

**TUNCER CÜCENOĞLU**

**THE PAINTER**

**(BOYACI)**

**A comedy in two acts**

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**Scene :**

*A doctor's office.*

*A waiting room... chairs, tables, potted plants, a picture on the wall... a door leads to the balcony... a window look onto the street.*

*The secretary's office...a small table, a telephone, a coat rack, and a stereo.*

*A door next to the secretary's office leads to an unseen kitchen.*

*Another door leads to the doctor's examining room...in the examining room there is a bed...against the wall there is a wardrobe big enough for two people to hide in if necessary...other various items dealing with health.*

**Characters:**

KADIR - 30. The painter.

GUL - 25. His wife.

MUSTAFA - 35.

AHMET - 40. A doctor.

HALIT - 60. General manager of a large corporation.

NURTEN - 30. A very charming woman.

TURGUT - 40. Ahmet's doctor friend.

TAHSIN - 50. A manager in the corporation's personnel department.

WOMAN - 30.

HITMAN/COP - 30. Played by one actor.

**Place:**

Istanbul.

**Time:**

The present.

**Season:**

Summer.

## Act I

### Scene 1

#### The First Day.

*(AHMET is pacing around his office, obviously annoyed...Checks his watch periodically, thinks he hears a voice from time to time and freezes on the spot waiting for a doorbell. When it doesn't ring, he goes back to waiting, annoyed. Finally, he can't take it anymore, picks up the phone and dials)*

AHMET - Hello! Honey, give me Turgut! It's Ahmet, Ahmet! Quickly, sweetheart...Hello! What do you mean how's it going? I'm still in my office...What do you mean get going? That painter of yours still isn't here! No, he hasn't shown up! How should I know? You said I could trust him, I hired him... What do you mean calm down! I'm going to miss my flight... This is no time for jokes, Turgut... I have to be in Berlin by tomorrow morning.. I still have to go pick up my luggage... I'm not married like you... Everything isn't handed to me on a plate, son!

*(The doorbell rings)*

AHMET- Wait! Maybe...!

*(AHMET opens the door...KADIR enters with a ladder in one hand and a pail, brush, and other painting supplies in the other)*

KADIR- Doctor?

AHMET- What time is it?

KADIR- *(Drops the supplies and looks at his watch)* It's three twenty.

AHMET- That's funny! Mine says three seventeen.

KADIR- Mine's a little fast...

AHMET- No! Really?

KADIR- The other day it fell into a pail full of paint--

AHMET- Close the door! Come inside!

*(While KADIR closes the door and comes inside, AHMET runs to the phone...He speaks softly, trying not to let KADIR hear)*

AHMET- He's here! He doesn't look like much...You know you're responsible for his work...well, at least stop by once in a while! I don't care if your secretary's on vacation! All right, all right. Make sure you see the end result before you pay him the rest of the money. Look, I'm trusting you, Turgut...see you in a week...take it easy. *(Hangs up)* What was your name?

KADIR- Kadir.

AHMET- What time were you supposed to be here?

KADIR- I'm twenty minutes late, doctor. The buses wouldn't take--

AHMET- What wouldn't they take?

KADIR- Me!

AHMET- You tried to come here by bus?

KADIR- Well, a cab would have been too expensive. I had to wait half an hour for a bus driver nice enough to bring me here.

AHMET- *(Trying not to show his anger)* Look, Rifki...

KADIR- My name's Kadir, doctor.

AHMET- Whatever. Where's your assistant?

KADIR- Something came up...

AHMET- What is that supposed to mean? Isn't this job important to you?

KADIR- No job could be more important than a man's losing his home.

AHMET- What does that mean?

KADIR- A summons came from the court this morning. If we don't vacate by the end of the month, they'll force us out. Do you know what that means, doctor? The police! The Gestapo! Bulldozers! Bullhorns! Children crying left and right! There's only three or four pieces of furniture in the house anyway...and they're falling apart! So, news came this morning: there's a house that fits our budget. We couldn't miss the chance. It is really hard to find a house for rent, doctor...

AHMET- *(Trying to cut this short)* You'll find one...Now...

KADIR- Do you know of a place?

AHMET- No...

KADIR- Then how do you know I'll find one? It is really hard, doctor, really hard. I wouldn't wish homelessness on my worst enemy.

AHMET- I'm going to be late, Hamdi.

KADIR- Kadir.

AHMET- Whatever. Don't lose hope. You'll find a place. Now, listen carefully. In this bucket there's latex paint. And these are oil based. This one's brick red. I want everything cream, the ceiling brick red. The doors, the windows, ivory. Understood?

KADIR- Ceiling brick red, walls cream, doors and windows ivory...

AHMET- Very good.

KADIR- That's my job, doctor.

AHMET- Is this enough paint?

KADIR- *(Looks, thinks)* Just barely.

AHMET- What if it isn't?

KADIR- I saw a hardware store down the street. I'll get more from there.

AHMET- Good thinking.

KADIR- What, did you think I'd get it at the drug store? They don't carry paint...yet. *(Laughs to himself at his own joke)*

AHMET- *(Smiles, pretending to find it funny)* You're great conversation...but I'm going to be late. Maybe when I get back we'll have some tea and talk for a while. When's your assistant getting here?

KADIR- Any minute now.

AHMET- Will he be able to find the place?

KADIR- Oh, the man's going to wait.

AHMET- What man?

KADIR- The landlord.

AHMET- Jesus...Will he be able to find this place?

KADIR- Oh, she has the address. My wife's pretty smart, doctor.

AHMET- I don't understand. What does your wife have to do with anything?

KADIR- She went to look at the house, doctor.

AHMET- Now I'm really confused. I asked you about your assistant.

KADIR- My wife is my assistant. It's easier to clean up that way.

AHMET- (*Trying to hide his surprise*) How many days will it take?

KADIR- Ah, I figure, with the moving and everything, done in three days.

AHMET- What moving?

KADIR- Why else would we rent the house, doctor? If we don't move in, why pay rent?

AHMET- I'm asking you about the paint job, Ramiz!

KADIR- Kadir.

AHMET- My god, where did Ramiz come from? All right, Kadir, how many days will the paint job take?

KADIR- I could finish it in three days, or I could finish it in five. If I finish in three, fifteen days later it'll come down on your head. If I finish in five, it'll last a lifetime.

AHMET- Then don't rush anything. You have six days.

KADIR- Well, the walls aren't that dirty anyway.

AHMET- I have them done every year.

KADIR- Since we're not changing colors, the job shouldn't be too hard.

AHMET- If anyone calls, you can tell them I went to Germany. If you can take a message, that would be great too. Tell them I'll be back in a week. (*Takes some money and a receipt out of his wallet*) Count it and sign here. When the job is finished, you can get the rest from Dr. Turgut. If you get in trouble, don't hesitate to call Turgut. He'll stop in every once in a while anyway. He always says, "That Tahsin's a great guy."

KADIR- My name is Kadir, doctor.

AHMET- Man, I can't learn your name for the life of me.

KADIR- I'm going to do such a good job for you that you'll never be able to forget my name again, doctor.

AHMET- This key is for the safe. And this is the front door key. When you come in and out, lock the safe, too. We have a water tank, so you won't be without water. But be careful of the faucets. Once, my secretary left the water running, and the bottom floors flooded. I had to pay for the damages. Everthing's in the kitchen. Tea, sugar, help yourself. Is there anything I'm forgetting?

KADIR- Don't worry about a thing here.

AHMET- I'll call from Germany whenever I can. Good luck.

KADIR- Thanks, doctor. Have a safe trip.

*(AHMET exits...KADIR closes the door with a sigh of relief...The doorbell rings...KADIR opens the door...It is AHMET)*

6

KADIR- Yes, doctor?

AHMET- Don't leave the windows open at night. The wind'll break the glass. I'm trusting you. If I didn't, would I give you the keys?

KADIR- Don't think about any of this, doctor.

*(AHMET exits...KADIR closes the door again...The doorbell rings again...KADIR opens the door...AHMET sticks his head in the door)*

AHMET- When you make tea, be careful not to let the water overflow. Do you know what happens when water boils over? The fire goes out. Gas begins to concentrate. Do you know what happens when gas concentrates?

KADIR- We get poisoned, doctor.

AHMET- Even worse. Someone could ring the doorbell, or you might light a match. And then, BOOM!

*(AHMET exits...KADIR collapses on couch, spent...Doorbell rings, KADIR answers)*

KADIR- Is that you?

GUL- Were you expecting someone else?

KADIR- I thought the doctor came back again. He wouldn't leave.

GUL- I guess he's the one I saw coming down as I came up. He was a mess.

KADIR- That's the one.

GUL- He ran into me. He was mumbling, "This fool will screw everything up!"

KADIR- Then it wasn't him. This guy is completely anal. Even more than the one I worked for three months ago. Did you find the landlord?

GUL- I talked to him. He said that his tenants are moving out within a month.

KADIR- Good.

GUL- What's good about it? Just a bedroom and a living room. It's tiny. Ground floor. Very humid. I said go down a bit, he wouldn't.

KADIR- It's still good.

GUL- He wants one year's rent in advance. Plus two months' security deposit. Add to that moving expenses...

KADIR- Bad.

GUL- This is still the good part. Do you go with the ones who want two years' rent in advance, or with those who want rent in Marks or dollars? What are we going to do? Where will we find the money? And within a few days...what if we don't find it?

KADIR- I got some from the doctor. *(Hands it to her)* When the job is finished, I'm going to get the rest. There's also some at home.

GUL- Don't count on what's at home. That's not even enough for one month's kitchen expenses.

KADIR- *(Thinks)* We could sell some things.

GUL- What do we have to sell?

KADIR- We have the couch, then there's the small rug.

GUL- How much will all of that make? No good.

KADIR- How 'bout asking your dad for some?

GUL- The man is a blue collar retiree.

7

KADIR- Maybe he has some saved up.

GUL- If he did, would he be job hunting at age sixty? We don't even have anyone we can borrow from. Even if we did find someone to borrow from, how would we ever pay them back? We need money we don't have to pay back. Maybe your brother, Saffet...

KADIR- Be realistic.

*(They get quiet...They are hopeless...The phone rings)*  
 KADIR- *(Receiver in hand)* Hello? Yes...This is Doctor Ahmet's office...He's in Germany...He'll be back in a week... Okay... *(Writes)*... I'll tell him. *(Hangs up)*  
 GÜL- In dire straits, help always arrives. Don't be sad, get up. We'll find a solution.  
 KADIR- The kitchen's stocked. Make some tea and we'll have a glass.  
 GÜL- *(Enters...Sees her husband sitting)* If only you had become a doctor. Would we have any house troubles then? Of course, then you wouldn't want me.  
 KADIR- Don't start, for God's sake.  
 GÜL- *(Indicating the white coat on the rack)* It would look so good on you.  
 KADIR- Don't joke around.  
 GÜL- Wouldn't it? Come on, try it on.  
 KADIR- Cut it out.  
 GÜL- Come on, please. *(Puts it on him)* Hey, hey, HEY! You look good! *(Puts on the secretary's jacket)* Is there anything I can do for you, mister doctor?  
 KADIR- *(Beginning to enjoy himself)* Bring me some tea.  
 GÜL- Right away, mister doctor. Did you want some lemon, mister doctor?  
 KADIR- Do you have to ask? You know I won't drink tea without lemon!  
*(They like this game...They start to laugh...Then they return to reality and get quiet...The doorbell rings...GÜL answers...HALIT enters and collapses on the floor)*  
 GÜL- Kadiir!!  
 KADIR- *(Runs)* Who is this?  
 GÜL- I don't know.  
 KADIR- *(Checks him with his hands)* He's alive. Let's take him inside.  
*(Husband and wife carry HALIT inside...They place him on the bed...KADIR unbuttons HALIT's shirt and listens to his heart)*  
 KADIR- His pulse is so fast...  
 GÜL- What do we do?  
 KADIR- There's some cologne on the desk. Bring it.  
*(GÜL runs and brings the cologne...KADIR rubs it on the man's face)*  
 KADIR- Let's call a doctor.  
 GÜL- Where will we find one? *(Goes through HALIT's pockets)*

8

KADIR- Hey! What are you doing?  
 GÜL- Maybe he's on some kind of medication.  
*(GÜL has found the medicine...Reads the instructions...Puts a pill under his tongue)*  
 KADIR- He's coming to.  
 HALIT- Where am I?  
 GÜL- Don't speak.

KADIR- Calm down, sir.  
HALIT- *(Tries to get up)* I'm all right.  
KADIR- Don't move.  
HALIT- What happened to me?  
GUL- You passed out inside the door.  
HALIT- I knew it was coming.  
KADIR- Don't speak. Close the window so he doesn't get cold.  
*(GUL closes the window)*  
HALIT- It's gone. I'm all right. *(GUL puts a pillow under his head)*  
I was going to buy a present for my grandson. The little tyke turns eight tomorrow. *(Sees the medicine)* You saved my life.  
KADIR- What did we do?  
GUL- That's our job.  
HALIT- Thank you. I'll get up now.  
KADIR- Rest a little while longer. Has this happened to you before?  
HALIT- Yes, but it was a long time ago. I always carry my medicine with me. If I start to feel pain, I take a pill immediately.  
KADIR- Then why didn't you take one?  
HALIT- I just didn't react. I figured I was just overtired. The stores were so crowded, people were attacking as if there was a shortage. I really can't understand this country's citizens. And they say everything's too expensive. If so, why the rush? When I saw your sign...  
KADIR- You were lucky.  
HALIT- Well, the odometer is almost full. One day, I'm going to stop running, just like that.  
GUL- God forbid.  
KADIR- You don't have that look about you. Praise God, you're like a ram.  
HALIT- A ram? Come on, son. *(Straightens)* One day, our ox got stubborn with me, I took the reins and plowed the field myself.  
KADIR- Oh, no, sir. You aren't an ox.  
HALIT- Well, time for me to go.  
KADIR- Okay, but slowly.  
HALIT- Here's my card. You might need it.  
KADIR- *(Smiling)* Good, but I don't have a farm.  
HALIT- *(Likes the joke)* I like that one. Come on, take it, you never know. This is good. Now you give me your card. Wait, let me take it.  
*(Takes one of the cards from the doctor's desk)* Doctor Ahmet Atak.

KADIR- But I'm-  
HALIT- No buts. I want no buts from the man who saved my life. Now, tell me, how much do I owe you?  
KADIR- Please, don't mention it.  
HALIT- Do you work for the Red Cross?  
GUL- Please, sir...  
HALIT- *(Takes a wad of cash from his wallet and puts it on the desk)*

Just a small thank you. I'm a man who got mad at an ox and plowed the field. I can't be indebted to you. Well, so long. Sweetheart, show me the way.

GUL- This way, sir. *(They walk towards the door)*

HALIT- Here, you take this.

GUL- Oh, I don't know...

HALIT- Here, take it. Buy yourself something nice.

GUL- But...

HALIT- Heey, I'll charge...! *(Like an ox)*

*(HALIT hands her the money)*

HALIT- Moooo! *(HALIT exits. GUL closes the door behind him, then crosses to KADIR, who is counting money at the desk)*

GUL- *(Shaking the money in her hands)* Now, that's what I call a tip!

KADIR- *(Happily surprised)* Wow!

GUL- He thought you were a doctor.

KADIR- And you my secretary.

*(They begin to laugh)*

GUL- Mister doctor.

KADIR- Don't start. *(Reads the card)* Halit Akar, General Manager, The Sepa Corporation.

GUL- Wow!

KADIR- Our ox is a General Manager!

GUL- I could tell.

KADIR- Man, I hope we don't get in trouble.

GUL- What could happen?

KADIR- We took the man's money.

GUL- Did we ask for anything? He gave it himself.

KADIR- But we accepted.

GUL- He didn't even let us speak. What have we done wrong?

KADIR- True. We helped the fellow. Now, when he gets home, he's going to tell the whole story. What if he comes back? Then what will happen?

GUL- Why should he come back?

KADIR- He said we saved his life.

GUL- He probably has his own doctor.

KADIR- Wrong. First of all, he doesn't have a doctor, he has a wrangler. But he'll be back anyway. Don't say I didn't warn you.

10

GUL- Let him come. If there's a problem, then we'll tell him the truth.

*(Sees a small handbag next to the door)* Oh, no, this must be Mr Akar's.

KADIR- There isn't any money in it, is there?

GUL- I wish...

KADIR- What's that supposed to mean?

GUL- What if there's enough for the security deposit?

KADIR- Don't be stupid.

GUL- *(Looking through the bag)* Lighten up, there's no money. Maybe there's a check made out to cash.

KADIR- Give me that.

GUL- *(Keeps looking)* Lighten up, no check, either. Just a bunch of junk.

KADIR- What are we going to do with it?

GUL- What are we going to do with it? Look, there's his phone number, we're going to call him.

KADIR- Maybe it's really important. He'll be so happy, he'll give us a cash reward.

GUL- He isn't that much of an ox.

KADIR- You never know.

GUL- *(Looks at his card, dials phone)* Hello? Is this Mr. Akar's residence? I'm calling from Dr. Atak's office...Please, don't be alarmed, ma'am. He stopped by here and forgot his handbag...Please let him know...He knows...Of course, ma'am...Have a nice day. *(Hangs up)*

KADIR- Take that off before anything else happens.

*(They take off their coats... KADIR puts on his overalls...He looks around the office and inside the wardrobe)*

GUL- Are you getting started?

KADIR- What do you think?

GUL- I thought you were going to have some tea.

KADIR- I better get started. Otherwise, I'll go nuts. What are we going to do about the house? I keep going around in circles.

*(He climbs the ladder in the center of the room...He starts to paint haphazardly)*

GUL- Wait, you're going to mess everything up! Don't take it out on the wall, you aren't thinking straight. *(Doorbell rings...GUL opens the door...HALIT enters)* Aaah!

KADIR- Mr. Akar!

HALIT- *(Stares for a minute)* You, huh? *(Smiles)* Bravo! Bravo! That's it! If everyone thinks like you, this country can make some real progress! Cook your own meal! Build your own plane! Paint your own office! Bravo, doctor, bravo! Now I like you even more! No, no, there's nothing to be ashamed of. This is extraordinary! I'm going to tell everyone about this. A doctor, takes care of patients on one hand, and paints his own office in his spare time! Someone makes something up, and it becomes a proverb. For example, they say a tailor can't even mend his own clothes. What an erroneous statement! Here, a doctor is painting his own office! A tailor should be able to mend his own clothes. If he can't he isn't a man. Well, now I've forgotten why I came back...

GUL- *(Hands him his bag)* You forgot this.

11

KADIR- We called your house and let them know.

HALIT- *(Taking bag)* Thank you, sweetheart. I don't want to keep you. Good luck.

*(Crosses to door...GUL opens it for him...Just as he is about to exit, a traffic cop enters, carrying NURTEN)*

COP- Make way! Make way!

HALIT- What's wrong?

COP- Where can I lay her down?

GUL- *(Shows bed)* Lay her here.

COP- *(Lays NURTEN down...She is unconscious...To HALIT)* Doctor...

HALIT- Not me.

COP- Where?

HALIT- (*Indicates KADIR with his eyes*) Can't you tell, officer? As you can see, we have become too used to making judgements about people from their clothing. This is our good doctor.

COP- I'm sorry, when I saw the overalls...

HALIT- You thought he was a painter, didn't you? No, he is a master doctor. He even knows enough to paint his own office. Let me ask you, officer, do you paint your workplace?

COP- No sir, because my office is a run down traffic police car.

KADIR- What happened to this woman?

COP- She fell off a minibus.

KADIR- She must be unconscious.

HALIT- Hopefully there's no internal bleeding.

COP- She didn't fall on her head.

HALIT- You relax, officer. Our doctor will take care of everything.

Where are you assigned?

COP- At the intersection down the street. I started two days ago. When I saw her fall, I picked her up right away and brought her here.

*(Meanwhile, GUL has put the lab coat on KADIR and has put hers on as well)*

HALIT- Our patient is in good hands now. You can go back to your post. I'll walk you out.

COP- If you don't need anything else, would you mind if we left, doctor?

KADIR- Uh, sure, yeah, okay.

COP- Goodbye.

HALIT- (*Quietly*) Mooooo!

GUL- Bye bye.

KADIR- Bye now.

HALIT- (*To COP as they turn to go*) You see this doctor, officer? He is the best. If it weren't for him, by now I would be on the other side for sure.

*(HALIT and COP exeunt...GUL closes the door)*

KADIR- Now what are we going to do?

GUL- We're going to wake her up. (*Hands him the cologne*) Not for you, for her. Not me, her.

12

KADIR- All right, all right. I'm so nervous, I don't know what I'm doing.

*(KADIR rubs some cologne on the woman's nose, and various other parts)*

GUL- (*Jealous*) Hey, watch it. What are you doing to the woman?

KADIR- I'm waking her up.

GUL- Is that any way to wake her up?

KADIR- Here, you do it however you see fit!

*(GUL tries to wake her)*

GUL- She's coming around...

NURTEN- Where am I?

KADIR- You're here.

NURTEN- Where's here?

KADIR- A doctor's office.

NURTEN- Who's that?  
GUL- I'm the secretary.  
NURTEN- Whose secretary?  
KADIR- Mine.  
NURTEN- Who are you?  
KADIR- The doctor.  
NURTEN- The doctor?  
GUL- Doesn't he look like one?  
NURTEN- Oh my god, what am I doing here?  
KADIR- You were in an accident.  
NURTEN- How did you bring me here?  
GUL- We didn't.  
NURTEN- Who did?  
KADIR- The traffic cop.  
NURTEN- The traffic cop? Oh my God!  
KADIR- You passed out and the cop picked you up and brought you here.  
NURTEN- Well, where is he?  
KADIR- He dropped you off and went back to work. Relax, calm down.  
NURTEN- Now I remember! I was on a minibus...it was packed. I was in the back seat right next to the door. The man next to me tried to take out his wallet, and I flew out the door!  
GUL- My goodness!  
KADIR- Wow!  
NURTEN- My knee hurts a lot. I hope it isn't broken.  
KADIR- If it was, you wouldn't be able to stand it.  
NURTEN- I'm barely holding back tears.  
KADIR- *(Feels her knee with his hand)* It's bruised.  
NURTEN- I won't get tetanus, will I, doctor?

13

KADIR- You get tetanus from a rusty nail. Bring some iodine from inside, and some cotton. Miss...Gul, I'm talking to you.  
*(GUL gets the supplies and sternly hands them to KADIR)*  
KADIR- I asked for some cotton, too.  
GUL- Are you blind?  
KADIR- *(Sotto voce)* Why are you mad?  
GUL- Take your hand off her leg!  
KADIR- Oh, I hadn't noticed. *(Puts iodine on the cotton)* Now take a deep breath...  
NURTEN- *(Overdoing it a little)* It hurts so much...Aaah! Ohhh!  
KADIR- But we don't want you to get infected...it'll go away. Miss Gul! Would you bring some gauze? Please...What is your name, miss?  
NURTEN- *(Leaning in close to KADIR)* Nurten.  
KADIR- *(Gulps. Stuttering)* N-n-nurten. That's a beautiful name. Now I'm just going to...

GUL- (*Gauze in hand, angry*) Yees, now you go inside, doctor, and I'll wrap the young lady's bandages.

NURTEN- Oh, you do it, doctor.

KADIR- You see, Miss Gul.

GUL- (*Surreptitiously pinches KADIR*) Please, don't wear yourself out, doctor.  
(*KADIR unwillingly goes inside*)

NURTEN- Ahh, what lovely eyes...

GUL- What are you talking about?

NURTEN- Does he have a ring? Of course, they'd never let this one get away...

GUL- I said, who are you talking about?

NURTEN- Who do you think? The doctor, of course.

GUL- This doctor?

NURTEN- Is there any other?

(*GUL squeezes NURTEN'S leg*)

NURTEN- AAAH! Did you see his eyelashes? They'd pierce your heart.

GUL- (*Squeezes again*) No, I never noticed.

NURTEN- Of course you didn't. Seeing him every day, you must take him for granted. That's how it always is.

GUL- (*Squeezes*) Oh, really?

NURTEN- AAAH! That's why they say the ugliest ones get the best pick. God knows his wife is probably ugly as sin. My beauty, and I married a dog. He made my life hell for ten years! And then he took off. If I had found a doctor like this, it wouldn't have been such a waste of time. AAAH! Even if he had taken off, the time spent together would have been worth it.

AAAAH!

GUL- All right, get up! You're all wrapped up, don't stick around here anymore. Come on, come on, come on! No dillydallying.

NURTEN- Get the doctor.

GUL- What are you going to do with the doctor, pull him on top of you?

NURTEN- (*Aside*) What a rude woman...I'm going to thank him.

GUL- I'll tell him.

14

NURTEN- That's not good enough. I have to pay my bill.

GUL- Give it to me.

NURTEN- No, I'm going to give it to him.

GUL- Oh no, you're not.

NURTEN- Oh yes, I am!

GUL- Don't talk to me like that! Get out of here! Gonna give it to the doctor, huh!

NURTEN- Doctor!

(*As they struggle, KADIR enters*)

KADIR- What is going on here?

NURTEN- She won't let me talk to you!

KADIR- What is the meaning of all this?

GUL- Oh, the doctor's eyelashes are so beautiful...Oh, they'd pierce your heart! Oh, I wish I had a husband like that!

NURTEN- (*To KADIR*) Where did you find this woman? She'll make you lose all your patients! You should fire her immediately!

GUL- She is still talking...I said get out of here!  
KADIR- Please, Miss Gul.  
GUL- Your chin's practically in your lap!  
KADIR- I'm trying to keep us off the streets, and here you are...  
GUL- I know exactly what you're trying to do!  
KADIR- You're doing me wrong!  
NURTEN- *(Unable to comprehend their argument)* Thank you, doctor.  
KADIR- Don't mention it, Nurten.  
GUL- Oh, he's learned her name already! Who knows what would have happened on this couch if I hadn't been here!  
NURTEN- How much do I owe you, doctor?  
KADIR- Please, don't mention it.  
GUL- And to top it off, you aren't charging her!  
NURTEN- *(Takes out her wallet)* What is she, a gypsy? Is this enough, doctor?  
KADIR- More than enough.  
GUL- Compared to the work we did, that's nothing! Gimme that other one, too!  
NURTEN- What, do you think I don't want to pay? There's some more money. Have a nice day, doctor. *(In KADIR's ear)* Get rid of her right away, doctor. If you care about your practice, get rid of her.  
KADIR- *(Softly)* OK, bye bye.  
*(NURTEN exits, mumbling...KADIR closes the door)*  
KADIR- What, are you crazy? Are you trying to get us in trouble?  
GUL- You nearly hopped in bed with her right there! Shameless pig!  
KADIR- I am sick of these jealous fits! I can't stand it! I can't even do my job freely! Even at work you use cleaning as an excuse to follow me everywhere!  
GUL- And with good reason! You're pinching other women right before my eyes! What if I hadn't been here?

15

KADIR- I was checking to see if she had any broken bones!  
GUL- Tell it to the judge...how do you explain feeling up her thigh?  
KADIR- Tell me, is this the knee, or something else?  
GUL- If I hadn't been here, you would have felt that something else!  
KADIR- Do you know how foolish you sound right now? Does this become you? Here I am, juggling costumes for the sake of our children, and you're eating me alive with this jealousy! Do I deserve this treatment?  
*(KADIR falls silent and goes to sit in the corner)*  
GUL- *(After a beat sits next to him)* What can I do? I can't control it. I'm a jealous person. *(Suddenly)* If you see ten patients a day, we can pay our rent. *(Waving the money in her hand)* Isn't that right?  
KADIR- Now you've really gone mad!  
GUL- Your office is all set up. And you've been doing a good job so far.  
KADIR- Don't get ahead of yourself. Medicine is a career.  
GUL- If you could fool someone like Mr. Akar...  
KADIR- But he's an ox.

GUL- And this one was a cow! Most people are asses. You're doing quite well. Or do you not want a house?

KADIR- Don't be stupid. I might have to write a prescription.

GUL- *(Takes out prescription form from desk drawer)* You'll prescribe some harmless drugs. Aspirin, whatever. No one can read your handwriting anyway. Perfect for prescriptions.

KADIR- Who's going to do the paint job?

GUL- We are!

KADIR- When?

GUL- At night!

*(Doorbell rings)*

GUL- *(Running to the door)* Here's a patient now!

KADIR- *(Trying to take off his coat)* Wait! *(Runs inside...As GUL opens the door, TURGUT enters)*

TURGUT- Good day.

GUL- Dr. Turgut?

TURGUT- You haven't started painting yet...why are you wearing this jacket? *(Seeing her fumble)* Oh, so your dress doesn't get dirty. But if the secretary finds out, she'll be peeved.

GUL- I'll take it off.

TURGUT- Where's Kadir?

GUL- I'll call him. *(Sticking her head inside)* Dr. Turgut is here.

KADIR- *(Joins her. He has taken off the coat)* Welcome, doctor.

TURGUT- Hello, Kadir.

KADIR- We were just about to get started, doctor.

GUL- We have some tea ready.

TURGUT- Weell, let's have some.

*(GUL exits into kitchen...TURGUT and KADIR sit)*

16

TURGUT- You know, Kadir, Ahmet is a very neat person.

KADIR- I saw him.

TURGUT- Don't make me look bad.

KADIR- You just relax.

TURGUT- You got your advance...

KADIR- I did.

TURGUT- And you'll get the rest from me when the job is done.

KADIR- Thank you, doctor.

TURGUT- How did the business with the house turn out?

KADIR- We found one.

*(GUL brings the tea)*

TURGUT- Thank you. Are you moved in?

KADIR- We're a little short, doctor. When we come up with the rest, we'll move in.

TURGUT- God help you. Homelessness is hard. Renting a house is harder. What if you open a shop, Kadir?

KADIR- What kind of shop, doctor?

TURGUT- A hardware store. Paint, wallpaper, nails.

KADIR- Is that easy, doctor? These things take money.

TURGUT- You can start small, then expand.

GUL- I wish!

KADIR- It's very hard, doctor. If I had some money in hand, it might be possible, but...

TURGUT- The tea is very good, sweetheart.

GUL- Would you like another glass?

TURGUT- Thank you, I had better go. I'll come back again sometime. But the office is in your hands, Kadir.

KADIR- Don't worry, doctor, we'll do all we can.

TURGUT- Good luck.

KADIR- Thanks, doctor.

GUL- Bye bye. *(Closes door behind TURGUT, decisive)* Now put this labcoat on, mister doctor.

KADIR- Are you crazy?!

GUL- Don't drag it out, just put it on!

KADIR- Do you want me behind bars? Put that away! Me be a doctor? Might as well perform operations, too! What'll we do if I get caught? How will we get out of it?

GUL- Nothing'll go wrong. What patient asks to see his doctor's diploma?

KADIR- You forget about all that, and think about how we can cover up what happened so far. What if Halit shows up here next week? You know we won't be here.

GUL- He'll call, we'll let him know we quit.

KADIR- Who are you going to tell that to?

GUL- The ox.

KADIR- And what'll we do about the sign outside? He knows me as Ahmet Atak.

GUL- You're being negative... We're gonna be homeless!

KADIR- That's better than being a convict. Do you have something to say about that?

17

GUL- Yes. You've been a painter for ten years. If you had taken one can of paint from every job you did, we'd have a place to hang our hats by now.

KADIR- I'm not a crook! I lived my whole life up till now with my sense of honor. You can't take that away from me!

GUL- I won't be surprised if that fantasy world you dream up at night reading will have to fit in a little tent!

*(GUL seems about to cry, then grabs her keys and storms out, angry)*

KADIR- *(With the closing of the door, KADIR understands that GUL has left. He crosses to door and looks out)* Guuul! Guuul! She took the keys, too. Don't worry, honey, God will forgive you!

*(Angrily starts to paint)*

## **Blackout**

## **Scene 2**

## The Second Day.

*(The next morning...the waiting room is all painted...KADIR is sleeping on the sofa...GUL enters, takes the package she is holding into the kitchen...lights the stove...goes into the waiting room...looks at her husband for a while...quietly straightens up around the room...picks up the newspapers from the floor...sweeps the floor...goes into kitchen...enters carrying tray...watches her husband for a while)*

GUL- Kadiir! Get up already! Come ooon!

KADIR- *(Bolts up, startled)* What happened? What's happening?

GUL- Nothing's happening.

KADIR- Is that you?

GUL- Why were you startled?

KADIR- They were evicting us...My mother and the kids were lying down in front of the bulldozer, resisting...And you, you were on top of the roof, shouting that you were going to set yourself on fire--

GUL- Tenants aren't evicted with bulldozers.

KADIR- Don't look for logic in a dream.

GUL- Why didn't you come home last night?

KADIR- I got caught up in work and the next thing I knew, the waiting room was finished. Since it was late, I just slept here.

GUL- If you didn't get enough, go ahead and sleep some more.

KADIR- What time is it?

GUL- It's almost twelve.

18

KADIR- Oh my God!

GUL- Look, I brought some things for you. And the tea will be ready in a little bit.

KADIR- Let me wash my face. *(Gets up, goes to bathroom)*

*(GUL continues to straighten up...KADIR enters, GUL goes into kitchen and returns with two cups of tea)*

GUL- Last night I couldn't sleep at all.

KADIR- *(Accepting the tea)* Did you wait on the roof with a can of gasoline?

GUL- Don't make fun of me. I realized that I had done you wrong.

KADIR- Now, now...

GUL- Not having you by my side for even one night brought me to my senses.

KADIR- Is that so?

GUL- I'm sorry I asked unreasonable things from you, Kadir.

KADIR- Apology not accepted, madam.

GUL- You're right, I know that what I'm asking for, you can't give me.

KADIR- I disagree.

GUL- I don't understand.

KADIR- You were right. As a mother, you had to think of your children and your home. You're the one who should forgive me.

GUL- Kadir, what are you saying?

KADIR- I reacted to you out of fear. You were struggling because you were thinking of our children.

GUL- You mean you're not mad at me?

KADIR- I'm sorry I got mad at you for no reason.

GUL- Even if it means going to jail?

KADIR- A father should even go to jail for his children if he has to. If needed, he should even play doctor. Look at how much we earned in just one day! Bring my labcoat!

GUL- No!

KADIR- I said bring it! We have five work days in front of us.

GUL- You can't be a doctor!

KADIR- You'll see if I can or not! I'm a high school graduate. I read books, newspapers. I understand a bit of human psychology. Get this tray out of here.

GUL- But...

KADIR- Quickly, don't just sit there! For all we know, there could be a patient in the elevator now. First, take away this tray...

*(GUL takes the tray inside, then re-enters)*

GUL- Another glass of tea...

KADIR- Forget the tea, put on your uniform. Get ready. As my secretary, you have to keep up appearances.

*(GUL is dumbfounded...They don their costumes...The doorbell rings)*

KADIR- Get yourself together. Don't get nervous. Open the door.

GUL- *(Opens the door)* Welcome...

MUSTAFA- *(Enters quickly, nervous)* I'm...

GUL- Come on in.

19

MUSTAFA- Doctor! Where is he? I want to see him!

GUL- One moment. Right this way. *(Takes him to waiting room)* Please, sit down.

KADIR- *(Calls from offstage)* Who is it?

GUL- A patient.

KADIR- Show him to the waiting room.

GUL- I did, mister doctor.

MUSTAFA- For the grace of God, a glass of water.

GUL- If you want, we have tea...

MUSTAFA- Water, water.

*(GUL goes inside...MUSTAFA tentatively approaches the window...Trying not to be seen, he looks out)*

MUSTAFA- Aw, shit!

GUL- *(To KADIR)* He asked for water. Let me give it to him and show him the door.

KADIR- Why should he leave? I'm gonna examine him. I'm gonna take his little money, and we're going to rent our little house.

GUL- I'm afraid, Kadir. That man is a little off. It's as if he's afraid of somebody and a little crazy himself.

KADIR- Maybe he's running from the reaper. Oh, how lovely! So lovely! Give him his water, then bring him further in. Don't waste any more time.

*(GUL gives MUSTAFA his water)*

MUSTAFA- *(Accepts and drinks water)* May God love you!

GUL- He's expecting you.

*(First MUSTAFA, then GUL cross to KADIR)*

KADIR- Come right in, sir, welcome.

MUSTAFA- Thank you.

KADIR- Sit down. What's your name?

MUSTAFA- My name? Mustafa.

KADIR- Mustafa, sir, what is your complaint?

MUSTAFA- My complaint?

KADIR- Yes. Why are you here?

MUSTAFA- Why am I here?

KADIR- Please, don't hold back. You're in safe hands.

MUSTAFA- I hope so.

KADIR- I sense you are afraid. But there is nothing to fear. Relax, lean back. Yes, now tell me, what's ailing you?

MUSTAFA- What if someone comes?

KADIR- Who could come?

MUSTAFA- If the doorbell rings and someone comes in...

KADIR- If they do, they'll wait their turn.

MUSTAFA- They will? What if they come in here?

KADIR- They won't be able to. My secretary will make them wait. As far as I can tell, you want to meet with me alone, is that so?

20

MUSTAFA- Yes. Don't let anyone in here. Don't let anyone know I'm with you, doctor.

KADIR- *(Can't understand, but still opens door...To GUL)* Miss Gul, don't let anyone in.

GUL- As you wish, mister doctor.

KADIR- *(Closes door)* Please, talk to me. If you want, let's just chit-chat.

Shall we?

MUSTAFA- Okay.

KADIR- Where are you staying in Istanbul?

MUSTAFA- In a hotel in Taksim.

KADIR- How did you get here?

MUSTAFA- By plane.

KADIR- By plane?

MUSTAFA- It takes too long by car. When you take the plane, you're there, pow, just like that.

KADIR- Now, are you telling me you took a plane the three miles from Taksim to Osmanbey?

MUSTAFA- No, I took a cab. Are there flights from there to here? Where do they take off?

KADIR- Those flights haven't started yet. Where did you fly here from, Mustafa?

MUSTAFA- I flew here from Izmir.

KADIR- Now I see. Are you from Izmir?

MUSTAFA- I'm from Antalya.

KADIR- What were you doing in Izmir?

MUSTAFA- Why are you asking me these questions, doctor?

KADIR- So you can relax. You are relaxing, aren't you?

MUSTAFA- I am not relaxing.

KADIR- Then let's talk a bit more, shall we?

MUSTAFA- If I'm going to relax, let's talk.

KADIR- You will relax.

MUSTAFA- Don't ask me those questions, or else I won't be able to relax.

KADIR- Okay, why did you come to this office?

MUSTAFA- I want you to figure out what's wrong with me. That's why I came to you. What is wrong with me? My heart is strong. My heart is like an animal. I can climb the fifteen flights of stairs at the hotel in five minutes. Just like a goat. So what's wrong with me? Find it. What do I have? I have arthritis...I have corns...I have a fever...so what do I have? I went to three doctors in Izmir. In Antalya, there wasn't a single doctor I didn't see. Or do they know and still hide it from me?

KADIR- Did you come here on recommendation?

MUSTAFA- I didn't ask anyone. When I came across your sign out front, I came right in. For the love of God, tell me what's wrong with me! Give me an examination.

KADIR- Lie down.

MUSTAFA- No, don't make me lie down. I have arthritis, I won't be able to get up. I get pains. Examine me standing and in front of the window.

KADIR- *(Surprised)* What window?

MUSTAFA- The one overlooking the street. So the light comes in. Look at me in the light.

KADIR- All right.

21

*(They cross in front of the window...KADIR motions for GUL to go inside...GUL complies, dumbfounded)*

KADIR- *(Touching him)* Does this hurt?

MUSTAFA- *(Sneaking a peek outside)* No.

KADIR- How about now?

MUSTAFA- Not there either. Hmm, I wonder where it went?

KADIR- Then where is it? You show me.

MUSTAFA- Maybe up higher. How many floors are there above you? Stick your head out and take a look.

KADIR- Where should I look?

MUSTAFA- What do you mean, where should I look? Look up.

KADIR- *(Looking out)* Jeez...

MUSTAFA- What do you see?

KADIR- The sun.

MUSTAFA- Is that it?

KADIR- No, he's having a nice conversation with the Man in the Moon. Are you making fun of me?

MUSTAFA- Shh, don't talk. What are you, a kid, doctor? This is a matter of life and death.

KADIR- What does that mean?

MUSTAFA- Is there a gun?

KADIR- Why would I have a gun?

MUSTAFA- Not you! Is there a gun upstairs?

KADIR- I don't understand.

MUSTAFA- A man could very well have a gun. He could also have a silencer. If I look out the window, that gun with a silencer will shoot me. I'm the one with something to lose here! Now, do you understand, doctor? Can I make a phone call?

KADIR- Go ahead, in the office.

MUSTAFA- *(Goes into office)* It's private. *(When Kadir closes the door, he starts to dial)*  
GUL- Kadir, I'm afraid.  
KADIR- Yes, he is a bit strange. But don't be afraid, I'm with you. This man is loaded, I can feel it. Shh!  
WOMAN'S VOICE- *(On answering machine)* Leave a message after the beep and I'll call you back. *(Beep)*  
MUSTAFA- They were going to kill me...I got away and hid in a doctor's office...They're in front of the building...Now I'm stuck here...I'll call you back. *(Hangs up...Opens the door)*  
Doctor...  
KADIR- Call go through okay?  
MUSTAFA- Yes...What's wrong with me?  
KADIR- It doesn't work like that. Come inside.  
*(They all go into the examination room)*  
KADIR- Sit down. Answer my questions so I can diagnose your illness. All right?  
MUSTAFA- All right. Tell the lady to wait outside. Private matters could come up.  
KADIR- Miss Gul, please wait outside. *(GUL worriedly exits)* Look, let me tell you this up front. My fee per visit is very high.

22

MUSTAFA- It's not important.  
KADIR- I don't want you to object later.  
MUSTAFA- Why would I object? I have money. I'll pay you whatever you want. Just find my illness. *(Takes a wad of cash from his pocket, glances through it and hands it to KADIR)* Accept this as an advance. Take it, take it. Just an advance.  
*(KADIR takes the money, stupefied...Starts out)*  
MUSTAFA- Where are you going, doctor?  
KADIR- To uhh, let me give it to Miss Gul. In the meantime, you take off your jacket and shirt. *(Exits to office)*  
*(KADIR takes the money to GUL...She is surprised...KADIR motions for her to keep quiet and hands her the money...GUL quietly and happily counts the money.. They hug each other and jump up and down a few times... They keep this going for a little while...As KADIR re-enters, GUL has her hands raised, praying)*  
KADIR- Are you ready?  
MUSTAFA- I'm ready, doctor. I gave you all the money I have on me. *(Pulls out a checkbook and shows it to him)* Look, you see this? I'll give you all the money you want. Just keep me here.  
KADIR- How? I don't understand.  
MUSTAFA- Today, tomorrow, the next day. Let me stay here as long as you want. Just find my illness. I won't go outside at all. In the end, you'll find it anyway. If you find it, I'll give you a lot of money. I'll buy you whatever you want. I'll sleep here at night. I'll curl up and sleep right here on this bed. I won't ask for bread or water. I won't complain if it takes three days, five days, or even a week. I'll always stay here. As long as...I'll give you the money I would give to a hotel.  
KADIR- How much do you give the hotel?  
MUSTAFA- Two hundred dollars...a night...if I stay ten nights that makes \$2,000...why should I give that to those bastards? Would it be so bad if I gave you two thousand bucks instead?

KADIR- That changes everything. (*Does a little calculation*)

MUSTAFA- Doctor, forget the calculation, I'll give you two hundred dollars a night. Let me sleep here. (*Shows checkbook again*) Look, I'll write it out, you can cash it immediately. I'll make it out to cash, so your secretary could even cash it.

KADIR- Nothing like this has ever happened to me before. This is unbelievable.

MUSTAFA- You better believe it. I'm going to sleep right here, doctor. I swear I won't make a sound.

KADIR- What if my other patients come? I wouldn't want them to see you lying there.

MUSTAFA- I'll hide. I won't be seen by anyone.

KADIR- You won't?

MUSTAFA- I'll do whatever you say.

KADIR- Give me a minute. I have to think...

MUSTAFA- Think about it, doctor...Would it be so bad? Don't refuse this money, doctor. On top of that, this is a good deed. You will be a holy man, doctor. You will save a human life. You will find my illness.

KADIR- What if I can't?

MUSTAFA- I'll say, that's okay, and leave.

23

KADIR- Without asking for your money back?

MUSTAFA- Nope. Do they give you your money back at a hotel?

(*KADIR exits to office, closes the door*)

GUL- I heard everything. There's something fishy going on here, Kadir.

KADIR- It seems a bit strange to me, too. But he is going to do exactly as we say. Why not try it? How much money did he give us?

GUL- Enough to move.

KADIR- (*Happy*) And think about how much more we'll get. We won't have any more problems.

GUL- Dr. Turgut could show up at any time.

KADIR- We'll hide him...in that wardrobe in the other room. If he stays five nights, it'll be a fortune. Just think, a thousand dollars!

GUL- What about the evenings?

KADIR- I'll stay with him. You'll go home, and come back in the morning.

GUL- And the paint job?

KADIR- We'll do it...We'll find a way to do it...Let me go talk to him, so he doesn't get suspicious.

GUL- Kadir, I'm very afraid.

KADIR- Don't be afraid! Trust me! As they say, in dire straits, help always arrives. Well, help is here! (*Goes inside*) Look, let's take this from the top. You will stay here for five nights. In return, you will pay me one thousand dollars. Understood?

MUSTAFA- Understood.

KADIR- You will never go into the waiting room. You will always stay in here.

MUSTAFA- Can't I even go to the bathroom?

KADIR- You can. But with permission. Not just whenever. There may be other patients. You cannot let them see you.

MUSTAFA- How wonderful. If anyone asks for me, I won't even be seen by them, doctor.

KADIR- If anyone asks for you? What does that mean?

MUSTAFA- You know, anyone who asks for me.

KADIR- Did you give anyone the address?

MUSTAFA- Why would I, doctor? If anyone asks...you know...tell them that no one like that is here.

KADIR- Sure, okay. All right! You'll probably want food, too.

MUSTAFA- Well, I don't plan on going hungry.

KADIR- There's a really nice restaurant the next building over. You can eat your meals there.

MUSTAFA- No, no! I'd rather starve!

KADIR- It isn't far...

MUSTAFA- Someone may see me. I mean one of your patients. No need. You can have them deliver. I'll eat very quietly, and we'll add the bills to my tab.

KADIR- Deal. Don't forget this...For whatever reason, if I tell you to hide, you go into this wardrobe, understood? Don't even breathe.

MUSTAFA- Okay.

KADIR- What do you do when I say hide?

24

MUSTAFA- I go into the wardrobe and I don't breathe.

KADIR- Why are you going to hide? Because this is not a hospital. If I get caught, they'll take away my license. Understood?

MUSTAFA- Understood. I swear I'll hide.

KADIR- Hide!

*(MUSTAFA clammers into wardrobe)*

KADIR- Very good! You can come out now. Come out!

MUSTAFA- *(Tentatively peeks his head out)* Who came?

KADIR- No one.

MUSTAFA- Then why...

KADIR- That was a drill.

*(Phone rings...GUL answers)*

GUL- Doctor Ahmet's office, how can I help you? Hello...Yes...One moment...

*(Covers phone with hand, to KADIR)* Germany.

KADIR- Yes...it's me...it's going fine...trust me...okay...bye bye...(hangs up)

MUSTAFA- They even call from Germany...

GUL- His patients...

KADIR- No sticking your nose in our business.

MUSTAFA- All right.

*(Phone rings again)*

GUL- *(Answers)* Dr. Ahmet's office, how can I help you? One moment...*(To KADIR)* Mr Akar.

KADIR- *(Comes)* Mr Akar?

GUL- Our ox.

KADIR- *(Takes the phone)* Hello? Yes...what can I do for you, sir? The honor is all mine, sir...What can I do? I'm trying to get my hands on a farm...I'm just like you sir...I'd cut my own meat rather than go to a butcher...yes, of course...What did you say his name was? Tahsin...I wrote it down, sir...what time? Three? That's fine. I'll do whatever I can...The pleasure is all

mine...Okay, sir, okay...Bye bye...*(Hangs up)* At three o'clock, a Tahsin has an appointment. The guy is manager of personnel at Mr. Akar's office. Don't forget!

GUL- What if Mr. Akar hires you as the company doctor?

KADIR- Where did that come from?

GUL- You see, he really liked you.

*(The doorbell rings)*

KADIR- Answer the door.

*(GUL answers the door...TURGUT walks in...KADIR runs to the other room)*

TURGUT- Hey, kids!

KADIR- *(To MUSTAFA)* Hide!

*(MUSTAFA hides in the wardrobe...KADIR takes off lab coat)*

GUL- Come on in, doctor!

TURGUT- You have her jacket on again!

GUL- I'll have it cleaned.

TURGUT- Where's Kadir?

GUL- Inside.

25

KADIR- *(Enters)* Welcome, Dr. Turgut!

TURGUT- Good to be here. I was in the neighborhood and figured I'd drop by.

KADIR- I'm glad!

TURGUT- How's it going?

KADIR- We finished the waiting room.

TURGUT- *(Looks around)* Good. Don't make me look bad. Ahmet called me this morning.

KADIR- He just called me, too.

TURGUT- He's one organized guy. *(Goes into the examination room)* You haven't started in here yet.

KADIR- We will.

TURGUT- Don't leave these shoes lying around.

KADIR- Um, well...

TURGUT- Why are they by the bed?

KADIR- Bastard!

TURGUT- What'd you say?

KADIR- Miss Gul, pick up those shoes.

TURGUT- *(Crosses to waiting room)* You call your wife Miss Gul?

KADIR- It keeps up professionalism during work, Dr. Turgut.

TURGUT- Don't you have any tea?

GUL- I'll make some right away.

TURGUT- No no...I was just joking...I'm really busy anyway. I'll stop by again. Good luck.

KADIR- Bye bye.

GUL- We'll have some tea later.

TURGUT- Yes, of course. *(Exits)*

*(They close the door and go inside...They put on their costumes and go into the examination room)*

KADIR- Come out now! Heeey!

MUSTAFA- *(Comes out)* Who was that?

KADIR- None of your business. Don't ask questions that put me in a difficult position, understood?

MUSTAFA- Okay.

KADIR- And watch where you leave your shoes.

MUSTAFA- Okay.

KADIR- As you can see, the office is being painted. This room needs to be painted too.

MUSTAFA- The painters...

KADIR- Yes, the painters mustn't see you. But how? The best thing is for me to paint this room myself, or else they could report me.

MUSTAFA- I can help.

KADIR- Not a chance. You're sick...aren't you?

MUSTAFA- When are you going to examine me?

KADIR- In a little while. But first we have to discuss some things. When are you going to give me the check?

MUSTAFA- What check?

KADIR- The five days' hotel money.

26

MUSTAFA- I'm not running away. I'll give you half of it tomorrow.

KADIR- No. Let's not leave anything to chance.

MUSTAFA- Do you think I'm going to run away? Even if you try to kick me out, I won't leave...I came here to get well.

KADIR- These things have their price...let's talk money.

MUSTAFA- Okay, I'll give you half the money tomorrow.

KADIR- No, today.

MUSTAFA- Five hundred dollars?

KADIR- Yes. And when are you going to give me the rest?

MUSTAFA- The rest? I'll give you the rest when I leave.

KADIR- No. Something could go wrong. The best thing is to give me the rest at the latest...

MUSTAFA- Yes...

KADIR- One day before you leave.

MUSTAFA- Why don't you trust me, doctor?

KADIR- This has nothing to do with trust. Anything could happen. I also have some money problems. If you want to, we could call the whole thing off...

MUSTAFA- No, no! Whatever you say is fine.

KADIR- Then there's no problem. Deal?

MUSTAFA- Deal.

KADIR- Now, let's see you write a check for five hundred dollars.

MUSTAFA- Now?

KADIR- What do you mean, now? Right away.

MUSTAFA- *(Writes)* There.

KADIR- *(Happily takes it)* Can we cash it now?

MUSTAFA- What's the hurry?

KADIR- I'm going to buy some paint.

MUSTAFA- Five hundred dollars' worth?

KADIR- None of your business. If I want, I'll buy a thousand dollars' worth. Isn't that right?

MUSTAFA- Yes, it is, but I'm no crook.

KADIR- Wait here.

*(KADIR goes to GUL)*

KADIR- Take this to the bank on the corner. Don't forget your ID! *(Hands her the check)*

GUL- (*Reads the check in shock*) I don't believe it.

KADIR- It could be bogus. Hurry up.

(*KADIR sends GUL out...He closes the door and rejoins MUSTAFA*)

KADIR- Now we'll see.

MUSTAFA- (*Suspicious*) We'll see?

KADIR- It won't take long.

MUSTAFA- What's going on?

KADIR- I hope it doesn't bounce!

MUSTAFA- I don't understand.

KADIR- I said, your check...I hope it doesn't bounce.

27

MUSTAFA- The check? Is that what you're talking about, doctor?

KADIR- Of course, what else?

MUSTAFA- Why would it bounce?

KADIR- We'll soon see.

MUSTAFA- Do you think I'm a crook, doctor?

KADIR- I'm just saying, anything could happen, that's all.

MUSTAFA- You're saying I look like a beggar. I have a job, I have money.

KADIR- What do you do?

MUSTAFA- Me?

KADIR- Is there anyone else here?

MUSTAFA- No...

KADIR- What do you do for a living?

MUSTAFA- Contracting...I have a company.

KADIR- Good...So you're well off.

MUSTAFA- Thank God, I have bread on my table, but my work isn't easy.

KADIR- It probably isn't hard either. Pay off a few people and you're set.

MUSTAFA- If only it ended with bribery. What about your competitors? A guy comes up and sticks a gun to your head, says, "Stay out of this market...or I'll pop ya."

KADIR- You can't win 'em all. So stay out of that market.

MUSTAFA- Then you can't enter any of them. Once word gets out you're a coward, it's impossible to earn bread in the business world. If it's guns, it's guns all the way. If it's noise, it's noise. Tit for tat!

KADIR- To be or not to be, you mean...

MUSTAFA- What does that mean?

KADIR- Haven't you ever heard of Shakespeare? In Turkish, that's olmak ya da olmamak.

MUSTAFA- Oh yeah, the skull, I remember.

KADIR- But nothing's worse than death.

MUSTAFA- I can see you've never had money problems. Helplessness is terrible, doctor.

Poverty is helplessness. And death is better than poverty. Because a corpse doesn't need money.

KADIR- Meaning...

MUSTAFA- Meaning if someone threatens you, you threaten them worse. If someone tries to shoot you in the leg, you have to shoot them in the head. Your motto should always be, "Do one to others before they do one to you." Otherwise you're toast.

KADIR- That's a world I know nothing about. Here we just try to go about our business...

MUSTAFA- If they'd let us, we'd just go about our business, too. But that's impossible. If he's a towel, then government property is the sea; those who don't cheat are pigs. If everyone went about their business like brothers and settled for their share, why would anyone fight? If you took construction, I should take real estate. You can't just say me, me, me. You have to think about the other side too, right? You have to say he has a mother too, isn't that right?

KADIR- I don't understand business.

MUSTAFA- On the other hand, an eye for an eye leaves both men blind...he who lives by the sword, dies by the sword. I don't see a happy ending in my future, doctor. These thoughts are tearing me apart. I'm always nervous. Maybe I'm sick in the head. Are you going to find my sickness, doctor?

28

*(Cuts him off)* Look, we talked, and I relaxed a bit. Maybe I'm better. It seems my cure is talking things out.

KADIR- You mean you're leaving?

MUSTAFA- What, are you crazy, doctor? I'm staying right here until...until I'm cured.

KADIR- But I said from the start, maximum five days...or else...

MUSTAFA- Okay, okay. I swear I'll leave in five days. I couldn't stay here longer anyway. I'd say it's life or death and hit the streets. After that, God knows. But if you ask why not now, I'll say that hope lives in a man who has not exhausted the possibilities. Understand, doctor?

*(Doorbell rings...MUSTAFA hides...KADIR opens door after looking through peephole)*

GUL- *(Bursts in, happy, hands him the money)* Here. What, you're not surprised?

KADIR- No, I believe him. We're going to get the other five hundred and rent our house with no debts. *(Quickly counts money)* Why don't you go ahead and pay the downpayment and sign the lease. You can tell the landlord you'll pay him the rest in five days.

GUL- I'll call him and stop by this evening. How much do we still have to make?

KADIR- If we get the rest, we'll even have some left over.

*(Doorbell rings)*

GUL- Now, we don't need anyone else.

KADIR- Mr. Akar's man was going to come...Tahsin something.

GUL- Let's not answer it.

KADIR- We gave the man an appointment.

GUL- So what? Now we cancelled it.

KADIR- That's not right. Open the door. Look, it's five till three. If we don't answer, how will we explain it to Mr. Akar?

*(GUL opens the door without giving KADIR enough time to go inside...TAHSIN enters, meets KADIR eye-to-eye...KADIR runs inside in fear)*

GUL- Come on in.

TAHSIN- I had an appointment. Mr. Akar had called...

GUL- Mr...Tahsin?

TAHSIN- Yes, sweetheart.

GUL- Please, come on in to the waiting room.

TAHSIN- Hmm...!

*(TAHSIN sits in waiting room, but his mind is obviously on KADIR)*

GUL- I'll let the doctor know you're here.

TAHSIN- What is the doctor's name, again?

GUL- Ka...Ka...Ka...Ahmet.

TAHSIN- Hmm...I know him from somewhere, but where? Where did he use to work?

GUL- He's worked here for five years.

TAHSIN- Does he practice anywhere else?

GUL- No, he doesn't...He only works here.

TAHSIN- I know him, but from where? He looks familiar, very familiar. It's as if I've seen him somewhere.

GUL- People look alike all the time. Would you like something to drink?

29

TAHSIN- Thank you, honey.

GUL- I'll tell him you're here. *(Goes inside)*

TAHSIN- Hmm...Hmmm!

KADIR- *(Fearful)* What's he doing?

GUL- Trying to recognize you. He asked a bunch of questions.

KADIR- Like what?

GUL- He asked if you had worked anywhere else...I said no...He's been here for five years.

KADIR- What else?

GUL- Your name.

KADIR- I hope you didn't say Kadir.

GUL- I almost did. But I caught myself.

KADIR- Was he convinced?

GUL- Of what?

KADIR- Of me being a doctor.

GUL- You're frightening me. Why don't you just come out and say why you're afraid?

KADIR- God, what are we going to do now?

GUL- Tell me!

KADIR- This guy will definitely recognize me. When we come face to face.

GUL- Then don't come face to face.

KADIR- How? He saw me go in.

GUL- I said let's not open the door. You didn't listen to me. Who is this guy? How does he know you?

KADIR- How does he know me? Remember I did a paint job a while back for this tight ass? You know, the one you couldn't come to because my mom was in the hospital? The one that reported every poor soul that crossed him...Stool pigeon Tahsin. This is him!

GUL- *(In horror)* Oh, no!

*(GUL is stunned, KADIR hopeless...meanwhile, thinking that someone's come for him, MUSTAFA draws a gun and hides in the wardrobe)*

### Scene 3

*(TAHSIN is sitting in the waiting room. GUL waits as KADIR is trying to think of a solution)*

KADIR- *(Cheerfully)* I found it! I found it!

GUL- What are you going to do?

KADIR- Listen to me.

GUL- Go ahead.

KADIR- You go out and come up with an excuse to close the waiting room door. I'm going to sneak out the door as Kadir the painter. When I ring the doorbell, you leave the waiting room door open and open the front door. I'm going to come in as Kadir. You follow me?

GUL- No.

KADIR- You see, I'm going to enter as the man he knows. Now do you follow?

30

GUL- Well, what's going to happen to Ahmet?

KADIR- He's going to be inside.

GUL- How does this help you?

KADIR- He will have seen me as Kadir. This way, we'll avert disaster.

GUL- Then what happens?

KADIR- I'm going to leave again, but this time he's going to see me go out. But he won't see me come in as Dr. Ahmet. Then I'm going to call Tahsin inside.

GUL- This is very confusing.

KADIR- No, it isn't. Just do as I say and leave the rest to me, understood?

GUL- No.

KADIR- Look, now, as I go out, you close the waiting room door.

GUL- You're leaving now?

KADIR- (Has taken off his lab coat and is in his overalls) Yes, just like this.

GUL- Then when are you coming back? Don't leave me here with this guy!

KADIR- I'm coming right back.

GUL- What do I do in the meantime?

KADIR- Just wait quietly. Don't talk, and don't screw anything up.

GUL- What if he starts asking questions?

KADIR- (*Trying to remain calm*) All right, forget all that. Now go into the waiting room, close the waiting room door, and tell Tahsin the doctor will be right with him. And wait. When you hear the doorbell ring, open both doors. Then don't say anything, and I'll tell you what to do from there, okay?

GUL- (*Memorizing*) The door...the waiting room...then when the doorbell rings...open both doors...okay, I got it.

KADIR- Don't screw it up, or else we're finished. Don't forget, this man's name is stool pigeon Tahsin. He reports everyone. If he finds out I'm not Doctor Ahmet, you'll be the one responsible for what happens to me! Then, no matter how much you cry, it'll be all over.

GUL- There's still something I don't understand. Why are you coming to the office?

KADIR- I'm Ahmet's brother. I could be stopping by to ask for a loan.

GUL- But your brother's name is Saffet.

KADIR- No, it's Ahmet!

GUL- Kadir, are you feeling all right?

KADIR- Look, my dear wife, of course my real brother's name is Saffet. But Ahmet is going to be my temporary brother. Okay, okay, don't worry about all that. Just do as I tell you. Now, go close the waiting room door and wait inside. When the bell rings, open both doors and let me in.

(*GUL goes into the other room and closes the door, a bit confused*)

GUL- (*To TAHISIN*) The doctor will be with you in a moment. (Picks up a rag and starts dusting the windows)

*(KADIR is just about to open the door when the doorbell rings...KADIR quickly opens the door...NURTEN rushes in)*

NURTEN- Doctor!

KADIR- *(Grabs Nurten and pushes her outside)* Oh, my God!

*(KADIR also goes outside and quietly closes the door...GUL opens both doors and looks outside)*

31

GUL- Who is it? Who is it?

*(GUL closes the door and, quite confused, returns to the waiting room)*

TAHSIN- Who was it?

GUL- There's no one there.

TAHSIN- Maybe it's a burglar! They always do this. They check to see if someone's home, then, pow! They're inside.

GUL- Naw, not a burglar. Probably just someone who rang the wrong bell.

TAHSIN- Nooo! There's something going on here! We should call the police right away!

GUL- Wait. This happens now and then.

TAHSIN- No, no, sweetheart, no, no. They are scoping the place out, then, pow! Is there a phone in here?

GUL- Yes, but... *(Tries to stop him)* The doctor...he'll get angry! He's a very angry person, that doctor. Something like this happening at his office...

TAHSIN- *(Really struggling with her now)* We're not doing him any harm, just the opposite. Besides, this is a citizen's duty. Do you know how many incidents I've reported to the police since this morning? Get out of my way!

*(Doorbell rings again)*

TAHSIN- You wait. I'll open the door. Only I can put up a fight with them.

*(TAHSIN manages to win the struggle and opens the door)*

KADIR- *(Enters, for a moment is surprised)* Mr...Tahsin! What are you doing here?

TAHSIN- *(Stumbles, tries to get a grasp of the situation)* Kadir!

KADIR- You're probably wondering why I'm here. Dr. Ahmet is my big brother.

TAHSIN- Your brother?

KADIR- Yes, my big brother.

TAHSIN- Would you look at the resemblance! It is unbelievable!

KADIR- We're like identical twins, we two.

TAHSIN- My God! My God!

KADIR- Let's have a seat, Mr...Tahsin.

*(KADIR and TAHSIN enter the waiting room and sit down)*

TAHSIN- My God! Now, since you're Kadir, he's Ahmet, is that right?

KADIR- That's right. He comes over once in a while. Lots of people ask him how he's doing, thinking he's me. Others say, "Wow, you've really straightened up!"

TAHSIN- Straightened up?

KADIR- Oh, he dresses a lot better than I do. People in my neighborhood always assume I've bought new clothes. I've even visited dear Mom pretending to be my brother, kissed her hand, asked her how she's doing. You know, filled in for him. Even my mother can't tell us apart. She'll hug me, thinking I'm Ahmet, and say, "My dear son, how I missed your scent!" I wish you could see how she treats me when she thinks I'm Ahmet, Mr. Tahsin.

TAHSIN- Why do you feel the need to trick your mother like that? Or is Ahmet a bad son? Doesn't he visit his mother?

32

KADIR- Oh, he'd love to. But he gets so busy at work, he can only visit her once a month, whereas she'd like him to come every day. So we were forced to come up with a solution like this. Are you ill? Why did you come?

TAHSIN- Actually, I really haven't felt very good lately.

KADIR- I hope you feel better.

TAHSIN- I'm not one to go to doctors, really. When Mr. Akar saw me in this condition, he recommended I see your brother. He apparently saved his life. I figured, I might as well have him check me out.

KADIR- You did well, Mr. Tahsin. It's true, he is a very good doctor. He isn't like the others. He doesn't rely on gadgets, he relies on his patients. He asks what's wrong, has you tell him everything, maybe even makes you stick out your tongue. He gets it right away. He doesn't even prescribe medicine. But you have to do as he tells you. Miss Gul, if Mr. Tahsin will allow me, I'd like to see my brother for a minute.

TAHSIN- Go ahead.

KADIR- Thank you very much. Don't just stand there, Miss Gul.

*(GUL goes inside...waits a while)*

TAHSIN- If I could only see the two of you side by side...

KADIR- Oh, you will, you will.

TAHSIN- Then let me come inside with you.

KADIR- Right now?

TAHSIN- Is that a problem?

KADIR- No, it's just that my brother is a bit controlling. Anyway, there's kind of a private matter at hand...well, I'll just go ahead and tell you. I came here for a loan. He might get angry and yell at me. You're going to be here quite often from now on, anyway, you'll get plenty of chances to see us together.

GUL- *(Enters)* Your brother is waiting.

KADIR- Thank you for letting me go ahead of you, Mr. Tahsin...I'll be right out. *(Starts to exit)*

TAHSIN- *(After him)* It can't be!

GUL- Did you say something?

TAHSIN- This resemblance. Until I see both brothers side by side, I won't be able to believe it.

KADIR- *(Goes into room...As the painter)* How are you, brother?

KADIR- *(Changes his voice to reply as the doctor)* Welcome...

*(KADIR makes kissing sounds as TAHSIN stands, rapt)*

KADIR- *(Doctor)* How are the kids?

KADIR- *(Painter)* They send their respects.

KADIR- *(Making sure TAHSIN hears)* Don't be shy, you should visit more often. We're brothers after all. Your trouble is my trouble. Hold on! We might be a while, let me see Mr...uhh, Tahsin. *(Meanwhile he has put on the labcoat...Opens the door halfway and sticks his head out, with a deep voice)* Mr. Tahsin!

TAHSIN- *(Rises)* Yes...

KADIR- Please, don't get up. I just need to have a little meeting with my brother.

TAHSIN- Please, go ahead.

KADIR- Thank you. Hon? Would Tahsin like something to drink? Please, take care of him.

33

GUL- What should I bring you? Tea, coffee?

TAHSIN- Thank you, it's hot outside, anyway.

KADIR- Please give me a few minutes, Tevfik. Make yourself at home.

TAHSIN- Thank you, but my name is Tahsin.

KADIR- Where did Tevfik come from? Forgive me, Tahsin. (*Goes back in, making sure TAHSIN hears*) What a polite man! I really like Tahsin...He is a gentleman, yes a real

gentleman...I can honestly say I am a real fan of his understanding nature.

(TAHSIN sits back down and continues to listen carefully to the conversation)

KADIR- (*Painter*) I painted his house last month. He was surprised to see me here. He was even more surprised when I told him you were my brother. He really is a wonderful person. In fact, I can say he is the best person I have ever had the honor of painting a house for. He is very honest. And I think he has some problems because of his honesty.

KADIR- (*Doctor*) Oh, I'm no stranger to the problems honest people face, myself. I really am not surprised to hear of his troubles.

(TAHSIN has relaxed a bit. MUSTAFA has realised that no one is here to get him. KADIR, a bit angrily motions for MUSTAFA to get back in the wardrobe. MUSTAFA complies)

KADIR- (*Doctor*) It is an honor to be the doctor of such an honest man. I consider myself lucky.

KADIR- (*Painter*) Me too. I consider myself lucky to have painted his house. May god grant everyone customers like Tahsin.

KADIR- (*Doctor*) My dear brother, please tell me, how much money can I give you?

KADIR- (*Painter*) Actually, I'm really ashamed...every time I visit, you give me money.

KADIR- This doesn't become you at all. There is no reason for you to feel inferior to me. Because, if I'm a successful doctor now, I'll never forget your help in all of it. (As if he's holding out money) Is that enough?

KADIR- It's too much...Take half of it back!

KADIR- No, I couldn't. Because I could never repay the debt I owe you. If I live in comfort now, I never forget that I owe it all to you. Don't upset me, take the money.

KADIR- I'd rather die than upset you. Don't be sad, I'm taking it. And don't forget, brother, that I'm only taking this money so that the honorable and valuable Tahsin doesn't have to wait any longer.

KADIR- (*Quietly*) Don't overdo it. He might catch on. (*Loud*) I won't forget!...Come, let me kiss you! (*Kissing noises*)

KADIR- Drive safe!

KADIR- Thanks, bro!

(KADIR takes off the lab coat...He enters and crosses to TAHSIN, pretending to put in his wallet the money he just took out of his pocket)

KADIR- (*To TAHSIN*) Where could you find a brother like this? Whenever I'm in trouble, I just come to see him, and without me having to say a word he takes out a wad of cash and puts it in my hand.

TAHSIN- Let him! So what? He makes a killing...God knows he probably doesn't pay his taxes honestly.

KADIR- Oh, no...he's very honest. He doesn't even accept money from half his patients, and he always gives them a receipt.

34

TAHSIN- But he didn't give my supervisor a receipt.

KADIR- Aha! Was it his first visit?

TAHSIN- How did you know?

KADIR- You just told me! Since my brother saved his life, it must have been his first visit.

TAHSIN- (Suspicious) You mean, he doesn't save people's lives on the second visit?

KADIR- No, no, no. Just like you said...my brother doesn't accept money from first time patients. Your supervisor probably forced the money on him.

TAHSIN- That is exactly what happened...How did you know all this, Kadir?

KADIR- Look, Tahsin, if I didn't know my brother's ways and habits, who would?

TAHSIN- Who?

KADIR- No one! It's just a figure of speech. But Mr. Akar did well to leave money. Now my brother will write him two receipts the next time he comes. If you like, we could have a little wager on it...

TAHSIN- He will?

KADIR- Oh yes, why shouldn't he? Is there any reason why he shouldn't? Isn't that right? He'll be with you in a moment. If you need anything, please call me, Tahsin. Now I have to go, all right?

TAHSIN- All right.

KADIR- Take it easy.

TAHSIN- Bye.

*(KADIR takes GUL with him out of the waiting room and closes the door...Then he opens the outside door and slams it loudly, without leaving...He puts his lab coat back on)*

KADIR- Now do you see what I'm trying to do?

GUL- *(Ecstatic)* Yes!

KADIR- Now who am I?

GUL- Doctor Ahmet, sir!

KADIR- Now show Tahsin to the examination room.

*(GUL confidently goes into the waiting room)*

GUL- Mr. Tahsin? The doctor will see you now.

TAHSIN- Okay.

*(GUL, followed by TAHSIN, enters the examination room...KADIR stands up immediately)*

KADIR- Welcome, Mr...Tahsin?

TAHSIN- *(Once again stunned)* This is unbelievable! This resemblance is uncanny! It's exact!

KADIR- Unfortunately, that is so. I have not yet been able to find a cure for that.

TAHSIN- Does the resemblance cause many problems?

KADIR- Please, let's not even go into that, Tahir.

TAHSIN- My name is Tahsin.

KADIR- Oh, I'm sorry, Tahsin.

TAHSIN- *(At once)* Your undershirt is even the same! Your pants, too!

KADIR- Unfortunately, yes. Pardon my saying so, but even our underwear is the same.

TAHSIN- I do not understand it!

KADIR- Sir, you're no stranger to us now. I can consider you a friend now, is that right?

TAHSIN- Please, it would be an honor.

KADIR- No, no, the honor is all mine. The rest is all yours.

TAHSIN- Rest of what?

KADIR- It was just a joke. We're friends, aren't we? This way, I make my patients relax, and by showing them that I'm an actual human being, it helps to build up trust. Now, where were we?

TAHSIN- In your underwear.

KADIR- Oh, yes! Even our underwear is the same. It has to be. If you have time, I can tell you the reason...

TAHSIN- Oh, please explain. This is an intriguing situation.

KADIR- Well, sir, we were three brothers. I was the oldest. The middle brother's name was Saffet, and Kadir was the youngest. Kadir is the one you just met. Our family was poor. Saffet, the youngest, tried to help the family by selling pretzels on the street. The other two of us were older than him, but we were in school. Sadly, Saffet's efforts were turning out not to be enough. The only other working man of the house, our father, fell down an elevator shaft and died. Now our only form of income was Saffet's pretzels. Which left both of our, that is, Kadir's and my, educations in jeopardy...because both of us were high school graduates and we both wanted to go to college.

TAHSIN- Why didn't you sell your apartment, with the elevator, which probably also had air conditioning and heating?

KADIR- We couldn't because we didn't have such an apartment.

TAHSIN- But you just said your father fell down an elevator shaft.

KADIR- That was the elevator shaft he was working on. My father was a construction worker. God rest his soul, he was an honest man. Bastards! Lowlifes! That's the kind of world that pure man lived in. The underwear...

KADIR- I'm getting to that, I'm getting to that...So, to make a long story short, either Kadir or I had to sacrifice our education so that the other could continue. Kadir made that sacrifice. He started working in construction and fed our family and educated me. But how could I repay the emotional debt I owed my brother? Well, I found a way of doing that right quick. Thankfully, I was earning money. I was trying to cleanse my guilt by buying for Kadir one of everything I bought for myself, right down to the underwear. And this is our sad story. Now, Tahsin, do you have any more questions dealing with shirts, pants, shoes, or even underwear?

TAHSIN- I do congratulate your father, doctor. A person should always be honest, because honesty is the best policy.

KADIR- And by that logic, those who are dishonest should never win. What line of work are you in, Tahsin?

TAHSIN- I am Mr. Akar's personnel manager.

KADIR- Are you married?

TAHSIN- I was...unfortunately...

KADIR- Oh, God rest her soul.

TAHSIN- Oh, no, she didn't die...I wish she had. She left me. Three months ago. I was forced to get a divorce.

KADIR- Oh, please forgive me, I assumed she was dead.

TAHSIN- She might as well be. She is dead to me.

KADIR- So, why did you get a divorce?

TAHSIN- Because she left me!

KADIR- Why did she leave you?

TAHSIN- Because I am an honest man. Lately, she had been saying that to my face, even. A man comes home from work, tired, and what does he want? A smiling face, right? Oh, yes, she greeted me with a smile on her face...*(Imitating her)* "Welcome home, stupid!" she'd say. "I made you poison stew today. And here's a little stupid cake. Eat up, Mr. Stupid!" If only that were all! In the last few days she started telling me she was planning to steal my employees' salaries. I had to do something. I tried to convince her not to; it didn't work. What else could I do? She even left the house. Then we got a divorce. Everyone should obey the law. Enforcing the law is every citizen's duty. Wherever there is illegal activity, our duty is to let the authorities know. She should be thankful I didn't report her to the police.

KADIR- I understand you completely, Tahsin. What is your complaint?

TAHSIN- I can't sleep at night, doctor. As soon as I close my eyes, my wife's face appears before me.

KADIR- I see you miss her.

TAHSIN- Miss her!? She just calls me stupid! As soon as I fall asleep, I awake to her piercing voice yelling, "Stupid!" I can't sleep, doctor! Sleep is forbidden to me now.

KADIR- I understand you, Tahsin. Actually, lately in our country many people have been struggling with this problem. The only remedy for this is to keep your cool and ignore a lot of the things that go on around you. Behave like everyone else, and don't get too mad at your wife, either. Try to forget her and the way she treated you. Try to understand her. Because this is what we do all the time.

TAHSIN- Are you going to prescribe some medicine for me, doctor?

KADIR- There is no medicine for your sickness, Tahsin. Go home, and try to sleep.

TAHSIN- Is that all you're going to tell me?

KADIR- That's it, Tahsin.

TAHSIN- Thank you, doctor.

KADIR- Don't mention it.

TAHSIN- How much do I owe you?

KADIR- You don't owe me a thing.

TAHSIN- I can't accept that.

KADIR- Your illness has nothing to do with my specialty. I also don't think that I came up with a solution to your problem that is worth your paying for. Please relax. Maybe if your wife were here right now she'd call me stupid. But I can't let you go without saying this. Your supervisor gave me money, and in the hurry I didn't write him a receipt. Please remind him so that next time he comes he can get his receipt from me.

TAHSIN- Oh, I'll tell him. I'm very glad I met you, doctor.

KADIR- And I can say the same about you, because there's only a few of our kind left. Gul!

GUL- *(Enters)* Yes, doctor.

KADIR- Please show Tahsin the door.

GUL- Right this way, Mr. Tahsin.

TAHSIN- Thank you. *(Gets up)*

*(GUL and TAHSIN exeunt...GUL opens the outside door and shows TAHSIN out)*

GUL- Goodbye, sir! *(Closes door)*

KADIR- You can come out now.

*(MUSTAFA steps out of the wardrobe)*

KADIR- Now that we've gotten started, let's take a look at you, too.

MUSTAFA- Could I walk over to the waiting room and back, doctor? I'm half suffocated. I'm always going to be here anyway; we've got plenty of time.

KADIR- Now that there's no one here, why not? Go get a breath of air and come back.

*(MUSTAFA goes to the waiting room and takes a look out the window...Frightened, comes back to the examination room)*

KADIR- Feel better?

MUSTAFA- Yes, doctor.

KADIR- Are you ready?

MUSTAFA- Ready.

KADIR- Now take off your jacket. Stand up straight! Straight! *(Circles him)* Sit down! Stick out your tongue! All the way out! Now say ahh...

MUSTAFA- Ahhh...

KADIR- Take off your shoes...off! Off! Height?

MUSTAFA- Five-ten.

KADIR- Weight?

MUSTAFA- One-eighty, one-eighty five.

KADIR- Which one? Decide!

MUSTAFA- One-eighty two!

KADIR- False information leads to false results. Are you saying it's around one-eighty?

MUSTAFA- Yes.

KADIR- *(Writes some things down on a pad)* Now stand up. Bending at the waist, touch your left big toe with your right hand. Touch it! Touch it! You can't reach it! Because you never tried before! Now try touching your right big toe with your left hand! No, no, it isn't working! But if you don't try to do as I tell you, it will be impossible for you to get better. Now do as I said, ten times each! One, two, three, four, good, good. Yes! Now count to yourself. Don't leave any out! Good, yes! Now stand up straight. Start jumping up and down, like this. One, two, three, four...ten times! Yes, very good! *(Seeing MUSTAFA try his hardest to follow his instructions has made him very happy)* Yes, yes, yes! Stop! Now take a deep breath. Take it in, hold it! Now breathe out. Breathe, hold, out! Now sit down. Let yourself go limp. Stick out your tongue! Good! Now how do you feel?

MUSTAFA- *(Terrible, but nevertheless)* I feel good!

KADIR- Then there's no reason for you to stay here. Get up and go.

MUSTAFA- I can't!

KADIR- But you say you're fine...

MUSTAFA- I'm not good! I'm horrible!

KADIR- Then don't say you feel good. Tell me, however you feel!

MUSTAFA- I will from now on.

KADIR- Did the doctors you went to before ever examine you like this?

MUSTAFA- *(Thinks)* No, they didn't.

KADIR- Tell the truth.

MUSTAFA- When I was young, my boxing trainer used to make us do stuff like this.

KADIR- Was your trainer a doctor?

MUSTAFA- I don't know.

KADIR- How many years ago was that?

MUSTAFA- Twelve or thirteen.

KADIR- That's impossible, because these techniques hadn't been invented yet.

MUSTAFA- Then what did he use to make us do?

KADIR- Don't ask me questions that will put me in a difficult situation. He probably made you do a workout. So until now you never went to a good doctor, is that right?

MUSTAFA- Yes.

*(GUL enters and watches with amazement from the doorway)*

KADIR- Now lie down on the floor...on your stomach. Okay...now raise your right leg toward your back...try to grab your ankle with your right hand. Not your wrist, your ankle! It's not working! Until you can do this, I can't find out what's wrong with you. Try harder!

*(MUSTAFA tries very hard to accomplish the task)*

GUL- If you want, take a break, doctor. Mr. Mustafa seems to be very tired.

KADIR- Are you tired?

MUSTAFA- *(Wary)* A little...

KADIR- Well, you're out of shape anyway. But you'll get used to it. The only thing you can do to get back in shape is work out. You know what they say: metal that is worked, shines. Now work, and shine! Don't stop! One, two, three...

*(As MUSTAFA tries very hard to exercise...)*

## **Blackout**

## **ACT II**

### **Scene 4**

*(The same day...It's almost night...KADIR and GUL are in the waiting room...GUL is looking out the balcony window...KADIR checks his watch periodically...MUSTAFA is on the examining table, still lying there, spent...maybe he's sleeping, but it's a bit of a cat nap)*

KADIR- The sun has almost set.

GUL- Is it that late?

KADIR- Maybe you should go ahead home.

GUL- The restaurant still hasn't brought our order...

KADIR- Oh, it'll come anyway. You go ahead.

GUL- Should I call again?

KADIR- No need. You're going downstairs anyway...you can let them know as you pass by.

GUL- I can stay with you, if you want.

KADIR- What for?

GUL- Don't stay here with a stranger.

KADIR- Look at what you're thinking of. I'm going to work until morning finishing the paint job anyway. Tomorrow I can do the second coat. Let's make sure that Turgut doesn't have a reason to come here again. You see how he keeps popping in. I keep getting scared out of my wits that something's going to go wrong.

GUL- Look at this!

KADIR- What?

GUL- Look, look! Do you see that black car?

KADIR- Yeah, so what?

GUL- It's been there all day, and there's people in it.

KADIR- What's it to us?

GUL- They keep staring at the apartment. And when I went to the restaurant, they watched me the whole time.

KADIR- Of course they would, my rose. You shouldn't be so beautiful.

GUL- Get out of here! They were spooky guys. It was like they were waiting for somebody.

KADIR- That's none of our business. They're probably undercover cops. You shouldn't stick your nose in stuff like that. The kids are waiting for you. Don't be any later. Go home.

GUL- I'll be here early in the morning.

KADIR- Come around noon. I'll sleep a couple of hours, anyway. When you get home, give me a call from the grocer's phone.

GUL- Should I take the key?

KADIR- No. Just in case. You can ring the doorbell again when you come.

GUL- What if you don't hear it?

KADIR- I'll be sleeping on the waiting room couch. I'll hear it.

GUL- Okay, goodnight. Good luck working.

KADIR- Thanks, sweetheart. Don't forget to stop by the restaurant.

GUL- I won't.

KADIR- We almost forgot the most important thing. What about the house?

GUL- I'll stop by the landlord's house and give him the deposit.

KADIR- All right, bye bye.

*(GUL exits...KADIR cautiously looks out the window...The doorbell rings...KADIR looks through the peephole and opens the door)*

NURTEN- *(Enters...In a low voice)* Can I come in, doctor?

KADIR- Come on in. But aren't you a little early? *(Closes door)*

NURTEN- I waited down the hall. When I saw the secretary leave, I came over. Where should we sit?

KADIR- Let's go into the waiting room. You go ahead and sit down. I'm going to make a phone call. What's that in your hand?

NURTEN- Just a little package to say thank you.

KADIR- Is it a bomb?

NURTEN- Please, doctor...it's a cake! We'll eat it as we sip some tea.

KADIR- Oh, you shouldn't have.

NURTEN- Oh, it's no trouble at all.

KADIR- I'll be right back.

*(KADIR goes into the examination room...MUSTAFA is startled)*

KADIR- Don't be afraid. A patient stopped by. I'm going to close this door. You sit there without a sound.

MUSTAFA- Okay. Dinner?

KADIR- Are you really hungry?

MUSTAFA- Yes.

KADIR- Don't worry. It'll be here in a minute.

MUSTAFA- And the steak tartar, too?

KADIR- Oh, I didn't think of that. Maybe that's why it's late. It'll all be here. Just be quiet.

*(KADIR enters the waiting room carrying two cups of tea)*

KADIR- Here you are.

NURTEN- Oh, you shouldn't have bothered. I would have gotten it.

KADIR- Please, Miss Nurten.

NURTEN- May I at least get the plates and forks?

KADIR- No, you may not, because you are my guest. *(Exits)*

*(NURTEN takes a mirror out of her purse and straightens herself up...KADIR places everything on the table)*

NURTEN- *(Takes knife)* Well, you'll at least let me cut the cake.

KADIR- If it's no trouble...

NURTEN- *(Cuts two small pieces of cake...Puts one on KADIR's plate and one on her own)*

Bon appetite!

KADIR- Thank you. Mmm, it's very good.

NURTEN- Enjoy...the other day, the compassion you showed me...

KADIR- It's my job. But I really am sorry about the unpleasanties.

NURTEN- It is just bad luck for a gentleman doctor like yourself to have a woman like that in your office. That secretary will ruin all your relationships. She is an unbelievable woman. I think it was because I showed some interest in you.

KADIR- She is a very jealous woman. She usually behaves very strangely toward my female patients.

*(They gaze at each other longingly)*

NURTEN- Are there no other secretaries in the world? Just show her the door.

KADIR- It's hard to find good help these days, Miss Nurten. She does good work. She comes and goes on time, she keeps her mouth shut, she's honest. She has her virtues, too.

NURTEN- But she sticks her nose in all of your business! She's intolerable!

*(Doorbell rings)*

KADIR- I ordered food. It must be here. Excuse me.

NURTEN- Please.

*(KADIR confidently crosses to the front door, confidently looks through the peephole...Devastated, runs to the waiting room)*

KADIR- Quick! What are we going to do? Oh, my God!

NURTEN- What happened, doctor?

KADIR- The wife!

NURTEN- Oh, and I just noticed your ring. When your wife shows up, you forget all your manners!

KADIR- What wife? My secretary! Quick!

NURTEN- What do you want me to do?

KADIR- Hide! Wait! *(Hands her some things off the table)* Take these! Quick!

*(They run first to the balcony, then all around, until KADIR leads them into the examination room...meanwhile, the doorbell keeps ringing...MUSTAFA goes into a panic when he sees them come in)*

MUSTAFA- Doctor?

KADIR- Go into the wardrobe!

NURTEN- How?

KADIR- I said go in!

NURTEN- Who is this man?

KADIR- Don't ask questions! Go in!

*(KADIR hands the rest of what he's holding to MUSTAFA...as he closes the wardrobe door...)*

KADIR- Be quiet! No talking until I get back! What am I doing! *(To MUSTAFA)* You come out...

MUSTAFA- Let me hide, too.

KADIR- There's no need. It's just the secretary.

*(As KADIR drags MUSTAFA out of the wardrobe and leaves NURTEN in, MUSTAFA stands waiting, unable to figure out what's going on while the door is nearly kicked down)*

KADIR- *(On top of everything)* You almost broke the door down!

GUL- *(Entering with hands full of packages)* Where were you?

KADIR- I was in the bathroom, where else? Holy God! Why are you back, anyway?

GUL- I can't even do you a favor...I brought your dinner so you wouldn't go hungry...But no one here appreciates me.

KADIR- You were ringing the bell so much, I thought there was a raid.

GUL- What raid?

KADIR- A man can't even get rest in the bathroom! Leave it here, don't be late! I'll give it to him.

GUL- Wait, wait, wait! You won't do it right.

*(GUL goes into the kitchen and comes back out)*  
 GUL- What happened to the plates that were in here?  
 KADIR- How would I know? They're probably in there somewhere.  
 GUL- No, they aren't!  
 KADIR- You just leave. You're going to be late. The kids are home, starving. I'll find everything. You still have to stop by the landlord's.  
 GUL- Can't even do anyone a favor...  
*(GUL is just about to open the door when the doorbell rings...KADIR immediately motions for MUSTAFA to hide; he complies...GUL opens the door...HITMAN and tough looking WOMAN enter)*  
 WOMAN- Good evening.  
 GUL- Welcome.  
 HITMAN- We wanted to use your phone.  
 KADIR- What phone?  
 WOMAN- You know...telephone.  
 HITMAN- We were stuck by the side of the road...when we saw your light on, we came up.  
 WOMAN- We'll pay you whatever you want.  
 KADIR- Go ahead.  
 HITMAN- Where is it?  
 KADIR- *(Shows him the secretary's room)* Over there.  
 HITMAN- It's private.  
 WOMAN- You leave.  
 KADIR- Okay, but don't be long.  
*(KADIR and GUL go into the waiting room...As HITMAN dials, WOMAN goes into the examination room...Looks around and closes the door again)*  
 GUL- Kadir...this is one of the guys from the car. I'm afraid.  
 KADIR- What's to be afraid of?  
 GUL- They even look like murderers...  
 KADIR- Don't be stupid!  
 WOMAN- There's no one in the room.  
 HITMAN- Look all around!  
 WOMAN- Okay...  
*(WOMAN goes into the waiting room)*  
 WOMAN- We really inconvenienced you.  
 KADIR- Please, what trouble?  
 WOMAN- Yes we did...But please forgive us. We won't leave you empty handed. *(Looks*

*out the window and the balcony)* Don't you have any other spaces?  
 KADIR- What do you mean?  
 WOMAN- Other rooms and stuff...  
 KADIR- We have a small bathroom, too. Through there...Why do you ask?  
 WOMAN- This is a small office, but it serves your purposes.  
 KADIR- Yes, it does.  
 WOMAN- That man inside is my husband. Show me the bathroom, so I can relieve myself.  
 GUL- Right this way...(Opens door)  
 WOMAN- *(Going in)* Thanks, toots.

GUL- These are the ones in the car, Kadir!

KADIR- Don't be stupid! You are stuck on that car...

HITMAN- *(Finally gets through on the phone)* Boss! It's me... We're in the building he ducked into... We're using the phone as an excuse to search all the apartments... We're smart enough for that, after all... We saw him go in this building... Not just me, we all did, boss... Understood ...right away...right away...No mercy! He won't get away from us this time...I'll call you when the job is done...Nothing's going to save him...He's in one of these apartments... We'll wait ten days if we have to... You relax, it's done...All right, bye. *(Hangs up)*

*(HITMAN goes into the waiting room)*

HITMAN- Thank you.

KADIR- Don't mention it.

HITMAN- Where's our moron? Where the hell are you?

WOMAN- *(Enters)* Keep your pants on, I'm here, all right?

HITMAN- All right. I called...you?

WOMAN- There's no one here.

HITMAN- What's the tab?

KADIR- What tab?

HITMAN- Well, we said hello, right?

KADIR- Aw, what tab? You don't owe me anything for using the phone.

HITMAN- Okay, okay. We don't want to be indebted to anyone. Everyone should foot their own bill.

WOMAN- Don't drag it out. Just throw him a penny or two.

HITMAN- *(With a flourish, pulls a wad of cash out of his wallet and hands it to GUL)* It's better to be poor than to be in debt.

WOMAN- Goodbye. Oh, I almost forgot...*(Pulls a photograph out of her pocket)* Take a good look at this. Have you seen this man? Has he ever come around here? Look carefully.

KADIR- Never seen him before.

GUL- Me neither.

HITMAN- Look, it's all right. Don't assume we're stupid. If you've seen him, just say you've seen him.

KADIR- I said I'd never seen him before. Why would I lie about that? Who is this guy?

WOMAN- He's a good friend.

HITMAN- Well, goodbye.

KADIR- Bye bye.

44

*(GUL opens the door...TURGUT enters...He almost bumps into HITMAN)*

WOMAN- Watch it, pops!

HITMAN- Get some new glasses, you old fart!

*(HITMAN and WOMAN exeunt with a flourish)*

TURGUT- Who were they?

KADIR- They wanted to use the phone. We couldn't say no.

TURGUT- Don't let just anybody in.

GUL- They said they were husband and wife.

TURGUT- How's it going?

KADIR- Tomorrow morning it'll be just touch-ups.

TURGUT- Fine. Well, good luck to you.

KADIR- Thanks, Turgut.

GUL- Would you like something to drink?

TURGUT- Thanks, sweetie. Don't let any more strangers in, though. God forbid, anything could happen. *(Exits)*

GUL- *(Closes the door)* They're after this guy! You didn't believe me, but now you see!

KADIR- Yes, I see.

GUL- What are we going to do?

KADIR- What can we do? I don't know. What do you think?

GUL- Let's get him out of here.

KADIR- Where's he going to go?

GUL- Who cares? As long as he gets out of our hair.

KADIR- He can't. As soon as he steps out the door, they'll shoot him.

GUL- Are we going to think about him or us?

KADIR- As a fellow human being, we've got to think about him.

GUL- Who knows what he did to deserve this.

KADIR- As far as I can tell, he got into contracting and made it.

GUL- Oh. We're going to risk our lives so he can make money. This is some country.

KADIR- You're forgetting something. We're going to rent our house because of this man. We need him alive. He still owes us five hundred bucks. If he dies, will we be able to get our money?

GUL- *(Understands)* Are you going to tell him what's going on?

KADIR- I haven't decided yet. But I think not telling him might be best. He's panicked enough as it is. We'll spend five lovely nights and then get our money. After that, God only knows.

GUL- What if they keep waiting?

KADIR- Every problem has a solution. We'll find a way to get him out of here.

GUL- What if we can't? What if they shoot him?

KADIR- Then, he'll be dead.

GUL- Let's call the cops...Let them save him.

KADIR- And arrest us in the process...Have you lost it? Leave all this to me. But let's not open the door to anyone from now on. Let's not even answer the phone.

GUL- What if Dr. Ahmet calls?

KADIR- We'll tell him it didn't ring.

GUL- What if Turgut comes?

45

KADIR- We'll look through the peephole and open it only for him.

GUL- The man is in there. Don't let him suffocate.

KADIR- Leave that to me.

GUL- *(Sneaks a peek out the window)* If you wait for these guys to leave, you will be wrong. We're in deep trouble.

KADIR- Don't you worry about it. We'll find a way. And don't forget! There's nothing worse than homelessness! Now, go.

*(GUL exits...KADIR looks out the window...He sees GUL walk out so he goes into the examination room...He opens the wardrobe...MUSTAFA and NURTEN emerge, gasping)*

KADIR- Don't ask me a thing. You, eat your dinner. Miss Nurten, you come with me.

*(As KADIR crosses to waiting room, MUSTAFA and NURTEN gaze at each other longingly)*

MUSTAFA- My name is Mustafa.

NURTEN- Mine's Nurten...I'm single.

MUSTAFA- Me too. How can I reach you?

NURTEN- *(Writes on a piece of paper and hands it to him)* Here.

KADIR- Miss Nurteen!

NURTEN- I'm coming, doctor! *(To MUSTAFA)* Call me.

MUSTAFA- I will.

*(NURTEN holds MUSTAFA's hand, spellbound...She doesn't want to part, but she hears KADIR's footsteps and goes into the waiting room)*

KADIR- Here we are, Miss Nurten...Let's pick up where we left off.

NURTEN- Maybe another time, doctor. I'm covered in cake. I want to go home and clean myself off. Thanks for everything.

KADIR- Don't mention it. I put you through hell.

NURTEN- Just the opposite, I lived through unbelievable things...thanks to you. I had better get going. There's no reason for me to stay, anyway.

KADIR- There isn't?

NURTEN- No...You're married...I don't want any adventures at this age. Hiding, running, these aren't for me. Now I just want to find a good man and...

KADIR- You could at least have some tea. You went through all that trouble. You bought all that stuff.

NURTEN- It's not important. One day we'll have some together, doctor...Take it easy.

KADIR- Goodbye, Miss Nurten.

*(NURTEN exits like a happy butterfly...MUSTAFA is hungrily eating steak tartar and from time to time stops, thinking of NURTEN...KADIR slowly gets out his paint supplies and gets ready to work, lost in thought...MUSTAFA suddenly crosses to phone and dials)*

WOMAN'S VOICE- *(Nervous)* We are forced to close down our business for a while. When our president, Mustafa, returns from out of town, we will once again be open to serve you. If you'd like to leave a message...

*(Sounds of a struggle...Maybe a couple of gunshots)*

MAN'S VOICE- *(A muffled voice)* Hey, Mustafa! We're waiting in anticipation for you. Don't be afraid! You're going to be done with a nice ceremony...We miss you and kiss you...*(A strange and frightening laugh)*

46

*(MUSTAFA hangs up with his face all scrunched up...It is apparent that his workplace was raided...As MUSTAFA hopelessly thinks...)*

## Blackout

## Scene 5

### The Third Day.

*(It's almost noon...The paint job is done except for touch-ups...MUSTAFA is inside, KADIR is lying on the waiting room couch...MUSTAFA wakes up, rises, quietly tiptoes to window...scrunches up his face and lies down on one of the waiting room couches...Starts thinking...Phone rings, KADIR wakes up, almost rises, then lies back down...He sees MUSTAFA has woken up)*

KADIR- You're up early.

MUSTAFA- Phone's ringing.

KADIR- I hear it.

MUSTAFA- Aren't you going to answer it?

KADIR- No, let it ring...

MUSTAFA- What if patients come?

KADIR- I'm no longer accepting patients, either. Until the paint job is finished, I'm not letting anyone in. I can't paint and tend to patients at the same time.

MUSTAFA- I'm staying though, right?

KADIR- Of course, you're staying...You're one of us, now. You're one of us for three more nights.

MUSTAFA- I could stay five more days rather than three. If you want, I'll stay a week.

KADIR- No, no. Three's enough...Man, it keeps ringing!

MUSTAFA- I could pull the plug...

KADIR- Naa, no need. Let it ring. It doesn't bother me. Let's see how long it lasts. You're tired, too. You really helped me out.

MUSTAFA- Hey, painting is fun.

KADIR - Yes, it is... If it wasn't would I leave a good career to paint? *(Suddenly)*

What size shoes do you wear?

MUSTAFA- Me?

KADIR - No, me!

MUSTAFA- Nine –and- a- half.

KADIR - Are you sure?

MUSTAFA- I buy my own shoes.

KADIR - You're sure it isn't ten?

47

MUSTAFA- I even wear nines in some models...Why do you ask?

KADIR- No reason...Come on, let's try to sleep some more.

*(They try to sleep...The doorbell adds itself to the noise of the phone)*

KADIR- It must be the secretary. You go inside, anyway.

*(MUSTAFA goes in...KADIR opens the door after looking through the peephole)*

GUL- *(Enters in a rush)* Don't you hear the phone?

KADIR- I do, but...

GUL- It stopped anyway.

KADIR- Thank God...It's been ringing since morning.

GUL- I'll make some tea.

KADIR- Go ahead...then you can clean up. The paint is done...I better finish the touch-ups right away, too. This business is starting to make me sick to my stomach.

GUL- What business?

KADIR- The one inside, what else? But I have the solution.

GUL- How?

KADIR- We'll finish the touch-ups tonight and tomorrow morning we'll clean up. That way, we'll be into the fourth day. We'll make him write a check for the rest and then that will be done, too. By tomorrow night, we'll finish the second coat, as well. Then the fifth day comes. We'll hand this place over to Turgut without waiting for day six. Since Dr. Ahmet will be back a day after, we'll have finished the job a day early.

GUL- They're waiting in front of the door. What will we do with this guy if they don't leave?

KADIR- Well, we won't leave him inside, that's for sure. I've come up with a solution.

GUL- You did? Why didn't you tell me? Go on.

KADIR- *(Sure of himself)* You see this husband of yours? He is one fine man. He has a wit like poison. You still don't know your husband?

GUL- Come on, tell me. Don't leave me in the dark.

KADIR- How can we save this guy from the ones outside? You think about it for a while.

GUL- I've been thinking for days. I can't come up with anything.

KADIR- Of course not, because you don't read novels or stories, you don't know logic, nor psychology.

GUL- Cut it out and just tell me.

KADIR- Nooo. Just think about it a while. But relax, because I've solved it.

GUL- Those guys are waiting like dragons in front of the door. To solve the problem, you have to be a dragon, just like them.

KADIR- You can't always fight fire with fire. Most of the time, brains are enough. Now, go make some tea.

GUL- Tell me! How?

KADIR- Look, I'll give you a hint. There's a shop on the corner, didn't it catch your eye?

GUL- There are shops everywhere, which one?

KADIR- But this is a different kind of store. It's more of a boutique. "The Habit Boutique." Do you remember?

GUL- Yes, yes, but I don't get it.

48

KADIR- If you think about it, you'll find it. Think a bit, but don't be afraid. It's a done deal. If I wanted to, I could whisk him out of here right now.

GUL- Then whisk him.

KADIR- It's not that simple. Then we wouldn't be able to rent the house. Everything has its own time and place. Wait patiently. You're going to have a small job in a little bit, too. But it's a safe job. Don't insist, I won't tell you. I'm hungry. The quicker you make breakfast, the sooner you'll figure out how to safely whisk this guy away from here. Look, there's a piece of paper over there. On it, write down nine-and-a-half. Write it down.

GUL- *(Writing)* This is like a riddle.

KADIR- Let's not forget. The important thing is to be prepared. Come on, go to the kitchen.

*(As GUL hurries, a bit curious, into the kitchen...)*

**Blackout**

## Scene 6

### The Fifth Day.

*(KADIR is doing touch-ups like a master artist as GUL dusts the tables and couches seriously...As far as we can tell, the paint job is finished...MUSTAFA is sitting in the examination room, eating his meal from a tray...KADIR is looking around, quite relaxed)*

KADIR- How does it look?

GUL- Great job.

KADIR- You too. We got out of this with flying colors, too. *(Crosses to MUSTAFA)* Bon appetite.

MUSTAFA- Thanks, doctor.

KADIR- Well, you've been here for four nights.

MUSTAFA- That's right.

KADIR- This will be your last night here.

MUSTAFA- Let me stay a few more days.

KADIR- Maybe you can stay one more night, but I'll be the judge of that, okay?

MUSTAFA- But I'm not better yet.

KADIR- No no, you're well. But if needed, we'll give you an extension. What were we going to do today?

MUSTAFA- I don't know.

KADIR- Yes you do. What were we going to the second to last day? The rest of the money? The check?

MUSTAFA- Can't I write it tomorrow?

KADIR- No, no. Everything must be done on time. You never know...Now you write the check. Let my secretary go and cash it while she's free.

*(MUSTAFA pulls out his checkbook and writes)*

KADIR- *(Takes it and looks)* Good, I hope this one doesn't bounce, either

49

MUSTAFA- It won't. If I stayed another week, that wouldn't bounce, neither would it if I stayed a month. I have plenty of money.

KADIR- *(Crosses to GUL)* That's done too. Go cash it and come back without wasting any time.

GUL- *(Takes check)* Anything else?

KADIR- No, just don't dillydally.

*(GUL exits...MUSTAFA takes his tray into kitchen, then joins KADIR)*

KADIR- I wonder if I should quit being a doctor?

MUSTAFA- Why?

KADIR- Look at this paint job. Even the best painters couldn't match this, isn't that right?

MUSTAFA- Yup.

KADIR- Are you sad?

MUSTAFA- I miss my home, doctor. My mom, my dad, my brothers and sisters.

KADIR- Aren't you married?

MUSTAFA- No. Actually, we lost my wife.

KADIR- When?

MUSTAFA- It's almost two years now.

KADIR- I'm sorry. Since you're young, she...

MUSTAFA- She was just twenty.

KADIR- A car accident?

MUSTAFA- No, they tried to shoot me, she got in the way.

KADIR- I'm sorry. Did you have any children?

MUSTAFA- If she had lived, she would have given birth in two months. She died without even giving me a baby boy.

KADIR- You're still young, you'll remarry. Or don't you want to?

MUSTAFA- I do, how could I not? I was going to ask...you know, your patient, Miss Nurten? You know, the one I hid with in the wardrobe?

KADIR- Of course, the one who brought the cake.

MUSTAFA- Yes, what type of person is she?

KADIR- Well, as far as I can tell, she's a pretty decent person, beautiful too.

MUSTAFA- Just between you and me, I'll tell you something.

KADIR- You can trust me with everything, I'm your doctor.

MUSTAFA- I really liked her. We got really close that day.

KADIR- You didn't have a choice, you were in the same wardrobe.

MUSTAFA- I asked for her number, she gave it to me. Look, here it is.

KADIR- You could say the job's done. Did she like you too?

MUSTAFA- If she didn't, would she have given me her number? She said I could call her.

KADIR- Why didn't you?

MUSTAFA- How could I? If all goes well, I'll call her when I get out of here.

KADIR- Out of here? You're staying here by your own free will. Is there something I should know?

MUSTAFA- No, it just came out that way.

KADIR- Okay, so why don't you call her right now?

MUSTAFA- Should I?

50

KADIR- Of course. You should strike the iron while it's still hot. You can't waste time in situations like these. On top of everything, she's an honorable woman. As soon as she found out I was married, she kept her distance. Don't let her get away, come on, call her.

MUSTAFA- (Goes inside...dials...it is obvious that he is shy at these things) Hello? I was looking for Miss Nurten...Me? I'm Mustafa...the doctor's office, the wardrobe, the cake...(Laughs innocently) I'm glad, too. I'm at the...the same place...I'm with the doctor...I'd like to see you...No, no...I don't know Istanbul too well, anyway...I'm here...yes...(To KADIR) She says she wants to meet.

KADIR- Good.

MUSTAFA- But she says outside...in Taksim...could she come here?

KADIR- (Thinks for a moment) Why not?

MUSTAFA- (Into phone) You know how to get here, anyway...you come here...right away? Okay...bye bye...(Hangs up) She's coming.

KADIR- You got it...good job...you can sit inside.

MUSTAFA- Sure.

KADIR- If something goes wrong...

MUSTAFA- We'll hide, doctor.

KADIR- You're grinning ear-to-ear.

MUSTAFA- I'll never forget this.

KADIR- Maybe you'll even go out somewhere together. Miss Nurten knows Istanbul, after all.

MUSTAFA- No, no. No need for now. We'll go out plenty in the future.

KADIR- Your call.

*(MUSTAFA peeks out the window...draws back immediately...KADIR joins him...he looks)*

KADIR- You see this car?

MUSTAFA- Yes. Is something wrong?

KADIR- It's been sitting there for four days now. There's something going on, but I can't figure it out. What could it be?

MUSTAFA- I don't know.

*(The doorbell rings)*

KADIR- It must be the secretary, but you hide anyway.

MUSTAFA- Okay.

*(MUSTAFA goes into the examination room...KADIR looks through the peephole...he opens the door...GUL enters, followed by HALIT)*

HALIT- Moooo!

KADIR- *(Surprised)* Mr. Akar? Please come into the waiting room...

*(HALIT goes into the waiting room amidst mooing sounds)*

HALIT- Wow, this place looks great! It's so much brighter!

KADIR- Well, it looks okay.

HALIT- Nooo, it looks great...Doesn't your phone work? I've been calling for two days now, but no answer.

KADIR- I think it was broken. I've had a few complaints...But today I've been answering.

HALIT- I've been having bad thoughts. I asked the phone company, they said there wasn't a problem.

KADIR- It was disconnected outside. They came and fixed it.

51

HALIT- For an office, the phone is the most important piece of machinery. The phone is your hands and arms. Do you know why I'm here today?

KADIR- What is it, Mr. Akar?

HALIT- I came about Tahsin. You took care of him, thanks.

KADIR- Don't mention it, what did I do? How is he now?

HALIT- Great. He gained a lot by coming to see you. He got better. What did you do to make Tahsin better?

KADIR- I didn't do a thing.

HALIT- Don't say that. The man is completely different. You knew Tahsin was a personnel manager at my company. Now, we made him assistant director of the personnel department.

KADIR- I don't understand.

HALIT- I think you suggested that he be understanding towards his ex-wife.

KADIR- Yes, I remember, I told him something like that.

HALIT- He thought about what you told him all night. He decided you were right and completely changed.

KADIR- Really?

HALIT- Do you know what kind of man he used to be? He used to have a stick up his ass. He would try to fix anything he considered to be wrong. That's why his nickname was stool pigeon Tahsin for a while. He tried to stop bribery. When he saw something wrong, he immediately told management. The whole company was uneasy because of it. So many times, I said, "Look, Tahsin, don't stick your nose in everything. If this keeps up, you're going to be out of a job. There aren't any more people like you, nowadays. A new moral order is forming in our country

now. In this order, you're only left with what you made. The loser can go to hell. Look, because of your attitude, even your wife left you." But to no avail. He wouldn't listen to what I said and just kept on his own stubborn way. If nothing else, he would report unsafe drivers to the police and hospital management to the health department.

KADIR- So you're saying he opened his eyes?

HALIT- And how!

KADIR- So he changed his ways.

HALIT- Yes, he did. When he came back to work after seeing you, I was the first to notice the difference. When he saw me, his first words were, "General Manager, sir...I thank you for having me see that doctor."

KADIR- Wow...

HALIT- You told him to be understanding towards his wife and that was enough. I think the source of his entire transformation was hidden in that statement.

KADIR- Would you like something to drink? Tea, coffee, or a cold Coke?

HALIT- I could drink something cold.

KADIR- One moment. (*Goes into the secretary's room, joins GUL*) Were you able to cash it?

GUL- Yep.

KADIR- Okay...leave it in your bag...Bring two Cokes from the fridge.

(*KADIR goes back into the waiting room*)

KADIR- So that's how it is...

HALIT- I mean, Tahsin is actually aware of the world around him now. He wasn't late in proving it.

52

KADIR- What did he do?

HALIT- We had hired three new employees. He took their first paychecks as a bribe. You may ask how I know this. Because one of the new employees is my nephew. But of course Tahsin didn't know he was my nephew.

KADIR- That's too bad...I did Tahsin harm.

HALIT- What do you mean, too bad? As soon as I found out, I made him assistant director. The fact that he showed one of the first good signs of fitting in to an order made the board of directors very happy. If even in a small position, having an employee go against the stream and disrupt everything was making them quite uncomfortable. We immediately called him into a meeting and congratulated him on his new position. He said he was going to work harder and thanked us all. We could see happiness and the love of duty in his eyes. He was giving us the good news that he was going to fit in with the order. He didn't waste any time in suggesting that five new employees should be hired to replace five old ones who were about to retire. Can you understand what I'm getting at, doctor? Five new employees means five first paychecks.

KADIR- You aren't joking, are you, Mr. Akar?

HALIT- No joke, I'm just telling the truth. I can see you aren't aware of the new order, either. In the new order, all businesses are going to be privatized. Only those with money will be seen by doctors, educated, and allowed to make a living. Those who do not make the cut will die, be left in the open, and starve. In the new world order, there is no room for the weak. For one hundred years, they have been fighting in vain for equality. We cannot force the strong and the weak to be equal. This is finally understood. In that case, all that we hold to be true must change. On every street, every corner, everywhere that can be seen, there will be signs that read, "If he can do it, let him!" "The Loser can go to hell!" "Every man hangs by his own neck!" and "He who saves

the ship is the captain!" Yes, these truths must be posted, so that the people can learn. Tahsin is now a captain who saved his ship. Thanks to you, doctor.

*(GUL enters with Cokes)*

HALIT- Thanks, sweetie.

GUL- Bon appetite, Mr. Akar. *(Goes into her room)*

HALIT- He's late.

KADIR- Who?

HALIT- Tahsin. We were going to meet here. He wanted to thank you. Then we were going to ride into work together.

*(Phone rings)*

KADIR- See, it works now.

HALIT- Good.

GUL- *(Picks up)* Hello? Yes, doctor. One moment...*(Sticking her head in)* Telephone...

KADIR- If you'll excuse me...*(Goes inside and picks up the receiver)* Hello? It's me. Yes, Dr. Ahmet...Thank you...Thanks...It's finished...It looks great...It's dry... I'm going to let Dr. Turgut know in a little bit so he can come and see it. When are you coming to Istanbul? You're in Istanbul? When did you get here? Where are you now? In about fifteen minutes? Of course, of course, sir. Goodbye. *(Horrified, he hangs up...To GUL)* Dr. Ahmet is back from Germany. He'll be here in a little while.

GUL- How could it be? He was going to be here in two days.

53

KADIR- How should I know? He said he took a shower and that he was going to dry his hair and come right over.

GUL- Oh, no! What are we going to do?

KADIR- We have to get them out of here right away. First, let's take care of Mustafa. You go inside and tell Mr. Akar that I have some work to do.

GUL- *(Goes into the waiting room)* Mr. Akar, is there anything else I can do for you?

HALIT- Thanks, sweetie, no.

GUL- The doctor has some business to attend to...

HALIT- No problem. This office is my barn. I'll just sit here. Let him go about his business.

*(Takes a newspaper out of his pocket and begins to read it)*

KADIR- *(Sees Gul enter)* Bring the package.

GUL- What package?

KADIR- The one you got from "The Habit Boutique," bring it quick.

*(GUL goes into kitchen and returns with a package)*

KADIR- *(Takes package)* Don't leave this spot. *(Goes into examination room)* Look, Mustafa, you're fine now. I'm going to send you on your way today.

MUSTAFA- Today?

KADIR- Yes, in a little while. It isn't right for you to stay here for no reason.

MUSTAFA- But I payed you for five days.

KADIR- And I payed for the meals. We can call it even.

MUSTAFA- No, I can't go outside.

KADIR- Wait, don't get excited. I know they're waiting for you outside. But nothing's going to happen to you. You're going to walk right before their eyes like a good little boy.

MUSTAFA- How do you know all that?

KADIR- Do you really think I'm that stupid, Mustafa? You got into contracting despite those guys and you got the bid. Now they're going to kill you. When you didn't tell me, I didn't raise the issue. What else could I do?

MUSTAFA- You can't send me out knowing that! *(Draws a gun)* I'm staying here.

KADIR- Put that gun down, Mustafa. Look, I took all the proper precautions. *(Opens package, pulls out a black chador, a pair of shoes, a pair of glasses, and a hand bag)* Put these on. We're going to get you ready and you're going to get out of here. Why do you think I got your measurements? There's nothing to fear, Mustafa. If you don't leave, we'll get in even bigger trouble. You and me both. The other day, they came in here with the excuse of using the phone. They showed me your picture and asked about you. By the time we got them out of here, we had to lie through our teeth. But now, there's nothing left to do. Because they're searching every apartment in the building. Don't be afraid. If you do as I say, we'll get you out of here as easily as pulling hair from butter.

MUSTAFA- When they asked about me, why didn't you tell me?

KADIR- I thought about it, but it wouldn't have done any good because I hadn't taken any precautions yet.

MUSTAFA- Now have you?

KADIR- You'll soon see. *(Calls)* Miss Guul!

GUL- *(Enters)* Yes, doctor?

54

KADIR- Help him get dressed.

GUL- *(Opening the package)* Take off your jacket.

MUSTAFA- You're going to leave me without a jacket?

KADIR- Don't ask such useless questions! We're going to put it in this bag. You have to take your shoes off anyway.

MUSTAFA- I'm going to walk around barefoot?

KADIR- No, you're going to walk around like Tarzan of Greystoke. Don't be stupid. And don't ask any more questions.

*(GUL begins to dress a stunned MUSTAFA...The doorbell rings)*

KADIR- I'll answer it. You do your job. *(Exits)*

MUSTAFA- What if they're here?

GUL- Stand still! *(Listens)*

KADIR- *(Looks through peephole...Since HALIT is inside, he is forced to open it)* Welcome, Tahsin.

TAHSIN- Are you Kadir or Ahmet?

KADIR- The one that's a doctor.

TAHSIN- My God, my God. Is Mr. Akar here?

KADIR- He's inside...come on in.

HALIT- Come on in, my dear Tahsin. You're late.

TAHSIN- General Manager, sir...My wife and I made up.

KADIR- You did?

TAHSIN- Thanks to you, doctor.

KADIR- What did I do?

TAHSIN- What else could you do?

HALIT- Like I said, doctor...you opened his eyes.

KADIR- With your permission, I'm going to go inside for a moment.

HALIT- Attend to your work, doctor.

TAHSIN- (Seeing KADIR leave) This doctor has a brother...you would think it was him...He's a painter...But they look so alike, you'd be stunned.

*(TAHSIN and HALIT continue discussing things, inaudible)*

KADIR- *(Having seen MUSTAFA dressed in black habit)* That's it.

GUL - It fits perfectly.

MUSTAFA-The heels are tight.

KADIR - You're the one who said nine-and-a-half. It's your fault,not mine.

GUL - I barely got them on him.

KADIR - Let me see you walk. Put the bag over your shoulder.

*(MUSTAFA strugg very hard to walk. It is obvious he is having great difficulty)*

MUSTAFA- I had better wear my own shoes.

KADIR- Great on top, crap on the bottom! No way! Walk around a bit and it'll get better.

GUL- If only they could get rained on...

MUSTAFA- How long do I have to wear the heels?

KADIR- Until you get in the cab we call for you.

55

MUSTAFA- Then how will they get rained on?

KADIR- Don't ask meaningless questions, Mustafa! Now practice walking a little. I'll get you a cab.

*(Exits)*

*(As MUSTAFA starts walking around the room with GUL's help, KADIR finds the cab company's number from the list of "important numbers" on the wall)*

KADIR- *(Dials)* Hello? Hurry! Can you send a taxi? Yolpalas Avenue, Akin building...We'll watch from the window...We'll come right down...don't be late! *(Hangs up and rejoins them)*

How is it? Can he walk?

GUL- As you can see, he's having a hard time.

MUSTAFA- I can't go down stairs.

KADIR- You're going to take the elevator.

MUSTAFA- I need someone to hold my arm.

KADIR- For how long?

MUSTAFA- Until I reach the taxi. Otherwise I'll fall down.

KADIR- What do you mean, someone?

MUSTAFA- You.

KADIR- No way.

MUSTAFA- Yes way...*(Takes KADIR's arm...walks)* It's hard, but I can do it. You see?

KADIR- I can't risk the danger.

MUSTAFA- If there's danger, why are you sending me out there?

KADIR- There's no danger, but still, just in case.

MUSTAFA- *(Sits)* If it's "just in case," I'm staying here. Whatever's going to happen can happen here. At least I won't die in women's clothes.

KADIR- *(Sees that MUSTAFA is trying to take off the habit)* Wait! Don't look on the dark side just like that! We'll find a solution. Try walking around more. Let me see if the taxi is here.

*(As MUSTAFA keeps trying to walk, KADIR goes into the waiting room)*

KADIR- I haven't been able to spend time with you. Please forgive me.

HALIT- Please go about your business, doctor. We aren't strangers.

KADIR- *(Looks out the window)* Where is that car?  
HALIT- What car?  
KADIR- I called a cab. It still hasn't come.  
TAHSIN- You said car and it reminded me. *(Gets up and points out the window)* Do you see that black car?  
HALIT- Yes...  
KADIR- What about that black car?  
TAHSIN- It was there the first day I came to visit you. It's still there.  
KADIR- I never noticed it.  
TAHSIN- If you ask me, it's a suspicious car. And there are four suspicious people inside.  
HALIT- Maybe it's an unmarked cop car.  
TAHSIN- We'll find out now. *(To KADIR)* What's the name of this street?  
KADIR- Yolpalas Avenue.

56

TAHSIN- Isn't this the Akin building?  
KADIR- You learn quick, Tahsin.  
TAHSIN- If you allow me, may I use the phone?  
KADIR- Of course.  
TAHSIN- Don't be afraid. They won't know it's from here.  
HALIT- *(As TAHSIN goes into the secretary's room)* Routine sane is worse than raving mad. He's gone back to his old ways.  
TAHSIN- *(Dials)* Hello? Is this police emergency? A black car has been waiting outside the Akin building on Yolpalas Avenue for the past four days. There are four suspicious characters waiting inside. We thought it might be an unmarked police car. On the off chance that it's a terrorist vehicle, I decided to let you know about it, as that is my duty as a citizen. Please prevent them from doing any harm. It's my responsibility, sir, my responsibility. *(Hangs up and goes into the waiting room)* It isn't a cop car.  
HALIT- I thought you weren't going to stick your nose in other people's business, Tahsin.  
TAHSIN- Everything has its limits, General Manager, sir.  
*(As all three look out the window, the doorbell rings...KADIR checks and then opens it)*  
KADIR- Miss Nurten?  
NURTEN- I came to see Mustafa.  
KADIR- I know. Come on in. *(He enters first...To the habit-clad MUSTAFA, who is trying to hide in the wardrobe)* It's nothing. Relax. *(To GUL, who is about to object to NURTEN's presence)* She didn't come for me, she came for him. They're going to get married soon. Come on, let's leave them alone.  
*(KADIR and GUL leave them...Since NURTEN isn't aware of MUSTAFA's disguise, she just stands there. GUL goes into the secretary's room...KADIR goes into the waiting room and looks out the window)*  
MUSTAFA- What's the matter? Don't you recognize me?  
NURTEN- *(Startled)* Aaah!  
MUSTAFA- *(Unveils himself)* Don't be afraid. It's me.  
NURTEN- What's with the outfit?

*(NURTEN listens to MUSTAFA's hushed explanations as the doorbell rings. GUL looks through the peephole. KADIR closes the waiting room door and joins her)*

GUL- It's Dr. Turgut! Let's not open it!

KADIR- *(Thinks for a minute)* Give them warning so they can hide.

*(GUL hurries inside...She motions for them to hide...KADIR opens the door)*

TURGUT- Hello!

KADIR- *(Quietly)* Welcome, Dr. Turgut.

TURGUT- Did you know Ahmet's in town?

KADIR- Yes, I did. I was going to let you know. The paint job's done.

TURGUT- Why are you talking so softly?

KADIR- There are two police chiefs inside.

TURGUT- *(Afraid)* What happened?

KADIR- I don't know. I guess they're watching the suspicious car across the street. I think they suspect they're terrorists.

57

TURGUT- *(Peeks in the waiting room)* I hope there isn't a shootout here. All the walls will be ruined. They call this a stakeout? They're just sitting in front of the window.

KADIR- They don't even act like cops. They look like just regular old citizens. Why, you'd think one was the head of a large corporation.

TURGUT- And the other the head of personnel!

KADIR- No, assistant director.

TURGUT- *(Smiles a bit)* Wow, these police chiefs are strange characters. Look at them staring out the window. It's like they're watching a movie.

KADIR- But they could pull their guns and start shooting at any moment.

TURGUT- That's why we have to be careful. Did they tell you they were cops?

KADIR- No, they didn't. I gleaned it. They thought I was the doctor. I played along.

TURGUT- You did well. Even these guys would be nice to doctors. After all, they need us.

KADIR- Am I going to get the rest of the money from you or from Dr. Ahmet?

TURGUT- *(Without taking his eyes off the men inside, he reaches into his pocket and takes out a wad of cash...He gives it to KADIR)* And sign that paper. Ahmet is very fastidious in these matters.

KADIR- You keep looking. I'll go get a pen from the other room and sign it. *(Goes into the secretary's room...He looks for a phone number and dials it...Quietly)* Hello? Give me Turgut! Quick! Where is he? Now listen to me very carefully, Miss...Find him right away. There's a fire in his apartment building. Tell him to come home quick! I'm his neighbor. Don't waste time! Hurry up!

*(Hangs up. Signs the paper. To GUL)* When the phone rings, call Turgut. Understand?

GUL- I understand.

*(KADIR quietly rejoins TURGUT)*

KADIR- Did I miss anything?

TURGUT- No, they're just waiting there.

KADIR- Here's the receipt. I signed it. You can give it to Dr. Ahmet.

*(They wait a while...The phone rings)*

GUL- *(Answers)* Hello? One moment. *(Putting down phone, quietly, to TURGUT)* Dr. Turgut! Telephone!

TURGUT- *(To KADIR)* They really have great timing...You wait here. *(Quietly goes into the secretary's room...Picks up the receiver)* Hello? That's me...I'm busy, make it quick...I'm

talking quietly because the operation's going to start in a minute...Tell me...Yes...Where? At my apartment? Who? My neighbor? Right away, right away! (*Hangs up quickly...Quietly but hurried pokes KADIR...Quickly but hushed*) There's a fire in my apartment! I have to go.

KADIR- (*Opens the door, as TURGUT leaves*) Good luck! Good luck! (*To GUL*) Problem solved. Tell them to get ready. I'm going to look for the taxi.

(*GUL goes inside and helps MUSTAFA and NURTEN out of the wardrobe...When KADIR goes to the window, honking sounds are heard at regular intervals...KADIR makes a sign to the driver that they're coming...The honking ceases after a shout that sounds strikingly like foul language...As KADIR closes the waiting room door and crosses to the examination room*)

TAHSIN- Look, the police car is here.

HALIT- But they stopped.

TAHSIN- Where's that cop going? Why'd the car in front open its trunk?

58

(*KADIR enters the examination room*)

KADIR- The taxi's here. It's right in front of the door. All you have to do is walk out of here and get in the cab. Why'd you take off your shoes? Here I am trying to save your life, and you're sitting there...

MUSTAFA- You take me down.

KADIR- Let the woman you're going to marry escort you down. Women love adventures. Isn't that right, Miss Nurten? Take her arm...

GUL- First tell him to put on his shoes.

MUSTAFA- Can I at least not wear heels?

KADIR- Don't drag it out, Mustafa. I said no.

(*MUSTAFA hurriedly tries to put on the shoes, but he has problems*)

KADIR- You were wearing them just a minute ago!

MUSTAFA- My feet are swollen.

KADIR- They'll fit! They have to fit! Quick! They're almost here!

(*MUSTAFA tries really hard and puts on the shoes...He hides his face and takes NURTEN by the arm...With difficulty, they walk to the front door...KADIR quietly opens the door and veritably pushes them out...He closes the door quietly*)

KADIR- (*Takes a deep breath*) Whew!

(*The doorbell rings...KADIR looks out, doesn't open it*)

MUSTAFA- (*Yelling from outside*) The bag! The bag!

KADIR- (*To GUL*) Go bring the bag from inside.

(*As GUL flies inside and brings back the bag...*)

MUSTAFA- (*From outside*) The bag! The baaag! The shoes! The jacket!

KADIR- (*Opening the door halfway*) Keep your panties on! She's bringing it. (He hands him the bag GUL has brought, immediately closes the door and breathes a tremendous sigh of relief)

KADIR- They're gone, right?

GUL- They're gone.

KADIR- Really, I can't believe it...we made it, right?

GUL- No, not yet. You forgot the ones inside.

KADIR- Oh, yes. We'll pull the same number on them. Find me Mr. Akar's card.

GUL- (*Looks*) It's supposed to be around here. Humph!

KADIR- Find it quick! Dr. Ahmet'll be here any minute. Quick...You can't find it! You won't find it!

GUL- It's not here! What can I do?

KADIR- We had better ask him for one.

GUL- What?

KADIR- Of course...You'll see. (*Quietly enters waiting room, gets close to them*) Did I miss anything?

HALIT- (*Sotto voce*) They're talking to the cops.

TAHSIN- My god! The cops are giving the suspects money.

HALIT- There's nothing to be surprised about. They're giving them the rest of the money they changed for them.

KADIR- We lost your card, Mr. Akar.

59

HALIT- (*Takes one from his inside pocket and hands it over...*) The cops are taken care of, too. Now my trust in the future of this country is complete. (*As KADIR goes into the secretary's room and talks quietly into the phone...*) Justice, security, healthcare, the prime ministry, even the parliament...Now I believe the system is falling into place. The new world order has reached our country.

(*KADIR signals for GUL to call HALIT when the phone rings and goes inside...He watches...He is nervous...All of a sudden, we hear gunshots outside...HALIT and TAHSIN lie on the floor...KADIR continues to watch...From the noise of the taxi, it is understood that MUSTAFA and NURTEN got away...Silence...The phone rings...GUL answers*)

GUL- One moment...(Comes to waiting room) They're calling you from work, Mr. Akar.

KADIR- (*In a normal voice to the bent over HALIT*) The danger is over, you can walk normally.

HALIT- (*Picks up the receiver*) Hello? That's me...What happened? What?! Call the fire department! Give them the right address...I'm on my way there...Tell the firefighters I'll give them a lot of money...Don't forget, a lot of money! (*Hangs up*) There's a fire at my house.

KADIR- I'm sorry.

HALIT- (*Stops for a minute, smiles*) That was a good one.

KADIR- You had better get going, Mr. Akar.

HALIT- Don't get nervous, I'm going. In fact, I'm taking Tahsin with me. But first, let me call my house.

KADIR- Don't bother. Don't be late.

HALIT- You played the part well from the start. But don't forget this, I figured out the truth when you started painting. Don't take me for a fool.

KADIR- Please...

HALIT- Don't mention it, Kadir.

KADIR- But...

HALIT- Drop it already. I really like you. Plus, I owe you my life. And I like you. Your losing my phone number and then getting it from me again was the icing on the cake. You are a wonderful example of the new world man. You know, you also owe me a receipt. Tahsin is stuck on that. I wouldn't want you to sink after swimming so well. Sign it and give it to me next to him. Tahsin! (*TAHSIN enters...HALIT draws KADIR to him and kisses him on both cheeks*) Keep at it. You will most definitely succeed. Tahsin, we had better get going. They've prepared the agenda for the board meeting. You're probably going to be promoted to director of personnel. (*As he takes the receipt KADIR has signed*) What need was there, Dr. Ahmet? Well, goodbye.

(To GUL) Aren't you going to show us the door, sweetheart?

(*GUL comes...HALIT and TAHSIN exeunt...KADIR closes the door, breathes a sigh of relief and hugs his wife...Happily but exhausted, they collapse on the couch*)

GUL- Mr. Akar didn't seem to be running for a fire.

KADIR- Don't worry about that. You know what they say, do a good deed, and then forget about it.

GUL- Stop, this isn't the place.

KADIR- All right, all right.

(The doorbell rings again and again...They rise and straighten themselves up)

KADIR- Look before you open it, just in case.

60

GUL- (*Looks*) It's the guy who said, "This fool will screw everything up," when I first got here.

KADIR- Let me take a look, too. (*Looks, and then opens the door with a smile*) Come on in, doctor.

AHMET- (*Comes in*) Oooh! Ooooh! (*Looks around the waiting room and the examination room*) Oooh, great job, Kadir! You really are as good as Turgut said, I congratulate you.

KADIR- Thank you, doctor.

AHMET- No, I thank you and your wife.

GUL- It's our job, sir.

AHMET- Didn't Turgut come?

KADIR- Yes, he did, and he gave me the rest of the money. I signed the receipt and gave it to him. Then he got a phone call and ran out in a hurry. Here are your keys.

AHMET- Thank you. I'm really happy with you. Would you paint my house, too, one of these days?

KADIR- When we finish moving, why not?

AHMET- Then I'll be waiting to hear from you.

KADIR- (*Getting his things together*) You have one can of paint leftover and one can of grease paint. If you'd be so kind, we'd like to use them in our new home.

AHMET- Take them, of course. Oh yes, you were looking for a home.

KADIR- We rented one.

AHMET- See, no one's on the street. You got nervous for nothing.

GUL- But it was hard, doctor.

KADIR- If you'd excuse us, we had better not be late, doctor.

AHMET- Of course, thank you for everything.

KADIR- Goodbye, doctor.

GUL- Goodbye.

AHMET- Bye bye. Great job. I'm waiting to hear from you, Ridvan.

KADIR- (*From outside*) Kadir! Kadir!

AHMET- I screwed it up again! Thanks, Kadir. (*Closes door after them...Happily looks around...He is pleased with the job...The phone rings, he answers*) Hello? Hey, where are you? It's great, how could I not like it? I don't understand...fire? Weell...so what happened in the end, Turgut? So then why are you upset? Yees...Rea 's happening, WOMAN and HITMAN enter and point their guns at AHMET...AHMET raises his hands, too...On the phone, TURGUT keeps yelling, "Hello," as the curtain slowly drops)

**Curtain**

First edition, August 1, 1996

Second edition, February 10, 1997 Istanbul