

# POOR WOMEN

(KADINCIKLAR)

(A Play in Two Acts)

by

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## **CAST :**

<b>MEHTAP</b>	: About 55 years old. Prostitute.
<b>NERİMAN</b>	: About 35 years old. Prostitute.
<b>İNCİ</b>	: About 25 years old. Prostitute.
<b>HAYRİYE</b>	: About 60 years old. Matron of the prostitution home.
<b>APO</b>	: About 35 years old. Servant.
<b>SHINY</b>	: About 30 years old. Tea-man, keeper of the teahouse at the brothel.
<b>HÜSAMETTİN</b>	: About 40 years old. Neriman's lover.
<b>GUARD RÜŞTÜ</b>	: About 45 years old.
<b>SITKI</b>	: About 35 years old. İnci's brother.
<b>1.CUSTOMER</b>	
<b>2. CUSTOMER</b>	
<b>3. CUSTOMER</b>	
<b>4. CUSTOMER</b>	
<b>5. CUSTOMER</b>	
<b>6. CUSTOMER</b>	
<b>7. CUSTOMER</b>	
<b>KID</b>	: About 16 years old.

**TIME** : 1983.

**PLACE** : The living quarter of one of the prostitution homes in Ankara.

## **THE SET :**

The living quarter of a prostitution home... Main entrance door is on the left side. Above the door, there is a sign which reads “High Quality and Quaint Prostitution Home- Hayriye Maşalı”. There is a glass door which separates the entrance hall from the customers in order to prevent them from stepping directly into the house. In the living quarter, there is a sofa, a table, a radio, a recordplayer (or, a tape recorder) and a coinoperated telephone on it. There is a wall carpet hung on the wall.

A very badly written sign on the wall : “Visit: 1000 Lira!..” Next to it : “It is forbidden to sit in the living room!... On the opposite wall, there is a very badly drawn picture of a half fish, half naked women figure. On stage right, there is a stove and a door next to it ; and the figure “1” is written with oil paint on this door. Next to the door, the stairs to the second floor. There is another door at the other side of the stair case : “WC and OO” is written on it.

*(APO is lying on the sofa. There is a quilt on him. He is sound asleep. There is loud talking, noise from upstairs. We hear HUSAMETTIN's yelling, and NERIMAN's sound of crying out as she tries to defend herself. NERIMAN comes out of her room rushes downstairs in a hurry. Half naked HUSAMETTIN follows her. APO wakes ad gets up. HUSAMETTIN ashamed of his nakedness stops following her and throws a slipper after NERIMAN)*

NERIMAN *(She is a braggart-one who starts crying before she is slapped)* Oh my, oh my, wow, wow, wow, wooow!

APO Now what the hell happened Neriman?

NERIMAN Son of a biiitch!

APO *(He's still trying to wake up)* What happened sister?

NERIMAN *(Opens her hands as if she is praying)* I hope God damn you! Let him blast you! I beg Him to make your life miserable, so that you'll have no one to watch after you and give you even a cup of soup! I have no strength left in legs form lying under so many men. I've become skin and bone. *(Yet she has a strong and healthy look)* I've dried up like matchstick... Believe me I swear, I've become afraid to go to the doctor... What if I get tuberculosis or something? I'm the one who gives this scum's allowances... I'm the one who feeds stomach... I hope God damns him! On top of it he beats me in return! *(She doesn't realize APO has started to sleep again)* He woke me up from my sweet dreams. Before I could say, let me sleep in a little, a slap! My brain shook! Before I could say what the hell's going on, another smack! And it was where ever he could reach. To my eyes! My stomach, my back! *(Slowly towards upstairs)* Bastard...If you are so sure of yourself why don't you go into boxing ring! The bastard feels like having his coffee early in the morning! *(Starts crying in over exaggerating manner)* What the hell do you want from this helpless orphan? I wish you get what you deserve from God! You heavy widow handed! *(As if a superficial style)* I know, I will have no peace before this man dies. *(Tearful again)* Everything so expensive anyway... And the fees... Then give the lion's share to Hayriye... Work and work, still the long face! All those expenses to the clothing, food... I'm tired of this life, I'm fed up...

*(Realizes that APO is sleeping)* What the hell?

APO *(Jumps up)* What happened?

NERIMAN Ain't you listening me?

APO Of course, I am.

NERIMAN What kind of man are you man? Here I am trying to pour out my heart to you. Have you seen what he's done? Have I been blowing this flute for nothing for the past hour?

APO *(Yawns)* Sister everyday...

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NERIMAN Apo, why the hell did we hire you here? If you don't listen to my troubles, then what the hell are you good for, huh?

APO Why do you get mad at me? You took the man in, made him your lover. It's like 'you're the buyer, and you're the rejecter'; if you ain't happy then kick him out.

NERIMAN It's easy to say 'kick him out', would this dirt bag go if I tell him to?

APO Sure he left once and you ran after him. You begged him saying “Come back, don’t leave”. You should have said, “I finally got rid of him” and sit on your ass that time.

NERIMAN *(She thinks)* Don’t mention those Apoooo. Don’t you mention those... Times are hard Apo! For good or bad he’s a man for what it’s worth. Is it possible for a woman to live without a man now days? Even for us to go to a cinema together on my off day, ain’t that something? There, spring is coming soon. He even takes our daughter to a park. Takes her to amusement park. We rode on them bumper cars, have you forgotten?

APO *(Was about to say something, decides no to)* Anyway...

NERIMAN Say it! C’mon say it! Spit it out damn it!

APO Look, you daughter is in junior high... And you sleep with a useless man like him, you think she enjoys to go to amusement park with him?

NERIMAN *(Gets suspicious)* She’s just a child. Do you have something under your tongue?

APO No I swear... No matter how young she may be, she must be aware of many things.

NERIMAN *(She defends)* Should I take her by my self? At least nobody chases me... And then being uneducated...

APO Well he is uneducated too sister...

NERIMAN Whom else should I find? Would a gentleman go out with me to a cinema or a park? *(She thinks)* Do you have cigarette?

APO This early in the morning.

NERIMAN So what! Only the good die young!

APO Without having a cup of tea yet.

NERIMAN Come ooon, just hand it over!  
*(APO takes a cigarette out, extends and lights it up for her)*

NERIMAN Look Apo. What did you just say? You said “just kick him the hell out”. And do you know why I can’t kick him out?

APO How should I know sister?

NERIMAN Every woman has a lover in this brothel, right? And we’ve been holding ourselves responsible for looking after these scums, right? Apooo, we have friends as well as enemies.. If I hadn’t said to him “Don’t go Husam” and kick him out, what would have people said about me? Wouldn’t they have said, “see she couldn’t even take care of her lover, so the fellow run away altogether”? *(Sincerely)* Am I that helpless Apo? Would I let any one talk like that about me?  
*(1. CUSTOMER comes. His hand are in his pockets. He is looking through the window)*

APO Are you gonna act with what others say sister? Who cares what they say?

NERIMAN What you’re saying is a song my boy.

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APO Are you gonna jump off from the roof just ‘cause what some strangers have said?

NERIMAN That’s different.

APO How is that different sister? At the end, they all come to same point.... Since you can’t put up with this man, get rid of him... The important thing is your positional situation ain’t it?

HUSAM *(From upstairs)* Nerimaaaaan! Nerimaaaaan! Where the hell are you?  
NERIMAN The freaking bastard started again!  
HUSAM Where the hell is the coffee?  
NERIMAN You see what I've done? I've forgotten. *(She goes in front of the door and shouts)* Shinnnyyy! One, one for me! *(The tea-man must have made fun of her, so NERIMAN waves her arm in return)* To you, to yooooo! Hurry up huh, hurreyy!  
*(APO is picking up the quilt)*  
1. CUSTOMER Which room do you work in?  
APO *(Seeing that NERIMAN is angry)* She just got up...  
NERIMAN At this early in the morning?  
1. CUSTOMER So what if it's early?  
NERIMAN I aint working...  
1. CUSTOMER It just takes few minutes...  
NERIMAN I've told you man, I ain't working!  
1. CUSTOMER If you're sick, change you job...  
APO Go on now, come back in an hour...  
1. CUSTOMER *(Insists)* Look, for what it's worth? It'll just take few minutes at the most.  
APO We ain't open yet brother...  
1. CUSTOMER But it's open...  
NERIMAN *(Gets really irritated)* Get the hell out of here before I reshape your face!  
1. CUSTOMER Am I not paying for it?  
NERIMAN *(Pushes him)* Get the hell out of here, get out.  
1. CUSTOMER Heey, is it forbidden to stay here?  
NERIMAN Yes, yes it is! Fuck off! *(As she is hitting him)* If you are so hot, go jump into a lake!  
1. CUSTOMER Has she lost it or what? *(Leaves)*  
NERIMAN Men are all the same. *(As she is going to the restroom grumbling)* All they can think of...  
HUSAMETTIN *(His voice)* Nerimaaaaan!  
NERIMAN *(She goes out before she enters)* There is no peace for me even in here. God damns you I hope. Let God take your soul, so I can find peace.  
APO *(Reminds her)* Don't say that, you have a daughter.  
*(Neriman goes upstairs)*  
INCI *(Comes out of no. 1 room)* What is all this noise? It's like Ramadan drums beating.  
APO We've been sleeping till now, you see?  
INCI What sleeping? We made mistake and didn't go home for a night, we get noise and trouble until the morning!  
APO I didn't even clean up the mess yet, and the boss is about to come. *(As he hurries, he drops the milk powder box from the table)*  
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INCI *(Turns back quickly, she's been frightened)* Boy, you brought my guts to my mouth. You demolish a mountain with your ass and don't even notice what's around you!  
APO *(As he gives her a candy)* How can I not hurry? The boss is about to come. *(Imitating HAYRIYE' voice)* "It's already passed ten o'clock you

bastard! Even the state workers have gone to their offices! You'll ruin me! And then you'll stick a pedicel in my business!

INCI *(Rubbing her eyes)* Come ooon. She ain't got any trouble with me... Besides no customer comes in at this time of the morning.

APO A few minutes ago a customer came in... But Neriman...

INCI Send him of course! *(Remembers suddenly)* The boss was gonna go some were today for the fountain. She'll come later today.

APO We can't be sure. *(He drops the shovel next to the stove this time)*

INCI Hey man, are you gonna kill me from fright?

APO I didn't do it on purpose sister... *(Lights up the match to light the stove)* But you get nervous whenever you hear little noise. I've never been able to understand you sister...

INCI Do you thing I understood you?

APO There's nothing not to be understood about me sister... Would I be here if I could go abroad? *(Now completely in the mood)* I would be a gentleman in Lipya *(Libya)* I would have bought a Mercedes, a feathered hat for my head... Imagine how I would go to my village, like minister... Don't rub salt in my wounds sister.

INCI You haven't gone back since you've been here, have you?

APO Where?

INCI To your village.

APO I can't Inci, I can't. How can I show my face to them? They think I'm abroad... I swear I'm afraid that one of my hommies will come and see me. On top of it, our enemies will bring out a barker to shout on top of his lung, and let everyone know that Apo is in brothel now... My poor ma would die of shame. All of this because of that bastard, that scum of the earth who cheated me and took the few bucks that I had saying, he'd "would send me to Lipya"... He fooled me saying, "There was no need to get in line". I've been waiting for years!

INCI But it's been five years since you've applied to the Employment Exchange Office, hasn't it?

APO Yeah, but what is it worth? If you ain't got somebody there, then no going abroad for you!

INCI Damn, this Shiny is a very clever man you know...

APO In what way?

INCI Who gave you the idea to send money to your mom trough the man he knows in Libya? You deposit part of your earnings in the man's account, and then he sends the money to your mom as if you're sending it from there. Who would've thought of it besides Shiny? And your mom thinks you're in Libya.

APO All is good, but the letter business is real difficult Inci. First I'm sending my ma's letter to Lipya. And from there Shiny's cousin Fehmi sends them to our village. Some times it takes a letter three months to

get there you know. But we ain't got any other choice. *(Thinks)* Why would we need all of this, if I could only go to Lipya. What makes me think though, in my ma's last letter, she wrote me says "Apo my son, don't you get any off days? It has been five years altogether. Even

though you've been sending money, I've missed you so much... Just make up some thing and come here".

INCI Sooo, talk to the boss and go to your mom and your village for few days.

APO How can I go there? Don't you think I'd like to go? But it's impossible!

INCI Why do you say that?

APO Even our poor Hidir had come to the village with a show off. A boom box on his shoulder. Then opened up his suitcase, boy you should have seen it. Tape recorders... Fideos (*Videos*)

INCI What's a fideo?

APO You know, the one you put under the television.

INCI You mean the TV desk?

APO You know, when you stick a cassette in, you can watch and listen... Like the one boss bought for her house recently?

INCI (*Understands*) Gees, it's 'video'... Why don't you properly say 'video'?

APO That's what've I said 'Fideo'.

INCI Now, I can't see the connection between the video and your going to the village.

APO Should I go to my village empty handed? Where's the tape recorder, the radio, the fideo? Where's the Mercedes? Look at my attire. Wouldn't they say "The feller has been working in foreign lands for years, but what good is it, he's still penniless! For years he just makes enough to fill his stomach"! How could they know that I work in Ankara, should they find out? What do you say? Even the job here, don't you know how I got it? Why should I tell the servant what God hides? I'd come here for 'that' business. I've came saying "can't do without women". But then Hayriye, our boss said, "Instead of standing there, give me a hand to carry the stove, aren't you a good Muslim? But grabbing from the other side of the stove was not the end of it... Five long years...

SHINY (*Enters carrying his tray. Upon seeing INCI has her back to the door. He goes behind her ear quietly*) Bang, bang, bang!  
(*INCI jumps from fright*)

SHINY (*Acts as if he's INC's brother*) We've cleaned the honor. I've killed my prostitute sister.

INCI What a God damn son of a bitch you are!

SHINY (*Gets natural again, talks fast*) It's just painted! Wet paiiint, ladies and gentlemen, it won't come of you understaaand?

INCI (*She is not indifferent either*) You scared the crap out of me! Don't do that again, you might give me heart attack or something...

SHINY (*Gives them tea and talks at the same time*) Don't worry, nothing will happen...

INCI Don't say that Shiny... When I went to the doctor, he said," you shouldn't weary your heart... If you let yourself in a state of distress,

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you'll suffer the consequences".

SHINY The doctor said that!

INCI I swear...

SHINY He said "you'll suffer the consequences... How would he know the

consequences?

INCI Well he didn't exactly say that, he just meant it that way.  
SHINY Just say whatever he said... Don't make it up... Darn it, an educated man like doctor has nothing else to say, but consequences to you...

INCI *(In order not to be undone)* Just mind your own business boy... Is it proper to shout "Wet paint" when there's no one around?

SHINY It's just a habit Inci... Yeah in a word, it's just a habit... The vital principal of the tea-man profession is to shout "Wet paiiint. Don't let it tooouch... Where as yours is, *(Pretends as if he spits in his hands and rubs his stomach)* That's life, what can you do?

INCI Put some sugar in mine Shiny...

SHINY With pleasure. Would you like me to put some in yours too Apo?

APO *(Offended)* Watch your mouth!

SHINY Why do you get upset, thickhead? He took it for the bad, you see...

APO You wouldn't say anything for the good...

SHINY Hey man, you know what they say 'What a man does, is what he thinks" There must be some truth in it...

APO Okay, okay don't start it again...

SHINY *(Winks an eye to INCI)* Ain't it true?

APO If you really want to have fun...

SHINY *(Pretends not to hear him)* Where the hell is that Neriman? 'Cause she raised hell about a cup of coffee...

INCI She must be in her room...

SHINY *(As he goes upstairs)* Shiny's special and famous tea! It's from Colombia! From Pele's country! *(Suddenly turns back)* The latest news! You know Sevim don't you? Shrewd Sevim you know... Last night, her lover beat her until the cows come home... They had to rush her to hospital...

INCI Why?

SHINY You know her lover named Cafer? He'd gone to his village for ten days... Sevim thought this was her chance and got a new lover for herself... But when Cafer came last night unexpectedly and saw the situation: *(Imitates him)* "I'm a man who lives for his honor... If a man or a woman touches my honor, I won't let them live". He broke into the room with a pair of scissors he'd brought to Sevim as a present... And that was that... Sevim's new lover could hardly save his life by jumping off the window... But his right leg was gone... It was broken I mean... But Sevim suffered the real blow... Imagine what would happen to this class if I throw it on the floor? They say that's exactly what happened to her...

INCI Did she die?

SHINY No, but it's worst than that... They say she's as fine as flour... 'Cause on top of it Cafer threw her out of the window... *(Makes fun)* Cafer is right! What does a man live for in this world? For honor sister! For honor!

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INCI Man, you're like a comedian... (Rodney Dangerfield)

SHINY If you happen to go to L.A., you should go to Hollywood and tell that to the producers... They wouldn't recognize my talent, them idiots.  
*(Goes upstairs)*

INCI What honor man? That asshole Cafer must have been furious, because he'd lost his income. *(As INCI enters her room, MEHTAP comes down. She's old and tired. Obviously she's cold. Stops by the stove. Tries to warm up)*

MEHTAP *(With a rattling, hoarse voice)* Good-morning.  
 APO Good morning sister Mehtap... You must be cold...  
 MEHTAP Yes I am cold. Why did we have to paint the walls in this cold winter?  
 APO The boss requested it, what can we do?  
 MEHTAP But I've told her, you know... I've said "It would take longer to dry in winter". And now for the past three days, I've been shaking in my boots until the morning... And I don't think it'll dry anytime soon, them walls.

APO *(Hesitates)* Your room was very dirty. The walls were very dirty...  
 MEHTAP But it wasn't only my room that was dirty...  
 APO What can I do? Whatever the boss says sister...  
 MEHTAP The stove in the room is old too... Maybe you should've change it also.  
 APO Sister *(Can't go on)*  
 MEHTAP *(Suspiciously)* What?  
 APO *(Gives up)* Nothing...  
 MEHTAP Apooo. There's some thing under your tongue.  
 SHINY *(Comes down the stairs singing)* Whoa sister Mehtap. What's that you're almost stuck to the stove.

MEHTAP *(Shows respect in order to prevent him from teasing her)* Good morning.  
 SHINY Good-morning my dear sister, good-morning... *(Winks an eye to APO)* Should I give you some tea, it'll worm your heart...  
 MEHTAP I don't want it if it's cold...  
 SHINY Hey I just brought them...  
 MEHTAP You always go to the others first, then bring me the leftovers...  
 SHINY Let my eyes fall out, I swear I've just brought them... There, you see?  
 MEHTAP You just came from upstairs... You can't help but linger at least ten minutes wherever you go can you?  
 SHINY What could I do? Husam was puffed up again... We had a little chat...  
 MEHTAP And you woke me up...  
 SHINY *(As if he didn't hear her)* But actually you are right... Whereas you've gotten old...  
 MEHTAP Don't start again...  
 SHINY Why do you say that sister Mehtap? I talk like this because I like you. .. You've grown old, just admit it...  
 MEHTAP Don't you make break your heart early in the morning...  
 SHINY Break it if you like, what can I do?  
 MEHTAP Am I your amusement here?  
 SHINY I really like you sister Mehtap...  
 MEHTAP To hell with your likes!  
 SHINY *(Ignoring APO's signs to stop teasing her)* You're worn out...

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MEHTAP Get the hell out of here!  
 SHINY You've become an old fart, grandma Mehtap!  
 MEHTAP Whoa, my cubby, If you only knew who were chasing me in my days...  
 SHINY *(Ready to run away, if necessary)* The old pines become souvenirs...

Grandma!  
 APO Stop teasing the woman Shiny!  
 MEHTAP When the navy ship Missouri came here, an American even wanted to marry me...

SHINY Listen to that lie...  
 MEHTAP I was in Istanbul brothel at the time...  
 SHINY When did the Missouri ship come?  
 MEHTAP Around 1946...  
 SHINY Now we're in 1983, see you're saying it yourself... You've become an old fart...

MEHTAP They were all lining up... My fee was in those days...  
 SHINY C'mooooon, get over it... All good things come to an end...  
 MEHTAP If I could only able to keep one...  
 SHINY They all must have been idiots... If they had any brains what would they do with you otherwise?

MEHTAP *(Still trying to prove herself)* Even now...  
 SHINY There she goes again.. Play a cassette here so we can't hear her... I for one, even if I stay womanless for the rest of my life...  
 MEHTAP I said, "I'd break your heart"...  
 APO Tea is getting cold...  
 SHINY Even if I had forty... You know what I mean?  
 MEHTAP You son of a bitch! *(Cuts in front of him. Tries to hit him, SHINY runs away to INCI's room. Closes the door. MEHTAP is trying to force it open)*

MEHTAP If you are man enough, open it!  
 SHINY Cik, cyik. cyik,- out of the chick!  
 MEHTAP You asshole!  
 SHINY You old fart!  
 MEHTAP Screw your mother, your wife, your daughter, mare...  
 APO At least you hold it sister Mehtap. Don't start swearing early in the morning...  
*(MEHTAP goes upstairs grumbling)*  
*(Stretches out his head)* Is she gone?

SHINY Yeah, she is...  
 APO Swear on it...  
 SHINY Why should I lie to you?  
 SHINY I beg you man, tell me the truth...  
 APO She's gone!  
 SHINY Where?  
 APO To her room!  
 INCI *(From inside)* Move aside and let me get out... *(Pushing him from behind, forces him to enter the room)*

APO Ain't you ashamed of teasing that woman?  
 SHINY I get a kick out of it, what can I do?  
 APO Sometimes you do such silly things, you know...

INCI Thickhead!  
 APO You don't know the jack about people, but you still go on...  
 SHINY What has it got to do with you?  
 APO *(Quietly)* Come closer, come on, c'mon...

SHINY What are you gonna do?  
 APO Come closer sonny, I'll tell you something...  
 SHINY Swear on it...  
 APO Why should I swear?  
 SHINY That, you won't hit me?  
 APO I'm just gonna say something boy...  
 SHINY If you do, let your hands be worthless...  
 APO The boss is laying her off...  
 SHINY *(With a natural tone)* Whom?  
 APO Whom else, sister Mehtap...  
 SHINY So what?  
 APO She already doesn't attract any customers... Who give her a job at her age? What should she do?  
 SHINY Dang, that's right....  
 INCI *(Gets angry)* Of course, you bastard...  
 APO There isn't much time left. We've been waiting for the call... A new girl will come... Her room has been painted already.  
 SHINY I swear I didn't know...  
 INCI Then, make sure you know next time, okay?  
 SHINY Does she know?  
 APO Know what?  
 SHINY The situation?  
 APO You see, that's our biggest worry... She doesn't know it yet... And yet the boss is forcing me to tell her... How can I tell her that?  
 SHINY Damn, this world sucks...  
*(Silence)*  
 MEHTAP *(Comes down)* If you were a real man! *(Walks on him)* You wouldn't have left your rosy wife and run away to Istanbul! *(Hits him)* You brat! *(Seeing that he doesn't reply)* What's the matter with you? What happened to him? I warned that I would break your heart. *(Blaming herself)* I swear, I only talked back and forth out of my anger...  
 SHINY I'm sorry sister Mehtap... I just wanted to a little fun, forgive to my to youth ness...  
 MEHTAP What happened to him?  
 SHINY *(To INCI)* You're right, I'm a bastard!  
*(Forgets his newspaper and leaves)*  
 MEHTAP Did something happen? Too bad, I shouldn't have mentioned of his wife... Darn...  
 APO He's a human being sister... Maybe he has a problem... That Neriman better come down... It's almost time for the boss to come...  
 INCI Leave that damned bitch...  
 APO If she hears you, it means fight again...  
 INCI So what if she hears... Do you think I'm afraid of her? Besides, I'm not badmouthing her... She better get her head straight a little...  
 APO What's it to you sister?

INCI The scumbag spends her money... Can you trust men? Thank God I ain't got a lover or anything... See I'm comfortable... One should always keep in mind... Just as you can't make a fur out of a bear, so you can't make friend out of men.

APO But it seems you have your eyes set on Shiny, sister. (*As if to say "I've got you"*) Ain't it true?

INCI What do you mean?

APO Well, I mean, you know...

INCI Who's looking at him? Didn't you hear all the swearing I've done?

APO As much as I can be unintelligent, I can still sense something... They call that flirting sister... Even though it was more like a donkey play, but still...

INCI Then it's none of your business... But I'm not stupid... Even if I had a lover, our bank account would be separate... His earnings would be his and mine is mine... I wouldn't trust him anyway, worrying that he may give me a glass of water, if I become sick...

MEHTAP I shouldn't have reminded him of his wife's running away... Yeah, I did the wrong thing.

APO (*Starts to clean the windows*) Don't worry about it sister...

INCI (*Takes the newspaper Shiny forgot*) Whoa! Holy cow! Check it out!

APO What happened?

INCI You don't say!

APO Say it then!

INCI Oh boy, oh boy...

MEHTAP C'mon, read it so we can hear...

INCI Boy, what's happening in life?

APO Read it, will you?

INCI (*Reads syllable by syllable*) A man... cut off... the tongue... of his... wife... He cut it off man!

MEHTAP Is that for real?

INCI That's what it says. There are even pictures... Look, look, here it is! (*Knocks on the wood*) I swear the wife looks like Sharon Stone... Daang, how can you cut such a woman's tongue? How can you believe in men, damn it? Cut off your beautiful wife's tongue and leave her like that? You faithless son of a bitch...

APO Who knows what she'd done?

INCI Whatever she did you bastard, should he cut out her tongue?

APO Of course not, why should he?

INCI (*Reads*) Rifki Atmaca, forty-two, his wife Hatice Atmaca thirty-five, and their children Ayten two, Nurten five, Berrin fourteen, Zerrin eighteen and Yeter one, had been living happily in Ankara, until last week... But dark clouds started to appear when Rifki Atmaca wanted to bring home his mistress Gulsen Elmas thirty, and his wife didn't approve of this and reacted, and although the children shouted "Don't do it, Daddy", Rifki grabbed the bread knife and cut of his wife's tongue.

APO Daaang man!

MEHTAP (*Shivering*) Ruthless atheist!

INCI (*Continues*) ... Rifki, who later went to the police station and

surrendered; in cold blood he answered the policemen's question; "How could you do such a thing, remorseless fellow?" by saying, "In fact, I was too late in cutting off Hatice's tongue... I should've done it long ago... Because, she's been talking continuously for fifteen years".

APO And you know, some say, “They beat people up at the police station” and complain about that! If I was a cop I’d beat the hell out of him, I swear...

INCI *(Continues)* “Bloodthirsty Rifki, was arrested after the first interrogation and was sent to the Central Prison. The five children who remained with their mute mother after their father had been sent to prison, are in the photograph.” God damn bastard!

APO But I’m sure they really made him regret it...

MEHTAP What’s the use, her tongue is gone...

INCI For Pete’s sake, how is she gonna eat her food? Is she gonna stuff it by her hand? May God forbid us from such disasters and protect our eyes and our tongues, my God...

MEHTAP She can only drink milk and things like that, and eat milk puddings...

APO But how can you live on milk everyday sister? Plus, how’s she gonna drink it?

MEHTAP *(Describes)* There, she could lift her head like this. And when she empties the milk, it goes down her throat... What else can she do?

APO Did he cut all of it?

INCI It doesn’t say here... But it’s impossible, he can’t cut it from the bottom... For heaven’s sake it’s impossible to fit the whole knife in her mouth... He must have cut it somewhere from the middle. *(As she shivers with fear)* For goodness’ sake, this kind of thing really gets me down... We better not talk about it anymore...

APO *(He has been trying to test on his own tongue to see which length it is possible to cut one’s tongue)* No way, he sure couldn’t have cut out all of it... But still it’s very difficult to do without some of it. *(He goes)*

INCI *(Reads)* Murder... He knifed brutally his sister who had become a prostitute. *(She goes pale... Silence)* Whenever I hear a little noise, my heart jumps with fear and comes to my mouth...

MEHTAP I remember the first day you came Inci... I swear I wouldn’t recognize you if you came again like that...

INCI No matter how much one changes, something still remains the same... He can recognize me at first sight.. And I know my brother had sworn. He’d warned me not to run away with that man... He’d said he’d shoot me.

MEHTAP But your name isn’t even the same...

INCI Look sis... I guess you don’t understand... No matter how much you change yourself... I mean I don’t know, your hair style, your clothes and everything... Then you get old... I’d still recognize you... There... *(She shouts)* Look at these eyes... Don’t we have our eyes... Eyes never change Sister Mehtap. *(She thinks for a while)* What did I do? I trusted that bastard and ran away with him... It didn’t even take three months to satisfy his desires on me... Than he left me and ran away... I tried to find him for a long time... If I had found him... But it wasn’t

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left to me... My brother found him... And he finished him off with two bullets... *(Shouts)* And he said: “I saved the one half of my family’s honor... Now the only thing left to do is to find that whore!”

MEHTAP Well, at least he’s in prison anyway. There’s no reason for you to worry about him.

INCI He ain't gonna stay there for life, he'll be coming out one day... And I think he's gonna be released soon...

NERIMAN *(Comes down the stairs)* Now he doesn't like the amount of money I gave him... Do you have any money?

MEHTAP You know I ain't got any...

NERIMAN *(To INCI)* I tell you girl. I'll pay it back.

INCI What did you say?

NERIMAN I said I would give it back...

INCI Give back what?

NERIMAN Hey girl, are you in love or something?

INCI Don't tease me for God's sake... If only I was able to save some more and get the hell out of this place...

NERIMAN I'll give it back tonight, after business...

INCI *(Her mind still busy with her brother)* There, I put a sign here... He'll start to look for me on the day he's released... And he'll find me and then... *(Shivers)*

NERIMAN *(Shakes her)* I said, lend me some money Inci... He wants more...

INCI *(Takes out some money from her bosom)* You shouldn't spoil him Neriman... It's not wise to trust men...

NERIMAN I said, I'll pay back after business...

INCI *(Makes a gesture with her hand)* You never know what men might do. *(In order to guarantee that her money will be returned)* Anyway, I'll get my money back... But you should think of your future little bit... If you give this bastard all you have, do you think he'll look after you when you're down and out? Ain't that right sister Mehtap? *(To NERIMAN)* Is that enough?

NERIMAN Ask for it after business... But give me some more, so I would send my daughter's school fee... If I send it late, they might throw her out from the boarding school...

INCI *(As she gives the money)* If you save up a few bucks, we can buy you a car too... When you give it to a taxi-driver as I did, it means five thousand bucks cash a day... *(APO comes in)*

NERIMAN Girl, probably the taxi plate numbers have gone up...

INCI Man, you never understand anything.

MEHTAP Nothing's price remains the same nowadays...

INCI When it was cheap I've told you, "buy one and put it aside". But you didn't listen... One should fill the bucket when the water is running...

NERIMAN *(As she goes upstairs)* Boy you gave few bucks, but lectured enough for a thousand. *(NERIMAN and HUSAMETTIN bump into each other)*

HUSAMETTIN *(He doesn't wear his shoes properly. He steps on the back of his shoes. He's a rough guy. He has a belt and cap)* Whoa, you clumsy fool! Look where you're going...

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NERIMAN So I didn't see you...

HUSAMETTIN Are you blind? *(NERIMAN wipes HUSAMETTIN's shoe with her skirt)*

INCI How are you brother?

HUSAMETTIN Fine sister...

INCI You look very handsome in this outfit... You know, I was just saying to Neriman, "You should pray thank God". *(Winks an eye to APO and MEHTAP)* "Since you've been able to find a lover like our brother Husam".

HUSAMETTIN *(Encouraged by this remark)* You've said it right... But who knows our value? Look at the money she gave me... She's not even able to give me enough pocket money.

NERIMAN *(Gives him part of the money that she got from INCI)* Okay, you can take this also.

HUSAMETTIN *(Takes it)* She gets on my nerves, out of nothing. Yet there is no reason for her to do that... Look Neriman, if you're not able take care of me, I'll find some one else... And I'll get the hell out.

NERIMAN *(In a harsh tone)* Didn't I give you enough?

HUSAMETTIN Don't make me come after you!

NERIMAN *(Before even gets hit)* Ohoo my Gooood, Ohooo! *(Upon seeing that HUSAM has moved away, she carries on with a normal tone)* Go get two tickets for the concert tomorrow night...

HUSAMETTIN Is the money enough?

NERIMAN I gave you enough having that in mind...

HUSAMETTIN Already then, so long...

NERIMAN You better come tonight OK? We can go home from here...

HUSAMETTIN *(As he's living in a showy manner)* We'll see...

APO Have nice day brother...

MEHTAP Have a good day...

INCI Have a nice day brother Husam...

NERIMAN *(After he goes)* He thinks he's the manager in the office... *(Imitates him)* We'll see!

INCI *(Having found the opportunity to talk behind him, she imitates him)* We'll see! Like if he's got another place to go! We'll see! Lousy idiot, he even messed up the order of this place! And he still says, "We'll see"! You can only see your bare ass, you dumb ape! *(Seeing NERIMAN's looking sourly)* What you've been spending is, our sister's money...

NERIMAN Why do you play two faces? For God knows what you say behind us?

INCI *(To APO and MEHTAP)* Hear what she says? Tel her, have I ever talked behind her back? Have I done such thing sister Mehtap?

NERIMAN You talk behind everyone's back... If you've got the guts, talk to his face... Don't backstab, and say it to my face, whatever you've got to say!

INCI I say it for your own good.

NERIMAN Yeah, she says it for my own good...

MEHTAP *(Sensing a fight is about to break)* You were reading the newspaper?

INCI These days the best thing is to scratch your own head. *(Talks to herself)* Crazy bitch, what is it to you from Neriman? Don't feel sorry for

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anyone, no one!

*(Phone rings)*

NERIMAN *(Answers the phone)* Hellooo... No, wrong place... Screw you too... Son of a bitch. *(Bangs down the receiver)*

RUSTU (GUARD) *(Comes in)* Hello everybody...

INCI Welcome brother...

APO Hello...

MEHTAP Good-morning brother...

RUSTU Good-morning Mehtap...

NERIMAN Come sit down here...

INCI What's the matter?

NERIMAN Is there some thing wrong brother?

RUSTU Nooo, I just wanted to stop by... How's it going Apo?

APO Fine brother Rustu...

RUSTU Hasn't the boss come in yet?

NERIMAN No she hasn't...

INCI She's been busy with that water fountain business...

RUSTU Man, she's been trying to have it done for a long time... What's up sister Mehtap?

MEHTAP Oh, well?

RUSTU Are you cold?

MEHTAP My room's been painted...

RUSTU You know what they say? "Don't sit on wet stone in summer, and don't sit on cold stone in winter". You batter take care of yourself...

INCI Her brother, why don't you have a cup of tea from us...

RUSTU Oh no, thanks Inci...

INCI I guess you don't demean yourself...

RUSTU Oh no, I didn't mean that...

INCI Why don't you run and get some tea Apo!  
*(APO goes off)*

RUSTU Is the whole place been painted?

MEHTAP No, just my room... The walls were very dirty...

RUSTU But you are shaking like hell... Why don't you put on a sweater? You should look after yourself...

MEHTAP *(As she goes up the stairs)* Tell you the truth, I didn't even think about it Rustu.

RUSTU *(Quietly)* Is it true?

NERIMAN Is what true?

RUSTU The things I've heard... Mehtap?

INCI Yea, it's true... Who did you hear it from?

RUSTU From the walking newspaper, Shiny... I'm really sorry for her... Have you told her yet?  
*(APO enters)*

INCI Apo will tell her... *(She goes into her room)*

RUSTU *(Just as he's about to say something, seeing that MEHTAP enters, he changes the subject)* Sooo Apo, whatever happened to Libya business?

APO I don't thing anything will come out of it brother Rustu... There ain't nothing new for five years now...  
*(INCI comes and offers imported cigarette to RUSTU. She offers a*

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*cigarette to the others half-heartedly from the same packet)*

RUSTU *(Lights his cigarette)* I want my present, if you go there.

APO What would you like? *(With pleasure)* Really, tell me...

RUSTU A ball-pen... A Sikrikis (Scriccs) label ball-pen...

APO Hey, that's no big deal... Of course, I'll get one for you...

RUSTU Our superintendent's got one... I really like that...  
 NERIMAN And I want that electrical gringrin...  
 APO What's that giringrin Neriman?  
 NERIMAN An electric shaver  
 RUSTU Hey, I didn't know you were growing beard.?  
 NERIMAN That God damn Husam, you know when he shaves with the razor, he keeps shouting 'Oh my God'. Actually they have it here too... But they are assembled here... They say the ones in Libya are the real ones...  
 APO If I only could get there...  
 INCI *(Flattering him)* Why don't you sit down Apo? *(Offers him a cigarette)*  
 Have a cigarette and take a spare one too. Here!  
 APO *(Now he's really in the mood)* Don't you want anything sister Mehtap?  
 MEHTAP If you're able to get there, as you always wanted to, than whatever you bring is fine with me...  
 INCI As long as you won't forget your promises when you go...  
 APO Of course not Inci...  
 INCI If you give me your pants one day, so I can wash them for you...  
 They've got dirty, they feel like rubber...  
 MEHTAP How's your little boy doing? He started to work with the ironmonger, didn't he?  
 RUSTU He's working at the barber's... He just finished the elementary school... And now he's learning a trade on the side... I told him: "Look son, learn a trade that'll make you earn your living for a lifetime. So I sent him to the barber... If you ask why, our hair and beard grow longer everyday... What would've happen if he became a tailor? We can manage to do with one suit for a lifetime; but we go to barber at least once a month... Ain't it true?  
 ALL TOGETHER Yea, you're right, you're right...  
 RUSTU You can say he saved himself... But my trouble is not with him, my older son is the problem... It's been almost sixteen months since he finished his service in the military... But he hasn't been able to stick to a job.  
 SHINY *(Comes in as energetic as usual)* Don't you touch it, wet piiiint! You can't clean it, you know? Here you go folks! The tea's ready!  
 INCI Hey, you made it in lightning again, you loud mouth...  
 SHINY Drink it up, and if you don't like it, pour it down. Or you can pour it on face...  
 NERIMAN Have you got a face you bum?  
 SHINY I have as much as you do Neriman!  
 INCI Hey Shiny, if you get married again, it means you'll get into hot water..  
 SHINY Why's that?  
 APO With your quick hand, you'll make her give birth in three months...  
 SHINY *(Wants to say something, but he can't. He goes off as fast as he came)*  
 Wet paint! Shiny's special and famous tea!  
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 RUSTU *(As he drinks his tea)* A notice came from the top officials... They are complaining about women's nakedness.  
 INCI Well if you like...  
 NERIMAN I didn't get it...  
 RUSTU In other words, from now on when the women wait for the customers,

they should wait in good manners...

NERIMAN Who says there is a good manner in this profession brother Rustu?  
RUSTU That I don't know... But that's the way they want it... From now on, you're not gonna be naked, and you're not gonna be indecent.

INCI This is a place for business for Christ's sake... For example, at the grocery store, do they keep the grapes, melons and the watermelons under the shelves?  
*(They all laugh)*

INCI Don't worry brother, we've already been seeing to it...  
MEHTAP Besides, the weather is cold, how can we sit and wait half naked?  
RUSTU What I mean is, they might come and check all of a sudden... Who knows, what the government officials would do? They might hold me responsible, you know...

INCI As you wish brother!  
NERIMAN Sure thing!  
MEHTAP I'm freezing anyway!  
INCI Would we want any harm come to you?  
RUSTU Oho, and don't swear or anything... That's forbidden too!  
INCI Now, that sucks!  
NERIMAN How can I do without swearing brother?  
MEHTAP What kind of illegality is that? We're use to doing that... We're already use to doing that...

NERIMAN It like, plugging a farting ass brother...  
INCI Willingly of unwillingly, it'll slip out you know...  
RUSTU Well I've told you it's forbidden... Try to live with it... Try not to curse or anything... They say everything should be done with manners... Then you swear appropriate to the manners...  
*(They laugh)*

RUSTU I better not trouble you anymore... I have to go to all the houses and notify them... Besides, I should be by the gate al the time... Otherwise young kids crowd in...

MEHTAP Come again...  
NERIMAN We don't count this one...  
INCI We'd be honored...  
*(Rustu leaves)*

NERIMAN A new restriction everyday...  
MEHTAP How can you ban swearing?  
INCI For heaven's sake, he just said, "Try to live with it". Then we just try to be a little careful, so what? *(She reaches for the newspaper again. Reads syllable by syllable again)* "Private sector in difficult state". I hear and read about it everyday... Does any of you know what this 'Private sector' is?

NERIMAN What's there not to know girl? *(By boasting)* Private sector means...  
MEHTAP Yeeeeeees? *(More time is given, but not a word from NERIMAN)*

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INCI You don't know that either?  
NERIMAN What, what, what... Who says?  
INCI Go on, say it then...  
NERIMAN Private sector *(Thinks, gets embarrassed)* Private sector... Maaan, you're so uneducated... Private sector means... The one using his or

her own capital... *(Relives)*  
 INCI *(Not very sure)* What the hell does that mean?  
 NERIMAN It means that, ahmm, the one who has his or her own capital...  
 INCI Who did you hear that from?  
 NERIMAN You know that student who's studying economics? He'd told me that...  
 MEHTAP You mean that quiet kid?  
 NERIMAN He first came to me when he just finished the high school, and started the School of Economics... He'll graduate next year... He's never gone to anybody else... *(Proud of herself)* He has a good taste and he knows how caring I'm...  
 MEHTAP *(Lives her own drama)* I'll never get over the one with the necktie I'm afraid...  
 INCI *(Reads syllable by syllable)* "Another bank went bankrupt. Three companies have been saved". (To the others) So then, we're using our own capital... I mean... Does that make us private sector?  
 APO Sister, how can a private sector be out of a prostitute?  
 INCI *(Gets mad at the word "prostitute")* Son of a bit...  
 APO No cursing!  
 INCI If it 's possible out of a bastard like him, why the hell can't we be? *(Brags about herself)* Look, look, look, you see how I swore appropriate to the manners?  
 APO My goodness... Do you mean I'm a private sector?  
 NERIMAN You're so uneducated fools. We're the capital, morons... The bosses are the private sector.  
*(HAYRIYE has come in. One of her legs is limping. She gets more agitated as she listens to them)*  
 INCI Oho, I see...  
 MEHTAP So in other words, the person who earns the money through the ones in her house is called "private sector", right?  
 INCI Man oh man, you know what comes to my mind? You know how they call us 'general women'. Does that make us 'general sector'?  
 APO *(Sees HAYRIYE)* Aha, there she is! The private sector has come...  
 HAYRIYE I slap your mouth, you son of an ass!  
 APO But I didn't say anything bad, I just...  
 HAYRIYE Shut up, you son of a beast! *(While sitting)* I', trying to hold my tongue, but it's impossible... You scums are all sprawled around... All the other's houses are full to the brim... But in ours, all you do is chitchat... What's gonna happen to this business? Look here, they are still sitting over there... Move your asses... Get in front of the door so the fellers can see you...  
 NERIMAN You don't think that we're gonna grab them by their thing and force them in?  
 HAYRIYE Don't teach me what to do. The men get horny in the morning... You state workers are at work in their offices! You're gonna ruin me! And you're gonna stick a pedicel in my business! Ain't dealing with bunch of scoundrels enough this poor woman? My back hurts I swear! *(INCI comes and starts massaging her back)* My feet are worn out... I wanted have a water fountain built for the lousy neighborhood. I'm paying for

it, I'm hiring he workers. And all this for the charity, huh? The City Hall gave me all kinds of difficulty... For two weeks I've been dealing with nothing but, bribing people and still getting thrown out off every freaking door I knocked...

INCI Why are you going for all this trouble boss? Do these people deserve your goodness? You should just forget about it...

HAYRIYE *(Sincerely)* Don't say that Inci... We don't fast, we don't pray or worship... I thought, it would be nice to do something beneficial to the others. *(Affected)* The people of the neighborhood have to walk half a mile to get some water... I know what it's like to be without water... Besides, even the marble of the water fountain is ready. *(Pulls out a paper from her pocket)* Read it out loud see if you like it.

INCI *(Reads syllable by syllable)* The inscription to be written on the marble: Drink the water and attribute a pray, Long live with your name Hayriye, you may... Nineteen eighty three...

APO Very nice...

MEHTAP It's like a poem...

HAYRIYE It 's not like a poem, it is poem...

NERIMAN What's "nineteen eighty three" for?

INCI It's the year, this charity was done?

HAYRIYE Has anyone looked for me? *(She takes the paper from INCI, and pus it into her pocket)*

APO No sister...

HAYRIYE Not even a phone call?

APO No, nobody called...

HAYRIYE They should've called...

APO They didn't call... Oh, but I almost forgot... You use to have an old flame, remember? He came here last night...

HAYRIYE You mean, Hamit?

APO No, I mean the one drinks a lot?

HAYRIYE All the men drink a lot...

APO His name is on the tip of my tongue...

HAYRIYE Say it you freak...

APO I mean the one retired from the State.

HAYRIYE Which one you moron?

APO *(Imitates him)* The one with limping arm and leg?

HAYRIYE Ahaaa, Maan Apo, You ain't got a brain worth a penny. Why don't you say Memduh, you thickhead...

APO Oh yea, that's right Memdoh, Memdoh...

HAYRIYE May your tongue stung by a freaking hornet! It's not 'Memdoh, it's Memduh... So then what?

APO *(Imitates him)* He was drunk again... He came in like this... He was blind drunk... He said, "I can't live without her".

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HAYRIYE God damn bastard...

APO Yeah he said: "I can sacrifice all I have, my house, my property, everything for her sake... I'll kill myself if she doesn't make up with me".

INCI Yeah, he said he'd really kill himself, boss! The man looked very

determined...

HAYRIYE *(She's pleased but pretends)* I said no! Plus he's killing me when he's showing his few bucks salary as his home and property... Jesus Christ!

APO He said: "I'll come to talk to her"...

HAYRIYE He can only fart... You on the other hand, imitate him pretty good... Well done! *(Stands up)* You dumb ape, haven't you dusted this place yet?

APO I have boss...

HAYRIYE *(Wipes the dust in her hand onto APO's face)* Look at the mirror. Start dusting the place!  
*(The others are putting on make up. APO has seen a insect on the floor... He chases it in order to step on it)*

APO Look at that cockroach, a cockroach...

HAYRIYE Wow, wow! Look at him, he's trying to kill a creature God has created... Just get him and throw him out slowly. Are you the Azrael?  
*(Angel of death)*  
*(APO tries to catch the cockroach with care, then catches, and with the same care puts it outside of the door)*

HAYRIYE *(Seeing MEHTAP is going upstairs)* Haven't you told her yet?

APO No, I ain't told her yet.

HAYRIYE What did I tell you?

APO *(Obviously lying)* I forgot...

HAYRIYE Why couldn't you tell her, you idiot?

APO But they ain't phoned yet...

HAYRIYE They'll call today...

APO I'll tell her then...

HAYRIYE Let's not get tangled up when the news comes... We better have the room ready, now!

APO *(Without believing her)* I'll tell her...

HAYRIYE *(As she goes out)* I'll be dropping by Makbule's home first... Then I'll be going for the charity... I'll come back later at night.  
*(Goes off, then turns back-extends her head)* You better tell her before they call. *(Leaves)*

INCI You better tell her then...

APO *(Looks at INCI pitifully)* How? *(Then he looks at NERIMAN at to ask for help)*

NERIMAN If it's that easy, you tell her...

INCI *(Stumbles)* If she told me, I would've told her. *(As MEHTAP comes down the stairs, the phone rings)*

APO *(Takes the receiver hesitantly)* Ha... Wha... Inci... It's for you...

INCI *(Takes the receiver)* What's up? Again? Okay, have it done... If it goes like this, I'll take the car from you... Up your mother too! *(Hangs up)*  
You've got a car, you've got a trouble... If you give your car to a freaking stranger, then it's like your head won't be free from louse, and

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your ass from, whatever!

MEHTAP What's happened?

INCI The lousy car broke down again! It's like; the jerk is not a driver but a hunter... Can't do without hunting... Even in this freezing wintertime.  
*(Gets mad)* God knows he froze the engine again! *(Enters her room)*

NERIMAN *(To APO) And she advises me to buy a car, stupid... Go grab us something to eat Apo...Order us each some kebab... And sister Mehtap's kebab is on me...Aha! I'll also give you the money to pay my daughter's school fee...*  
*(APO exits. NERIMAN goes into the restroom. INCI's brother SITKI comes. Bends down and takes the knife he hid through his socks and puts it into his coat's pocket. He stands at the doorway and peeks in)*

MEHTAP *(Thinks of SITKI as a customer and comes closer to the door) Why don't you come in handsome?*  
*(SITKI looks at her distaste and goes off)*

MEHTAP I guess he didn't like me....  
*(Lights get dimmer slowly)*

RUSTU *(While passing by the door) What's up sister Mehtap?*

MEHTAP Oh, nothing...

RUSTU How are you?

MEHTAP So, so...

RUSTU You're all right, you're fine. *(Goes off)*

## (BLACKOUT)

### II

*(Night... On the left side, in front of the window, there is a crowd of men... Pushing each other, they are trying to see inside... APO is near the tape-recorder... MEHTAP is standing near the stove... In order to catch at least on of the customers; she's full of hope one minute and loses her hope next moment. Arabesque style music is being heard)*

3.CUSTOMER *(He's in front of the others) Don't push! Don't push men!*

4.CUSTOMER I didn't push buddy!

5.CUSTOMER Hey, watch your elbow!

3.CUSTOMER Hey, be careful with the windows!

4.CUSTOMER They are pushing from behind!

APO The windows will break! Get back, get back a little...

THE KID *(He's all the way back of the crowd) Half time, half time!*

3.CUSTOMER We just got here dude!

4.CUSTOMER Don't push home boy!

THE KID *(Keeps jumping, in order to see inside) Half time, half time!*

MEHTAP Come on, c'mon... Let's do some business here.

3.CUSTOMER *(Makes fun of her) Wow baby, wow!*

5.CUSTOMER Check her out!

4.CUSTOMER Why don't you get in?

3.CUSTOMER I'm waiting for Inci...

5.CUSTOMER Are you waiting for Inci too?

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3.CUSTOMER It would be a sin to go someone else, hen Inci's here...

5.CUSTOMER Yeah, it'd be a great sin...

3.CUSTOMER Inci's is real Pearl just like her name...

THE KID Half time brothers half time...

MEHTAP *(Comes closer to the window)* Okay, okay, let's do our business here.  
*(She goes back near the stove since, nobody pays attention to her.*  
*NERIMAN comes down the stairs. She takes some hot water from the*  
*pot on the stove into a cup she brought down with her, and goes into*  
*toilet. Behind her, the customer she's been with, trying to pull himself*  
*together and walks towards the door. The other customers applaud*  
*him)*

THE KID Come ooon, let's take look too, c'mon!

4.CUSTOMER Wait for your turn...

3.CUSTOMER How did you manage to wait in your mother's belly for nine months?

4.CUSTOMER Who knows, maybe he's an early bird...

3.CUSTOMER Well obviously he's a son of a gun!  
*(The others laugh. The phone rings. APO answers)*

APO Inci, you got a phone call!

INCI *(Rushes in)* Wha... What... you swear! You know, I hadn't believed  
you for a sec! I have a customer waiting inside! Okay, okay! *(Hangs*  
*up)* The engine wasn't frozen... *(Comes closer to the front of the door*  
*in a hurry)* How are you my husbands?

CUSTOMERS We've been waiting...

5.CUSTOMER Get rid of the one inside, so that we could get in...

INCI I never get rid of anyone. Whoever comes in with me, gets satisfied...

THE KID Let me take a look once, please?

INCI Open up a little, so that this husband of mine could see me too...  
*(They make room)*

INCI You get in line too, so we can make you get used to here...

2.CUSTOMER *(From inside)* Inciiii!

INCI I'm coming my husband... *(She rushes into her room. NERIMAN*  
*enters)*

SHINY *(Enters like storm)* Wet paiiint! Once you touch it won't come out  
I tell you!  
*(Customers make way)*

NERIMAN Where have you been?

SHINY I can't catch up babe...

NERIMAN My throat's dried up...

SHINY *(As he serves the tea)* What can I do?

NERIMAN What do you mean 'what can I do?' ... Just bring it on time.

SHINY You just ask for it babe, we'll bring it in time...

NERIMAN I've got a husband boy, you better go to Inci for that...

SHINY *(With respect to MEHTAP)* Shell I give you some too?  
*(Seeing that she nods her head positively, he gives her a class too)*

APO You look very tired Shiny... Come and rest for a while on my lap...

SHINY I'll show you in a little bit... *(Goes off)*

NERIMAN You scums, you all look in like dumb apes, but none of you come in...

APO Sister... Don't curse... You know it's forbidden... I mean if you do it

NERIMAN appropriate to the manners okay, but...  
C'mon, is 'dumb ape' a curse? Besides who says that apes' got any  
manners? *(To the CUSTOMERS)* The ones don't come in will regret it!  
Isn't there a real man among you?

*(The CUSTOMERS are offended. They're joined to prove that they are real men)*

5.CUSTOMER What kind word is that?  
 THE KID That wasn't nice!  
 3.CUSTOMER Go ask Inci..  
 4.CUSTOMER You bet!  
 NERIMAN As they say where I come from; 'Just having a handle wouldn't make frying pan'.  
 4.CUSTOMER That's where come from...  
 5.CUSTOMER Get a hold of that!  
 3.CUSTOMER Come on Inci, we've been waiting for an hour now...  
*(The CUSTEMERS get in and they sit on the sofa side by side... All of them are waiting for INCI. SITKI appears a t the doorway)*  
 NERIMAN Why don't you come in handsome?  
 SITKI What's the name of the girl inside?  
 NERIMAN Inci...  
 SITKI Is there anybody else working here?  
 NERIMAN We're here handsome, ain't that enough?  
 SITKI I'm gonna ask you for someone sister... Where does Sidika work?  
 NERIMAN Is she new?  
 SITKI It's been a quite while since she came...  
 NERIMAN Well, I haven't heard of her... Apoo, is there anybody called Sidika in the other houses?  
 APO No there isn't, unless she just started...  
 NERIMAN I won't make you miss her handsome... Why don't you come in with me?  
 SITKI It's not what you think! *(Goes off)*  
*(INCI rushes out and goes to the restroom)*  
 THE KID I don't understand, why is this Inci so popular?  
 4.CUSTOMER *(Whispers something to the kid's ear)* Understand?  
 THE KID *(Loudly)* What does 'complete' mean?  
 4.CUSTOMER *(Slaps him in the face as if he's joking with him)* Shut up you moron...  
*(INCI comes back drying herself)*  
 INCI Are you here too my husband?  
 3.CUSTOMER For heaven's sake, we've been waiting over an our Inci...  
 INCI Ain't I worth waiting for?  
 3.CUSTOMER *(Signs of being spoiled from the interest shown)* You bet babe, sure...  
 INCI *(Kisses him)* Oh my husband! *(Calls at the one inside)* Haven't you dressed yet my husband?  
 2.CUSTOMER I'm coming, I'm coming...  
 INCI You didn't come last week?  
 3.CUSTOMER I was very busy...  
 INCI Or was it because?  
 3.CUSTOMER *(Gets embarrassed)* By the help of God... You shouldn't have any doubt about it, till I'll be put into my grave...  
 25  
*(They both laugh)*  
 INCI *(To APO)* Put on something lively so can get into the mood...  
*(2.CUSTOMER comes out of the room)*

INCI *(Takes the money as she kisses him)* Thank you my husband... But I have request from you... The driver froze the engine again... And the business is slow these days...

2.CUSTOMER I'd give my life for you babe. *(He gives her some more money)*

INCI *(Kisses him again)* Thank you my husband... See you soon my dear... *(2.CUSTOMER leaves in a showy manner)*

INCI *(To the 3.CUSTOMER)* Why don't you go into the room my husband? *(The 3.CUSTOMER goes into INCI's room)*

1.CUSTOMER *(Comes and goes in front of NERIMAN)* Your room?

MERIMAN Go to number three... Upstairs, upstairs. *(Tries to recall the man's face)*

INCI Apo, what did I tell you? Play something lively so the people can see my belly dance... If I want, I could start as a belly dancer in many bars, right now.

4.CUSTOMER But you should think of us...

5.CUSTOMER What would we do?

THE KID Someone like you is hard to find...

INCI Well I can't leave because of you... I've made you use to the good treatment... Who would replace me? *(Yet still, all of them are making fun of her)*

4.CUSTOMER Let whatever you touch becomes gold Inci!

5.CUSTOMER How could we repay you?

THE KID We could die for you upon your wish! *(A lively Arabesque music starts. INCI starts to dance. Yet inexperience like a beginner. MEHTAP also starts to dance. Everybody is enjoying themselves)*

4.CUSTOMER *(Keeps tempo)* Yallah, yallah!

OTHERS Yallah, yallah! Allah, Allah!

5.CUSTOMER Come on shake it to the side! *(MEHTAP is rally trying hard to go on dancing)*

THE KID *(As if he knows the meaning)* Wow what a woman! She's complete babe!

4.CUSTOMER Check her out!

5.CUSTOMER What did you think kiddo? Go in and she'll make you choke in your underwear... Heh heh heh hehhee! *(MEHTAP gets tired and sits down, out of breath. Nobody has had glance at her anyway)*

1.CUSTOMER *(Upon hearing the noise, he has come to the top of the stairs half naked)* Come on!

NERIMAN Coming!

1.CUSTOMER It'll just take a few minutes!

NERIMAN *(Now she's recognized him)* Get in the room! You walk like that, half naked and you get on my nerves and spoil the pleasure of my eyes! *(She goes, murmuring)*

SHINY *(Comes in)* You're showing off again...

INCI *(She goes next to SHINY as she's dancing)* Do you have any plans for

tonight?

SHINY I'm not sure...

INCI After eleven?

SHINY (Pretends not to understand) What's gonna happen?  
 INCI Stop talking nonsense... Come here after eleven...  
 SHINY Okay...  
 INCI Come before you eat...  
 SHINY Why is that?  
 INCI We go to my house... I'll make you a feast that even your enemies will  
 envy you...  
 SHINY But I ain't got any enemies...  
 INCI Then let your friends envy you...  
 SHINY Okay, but why?  
 INCI The driver just called... Nothing happened to the engine...  
 SHINY But I didn't repair the engine... Why did you choose me?  
 INCI You know what I meant, but pretend not to know. I worn you, I'm  
 about to swear at you with all the manners...  
 SHINY I swear I didn't understand...  
 INCI (Stops dancing) You bastard, you son of a donkey, do you want to be  
 my lover or not?  
 SHINY Where the hell did this come from?  
 INCI Why do you care?  
 SHINY 'Cause you were against the idea of having a lover...  
 INCI Just tell me, yes or no?  
 SHINY How are we make it work?  
 INCI Forget about how... But don't forget, our bank accounts will be  
 separate...  
 3.CUSTOMER (From inside) Inciiii!  
 INCI (As she's running) Oh my God, I forgot my husband you see? Get  
 readyyyyyy, I'm comiiiiing!  
 SHINY Have you listen to the news Apo?  
 APO No, how could I  
 SHINY Then you owe me one...  
 APO Why, what happened?  
 SHINY They've started to send workmen abroad again...  
 APO Who? (With fear) Some people?  
 SHINY The Unemployment Agency...  
 APO You swear on it  
 SHINY (Standing on one leg) I swear man.  
 APO Where to?  
 SHINY To Libya... Kaddafi asked for more workers...He said: 'If Americans  
 attack us, while we're fighting with the enemy in the front line, the  
 country shouldn't be without workers'. So the situation is critical you  
 see. This Kaddafi is real clever man.  
 APO Swear on it!  
 SHINY Upon your dead body man...  
 APO Don't pull my leg...  
 SHINY Why should I pull your leg man. They've just announced on the news...  
 And they even announced the list of the workers they're gonna send...  
 27  
 Apo what was your last name?  
 APO Guzel...

SHINY Look Apo. If there is gonna be war or anything, you better not go...  
You'll die for nothing...

APO Even if I knew that they was gonna throw an atom bomb at Lipya, I  
still wouldn't stay here... I'll go...

SHINY All right, all right, your name was announced on the news too...

APO Goddamn man, how could the government know my name?

SHINY Wouldn't government know the names of the important people like  
you? This was exactly what they said: Apo Guzel, who has been  
working as the housekeeper at the whore house of Hayriye Masali, with  
the decision of the Minister's Council, will be sent to  
Libya... Considering him as the Head housekeeper in Libpya, he'll have  
a great impact in cultivating the whorehouses in Libya...  
*(He starts to run away as APO's running after him)*

APO *(Comes back)* You God damned brat... Since you're lying, you might  
as well say something sensible... What would a whorehouse do in  
Lipya?  
*(The others have been laughing)*

MEHTAP *(Even her)* Hey man, Don't men in Libya have their things?

APO *(He believed in Libya)* Well of course they have, they have but there's  
Kaddafi there. Wherever Kaddafi is, there can't be a whorehouse.  
*(RUSTU rushes in THE KID tries to hide himself under the table)*

RUSTU Is he here?

APO Who?

RUSTU A little brat... As soon as I saw him he plunged in...

MEHTAP Is he too young?

RUSTU He's maybe fifteen... I didn't let him in. Don't you try to hide him or  
anything... Has anyone seen him?  
*(4.CUSTOMER indicates where THE KID is with his eyes. RUSTU sits  
on the chair next to the table)*

RUSTU *(Holds up the table cloth)* What the hell are you doing here?

THE KID I'd dropped my prayer beads...

RUSTU *(He takes hold of him as if he's holding a kitten)* Let me see your ID.  
*(THE KID gives it to the guard)*

RUSTU *(Examines it in a very serious manner)* When were you born you little  
rat?

THE KID It says I'm younger there, but I finished my eighteenth already...

RUSTU Really? Aha... Get on your ass you son of a donkey! While still on  
diapers and the brat's started to chase women! *(As he shoves him out)*  
Move it, move it!

4.CUSTOMER *(As he goes out)* What a shame, the moral values left in the society...

APO No kidding.!

4.CUSTOMER You bet! *(Leaves)*  
*(Noise from upstairs)*

NERIMAN *(Her voice)* Get ouut! You low life bastard! *(The 1.CUSTOMER is  
rushing down the stairs. He's holding his trousers in one hand and one  
of his shoes in the other. He's wearing the other shoe)*

1.CUSTOMER Don't start the outrage... Stop it, will you?

APO What happened sister?

MEHTAP What's happened?

NERIMAN You miserable scum of the earth youuu!

HAYRIYE *(Enters in a fury)* What's going on here, what the hell...?

NERIMAN You shameless freak!

1.CUSTOMER Let me put on my.....

NERIMAN Get ouuut!

HAYRIYE What's the problem now?

NERIMAN Jerk keeps saying: 'I shouldn't lie like that but the way he wants me to... Am I your wife you dork?

1.CUSTOMER There is no need for outrage! *(He's getting dressed)*

Isn't it with my money?

HAYRIYE The bitch is out of hand!

1.CUSTOMER She immediately started to scream... I swear I didn't do anything...

NERIMAN You stay out of this, boss!

HAYRIYE Take look at her...

1.CUSTOMER My only mistake was to tell her to 'lie like this'! *(Tries to leave)*

Besides she had kicked me out this morning too!

NERIMAN *(Cuts in front of him)* On top of it, he's trying to slip away... Cough up the money first!

1.CUSTOMER What money?

*(The other customers have started to talk among themselves; some say 'He's right', yet others say 'No, he isn't')*

NERIMAN The fee for the visit!

1.CUSTOMER But I haven't done anything? Nothing's happened!

NERIMAN And he resists... Guaaard! Pollice! *(Attacks him)* Isn't there anybody to save me? *(She hits him and shouts as if he's hitting her)* Heeeelp, he's killing meee, heeeelp!

*(Everybody except HAYRIYE, try to save the man from her)*

INCI *(Rushes from her room)* What's going on?

*(INCI's customer runs away; he's trying to dress himself at the same time)*

1.CUSTOMER *(He's trying to free himself but at the same time)* Man don't disgrace me. *(He's searching for money)* Okay, I'll give you the money... Stop it...

NERIMAN *(Takes the money)* Now get the hell out of here.

INCI *(To APO)* What happened here man?

APO I really don't have a clue.

HAYRIYE *(Suddenly walks on to NERIMAN)* Don't you make me start swearing from your father.

NERIMAN Don't cuss.

HAYRIYE Don't mess with my business or I' screw you to hell! Bitch! What's this outrage? Thanks to you my house made a name as 'the house of brawl'!

INCI *(Returns to her room as if she's not concerned)*

*(Silence)*

HAYRIYE *(To APO)* Did anyone call for me?

APO No sister.

HAYRIYE That's enough, I can't stand your nonsense anymore... And shut the

HAYRIYE Look at her, she barks at my face! Like I can't find anyone else! If I wave my hand I can get at least fifty of them... There are tons of girls around.

NERIMAN Soooo?

HAYRIYE Shut up you quarrelsome bitch! I'm gonna fire all of you... One by one... I'll find quiet ones, like they have mouth but no tongue... Or the ones like Inci... What the hell is this? Do you think this is a foundation or a poorhouse here? Besides Mehtap hasn't been for any use for long time.

MEHTAP I was sick...

HAYRIYE It's been days since you've gotten over it... (*Indicating NERIMAN*) And this one scares the customers... I'm only down to Inci! Is that how we use to do? Till I opened up this home, all kind of things had happened to me... I was so fresh when I got into this business... Wherever there was business, I was there... One day they I have gone having been told they were only two, when I got there, what do I see; there were ten-fifteen of them crowded there. Yet I didn't say 'no'. We ate, and we drank... They made me dance... They were all drunk... One of them insisted; 'I'm gonna cut this woman's nose'. Before I could even beg not to, he pulled out a knife... He started to come towards me... This damn thing is not the same as it is in the bottle... I begged him and cried out loud to him, and that's how hardly I saved my nose... But at another place I couldn't save this leg. God damn this leg! Do you know how hard we had to work in order to have this shop? And what is too hard for you now? Your rooms are ready... Your doctor, police and guard is ready for you... And you still complain... That's enough!

RUSTU (*THE GUARD's whistle is heard*)  
(*From outside*) Al right! Time's up! Time close the shops!  
(*The ones waiting in front of the window go away. HAYRIYE pulls the milk powder box in front of her. Looks. She divides the money*) INCI gives her stamps. They are quite a lot. NERIMAN gives her stamps too. MEHTAP hasn't been able to do any business again)

HAYRIYE Well done Inci... Again you've done most of the business... Forty-two...

INCI (*Flattering*) Neriman worked hard too...

HAYRIYE Well eighteen isn't so bad... I know that, I know... I remember the days she'd gone up to sixty. If only she doesn't start raising hell every now and then...  
(*She gives them their shares. NERIMAN pays back the money she borrowed from INCI*)

INCI (*Takes it and*) You see I've forgotten all about it...  
(*The phone rings*)

HAYRIYE (*Answers*) Hello. Me?... I'm Hayriye...Oh... Is that you?... Aha... Aha... What's her name? We must change her name... Customers don't like names like that... How old is she? Good... When... Okay... Of course I'll be here... I've got her room ready... I've even had it

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painted... I mean everything is ready... Okay, okay... At noon... Alright... Just as we talked before... Your money is ready... Think of

it as in your pocket... Already... *(Hangs up)* He'll bring the girl tomorrow.

*(MEHTAP senses what will about to happen to her. The others are looking at each other... Silence)*

HAYRIYE

He says her name is Cennet... We have to change her name... The customers don't like names like that... We have to find her one of them upper class names, so that customers will think that they are sleeping with somebody from high society and jump into the room... Inci, you better train her to be like you!

INCI

Sure thing boss...

HAYRIYE

She should be complete, so that she could do more business!

INCI

Don't you worry boss..

MEHTAP

*(Suspicious)* Who is this?

HAYRIYE

Don't you know about this? Haven't we told you about it?

MEHTAP

About what?

HAYRIYE

A new girl is coming!

MEHTAP

Coming here?

HAYRIYE

Here! Of course her... For a long time my earnings depended on two girls... What can I do? That's how I make my living. You know the rents I pay... And the money for heating! Coal prices have gone up again!

MEHTAP

The room? Which room will she work in?

HAYRIYE

Who?

MEHTAP

The new girl?

HAYRIYE

Haven't we just painted it?

MEHTAP

Only my room was painted...

HAYRIYE

Well, She'll be in that room...

MEHTAP

What about me? Where will I work?

*(Silence)*

HAYRIYE

Look Mehtap, We've worked together for a long time now... Let's not kid each other...

MEHTAP

What do you mean?

HAYRIYE

Didn't he tell you?

MEHTAP

What was he gonna tell me?

APO

Well, boss...

HAYRIYE

Didn't I tell you to tell her you beast? To make it short, you haven't been able to do business for a long time now Mehtap!

MEHTAP

I was sick...

HAYRIYE

You recovered... But still, there's nothing... Let's not fool each other...

MEHTAP

But I just got better...

HAYRIYE

*(Thinks)* Look at this... What's this? *(Takes the shovel and shows it)*

What's this shovel for? To throw the coal into the stove, right? In this order, nothing stays in its place without any good reason! If this shovel is staying here, it's because we use it to throw the coal into the stove! Spouse it's broken... Then what good is it? We would buy a new one to throw the coal into the stove, right? There's a saying; "The old one's

place is the garbage"... You're no longer of any use Mehtap... You've got old, like me... Men don't go upstairs with you... So, you occupy the room for nothing...

MEHTAP But what can I do after this age?

HAYRIYE Don't get mad at me Mehtap... We had good and bad days... There might even be times I did you wrong...

MEHTAP I don't even have a place to stay...

HAYRIYE You can stay here tonight... The girl is coming tomorrow...

MEHTAP How am I gonna earn living and feed myself?

HAYRIYE Apo you help her to pack her suitcase... Tomorrow morning...

MEHTAP *(Still insisting)* Is it a big deal to pack a suit case? Besides I'm not that old... I can still do many.....

NERIMAN If only that Libya business of yours had become reality, Apo! Sister Mehtap could have shoulder your job, after you left...

APO *(Alarmed for his job)* Sister Mehtap can't do the things that I do... She can't do all that running around... She's got old you know... *(He feels embarrassed)*

HAYRIYE It's not possible... Everybody's job is different. *(As she was leaving)* Perhaps, I won't see you again Mehtap... I hope the best for you... *(HAYRIYE leaves as if she felt some guilt)*

MEHTAP My room was painted when the Mosurri ship had come... But the entire house was painted at that time. *(Pointing upstairs with her hand)* In fact, when I heard that my room was gonna be painted, I felt suspicious... *(Goes upstairs)*  
*(Silence)*

NERIMAN There was a sip of my drink in the drawer... Go get it for me Apo... And there's a little chocolate wrapped in a piece of paper... She says, a new name should be found for Cennnet... Jus like they found one for us. *(Suddenly)* Inciii! What was your name, your other name?

INCI Let it go...

NERIMAN Come on, say it!

INCI Why is there something?

NERIMAN Someone asked for a girl named 'Sidika' earlier...

INCI *(Frightened)* Who?

NERIMAN A young and tall guy... He asked in which house she worked...

INCI *(She jumps with fear)* Neriman, my real name is Sidika

## CURTAIN

## ACT TWO

### III

*(Next morning. APO is sleeping)*

SHINY *(Slowly comes out of INCI's room. Closes the door. Goes to the restroom and washes up. Dries himself with a handkerchief he pulls from his back pocket. He prods APO)* Hey, Wake up! Wake up! Wake up! *(He's been cold)* Get up!

APO What's happening man? Have you got up?

SHINY I couldn't sleep... Inci tossed and turned in bed all night... And I froze to death, till the morning... Now get up and heat up this stove, will you?

APO Man, nobody gives a moment of peace to this man here!

SHINY Since when are you in the category of 'man'?

APO Shiny, why don't you clean up bottom of the stove... Then the coal is ready to go...

SHINY *(As he combs his hair)* Do you have any other troubles?

APO Come on...

SHINY What else, lift up the quilt and I'll come to bed with you? Since I couldn't able to do it with her!

APO Why? What happened?

SHINY *(Pointing to INCI's room)* Till the morning, she kept saying: "Sitki may come any moment. He'll come and shoot me". And she didn't sleep, nor did she make me sleep...

APO She doesn't want to die...

SHINY That can't be her brother! Is 'Sidika' only Inci's name? There's a Sidika at the house where those old ones work... Plus, a Sidika at Makbule's place... use to be there...

APO What if he is Sitki?

SHINY Man why can't you understand? Sitki has got at least two more years to go...

APO Who said that?

SHINY Inci...

APO Why is she frightened then?

SHINY Well, actually for no reason... But she's just getting nervous, that's all...

APO Well sonny, who knows what the government might do? After staying in there for few days, they say good behaving and all, before you know it they let them loose... Maybe he might have been set free too...

SHINY You always twist things around! Besides can Sitki take advantage of the good behavior? He's in for manslaughter! Is there good behaving for that? Plus even if he gets out of prison, how's he gonna find right away where Inci's at?

APO Some homeboys from Inci's village were here about three months

ago... They must have told him...

SHINY Cut it out! I'm sick and tired of that Sitki...I hope he comes soon, and that's the end of it!

APO Now, what kind of nonsense is that?

SHINY Forget about that for a moment and tell me; what will happen to Mehtap? She's got no money or anything... She's got no place to go and stay... She's got nobody to count on! She's got nothing!

APO *(He's got up. He's cleaning the tray of the stove)* You're right, she's got it tough...

SHINY Hey man, why don't you do that without making all this noise! She's just been able to sleep!

APO Did I do it on purpose?

SHINY On purpose or not... Don't make noise... You beast...

APO *(He's cleaning and at the same time)* Don't get out of hand now!

SHINY This Hayriye is very cruel, you know... Where can this woman go to in the middle of winter? *(As if he's saying it to HAYRIYE)* Protect your capital, instead of having that fountain made for charity! That would've been more favorable to God...

APO For whom?

SHINY Your mother...

APO I said for whom?

SHINY For Mehtap, you thickhead!

APO God provides for everybody son... He knows how to feed all the creatures with a mouth...

SHINY Surrre... Feeds some with milk and honey, and some... Whatever...

APO Don't you sin... Look at me, I couldn't go to Lipya, but still we can feed our stomach...

SHINY Are you and her the same you dummy? You're a strong man, like bull I swear. Can she lift this stove like you do? *(Suddenly)* Hold it! I have an idea! Why shouldn't it be? *(He thinks)* Wait man!

APO What kind of evil are thinking again?  
*(Drops the shovel)*

SHINY Who knows it might work...

INCI *(Comes in)* You're banging like the Ramadan drums. *(To SHINY)* And you know, I haven't slept all night, yet join him like a shrill pipe...

SHINY There, he's the one!

INCI Just where I had the sweetest part of my sleep. *(Just about to enter the restroom)* Apo, if you see someone you don't know, let me know immediately...

APO You got it sister...

SHINY Man what a scary cat you are... What's more than 'Sidika' in this Country? 'Everywhere is full of 'Apo' and 'Sidika'... If you wave your 'thing', it touches an Apo!

APO You're asking for it again early in the morning!

INCI *(Still suspicious, enters)* We better be cautious first, and then leave the rest to God... Alright Apo?

SHINY *(Suddenly)* In which prison is Sitki?

INCI What are you gonna do? Are you gonna go visit him with couple packs of cigarette?

SHINY Tell me where is he in at?  
INCI Tell me first, what are you gonna do?  
SHINY Okay, you don't understand from nice...  
INCI Say it boy...  
SHINY No way... I changed my mind! You should've known it's worth...  
INCI Man, come on tell me...  
SHINY I changed my mind...  
INCI He is in the Isparta prison...  
SHINY I can't hear you!  
INCI Stop it! You're gonna kill me from curiosity!  
SHINY That's your problem... You can die if you like!  
INCI Man Shiny, I love, I love you bastard!  
SHINY That's why you turned your back on me all night!  
INCI I was exhausted man! Come on tell me!  
SHINY No way... I changed my mind!  
INCI Hey listen, there ain't no way we can do a quickie... Besides, we've got all the nights...  
SHINY Man, I can go to Adile with my money today... Whoever gives the money, can get Adile...  
INCI Don't be stubborn... Say it...  
SHINY What's the thing on to of the stool?  
INCI A telephone...  
SHINY Then call!  
INCI Call who?  
SHINY The Isparta Hotel...  
INCI What will I do calling them? C'mon don't make me curious Shiny?  
SHINY Maan, what a thoughtless woman you are! And you still think you're clever, don't you? In fact is you were smart, why would you be here! Ask, when your brother will be set free!  
INCI From whom? My brother?  
SHINY Yeah right! Ask him when does he plan to shoot you... Isn't there a Director of this prison? Have them connect you and ask him... Ask him: 'when will Sitki... what's your last name?'  
INCI Taskin...  
SHINY Is that your real last name?  
INCI No, it's the false one... Of course it's real, Taskin...  
SHINY Ask the Director: "When will Sitki Taskin be released?" There must be his files or documents in front of him... He'll tell you in a flash...  
INCI *(Relaxes)* Boy, what a clever man you are... I couldn't think of that, if thought for thousand years. *(She picks up the receiver)* But we don't know the number of the prison...  
SHINY All right, all right, I guess you won't be able to do it! *(He dials and waits)* You see, you see! They don't answer at once them donkeys! All they do is chitchat, chitchat! *(Waits a little longer)* Oh hi! Good morning! This is *(Gives the phone number)* Yes, I'm calling for that place! We're working... Do you work also? We like to talk with the Director of Isparta prison! Isparta, Isparta, Isparta! She says spell it...  
INCI Than spell it ...  
SHINY 'I' of 'idiot'! Yes an ordinary idiot, as we know! Aha, 'S' of 'stupid'!

(*To Apo and Inci*) She thinks she's playing with me... Watch this... 'S' of 'stupid'... stupid, stupid, 'S' of 'stupid'... Yeah! Pumpkin, pumpkin... 'P' of 'pumpkin'... Pimp! Huh! 'P'... Your mother's 'p' (*He looks at APO and INCI as if saying, "see how I told her". The other two watch him admiringly*) Well if you got it, then why do include your mother in this? No dear, I didn't say that to you! Huh! That's right! Director of the prison! You connect us, and don't worry about the rest! How the hell do I know the Director's name? Just Director... No, no, he won't except collect call! When will it be connected? She says, soonest will be evening... Shall we make it urgent call?

INCI How much would it coast?  
SHINY (Gets angry) Is your money more important than your life! (*To the operator, on top of his voice*) Let's make it urgent call! When will it be connected? She says "In the evening" again! Isn't there something faster? She says "there are buses in the bus stations"! All right, connect the bus then! Hey come on! I just made a joke! Then you connect us an urgent call from a cheaper price... The caller... Inci Taskin! Not 'Action' my dear, it's 'Taskin'! Okay beautiful, you have a good day. (*Trying to protect himself from INCI, because she starts to hit him*) My babe! My beautiful! (*Puts the receiver down and picks up again*) Oh baby! My darling! (*Puts the receiver down*)

APO You even pulled that woman's leg, you devil... Hehe hehe...  
INCI Man, you're really a bastard... He coos with her, and in front of me! You're my husband, you dork! I can't stand for these kinds of things...  
SHINY See what she says, when I deserve thanks from her...  
INCI I was just kidding man... You did very good...  
APO With all these cleverness, why couldn't you hang on with Hollywood Shiny?  
SHINY (*Very please*) Now my Abdullah... I was filming my first one... Cuneyt (*Chuck*) is in the lead role... The girl is Turkan (*Meryl*) Brother Cuneyt is a poor-fellow, like us... And Turkan is a daughter of a wealthy bastard... Cuneyt is son of a poor bastard... But can you stop love? She is in love at first sight to Cuneyt... They're gonna meet... Turkan is coming to suburbs of Sariyer (*Sausalito*) with her car, where our brother Cuneyt is waiting... Cuneyt recognizes the car from distance... While he's running towards her saying, "My dear, my dear", suddenly a truck appears. (*Makes the sound of music*) Runs over Cuneyt...

APO Is he dying?  
INCI Is he crippled?  
SHINY Blind... He becomes blind... Now he's blind violinist!  
APO Too bad!  
SHINY Don't feel sorry for him, his eyes will see at the end... You should feel sorry for me...  
APO Why? Did the truck hit you?  
SHINY I'm the stunt man, of course it's gonna hit me! The truck hits me, but brother Cuneyt is laying down... The scene is re taken, the truck hits

me, Cuneyt lays down... They don't like it... Retake the scene again... The truck hits me again... Cuneyt's laying! Turkan's love isn't fake... With all her dad's objections, she goes to the joint every night, where Cuneyt works at, and plays his blind violin and sings Arabesque... Now pay attention here! There's a bar in the Hollywood you haven't seen that part... Our gang of stuntmen hangs out in that bar. (*Gets emotional*) They all wait with the hope of landing a role... They wait for their livelihood. (*Gets cheerful again*) So in that bar, we've been waiting, and hoping to get a role... They put us all in a minivan... Hurrah, we're in the suburbs of Sariyer... We're gonna play the drinkers in that bar. Like I said, since we're gonna play the drinkers, in order to be more realistic to the film's social atmosphere, I sipped a couple of shots... Just when it was our turn for the scene, we're all boozed up... Then that Memduh guy yelled!

APO  
SHINY

Who's Memduh?

The Director... Says, I wanted men who would 'act like' drinkers in the bar from you... we can't do it with these"... And I swear on my mom's grave, just for the sake of it, I happen to say, "Yeah, see if you could find a sober person in Hollywood", as I supported it by waving my arm...

INCI  
SHINY

In other words, you showed your skills there too...

Yes I did... All of a sudden I saw Memduh taking the charge, and the men of the set, light man, cameraman, and even brother Cuneyt, were all coming on to me... You know even Fatma (*Linda*) who happen to fallow the shooting, took one of her shoes and hurrah, ran towards me! They beat the lights out of me! You know since Cuneyt knows karate, he's trying to break my arm, Fatma is hitting my head with her heels, and isn't that Turkan, and they call her "lady", she kept hitting and hitting at my balls... Memduh on the other hand, keeps heading me! Just when I was about to pass out, I've heard Memduh saying this: "Take this bastard", meaning me...

APO  
SHINY

So he noticed...

(*Gets upset. Doesn't talk for a short while*) "Take this young man, and take him out of Istanbul city limit with the fastest way, 'cause I can't go to prison after this age!" When I opened my eyes, I was here, in Ankara...

INCI  
SHINY  
INCI

Is it over?

Yes, my movie carrier finished then...

Okay, I guess this is the tenth time I've heard of this story... He tells it differently each time...

APO  
SHINY

I heard it for the first time...

You're still new here... I'll tell you few more times... All right I'll see you guys. (*Just when he's about to leave*) All right Shiny is here, would anyone like tea?

INCI  
APO

I do...

Me too...

(*SHINY runs out*)

NERIMAN  
APO

(*Comes down the stairs angrily*) Were you talking to Libya?

No, it was local call... For a long distance...

NERIMAN Why was that jerk yelling then?  
INCI They couldn't hear him well... Besides, don't call him a "jerk"! Don't you know he's been my lover since last night? I won't let anyone talk down to my husband!

NERIMAN Can't you take joke? Never mind, I'll never joke with you again girl...  
*(To APO)* She isn't gone, is she?

INCI Who?

NERIMAN Sister Mehtap...  
APO No, she ain't...

NERIMAN *(To INCI)* Look let me tell you something... You haven't got anybody...

INCI What are you trying to say?

NERIMAN Nothing...

INCI Then?

NERIMAN You have money... You have a car...  
INCI Good thing I have! You all have your eyes on them!  
NERIMAN Now, look here! You've been making good business too...  
INCI Alright, tell me straight!  
NERIMAN Why don't you take that poor Mehtap to your home, what would happen?

INCI Don't stir things up now!  
NERIMAN You'd have a companion at home and besides, she can help you with the house-work...

INCI *(Gets annoyed)* The butcher is struggling for beef, and the beef is struggling to save its life!

NERIMAN It would be a good deed...  
INCI If you care about her so much, why don't you take her in?  
NERIMAN If my situation was available, wouldn't I take her in? But, it's impossible... My daughter's boarding school fees, and then Husam... We barely make ends meet...

INCI Then stay out of it, and don't go to honeymoon with what you have!  
*(Goes to her room)*

NERIMAN *(To APO)* Tell this Shiny to bring the man's coffee... He'll start shouting soon and wake up sister Mehtap...

APO Alright sister...  
SHINY *(Comes in)* Tea's ready!  
INCI You made it in a flash again!  
SHINY The boy had got up early, and made the tea ready! Take a look at these, It's Shiny's famous and special tea!

NERIMAN *(Sees that he brought coffee as well. As she takes it)* Well done Shiny, you're in my book now...

SHINY Just in your book babe? *(Seeing that INCI's been looking angrily)*  
Kidding, I was just kidding! *(NERIMAN goes upstairs)*

SHINY *(Holding the arm he's carrying the tray from the armpit with the other hand-he extends APO a half empty glass of tea)* Here, it's more than enough for a 'man'...

APO Don't start it early again...  
SHINY Oho Apo! There's a letter for you...  
APO You can't fool me anymore...

SHINY Let my eyes drop in front of you! Brother Rustu will bring it in a while...

APO What letter man? It hasn't been a week since I got a letter from my ma!

SHINY How would I know? *(Goes out)*

RUSTU *(Comes in)* Good-morning!

APO Good-morning!

INCI Good morning brother Rustu!

RUSTU Here this is for you! *(He gives a letter to APO. Trying not to laugh)*  
How are you Inci?

INCI I'm fine brother... You know my brother Sitki...

RUSTU I'm sure it's not him...

INCI You better keep an eye on everybody as they're coming in...

RUSTU If I knew him, it would easier... But still, don't worry about it... We examine everyone that comes in and out of here...

INCI I beg you brother Rustu... My life depends on you!

RUSTU Don't be afraid... God knows, even if he was a bird, I wouldn't let him fly in! Even if he gets in, he won't be able to bring in a knife or a gun with him!

INCI Search everybody very carefully brother, please!

RUSTU *(Gets serious)* Don't forget that, we have to search everyone carefully... We're awake here! This place is under our wings! Because, if some bad incident happens here, we'll be in trouble too! And boy, will we be in trouble? So there's no reason for you to worry! Your life is our life! What does the letter say?

APO *(Embarrassed)* I don't know...

RUSTU Can't you read at all? We better notify the Ministry of Education, so that they should open up a reading and writing school... More than half of them don't know how to read and write here...

INCI Let me read it for you. *(Reads)* Dear Mr. Abdullah Guzel... You have been on our list, upon your application to our organization in the year of 1978... We request you to be at our facility on March 22, of 1983 at 2:00 Pm... Hey, look at that!

RUSTU Well, that's good!

INCI *(Interrupts as if it's not finished yet)* Fetullah Abaci... Director... P.P. dot... What does this 'P.P.' stand for?

RUSTU *(Showing of his knowledge)* It's an abbreviation... It means 'representing'... Well, congratulations!

INCI It ain't over yet... Note: During your visit, your I.D. card and this letter should be present with you....

APO What did they mean now?

INCI It's obvious what they mean... They're calling you...

RUSTU Well congratulations to you!

APO Why are they calling me in? I hope they won't charge me with tax or something...

INCI What tax?

RUSTU What tax are you talking about? This letter in not coming from I.R.S... It's coming from Employment Exchange Office! And there's a big possibility that, they'll send you abroad...

INCI Apooooo!

RUSTU Well you owe me one!  
 APO *(An expression of happy appears on his face)* Dang, is it for real?  
 RUSTU Well, just look at it!  
 INCI I want my preset too! And if you forget it, I will never forgive you!  
 APO Is it to Lipya though?  
 INCI It doesn't say...  
 RUSTU It might be Saudi Arabia...  
 SHINY *(Enters)* What about Saudi Arabia?  
 INCI *(Believed)* They are calling Apo from Employment Exchange Office...  
 Here! *(Goes to her room)*  
 SHINY Well, are you sure the letter's for you, Check it carefully!  
 RUSTU Of course it's for him. To his name... Abdullah Guzel, and they even  
 have a 'Dear Mr.' in the beginning... Look at it!  
 APO Shiny, this way I'm finally gonna get away from you... Dang, I can't  
 believe it... Oh my God...  
 INCI *(Comes back with a box of American cigarettes and extends it to*  
*RUSTU)* And this is for you!  
 RUSTU Why? What's that for?  
 INCI For no reason, I just felt like it!  
 RUSTU *(Objects)* No way!  
 INCI You get tired of searching everybody who comes in! I just wanted to  
 give you a present!  
 RUSTU *(Gets really upset)* I never take bribe from anybody! I never gave any  
 unlawful gains to my household up until now...  
 INCI Why should it be unlawful? I've paid for it...  
 RUSTU *(Gets up)* Okay, I never saw that! Get it out of here! We represent the  
 law, besides if it's found on me, I could lose my job! *(Exits)*  
 INCI *(Runs after him)* I didn't mean anything bad, I swear...  
 RUSTU Let's forget about it...  
 INCI You see, I made brother Rustu mad for no reason...  
 SHINY *(As if he read the letter)* Hey man! That's right! Where is it, it doesn't  
 say Saudi Arabia here?  
 APO *(Sure about the news)* Well, we said, "it might be"...  
 SHINY *(Trying not to laugh)* Did you give them the address of this place?  
 APO Huh... Hey I can't believe this man!  
 SHINY Now look Apo.... Saudi Arabia is a very hot country... Don't you dare  
 go out without wearing a hat! They say it's 150 degrees in the shade!  
 And it's 350 degrees in the sun... If you have high blood pressure or  
 anything, you better not go... "Cause if you kick the bucket, they'd  
 bury you right there! The vultures eat your corpse in the desert!  
 APO I don't care if it's hot or boiling! As long as...  
 SHINY Plus drinking is forbidden there! See, don't say I didn't warn you;  
 you'd lose your tongue for the sake of sipping a shot, God forbid!  
 APO I drink once in the blue moon... So for that, I won't drink, so what?  
 INCI He's right... There's retaliation there! They say, if you steal, they cut  
 your hand or your arm!  
 SHINY *(Trying to scare him)* There's something even worst than that, Inci! If  
 you get caught having debauchery... You know what I mean?  
*(Describes with his hand)* Your junior is, bye bye! Even though you

only use it in the restrooms, you better be careful!  
 APO How do you know, I'm going there? It may even be Germany!  
 SHINY Boy, stop dreaming! Germany is trying to get rid of the ones there! But who knows, perhaps it's Australia! They say, there are kangaroos there! Have you ever seen a kangaroo?  
 APO No...  
 SHINY Go look in the mirror...  
 APO Does it look like me?  
 SHINY But I'd be happier if it's Saudi Arabia... You could go on a pilgrimage to Mecca, since it's close by! Look, look, check it out... Pilgrim Apo! Sounds nice!  
 NERIMAN *(Comes down. She heard the last part of the conversation)* Who are you making pilgrims this time Shiny?  
 SHINY Read this!  
 INCI Bring me a bottle of holy water from the well of Zemzem, for God's sake... Do you promise?  
 APO Sure I promise... My promise as trustworthy as God!  
 NERIMAN Hey, it's not written here where he'll go...  
 SHINY All right Neriman!  
 NERIMAN There's something up with this again! Let me see the envelope! Aha, where's the seal on this stamp?  
*(SHINY can't hold any longer and starts to laugh)*  
 NERIMAN You've done it again!  
 APO *(Hesitates. Trying to realize)* You, you mean?  
 NERIMAN Who helped you write this? God knows you asked the petition writer on the corner!  
 INCI *(Gets mad)* What about that grown brother Rustu, how could you make him your tool for such thing?  
 SHINY His son is unemployed you know, I said, I'd find him a job... I had this letter written a week ago... The destiny was for today...  
 APO *(Gets SHINY under him in a furry. He's very determined. Tries to squeeze his throat)* I'll... your...  
 SHINY *(Tries to free himself)* Hel... I'm... Don't...  
*(NERIMAN and INCI could hardly take SKINY from APO's hands)*  
 INCI What are you doing Apo?  
 NERIMAN You were gonna choke him man!  
 APO You can't make joke about things like that! *(Very definitely)* If you ever do a joke like this again! *(Can't finish and goes out)*  
 INCI You got away from Cuneyt's hands as you descried it, but you were almost gone in Apo's hands!  
 NERIMAN Some of your habits are terrible Shiny! Apo is after a piece of bread and you still make fun of him! Don't!  
 SHINY *(Really frightened)* Damn, I didn't know he was that strong!  
 NERIMAN You should always watch out for those with tiny eyes!  
*(While SHINY leaves in a miserable state)*  
 INCI And from the people who have something on their mind... This man's got nothing but to go abroad... Why do you play on his most sensitive point?  
 NERIMAN The quiet horse kicks harder!

INCI And the person, who's never beaten by another fist, thinks that his fist beats better!

APO *(Enters)* That can't be a joke! That mother...

INCI Well, he just made a joke!

NERIMAN We are friends here Apo! He won't do it again!

INCI Besides, you were almost choking my husband!

NERIMAN He didn't do it to harm you! He did it to make us laugh! *(The phone rings. INCI gets up)*

INCI I wonder if it's from the prison! *(Answers)* Helooo! Hu... Huh... She hasn't come in yet! Inci, Inci! At noon? Okay... I'll tell her... Her room is ready anyway! *(Hangs up)* They said, the girl would be here within two hours! They'll bring here! Apo, you better wake up sister Mehtap... Otherwise the boss will get mad!  
*(As APO goes half-heartedly)*

INCI I guess his pride is hurt!

NERIMAN He's a man afterall! He got mad!  
*(7.CUSTOMER comes in and starts staring at them)*

APO *(As he comes down)* It's a wicked world you know! She was already packing he suitcase!  
*(MEHTAP comes down. Obviously she hasn't slept all night, and she's miserable)*

MEHTAP Good-morning...

INCI Good-morning

NERIMAN Good-morning sister! Did you sleep well?

MEHTAP I did, I slept well...

INCI Can I help you pack your suitcase?

MEHTAP What do I have anyway? I'm just waiting for Hayriye, so I can go...

INCI Why are you waiting for the boss?

MEHTAP We had good and bad days together... We might have wronged each other... I didn't want to go without making amends for all that has passed. We may or may not see each other again. And you always been very kind to me too, I have to say...

NERIMAN Don't even mention it sister...

MEHTAP No don't say that... There's nothing like giving someone's due... God the Almighty tells us not to go near him, if we owe dues to his servants...If you ever wronged me, I forgive you all...

INCI I forgive you too, if you ever wronged me sister...

NERIMAN Same with me too. *(As MEHTAP goes upstairs again)*

APO Where are you gonna go sister?

MEHTAP Yesterday, you ran around to step on a cockroach Apo... And Hayriye stopped you from killing it... She made you put it in front of the door... I guess I'll find a place to go...

APO God knows how to feed the stomach he created...

MEHTAP I better pack my suitcase...  
*(She attempts to go upstairs)*

INCI Could I help you?

NERIMAN Can we both help you?

MEHTAP I ain't got much anyway... A traveler should be on the way...

NERIMAN You know that I been paying for my daughter's school fee... And I've got Husam as well... I would really like to take you with me... You do understand, don't you?  
*(MEHTAP goes upstairs. 7.CUSTOMER comes next to NERIMAN. HAYRIYE has come. She stops and stats watching)*

7.CUSTOMER Which one is your room?  
NERIMAN Go away, it's not the time!  
7.CUSTOMER Why are you yelling?  
NERIMAN My husband is upstairs!  
7.CUSTOMER Well, as if I can't go to someone else!  
NERIMAN Go to whoever the hell you want! I said I have my husband upstairs, don't you understand?  
HAYRIYE *(Interferes slowly)* Is there anybody in Inci's room?  
INCI No, there's nobody!  
HAYRIYE Take him there Neriman...  
7.CUSTOMER I don't want to go in with this slut! She's untrustworthy, as if she's about to bite someone!  
*(The 7.CUSTOMER leaves)*

HAYRIYE Why didn't you take him in?  
NERIMAN I was upset...  
HAYRIYE I asked why didn't you take him in?  
NERIMAN I said, "I was upset!"  
HAYRIYE *(Gets furious)* I'll shit your nerves! You freaking slut! Tell me, what the hell is that lazy bastard 's business here until this time? What time is it? Didn't I tell you, no sleeping here? Go to your homes and sleep there! Is this a motel? From now on, at the end of your work, everyone will go to their own home!

APO Me too?  
HAYRIYE Do you have a home, you moron?  
NERIMAN Heeey, that's enough!  
HAYRIYE What, what did you say you slut?  
INCI *(Quietly)* Shush for God's sake...  
NERIMAN Shush, shush, shush! No I won't shush up!  
HAYRIYE Now, go upstairs and get rid of your husband!  
NERIMAN I'm not gonna work today! Let him sleep!  
HAYRIYE I know how to get rid of him!  
*(HAYRIYE attempts to go upstairs. NERIMAN cuts in front of her just to oppose her)*

NERIMAN You can't kick him out!  
INCI What are you doing Neriman?  
NERIMAN I'll leave this house!  
HAYRIYE I dare you to try it!  
NERIMAN I won't work in this house!  
HAYRIYE You will work! You've got debts!  
NERIMAN It's been for years and it doesn't end! It hasn't ended for thirteen years now!

HAYRIYE I didn't force you to sigh those vouchers!  
NERIMAN *(Lets herself out completely)* I can't even make one forth of the money that I earn for you! If it goes like this, my end will be just like sister

Mehtap, which means being on the street!  
*(HUSAMETTIN appears, just when he's about to run back, he's caught by NERIMAN)*

HAYRIYE You will work in this house! If you desire to go, there, the door is open! But after you pay your debt!

HUSAM *(Comes down as a tough guy)* What the hell's going on here?

HAYRIYE Your wife wants to quit! Pay her debts and take her away!

HUSAM Where would I have money?

HAYRIYE Then why do you walk puffed up? Don't make me break your show off!

HUSAM *(Doesn't change his attitude, but)* If I had money, what would I do here?

NERIMAN Don't come to me anymore!

HUSAM What does that mean?

NERIMAN Don't you ever come to me again!

HUSAM Well, I hope you won't run after me...

NERIMAN Just don't ever come to me again!

HUSAM But won't people say, "she couldn't even take care of her lover", about you?

NERIMAN Do what you call those "people" look after us, so that they have the right to say anything? Don't come to me anymore!

HUSAM *(Losing his hope)* I even closed my shop for your sake!

NERIMAN Your shop huh? Your creditors cleared up everything in your little store! *(Seeing that he's leaving)* You were like a tick on my back! Where is it, you said you'd marry me and get me out of here? Where is it, you were gonna father my daughter?

INCI Okay enough Neriman...

NERIMAN I'm not working in this house anymore!

HAYRIYE After you pay your debt!

NERIMAN I'm not paying!

HAYRIYE *(She's gone mad now)* You freaking whore you!

NERIMAN That's what you are!  
*(HAYRIYE grabs NERIMAN by her hair, and starts to beat her. INCI attempts to save her but loses her courage. Neither does APO. NERIMAN doesn't cry out as she usually does. MEHTAP comes down and she hinders the fight)*

HAYRIYE You ate and drank, and now you've gone crazy, you slut! You tried to take advantage of my kindness and mercy! You were living in misery on the streets with your illegitimate child! I took you, and brought you in, saved you from misery! Now your daughter is in the boarding school! You ruthless! Feed the crow and it'll pick your eyes out! Do you think it's that easy? If you try to leave before you pay your debt, I'll make sure you can't work in any of the brothels in any cities *(fifty-two states)* of this country! You'll be back on the streets! And your daughter will follow you! *(NERIMAN is really miserable now and she's been crying quietly)*

HAYRIYE *(Sees MEHTAP and gets angry)* Aren't you gone yet?

MEHTAP My suitcase is ready...

HAYRIYE Why are you wondering around then? The girl will be here soon!

MEHTAP I've waited for you...  
HAYRIYE Why?  
MEHTAP Just to say good-bye; I might not see you again  
HAYRIYE I cleared your debt Mehtap... What can I take from you? I forgive it!  
And you forgive me too...  
MEHTAP I do...  
*(HAYRIYE takes some money out from her chest, counts with the corner of her eyes and squeezes into MEHTAP's hands)*  
MEHTAP May I leave my suitcase here for a while? I'll go to the other houses also...  
HAYRIYE Okay, leave it... Apo, bring her suitcase down... The girl will be here soon, it wouldn't be nice to her... Call me, when the girl gets here! I'll be at Makbule's place!  
INCI Boss! Please forgive Neriman... Forgive her for my sake boss...  
NERIMAN *(Gets up, kisses HAYRIYE'S hand)* Forgive my inexperience boss...  
HAYRIYE *(Softens)* Look, a new girl is coming... You are all sound and strong, all three of you... Have you heard that, a madam of a house in Istanbul received a thield or shield whatever they call it from minister himself, for being record taxpayer! Now let us see what you can do!  
APO *(Comes down with the suitcase)* Where should I put this boss?  
HAYRIYE Put it in Inci's room for now...  
*(SHINY enters)*  
SHINY Hold it sister Mehtap... You ripped the coffin again!  
MEHTAP What did I rip?  
INCI Don't start with your jokes again!  
*(APO's been giving dirty looks at SHINY)*  
SHINY I've found a job for her! I swear! Let both of my eyes drop out, I've found a job for her! See, both of my feet are on the ground! Hey man, I said, 'I swear'! You all know what happened to Sevim... She's in the hospital... I'm went to her boss Adile... I told her the situation... I said her room is empty anyway... She thought it was very logical, and said; You're right Shiny, Mehtap better work there instead of keeping the room empty"...  
MEHTAP Don't kid me for God's sake...  
SHINY She's waiting for you now!  
HAYRIYE *(Gets suspicious)* Adile doesn't really like Mehtap!  
SHINY Likening is one think and the business is another! This is business sister!  
APO If this is a lie too....!  
SHINY *(Steps back)* Go see it with your own eyes!  
HAYRIYE *(To APO)* Take the suitcase over there, then we'll see if it's true!  
*(APO leaves)*  
SHINY If I say, "I'm dying", nobody will believe me here... I've lost everybody's trust and belief!  
INCI Is it our fault?  
SHINY What a pity!  
HAYRIYE It's because you keep throwing dozens of lies everyday!  
*(All of them are waiting in excitement and enthusiasm)*  
APO *(Rushes in)* It's true!

MEHTAP *(Waving the money in her hand)* I'm gonna do such a good job that everyone will be jealous!

HAYRIYE *(Grabbing the money that MEHTAP's waving)* You still have plenty left!

INCI Hey Shiny, well done man...

NERIMAN Really you've done very well!

APO *(Even him)* Good job, good job!

SHINY Did we make up?

APO Yes we did...

PARLAK *(Extends his hand to shake it. Just when Apo extends his, SHINY pulls his back)*

APO *(Joyfully)* You can't make me mad whatever you do...

SHINY Well then, let's shake...

*(Apo extends again, but SHINY pulls the same trick)*

HAYRIYE Already then, let me go and see Adile!

MEHTAP May I take the painting in the room?

HAYRIYE Take it, take it! It may be yours! *(Exits)*  
*(MEHTAP goes upstairs)*

INCI You're a lover just for me... My husband! *(She impudently embraces him)* What now, you're ice cold!

SHINY But unfortunately!

INCI What is it now?

NERIMAN Have you tricked her again you moron?

APO Or did you arrange it with Adile?

SHINY What are you talking about *(Quietly)* They say Sevim is coming out of hospital within a month...

INCI Oh maaan!  
*(SITKI has come. He's checking the girls one by one. MEHTAP comes down with the painting. A primitive painting but glassed and framed)*

SITKI Hey you girl, Sidika!

INCI Brother!  
*(SITKI pulls a knife from the pocket of his jacket, and runs towards INCI)*

INCI I beg you brother...

SITKI This must to end here Sidika! Our honor will be cleared!  
*(Everyone is frozen)*

MEHTAP Leave her!

SITKI *(Makes an attempt)* You stand aside!

MEHTAP *(She wraps around SITKI with an unexpected quickness from her)* I said leave her!

SITKI You stand aside! Or you'll get hurt!

MEHTAP What kind of men are you? Apo, Shiny, Neriman! What kind of people are you? *(The others get active too. NERIMAN grabs a chair. APO jumps onto SITKI and cause him to fall down. SHINY, APO and NERIMAN all jump on him. MEHTAP is trying to calm down INCI who is in terror)*

INCI *(Upon seeing SITKI being beaten and kicked)* Don't, please don't do it! Don't hit him! *(She tries to prevent him from further manhandle)* He's gonna die, don't!

MEHTAP *(Runs outside as the others are beating SITKI)* Rustuuu! Rustuuuu!  
 Help!

RUSTU *(Rushes in. Takes SITKI from their hands)*  
 APO He was gonna kill Inci!  
 RUSTU Why you scum?  
 APO Here, this fool is Sitki!  
 RUSTU Is that him?  
 NERIMAN *(Takes the knife from the floor and gives it to him)* Here, with this...  
 RUSTU *(Takes it)* How did you get this in? I even searched him! *(Pulls out his gun)* Get up!

INCI Don't you have handcuffs?  
 RUSTU When Mehtap yelled, I rushed without preparation... I swear, I'll nail him! Now you don't move away from here! We prepare a report and finish the business soon! Move! *(They exit)*  
*(They all laugh frantically together. It resembles more of crying)*

SHINY I say, you're really something sister!  
 APO And they say she's gotten old!  
 NERIMAN *(Makes a pass to INCI)* If sister Mehtap hadn't taken the lead and jumped in the middle, daaang you'd be gone by now!  
 APO Yeah, you'd be lying dead on the floor!  
 NERIMAN You better thank and pray for her!  
 SHINY You'd have been done by now!  
 INCI *(Still in shock)* Thank you sister!  
 NERIMAN As they say; you can't clap with one hand! Let's not forget Shiny and Apo!

SHINY *(To APO)* Man, you sat on the guy like cannon ball! Good for you!  
 APO *(Proud of himself)* I didn't get greased for nothing!  
 SHINY What do you mean 'greased'?  
 APO *(As to call him uneducated)* Wrestling, wrestling!  
 SHINY No wonder, you dove to his leg and brought Sitki to bridge position!  
 APO I said, let's not leave anything to chance... Otherwise, I'd show him all the tricks I know. *(Gets up, tries to show his tricks on SHINY)* If I grab like this, and...

SHINY Stop it Apo..  
 APO I would throw him on the floor, neither the guard nor the polis nor FBI could've scraped him from the floor again!

SHINY *(He's really frighten now)* What are you doing man, you're gonna break my bones... You're gonna cause an accident or something! You maniac!

APO *(While sitting down he really yearns)* Hey sonny, don't underestimate me... I'm the man who has wrestled with the best there was! I ain't saying I won, but I really made them sweat!

INCI He was gonna cut me up, in pieces!  
 MEHTAP Would we let him do that while we're here?  
 NERIMAN Do you think you were not protected? Do they think we're unprotected? What is it, can't we even protect each other?

SHINY You were good too, Neriman!  
 NERIMAN We all did good, all of us!  
 INCI Everybody's lunch's on me come on Apo... Go and order kebab for all

of us, and let's eat with pleasure!

APO *(Counts)* Let mine be one and a half portion.  
*(He rushes out)*

SHINY *(Makes fun)* You shouldn't have spent so much... There was no need for that. *(Gets up all of a sudden and dials a number)* Hello! Idiot! We'd asked for a number to be connected! To Isparta Prison! Hii, huh! You can cancel that! That business is over! My dear!

INCI Hey, you're real smart ass... My husband!

SHINY I better get back! We really laid it today!

NERIMAN But a report will be prepared!

SHINY *(Just when about to leave)* Well, I'll come as soon as you call...

INCI Thank you my husband!

SHINY You're welcome my wife! *(Leaves)*

NERIMAN But still, we wouldn't be able to do it without you sister!

MEHTAP *(Bitterly)* Why should a dead donkey be afraid of a wolf?  
*(Noises from outside. Somebody's shouting, "Hold him, hold him, don't let him get away". NERIMAN walks to the door as to see what's happening. She clashes with SITKI. SITKI rushes in, grabs the bottle on the table. INCI runs to her room but unable to close the door. SITKI had put his foot through the door. He opens the door and enters the room. He locks the door from inside. Sound of a broken bottle. And INCI's cry from inside)*

NERIMAN *(Rushes to the front door)* Heeelp! Someone's getting killllled!

RUSTU *(Rushes in)* He escaped, he got away, he got away! He escaped from my room! *(He shoulders to the door)* Open up! In the name of the law, open up!  
*(At this time SHINY, APO and HAYRIYE come in. They may be others crowding in front of the window. Door opens. SITKI comes out. There's a broken bottle in his hand. NERIMAN rushes in immediately. And comes out again immediately.)*

NERIMAN He's cut her throat!

*(RUSTU is about to say something to SITKI, but then decides not to. They all freeze like a photograph. A new girl comes in with her suitcase in her hand)*

## CURTAIN

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Edited by  
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