penny since the morning. My kids are starving. Let me sell something. I can pay you then. Believe me!

The officer kicks the goods twice and some of them hits the woman's flank.

The second officer (yells)

- It's not our money old biddy. It's caliph's money. It's tax time, stupid!

Karen, who is looking at the scene, goes towards them. Behnam mumbles.

Behnam (mumbling, nervous)

- Karen, please don't! It's not a good time. Shouldn't we do something tonight? Karen!
(angry)

Ignoring him, Karen moves forward.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (angry, shouting)

- Leave her alone idiots! You should be ashamed of yourself! How dare you bully this elderly woman?

The first officer (impolite, yelling)

- Wanna fight? Come on or get lost piece of shit!

Karen gets angrier, draws his sword, and starts fighting with them. They ask for help as Karen is fighting fast and fiercely. Eventually, he beats all of them, and one of them, who is running away, says.

The officer (scared)

- I'll report what you've done to my boss.

Meanwhile, the officer trips over a stone, falls on the ground, stands up and runs away again.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (laughing, with a loud voice)

- Go ahead! Do what you want to do. (laughs out loud)

Then Karen faces Behnam (we face Behnam).

Karen (٢٧ years old) (feeling victorious, being humorous)

- Come on, man! Get to work! I think the gendarmerie is not crowded right now. Bin Hurays has been looking for me since the morning (he laughs). Hope to see you soon Mr. draper. See you at sunset!

Behnam, who is shocked, looks at Karen and watches him going away. Karen runs towards the twist in the street.

٢٣. Indoors/ afternoon (at ٤:٣٠)/ gendarmerie

We can see the commander walking in the gendarmerie. Whenever a soldier sees him, he immediately salutes him, and we can obviously see the fear and anxiety in the soldiers' eyes. The commander walks up the stairs (we have not seen his face, yet), goes towards a room and opens its door violently. He goes in and stands in the middle of the room. A person who is sitting at the table was smoking hookah; however, as he hears the door open, he jumps and the hookah falls on the ground. We can see Madain soldiers' commander's face (bin Hurays), who turns to that person and says stuttering.

Bin Hurays (٥٠ years old) (floundered and nervous)

- Sir Ash'ath! Welcome back! Great to see you!

Ash'ath (٦٢ years old) (angry and serious)

- What the hell are you doing, bin Hurays? Rebels are taking control of the city, and you're sitting here smoking a hookah? God damn this government and you as its commander.

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (floundered, justifying)

- I am afraid you have the wrong information, sir. Which rebellion are you talking about? The town is completely safe.

Ash'ath (٦٢ years old) (yelling)

- Indigenous freedom fighters' revolt, worthless Mawali's rebellion! After suppressing the rebellion in Madain, you're gonna pay for this. How many soldiers do you have?

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (scared, stuttering)

- About ١٣٠, sir.

Ash'ath (٦٢ years old) (serious)

- Very well, ٢ groups, ٣٠ soldiers each, should guard Dar al-Imara and here, and the rest of them should be assigned to patrol. Oh, and keep ٢٠ of them beside you, duffer!

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (floundered and nervous)

- Roger that! And could you tell me what is going on?

Ash'ath (٦٢ years old) (furious)

- Indigenous freedom fighters are planning a rebellion. We have to be watchful, bin Hurays.

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (asking a question, with denial)

- How do you know, sir? I have been patrolling since early morning. Nothing special has happened.

Ash'ath (٦٢ years old) (serious)

- A trustworthy friend; someone who's a better sentinel than you and your useless soldiers. et's go to the armory.

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (floundered and nervous)

- Armory? Why armory, sir?

Ash'ath (٦٢ years old) (angry and serious)

- Ugh, you talk too much, bin Hurays. Stop talking and follow me. You'll find out.

Bin Hurays is shocked. He puts his head down and accompanies Ash'ath.

٢٤. Outdoors/ evening (at ٦)/ Masjid-e-Azam of Madain (the largest mosque of Madain)

Karen reaches the mosque after passing a wide street. A person is talking to another person (Behdad) in front of the door, and as Karen arrives, he leaves. We as Karen go towards Behdad and start talking to each other.

Behdad (anxious, he does not know what to do)

- Just on time! Things are not going well.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (smiling but worried)

- Hello brother! What's the matter? Has someone made a mistake? Should I rectify the situation again? Do we have a new problem? (he smiles)

Behdad (helpless)

- Behnam and my son, Bijan have been arrested, Karen. It seems Ash'ath noticed their entrance to gendarmerie. I've just been notified.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (anxious)

- How could this happen? How could bin Hurays arrest Behnam? Oh My God! Are they alive? Are they OK? Do you know where they are now?

Behdad (sad, with a lump in his throat, with pent-up anger)

- It seems that they were waiting for them. I don't know, either. Maybe they were more alert because of today's incidents! According to my informant, they're alive and are in the gendarmerie, but, they'll be definitely transferred to the dungeon. We have to change our plan. Mahan's life is at stake!

Karen (٢٧ years old) (angry and sad)

- Oh, no, wait! Maybe we can do something. It's such a good news that they're in the gendarmerie. Maybe we can get them out of there.

Behdad (sad)

- I've heard they're more watchful these days. The new caliph doesn't have many supporters, and you know about Madain. I've heard the rumor that Ash'ath is in Madain.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (shocked, worried)

- Ash'ath? Are you sure Behdad? The commander of Sham in Madain?

Behdad (sad)

- Yes, I've heard so many people say the same thing. This ominous man is evil. He brings about death everywhere he goes. With all these things in mind, can we take a risk and save them?

Karen (٢٧ years old) (angry, fearful, hopeful, serious)

- Of course we can. We can't lose the chance. We've fought for ٧ years to clear Madain from the Umayyads. If... if Madain and Kufa do not unite as one, what will happen to Husayn? Have you ever thought about that? We can't withdraw now. This is actually a great opportunity for me to take revenge on Ash'ath, Behdad.

Behdad (hopeful, surprised)

- Seriously? Do you really think we can do something? I'm not optimistic, but I trust you. Tell me, what should we do?

Karen (٧٧ years old) (optimistic, energetic)

- Be optimistic, bro! Be optimistic! I have an idea. It's better to go to the dungeon. We have to find them before they'll be transferred.

Behdad (happy but worried)

- But it's dangerous Karen!

Karen (٧٧ years old) (smiling)

- We have to take risks Behdad. Hurry up! Let's go! If we're late, Janmehr will punish us both.

Being scared and hopeful at the same time, the two men go towards the twist in the street and then disappear.

٧٠. Outdoors/ evening (at ٦)/ the entrance of gendarmerie

Beside a wall overlooking the jail, which is guarded by two soldiers, Behdad and Karen are talking to each other.

Karen (٧٧ years old) (meticulous, speaking distinctly)

- OK, understood? You have to cry and snivel in a way that they take pity on. Cry your heart out. Do whatever you can to distract them for a few minutes. I'm going to climb and enter through the rooftop entrance. Not difficult!

Behdad (with fatherly affection)

- Rest assured, man! Just please be careful! If we lose you, our plan will come to nothing, and everything will be destroyed... everything!

The two men look at each other and Karen signals to Behdad. Behdad goes towards the entrance of the gendarmerie, throws himself on the ground, and while being rowdy, begs and cries.

Behdad (begging and crying)

- Have mercy on him for God's sake! He has made a mistake. He is stupid. He is the breadwinner for our family. Please have pity on me. I am an old man. If you put that idiot in jail, we will die of hunger. His mother and sisters will starve to death.

The guard comes close, looks him up and down and says.

The guard (being rude)

- Go away man! You're not even old. If you stay here crying, you'll face severe consequences.

But Behdad continues crying. A moment later, someone (bin Hurays) comes out.

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (angry, yelling)

- What's wrong? What's happening here? Stop it! You should have controlled your son when he acted as a rebel. Then, you wouldn't be standing here crying, you know.

Behdad (begging and crying)

- Sir Hurays, he's only an immature adolescent. It is just because of his evil friends provoking him. He is so gullible and naive. Show mercy on him for God's sake!

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (angry, yelling)

- How dumb do you think I am? Your son and his stupid friend wanted to set our armory on fire. No evil intentions! Right! Go away, man! He has committed a serious crime. He has to confess under torture in the dungeon, and rat his accomplices out.

As Karen sees bin Hurays coming out of the gendarmerie, stops watching them and catches the edge of the wall and climbs up. Two soldiers are guarding the rooftop and Karen anesthetizes them sneakily. He reaches at the door of the rooftop, but it is locked. He looks for a stone. He finds a stone, breaks the lock, and enters the building.

٢٦. Indoors/ evening (at ٦)/ the gendarmerie (the second floor, the jail)

Karen tries to tiptoe and pass the room of the guards, who are drinking and making fun of bin Hurays and Behdad. He passes the room and goes towards the basement, where the jail is located. A couple of wood doors with a fraction on each of them, which is used to call the inmates, separate the cells. Karen looks through the fractions and sees Bijan, crouched in the corner of the cell.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (whispering)

- Bijan? Behnam? Are you OK?

Behnam (surprised)

- Karen! What are you doing here? Why did you come? Why have you put yourself in danger, man?

Karen (٢٧ years old) (affectionate and angry at the same time)

- It's not the right time to ask these question, Behnam. You have to be alive to complain. Hurry up! Let's go!

Karen tries to open the door, but it is locked.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (confused, being humorous)

- It's locked, and you don't have the keys of course. Stay here until I can find them. Don't go anywhere!

Karen walks away and we hear Bijan say.

Bijan (complaining)

- Yeah, as if we can go anywhere we want.

Karen walks up the stairs and sees the keys hung on the wall outside the guards' lounge. He moves along the wall and tries to pick up the keys carefully and slowly, but suddenly he makes noise. He then holds his breath. One of the guards inside the room notices the sound and shouts.

The guard (suspicious)

- Is anybody there?

Another guard (frivolous)

- You're high, man! You're even more paranoid than Ash'ath. Sit here and enjoy watching this man crying and arguing with bin Hurays.

The guard who was suspicious sits down. Karen breathes a sigh of relief and goes back to the basement. He opens the door with the key and then moves towards the rooftop with Behnam and Bijan. They go out the door of the rooftop, and Karen turns to Bijan and says.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (friendly, smiling)

- Bijan, go over the rooftops to one of your relatives'. I'll explain everything to your father.

Bijan (affectionate)

- You're incredible! Thank you! Thank you so much!

Karen nods. Bijan glances at Behnam and Behnam says to him.

Behnam (affectionate)

- Please go, Bijan. I have to talk to Karen. Go and find a safe place to hide. Please be cautious this time!

Bijan smiles, nods, and goes away through the rooftops. Behnam and Karen look at him going away. After a few moments, Behnam puts his hand on Karen's shoulder and Karen turns to him and says.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (friendly)

- It's great that you're fine. You should go to Janmehr's house. First, I'll get rid of bin Hurays and then, I'll join you there.

But Behnam is in low spirits and looks sad. He shakes his head and tells Karen.

Behnam (sad, worried)

- They knew about us Karen. They had set a trap for us. Nothing was the same in the armory. I'm seriously worried.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (surprised)

- What do you mean? Maybe it was because of what happened today. Mahan told me not to get into a fight with them. It's my fault. Well, all's well that ends well. Don't you agree?

Behnam (a little angry, hopeless)

- Don't look the other way, Karen! They knew about everything! Each and every detail! They had set a trap!

Behnam sighs, puts his hands on Karen's shoulders, stands face to face with him and says.

Behnam (sad, worried)

- There's a traitor among us, Karen. I'm sure.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (surprised, doubtful)

- This is not true, Behnam. It's impossible! We've been a team for ٧ years. How is it possible?

Behnam takes some steps back, holds his head in his hand and turns his back to Karen.

Behnam (sad, worried)

- I know it's very hard to believe, but I thought about it during the hours I spent in those bastards' jail. I hope I'm wrong... I hope so.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (hopeful, confident)

- I also hope you're wrong, but we have to be more careful. Let's keep it a secret. I'm going to be all eyes, Behnam. Sunset is approaching. Please go. I'll see you at Janmehr's house.

Behnam (hopeful)

- Be careful, Karen! Please be very careful!

Karen (٢٧ years old) (hopeful, confident)

- You, too.

Behnam goes away through the rooftops and Karen descends the wall after watching Behnam for a few seconds. After descending the wall, he acts as nothing has happened and goes towards

Behdad, Ash'ath and the others as a passerby. As soon as he arrives there, he scratches his head and says.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (being frivolous)

- Can I be of any help sir bin Hurays?

As soon as bin Hurays sees Karen, he bursts with anger and starts yelling.

Bin Hurays (٤٠ years old) (angry, yelling)

- Arrest him! Arrest this son of a gun!

Karen runs away so fast and the soldiers chase him. Behdad stands up and looks at Karen and the cloud of dust he has risen in the air. A drop of tear rolls down from the corner of his eye.

٢٧. Indoors/ at sunset/ Janmehr's house

It is sunset and the camera shows us around the yard from above the building. We can see the cart containing weapons placed in the corner of the yard (Javid has done his job). Then, the camera goes inside a room through a window, where several people are sitting together and talking. We see Karen with his head wrapped in a cloth talking.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (serious, with his head wrapped in a cloth)

- Well, brothers, it's better to review the plan before getting started.

Everyone nods in agreement. Seeing this, Karen continues.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (serious)

- I'm going to move towards the gate of Sham before midnight. No one should notice us. There's a curfew, so we shouldn't get ourselves into trouble. We have to be very cautious, especially after what happened to Behnam today.

By hearing the word "cautious", everyone laughs. Karen smiles himself.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (being frivolous)

- Be just like Karen (laughs)

Karen (٢٧ years old) (laughing)

- They stabbed us in the back with bin Hurays's slippers (laughing out loud).

Everyone laughs. Karen continues speaking with more energy and power and with a smile on his lips.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (smiling, energetic and powerful)

- After passing Yemenis' neighborhood, I'll arrive at the main gate. I'm going to send the guards on a fool's errand and go to the control room. The gate chain is there.

Karen points at Behnam and says.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (serious)

- I'm going to send you a signal using a mirror. Be ready and stay alert! I'll join you on the other side of the gate. Behdad, Janmehr, and Javid, hide in the cart, so we can have the chance to avoid getting into a fight with the patrol officers on the other side of the gate. Mahan and the nomads are staying in the abandoned castle on the river bank. By delivering the weapons, the mission would be almost completed.

Everyone nods in agreement. Seeing this, Karen continues speaking being hopeful and pleased.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (more energetic)

- Very well, after passing the gate, we're going to move towards the hiding place. Is everything clear?

Javid (٢٨ years old) (serious, hopeful)

- Perfect! If God wills.

They put their hands on top of each other. The night has come. Karen turns to others.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (calm and confident)

- By the way, have the wives and daughters of our companions been transferred to Mahan's house, Javid?

Javid (٢٨ years old) (in a frivolous way)

- Well, yes and no.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (laughing)

- Oh, come on! Stop joking around, man! What do you mean by yes and no?

Javid (٢٨ years old) (warning, sarcastic)

- Yes and no because sir Karen's wife, lady Andia, is just like her husband, and you can't make her do something she doesn't want to. Don't be mad at me bro, but my cousin is just as stubborn as you.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (worried)

- Seriously? She didn't come with you? I convinced her to come last night. OK then, how about the others?

Javid (٢٨ years old) (sympathetic)

- I'm so sorry! I tried my best to persuade her, but I couldn't! Oh, don't worry about the others. They are staying in the house, and I coordinated with ٤ guards based on the plan.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (serious and worried)

- Thank you Javid! I have no other choice. I have to go and bring her myself. I'm really worried about her.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (warning)

- It's incredibly dangerous. You'll destroy everything. Our plan will come to nothing, Karen.

Ignoring Javid, Karen stands up and goes towards the door. Javid shouts.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (warning)

- Don't go Karen! You'll destroy everything.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (serious and worried)

- I'll come back on time. If I don't make it on time, do everything as planned. I promise nothing will happen.

Behdad (affectionate, begging)

- Let me come with you, Karen. No one will worry this way, and if anything happens, you won't be alone.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (serious)

- Thank you so much Behdad, but we shouldn't put the mission in danger. If we're both in trouble, nobody can do anything. Trust me! Please trust me!

Behdad wants to say something, but Karen leaves the room while everyone is still shocked. He goes out the terrace door towards the door in the yard. The camera shows Javid.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (aggressive and furious)

- Goddamn idiot!
٢٨. Outdoors/ night/ Madain – back alleys

Karen leaves the house and passes the back alleys carefully, hiding in the shadows and behind the walls. We can see Karen hiding behind a wall when he sees guards patrolling. Then, we see a couple of soldiers in the square, who are warming themselves by the fire; therefore, Karen's path is blocked. He then climbs up the wall of a house and with hiding behind the domes, he moves towards his house. Meanwhile, from the rooftop of a house, he sees a couple of soldiers with their commander, bin Hurays, who are crossing an alley. He hears bin Hurays and the soldiers say.

The first soldier (asking a stupid question)

- We know where they're heading; so, I don't understand why we're going to his house, sir. He's not even there.

Bin Hurays (٥٠ years old) (aggressive and angry)

- Because his stupid wife and children haven't left here. The spy who works for Ash'ath has informed him that Karen has returned and he's going home. Besides, do you think I'm the one who gets to decide, idiot?

The second soldier (scared, stuttering)

- And what happens if he doesn't come?

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (with an ugly laughter)

- He'll come. He will. And if he doesn't, we have to wait till he comes.

Bin Hurays laughs hysterically and the soldiers, being sycophants, laugh with him. Meanwhile, Karen is standing on the rooftop, shocked. He knows they are talking about him, and he keeps remembering a blurred scene, in which Behnam is talking to him on the rooftop earlier.

Behnam (a little angry, hopeless)

- Don't look the other way, Karen! They knew about everything. Each and every detail. They had set a trap. There's a traitor among us, Karen. I'm sure.

Karen is distressed and is looking at bin Hurays and the soldiers going away. After a few seconds, he comes to his senses and starts running towards his house, jumping from rooftop to rooftop. He keeps running distressfully, but suddenly when he jumps on the rooftop of a thatched house, the roof collapses and Karen disappears in a cloud of dust.

٢٩. Outdoors/ night/ the yard of Karen's house

We see a woman (Andia) walking in the yard of an old house (similar to the house in the first sequence), and a ٦-year-old boy (Keyvan), who is following the hens and playing. The woman seems to be worried and when the kid gets too noisy, the straw breaks the camel's back, and she starts yelling at him.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (yelling)

- Oh! Keyvan! Can you stop for a sec? Stop making too much noise!

Keyvan (٦ years old) (scared, shocked)

- You told me to play! I know. You're arguing with me because you're worried about dad.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (laughing)

- Oh, what a big cheeky guy! Come here my chubby chico!

Keyvan (٦ years old) (affectionate, smiling)

- I'm not chubby. OK, I'll come because I know you didn't mean it, and you love me so much.

Keyvan goes towards his mother, who has opened her arms to hug her kind son. She cuddles him and looks at him as if she has not seen him for ages. Keyvan is fair and has blonde hair, big eyes and beautiful lips. Andia looks at Keyvan's eyes and says spontaneously.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (serious)

- Your eyes shine like your father's.

Keyvan (٦ years old) (being honey-tongued)

- Mommy, you're also so pretty, but it's undeniable that daddy and I are more attractive.

Andia smiles and before saying something, someone knocks on the door. Keyvan distances himself and runs towards the door.

Keyvan (٦ years old) (being honey-tongued)

- Yayyyy! Daddy's here... daddy... daddy!

Not hearing Karen's voice, Andia becomes nervous, but before saying something, Keyvan opens the door. Andia sees Keyvan taking some steps back and looking scared and shocked. Andia pulls herself together and asks.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (serious)

- Keyvan? Who's there?

But before Keyvan answers, we hear bin Hurays's loud voice.

Bin Hurays (٤٠ years old) (in a loud voice)

- Hey mom, this is me, bin Hurays, the commanding officer of Madain. Can I come in?

Andia is horrified, but she tells Keyvan immediately.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (serious and anxious)

- Keyvan, come here honey. Hurry up dear!

Keyvan runs towards Andia and hugs her. While Andia is holding Keyvan in her arms, she asks bin Hurays, trying not to sound scared.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (serious, with a little shaky voice)

- What are you doing here? What made you come here?

Bin Hurays (٤٠ years old) (in a calm voice)

- Nothing, we're looking for your insurgent husband. We have to talk things out; you know?

Andia (٢٦ years old) (trying not to sound scared)

- But he's not here... He hasn't been here since this morning.

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (with a disgusting laughter)

- I know. He'll come. I mean you should hope that he comes; otherwise, we have to leave sooner, and well, you're going to die sooner that way. (he laughs out loud)

Andia tries to control herself. She distances Keyvan from herself and looks him in the eye.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (serious, with a little shaky voice)

- Sweetheart, please go inside and close the door. Go dear!

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (mocking, sarcastic)

- Yes, sweetheart, go! We can't find you there. (he laughs)

The soldiers also laugh. Andia gently pushes Keyvan, who gets a lump in his throat, and he goes inside. Bin Hurays looks at Keyvan going inside the house and then he looks at Andia.

Bin Hurays (٩٠ years old) (being disgusting)

- Well, what should we do while waiting for that rebel? Of course you know that politeness demands that you invite us inside.

Meanwhile, he goes towards Andia; knowing what he has in mind, she takes some steps back, and screams.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (serious, shouting with a shaky voice)

- Don't come close! Don't come any closer!

Bin Hurays smiles and reaches out his hands to Andia.

٣٠. Indoors/ night/ inside Karen's house

While inside the house, Keyvan, who has closed the door and locked the door chain, is standing behind it, gasping. When he hears his mother screaming, he covers his ears and his eyes are filled with tears; therefore, he can hardly see. The light inside the room becomes blurry before his eyes and it seems like a dream. He wipes his tears with his right hand and when the teardrop is wiped, we can see Karen's wooden sword on the window sill. Keyvan's eyes are filled with tears again and what he sees flickers.

٣١. Indoors/ night/ inside Karen's house/ a dream

Karen is holding Keyvan and is running around the house. When they reach the window sill, Keyvan looks at the wooden sword hung on the wall and asks.

Keyvan (with a happy childish voice)

- Daddy, daddy, why is this sword made out of wood? Why have you hung it on the wall?

Karen (affectionate, smiling)

- This is the sword of my childhood dear. It evokes my childhood sad memories and tough days.

Keyvan (with a happy childish voice)

- But wooden sword is of no use dad! It will break. You can't fight with it!

Karen (affectionate, smiling)

- This sword is different, son. It's magical. I've kept it to defend our family.

Keyvan (happy and surprised)

- Does it have a magical power? Are you serious? Does magic exist?

Karen (affectionate, smiling)

- The magic of love, son. The magic of hope and kindness

Keyvan (being naughty, in a spoiled manner)

- Can I have it, daddy? Would you give it to me?

Karen (affectionate, smiling)

- This is yours dear, but you don't need it now. Your mom and I have the power at the moment.

Meanwhile, Andia comes near Karen and Keyvan, smiling.

Andia (energetic and happy, smiling)

- Look at you two!

She then pinches Keyvan's cheeks and tells Karen.

Andia (energetic and happy, smiling)

- Excuse me, can I eat this little fella's cute cheeks? They seem super delicious, you know.

Karen (affectionate, smiling)

- Of course, my queen, but please leave some for me, too.

Karen puts Keyvan down and Keyvan runs away from his parents screaming, but finally Andia hugs him and puts his face on her chest.

۳۲. Indoors/ night/ inside Karen's house

Keyvan is smiling while remembering those moments that suddenly he hears Andia (his mother) screaming. He looks at the sword again and goes towards the window sill, determined. He stands on the pillow and hits the sword from below with difficulty. He falls on the ground backwards and the sword falls down, as well. Keyvan picks up the sword and runs towards the yard.

۳۳. Outdoors/ night/ the yard of Karen's house

Andia is still trying to run away from bin Hurays and while running, she throws different things at him such as fruit basket, packed hays, etc. Bin Hurays, who is now very angry because of what Andia is doing, tells ones of his soldiers.

Bin Hurays (۶۰ years old) (angry, yelling)

- Give me your fucking spear! come on!

The soldier tosses the spear to bin Hurays and he catches it in midair. He then tries to block Andia's way, and finally Andia gets stuck in the corner. She presses herself against the wall as if the wall can move backwards. Bin Hurays, who is excited because Andia is eventually caught, is gasping due to all the chasing and says with an evil smile.

Bin Hurays (۶۰ years old) (angry, yelling)

- Well, well! Here you are. I have finally caught you. I wanted to be gentle to you, but I won't show mercy on you anymore.

Bin Hurays is going near Andia when Keyvan comes out of the house and starts shouting and running towards Andia and bin Hurays, and catches the attention of bin Hurays. He goes and stands between Andia and bin Hurays and points the sword at bin Hurays.

Keyvan (۶ years old) (Scared but serious)

- I won't let you hurt my mom! I'll strike you with my sword if you come closer.

Bin Hurays laughs his head off.

Bin Hurays (۶۰ years old) (angry, laughing)

- Get out of the way, kid! I have to kill you first if you don't.

Bin Hurays waits a little bit, but Keyvan does not move and stands there determined. Bin Hurays who is surprised by Keyvan's bravery, yells more angrily.

Bin Hurays (۶۰ years old) (angry, yelling)

- OK, you asked for it!

Bin Hurays raises the spear. Andia screams and Keyvan closes his eyes (the screen fades to black for a few seconds). We hear the sound of the spear hitting a sword. Keyvan opens his eyes and sees that the spear has hit Karen's sword. Being furious, Karen says.

Karen (۳۷ years old) (aggressive and furious)

- I won't let it this time! I won't let you kill my family! No way!

The second strike of Karen's sword causes bin Hurays to fall and bleed. The soldiers start attacking Karen and his family, but Karen kills all of them. After killing them, he stands in the middle of the yard and breathes a sigh of relief. He then runs towards Andia and Keyvan, who

have hugged each other in the corner of the yard. Andia and Karen stare at each other and Andia starts crying. Karen sits down and hugs Andia and Keyvan, and while his head is between the two, he says.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (affectionate, with warmth)

- Thank God you're fine! Thank God you're fine!

Andia looks up and says.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (affectionate, sobbing)

- I was so scared Karen. I didn't think you'd come. I thought I lost you. Please don't go! Promise me you won't go!

Karen (٢٧ years old) (affectionate but blaming)

- Why didn't you go with them? Why didn't you go with Javid, Andia? Those bastards knew you were here alone.

Andia looks at Karen surprisingly and shakes her head. It seems she has remembered something painful. Karen kisses Keyvan on the cheek; meanwhile, Andia tries to say something, but she does not; however, finally, she says.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (stressed, worried)

- But, Javid asked us to stay. He said he'd be on top of everything. He said nothing would happen.

Karen is shocked. He tries to control himself, but he cannot and says with hatred.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (angry, with hatred)

- Did Javid ask you to stay?! Javid wanted you to stay?! I have to go Andia. I have to go! Everything is in danger. Our plan will come to nothing.

Andia is shocked. She wants to encourage Karen to stay, but he seems so determined to go. Andia shakes her head and says.

Andia (٢٦ years old) (stressed, worried)

- Please be careful! Please!

Karen looks into her eyes and nods his approval. He musses Keyvan's hair and says affectionately.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (affectionate, with warmth)

- Can you take care of your mom, dear? I'll come back soon.

Keyvan (٦ years old) (scared but serious)

- Sure daddy! Go and fight the bad guys! But, come back soon! So soon!

Karen looks affectionately at Keyvan, smiles and kisses him on the forehead.

Karen (۲۷ years old) (affectionate, with warmth)

- Sure champ! I'll be back in the blink of an eye.

He stands up and again his eyes meet Andia's. He nods and goes towards the door. After taking a few steps, he hears Andia's voice and turns back. He sees Andia gesturing and saying.

Andia (۲۶ years old) (affectionate)

- Come here, Karen! Come honey!

Karen approaches her. Andia asks him, by gesturing, to sit down. He kneels and Andia takes off her bracelet (the one that Karen had given her) and says.

Andia (۲۶ years old) (affectionate)

- I want you to have it. I'm sure it'll keep you safe.

Andia bursts into tears and Keyvan, who is shocked because of what his father has said, hugs his mother tightly, and Karen leaves while being sad and with a lump in his throat.

۳۴. Outdoors/ midnight/ beside the main gate of Madain

Karen moves towards the gate in the dark, and he seems to be surprised as there are not any guards near the watchtower platform (the structure next to the gate). It looks as if he has prepared himself for the surprise attack of the enemies as he knows there is a traitor among his comrades. Karen goes towards the staircase next to the gate carefully and quietly. He walks up the stairs and on the rampart, and moves the chain, which opens the gate. He hides behind a rock, which faces the control room, and throws a stone at the gate, so that the guard would leave his room for at least a few moments; however, nothing happens. He slowly moves towards the door and opens it. Karen sees the guard fallen on the ground, and he becomes very happy as he thinks his friends have been successful in passing through the gate. He somehow forgets about the treason. He then opens the gate and breathes a sigh of relief. He lets go of the lever, runs down the rampart, and slides under the closing gate.

۳۵. Outdoors/ midnight/ river bank/ Outside of the city (outside the gate)

After passing through the gate, we see Behnam leaning over the horse as if he is taking a nap while having the reins in his hands. We get closer.

Karen (۲۷ years old) (surprised, a little angry)

- Behnam? Are you OK? Are you dozing off? Oh, I was so worried about you all. I guess there's a traitor among us. We have to be careful.

After saying this, Behnam, who is leaning over the horse and having the reins in his hands, falls off the horse (we see Behnam shot in the chest with an arrow). We hear a voice with an ugly laughter answering.

Ash'ath (٦٠ years old)

- Maybe there WAS a traitor among you!

The scene becomes much brighter and a lot of soldiers appear, holding torches in their hands. Karen looks at their angry faces and he is speechless. We can see a bloody piece of cloth on the cart. Karen sees Javid, who is standing behind the soldiers, and shouts furiously.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (furious, disappointed, shouting)

- Javid? Why Javid? Why?!

Javid (٢٨ years old) (shouting)

- Because you've taken everything from me. I hate you, Karen. I've been waiting for years to see you deep in pain... to enjoy this moment. You're like a black magic. You've cursed me. You've cursed my life.

Javid wants to attack Karen, but Ash'ath makes a gesture and the soldiers prevent Javid to do so. Ash'ath walks proudly and says.

Ash'ath (proud, annoying)

- No, no... you can't run away. We know everything, Karen. How dare you? Capturing Kufa and Madain? Forming Indigenous freedom fighters' government, huh? (he blows a raspberry) Tonight no one will show mercy on you and Mahan. You will be a life lesson everyone should learn. (being cruel)

Karen (٢٧ years old) (shouting)

- Shut up YOU bastard! You should atone for all your crimes tonight... for all the pain you caused.

The fight begins. Karen remains strong against the force of the soldiers, but there are too many of them, and Javid is standing behind them. Karen grabs a soldier's spear in a split second, and knocks the soldiers away by the use of it. He glances at the cart and runs towards it immediately.

Javid (٢٨ years old) (nervous, shouting)

- Watch out! He wants to escape. Stop him!

However, Karen jumps onto the cart, holds the reins and escapes. A couple of soldiers start chasing him, riding their horses. On the way, Karen rides the cart in a way that causes some of the soldiers to fall off their horses; therefore, he flees and disappears in a cloud of dust risen in the air.

٣٦. Outdoors/ midnight/ the hiding place - the dilapidated castle/ outskirts – beside the river

We arrive at a dilapidated castle at the end of the path, and Karen rides the cart fast until he reaches the middle of that place beside the river.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (shouting)

- Uncle? Uncle Mahan? Where are you?

The lights are lit up and several people come towards Karen. We see Mahan at the front, coming towards Karen. He looks at Karen nervously and asks with a shaky voice.

Mahan (nervous but powerful)

- What happened Karen? Is this blood? What's wrong? Where are the others? Say something for God's sake!

Karen (٢٧ years old) (furious)

- Treason! Treason! Commissioners will arrive at any moment now. We have to disperse the nomads. They're relentless! They'll kill us all.

Mahan (shocked)

- What are you talking about Karen? Javid?! Treason?

Karen (٢٧ years old) (furious, shouting)

- Yes, yes, Javid, that bastard is the traitor. They were waiting in ambush outside Kufa. Everyone was killed. Javid murdered Behdad. I could barely survive. Hurry up! We don't have time.

At this moment, several torches appear far away and we know that the soldiers are coming.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (furious, shouting)

- Oh My God! They're coming. Hurry up! Come on!

Mahan (shouting)

- Didn't you hear what he said? Scatter! Go down the river. They can't find your footprints there. Hurry up!

A chaos breaks out and everyone runs away. We see the torches coming so close when a lot of people have escaped. There are a lot of soldiers. Karen turns to Mahan and says.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (begging)

- You have to go. Please go!

However, Mahan is so determined and he draws his sword.

Mahan (confident, with pride)

- I swear I have been waiting for this moment since the first day I recognized Umayyads as my enemies. I'll die an honorable death and return to my beloved brother.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (helpless)

- But... but what will happen to your wife? They're in a house, out of the gate of Khorasan...

Karen pauses.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (scared, stuttering)

- Are they safe? Please go uncle! Javid was in charge of finding and preparing that house. (sobbing) Go for God's sake!

Mahan is hesitant. Karen gives him the reins and Mahan goes towards the horse that suddenly he hears the commander's (Ash'ath) loud voice.

Ash'ath (insulting, with pride)

- Hey! Mahan! I know you're there. You'd better not run away, little girl. I need you to stay.

Mahan lets go of the reins, looks at the entrance of the dilapidated castle angrily, and shouts with all his strength.

Mahan (angry, shouting)

- It's really surprising that you, Umayyads, are still on the battlefield cause the only thing you know is treason and the only weapon you have is money.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (helpless)

- That bastard is instigating you. You have to go! Think of your daughter. These f... bastards won't have mercy on them!

Mahan looks at the horse hesitantly. Karen, who sees Mahan being hesitant, says.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (hopeful)

- I'll stop them. Please go! Please!

Mahan (angry, shouting)

- I won't leave without you. We both go or no one leaves.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (helpless)

- But...

Mahan (affectionate, hopeful)

- Stop it Karen! Go bring that horse. We have to tie it to the cart. Hurry up!

Karen goes towards the horse.

٢٧. Outdoors/ midnight/ across from the hiding place/ at the foot of the hill/ outskirts – with the river in the back

On the other side of the hiding place, where the soldiers are ready to attack, Ash'ath, their commander (with special clothes on), is peeping and looking around. One of the soldiers, who seems to be his errand boy, follows him everywhere. The soldier finally says.

The soldier (the stupid errand boy) (puzzled, being foolish)

- Sir, aren't they making less noise? What are they doing? They don't know they're besieged. (laughs out loud)

Ash'ath (indifferent, toneless)

- Don't underestimate them! A negligent act can destroy everything. Who has covered the left and right sides?

The soldier scratches his head and stands in a way that it seems he wants to render a salute.

The soldier (the stupid errand boy) (respectful, being foolish)

- Sir, Uwais and Taif are in position with their ٥٠ soldiers in order to prevent the rebels from escaping. I meticulously supervised the besiege mission, sir.

The soldier scratches his head and stands in a way that it seems he wants to render a salute.

Ash'ath (pleased, smiling)

- Perfect! And who watches over the river?

The stupid soldier seems to be taken aback and he turns pale. He ponders and stutters a bit. The commander, who feels the danger, becomes angry and approaches him.

Ash'ath (angry, shouting)

- Don't tell me that you haven't blocked the way there! They're a bunch of nomads who know this place like the back of their hands.

The soldier, who is very scared, stutters.

The soldier (the stupid errand boy) (scared, hopeless)

- Forgive me, sir! I didn't think they could pass through that road.

The commander, who is walking angrily, suddenly stands and shouts loudly while ignoring the soldier.

Ash'ath (angry, shouting)

- Get ready for the attack! Find those rebels and have no mercy on them. Attackkkk!
Gooo!!!

The battle cry echoes and the soldiers are ready to attack. They begin the attack from a levee (a hillock), going towards the dilapidated castle, which is situated at a higher level. It is at this moment that Mahan, who is holding the reins, and Karen, who is shooting arrows, appear; they

jump over the hill and the soldiers (who are going up the hill), and go on swiftly. We see the commander who is looking at them surprised. The camera moves upwards and we can see Karen and Mahan riding the cart on one side and the abandoned castle on the other side.

٣٨. Outdoors/ morning sunlight/ the safe house

We see a beautiful ١٤-year-old girl, who is playing in front of a house and is feeding chickens. We also see a ٤٨-year-old woman, who is looking out the window, which faces the road. She is looking at her daughter playing and she sometimes stares at the horizon. The house is surrounded by fencing and the fencing is surrounded by tall poplar trees.

The girl is shooing the chickens and roosters and sprinkling seeds that she hears the clippity-clop of a horse. She turns and stares at the road. A cloud of dust has risen in the air. The mother, who has seen her daughter looking away, shouts and asks with gesture at the window.

Delaviz (٤٨ years old) (confused, shouting)

- What's wrong Bahareh? Is everything alright?

The girl (Bahareh) that has heard her mother, looks away from the road, and the mother opens the window with difficulty. Bahareh tells her mother.

Bahareh (puzzled, shouting)

- I heard something mom. A cloud of dust has risen in the air. I think someone is sprinting towards us.

Delaviz gets nervous and moves towards the door. (while talking, she disappears until she opens the door)

Delaviz (٤٨ years old) (confused)

- Stay there! I'm coming.

Bahareh nods her head, goes towards the fence gate, and peeps. The cloud of dust gets bigger and the sound becomes louder. Meanwhile, Delaviz (Bahareh's mother) approaches Bahareh, puts her hand on her back, and Bahareh sticks to her.

Bahareh (puzzled, thinking)

- Do you think it's a cart mom? Why is it sprinting? What should we do?

Delaviz (٤٨ years old) (worried)

- I don't know sweetie. He should calm closer so I can see his face. We can think about what we should do then.

Finally, we can see the cloud of dust coming closer. The cart passes the twist in the road and becomes visible. Bahareh puts her palm on her forehead so she can see more clearly. After a few moments, she sees the rider and tells her mother while screaming.

Bahareh (cheerful, screaming)

- Mom, it's dad! I swear to God! It's him! I can see him.

After saying this, she opens the fence gate and runs towards the road; however, her mother is still worried although she has a smile on her lips because of seeing her husband.

Delaviz (٤٨ years old) (happy, warning)

- Bahareh! Come back! Come back sweetie!

Bahareh (cheerful, screaming)

- I'm careful mom! Don't worry!

The cart is reaching the house that Bahareh sees the bloody faces and disheveled appearances of Karen and Mahan. She gets worried and turns to her mother nervously. Mahan pulls on the reins with difficulty and stops the cart. He gets off the horse with a jump, goes towards Bahareh, hugs her and kisses her.

Mahan (affectionate, crying)

- Oh sweetheart! Are you OK dear? Is everything fine? I was worried to death about you.

Karen pats Bahareh's head and goes towards Delaviz. He bows respectfully and as he sees her being so worried, he says.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (tired, respectful, nervous)

- I'm so glad that you're fine. We were betrayed. We could hardly escape. We were worried that the house would be exposed.

Delaviz (٤٨ years old) (shocked, sad)

- Betrayed? Oh, traitors again! I'm happy that you're fine, Karen. Thank you for bringing Mahan back.

Karen smiles. Meanwhile, Bahareh and Mahan join them. Mahan looks lovingly at Delaviz.

Mahan (affectionate, with warmth)

- Delaviz, my beautiful wife, it's great that you're both fine.

Delaviz (٤٨ years old) (affectionate, with tears of joy)

- And it's great that you're fine, too, Mahan. What shall we do now?

Ash'ath (wicked, mocking)

- Surrender! Oh, you're going to die anyway! But it's easier for us this way, right?

The soldiers approach them through the path behind their house. Ash'ath guffaws.

Ash'ath (mocking, with a disgusting laughter)

- Didn't you consider straying from the main road? I bet you didn't! I'm wondering how you could survive all these years being this much intelligent! (he laughs)

Mahan is shocked seeing the soldiers there, but he tries to control himself. He says something under his breath to Bahareh and Delaviz.

Mahan (worried but powerful)

- Move towards the cart... Karen and I will distract them. Hurry up!

Delaviz (٤٨ years old) (worried, with a lump in her throat)

- But...

Mahan (angry and serious)

- Please don't say anything... You have to save Bahareh. Go Delaviz, please go!

Mahan raises his head and tells the soldiers approaching.

Mahan (fearless, with a loud voice)

- God knows I've been waiting to take revenge for so long. Come closer cowards! Taste the sharpness of my blade.

Ash'ath (mocking, with a disgusting laughter)

- Are you still bragging while being besieged, idiot?

Then he commands his soldiers.

Ash'ath (angry, shouting)

- Don't have mercy on them; even on his wife and daughter. Kill them all!

The war begins. Karen and Mahan protect the family with all their strength and they do not let any of the soldiers pass to reach the cart. Every time Mahan roars and attacks, a couple of soldiers withdraw. All of a sudden, when Karen and Mahan are fighting back to back, besieged by the soldiers, Mahan sees some other soldiers going towards the cart and Bahareh and Delaviz. (Karen and Mahan fight back to back. Sometimes, they turn and attack, and fight back to back again.)

Mahan (worried, with warmth)

- Karen! You have to go. You have to take Delaviz and Bahareh out of this hell.

Karen (٢٧ years old) (surprised, dissatisfied)

- I won't leave you alone. Don't ask me that! I can't bear the loss of a loved one anymore.

Mahan (serious but affectionate)

- I know it's a big ask, but please take care of my daughter. You have to stay alive to be able to take care of them. Please go Karen! Go for God's sake!

Karen (۲۷ years old) (weeping, with a lump in his throat)

- I can't leave you alone. I can't!

Mahan (with a shaky voice because of weeping, with warmth)

- I love you as if you were my own son, Karen. I know you as my son since that gloomy day, ۲۰ years ago. Please do this for me. Please Karen!

All of a sudden, Mahan turns and kisses Karen on the forehead. He then shouts.

Mahan (shouting loudly)

- Go Karen, Goooo!

Mahan runs towards the soldiers with bravery and courage and starts attacking them. With this suicide attack, he actually opens the way for Karen. Karen watches Mahan fighting, for a second and then he jumps over a soldier's spear and runs towards the cart. The commander finds out what his intention is.

Ash'ath (angry, shouting)

- Watch out! He's running away. Stop him!

Karen, who has taken some soldiers down on the way, rides the cart with utmost speed while Bahareh and Delaviz are crying for Mahan. The camera moves upwards and we can see Karen going away and Mahan fighting with the soldiers, who have besieged him. While we are seeing Mahan fighting, suddenly tens of spears pierce right through his body, and then we hear him say (long shot):

Mahan (shouting)

- Thank you Karen! Thank you!
۳۹. Outdoors/ night/ heavy rain/ an old village

At the bottom of the screen: a few months later...

We see a man holding a basket and walking fast in the heavy rain towards a house. The environment has been brightened up by the yellow light coming from indoor lighting. While looking left and right, the man takes off his hat under the balcony of the old wooden house. We can see Karen's face. He then opens the door and enters the house.

۴۰. Indoors/ night/ heavy rain/ a house in a village

It is an old rural house, in the middle of which we can see a fire being set. Andia is sitting while Keyvan is sleeping on her legs, and Delaviz is also sitting while Bahareh is leaning against her. Karen looks at them and smiles.

Karen (acting to be energetic, with fake laughter)

- And here's the food! After living a vagabond life for a couple of months, we can finally stay here.

Delaviz (affectionate, with warmth)

- I can't thank you enough Karen. You are like a son to me and a brother to Bahareh. Shush was a great choice. The people are friendly and kind here.

Andia notices Karen faking it; therefore, while being a little worried, she stares at him and asks:

Andia (worried, speaking quietly)

- Is everything alright, Karen? You weren't this much nervous when you left home.

Karen (energetic, trying to keep up the good vibes)

- I'm fine darling. Don't worry!

Karen brings the basket of food and puts in the middle of the floor.

Karen (energetic, trying to keep up the good vibes)

- Let's wake up the kids so they can eat something.

Both women nod in agreement and wake up the kids gently. Keyvan looks at Karen and says with a sleepy tone.

Keyvan (with childish voice)

- Dad, what have you brought us?

Karen laughs.

Karen (humorous)

- Lots of delicious food! Hold your mothers' hands and come and indulge in food.

Everyone starts eating and after a few moments, Karen stares at the fire. Andia notices this and tells Karen:

Andia (affectionate)

- Karen, I know something's wrong. I'm worried sick. Tell me!

Karen (shocked, looking at the fire)

- When I went out to find food, some locals told me that the people of Kufa had betrayed the messenger of Husayn, and Muslim ibn Aqil was murdered. All these things have happened and Husayn is going to Kufa.

Andia is taken aback. She shakes her head to show she is sorry. The room goes silent for a few moments. Then, Andia turns to Karen and says seriously.

Andia (affectionate, serious)

- And you want to go, don't you? You want to accompany Husayn.

Karen (surprised, stuttering)

- How do you know that? Well, yes... He's the last hope, and I can't leave him alone. I'm afraid, Andia. I'm afraid to let my child grow up in this cruel and unfair society.

Andia is silent. Everyone is silent. They are all staring at Karen while being shocked. We see the flames dancing and hear the crackling sound, which is in harmony with the sound of the heavy rain outside.

Andia (affectionate)

- You should go. We shouldn't lose this time. I know that if Husayn reaches Kufa, they will definitely kill him. Go Karen and don't leave him alone. And don't worry about us. I'll raise our child to be a great man like his father. I promise!

Karen looks at Andia and bursts into tears; however, as he does not want the children to see him weeping, he stares at the fire and shed tears.

٤١. The last scene/ outdoors/ indoors/ around sunset/ Zubalah/ cloudy, stormy

We see a thornbush on the hot sands of the desert, which is cut carelessly from its woody stem. Suddenly, we hear the wind howling far away and a few moments later that tumbleweed dances with the wind and moves fast. In the long shot, we see that the wind is gusting and it raises a lot of dust. Pieces of cloth and the tents of the vendors start moving and the tumbleweed moves towards a small village in the desert, in the middle of which there is a rather large caravanserai. People are covering their faces with their turbans and the tumbleweed is hitting the walls and moving along the alleys. When it arrives at the large door of the caravanserai, the wind speed decreases and the tumbleweed tumbles and stops at the door. The camera shows a tall man standing there (from the viewpoint of the tumbleweed), with a green sash around his waist. We cannot see his face because of the canopy there. In front of him, there are a lot of men standing and listening to him carefully. We can now hear the warm voice of the man clearly, which was not clear before because of the wind blowing. His voice is euphonious; however, we can feel the loneliness in his voice and the lump in his throat.

The man (Imam Husayn) (with a powerful and warm voice)

- I thank Allah to the best of my ability and praise Him during the time of weal and woe. My grandfather Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) informed us that I would be summoned to Iraq. I would arrive in Karbala and be murdered there. Now the time has come. I believe that the day of our fighting with this army has arrived. I permit all of you to go away. You are free to depart without any restriction and should take advantage of the darkness of the night. I offer you a way out of death. These people are pursuing me, and when they find me, they will leave you alone. May Allah grant all of you a good reward.

After finishing his speech, the man walks powerfully through the crowd ignoring the tumult and disappears from the scene. Along with his last steps, the light wind starts blowing fast and turns into a gust, as if its speed decreased out of respect because of the man giving speech. With the wind blowing, the tumbleweed starts moving again and while tumbling, the camera shows us the distraught people, who are talking in pairs or they look left and right leave the caravanserai hesitantly. The gust hits the tumbleweed to a canopy, under which several horses have been tied; and the tumbleweed gets stuck between the spikes, to which horses were tied, and stops there for a few moments. (a high-angle shot). Meanwhile, we see a young man walking towards the horses powerfully. He approaches a horse, pets it and whispers something in its ear.

Karen (affectionate)

- I know... I know... Calm down! We're not going anywhere. Just remember that from now on, whatever happens is not important at all. NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL...

The tumbleweed starts moving again and this time towards the sky. We can see the young man below us, who is going towards the room, the tall man (Imam Husayn) entered earlier. The wind blows and we can only see the sky.

Here we can see The End and the Credits on the screen. After the main part of the Credits, we see the last scene.

٤٢. The last scene/ at the noon of Ashura/ the pit in the human slaughterhouse

We see a very sad scene of the noon of Ashura and the pits in the human slaughterhouse. Among the dead bodies of the martyrs that did not have heads, hands, and legs, under some of the corpses, a hand (Karen's hand) with a bracelet (having an agate stone on it) around the wrist moves (he is alive). We then hear an angry shout and the screen fades to black.

The End

Winter ٢٠٢٠ – Spring ٢٠٢١