

**WOMEN'S SAFEHOUSE**  
(A Two-Act Play)

By **TUNCER CÜCENOĞLU**

Copyright © March 2010 by Tuncer Cücenoglu

[cucenoglutuncer@gmail.com](mailto:cucenoglutuncer@gmail.com)

[www.tuncercucenoglu.com](http://www.tuncercucenoglu.com)

English Translations From Turkish By

Muzaffer Eriğ, M.S.E. & Gülsün Paydak, B.A.

Copyright © September 2010 by M. Eriğ & G. Paydak

[muzaffererig@gmail.com](mailto:muzaffererig@gmail.com), [paydakgulsun@gmail.com](mailto:paydakgulsun@gmail.com)

Dedicated to my close friend *Güner Erdemir*

# TUNCER CÜCENOĞLU

Playwright

[cucenoglutuncer@gmail.com](mailto:cucenoglutuncer@gmail.com)

[tcucenoglu@hotmail.com](mailto:tcucenoglu@hotmail.com)

[www.tuncercucenoglu.com](http://www.tuncercucenoglu.com)

Biography:

Born in Çorum/Turkey in 1944.

Graduated from the University of Ankara, **College of Language, History, and Geography.**

Member of the **Turkish Writers Union** and **International Pen Club Turkish Center.**

Dramatic playwriting professor in **Near East University of Cyprus** and **MSM (Müjdat Gezen Art Center)** Private Conservatory.

Theatre section director in “**Mitos Boyut Publishing House**”.

## **Scripts:**

**Chaos, The Teacher, Poor Women, Dead End, The File, Biga – 1920, The Gamblers, Helicopter, Kemal The Thunder, Matrushka, The Visitor, The Hat, The Painter, Neyzen Tevfik, Red River Ballad, The Avalanche, Theatre Men , Who Killed Sabahattin Ali, Green Night, If I Were a Poor Man, Che Guevara, My Mustafa Kemal, The Nightclub, Women’s Safehouse.**

## **Awards:**

Tobav(2), Turkish Women Association (1), Ankara Art Society (2), Abdi İpekçi (1), İsmet Kuntay (1) , Avni Dilligil (2), İTİ (1), Kasaid (1), Lions (2), Cultural Ministry (1), Muhsin Ertuğrul and 2 international awards (Yugoslavia and Holland).

His plays are translated into Russian, English, German, French, Bulgarian, Greek, Macedonian, Swedish, Georgian, Urdu, Japanese, Romanian, Azeri, Tatar, Polish, Chuvash, Serbian, Spanish, Arabic, Farsi (Persian).

Some of the plays (The Avalanche, Matrushka, Dead End, The Hat, The Painter, Poor Women, Red River Ballad, The File, Helicopter, The Visitor) have been performed or in the repertory of various companies in more than 40 countries.

Bio-sketches of the Translators of the Play “Women’s Safehouse”, September 2010

**Muzaffer Eriğ, M.S.E. ([muzaffererig@gmail.com](mailto:muzaffererig@gmail.com))**

Mr. Eriğ has been serving as a language instructor and translator for the University of Michigan Romance Languages Department, School of Education, and the Health Management Research Center located in Ann Arbor-USA, as well as an adjunct faculty of the Eastern Michigan University, College of Technology located in Ypsilanti-USA. He is a former instructor of the Turkish 402, Turkish 202, and Turkish 550 -Anatolian Poetry-courses taught in the Near Eastern Studies Department of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Campus. Mr. Eriğ is a published author of several academic journal articles, IIE Journal, Clinical Biomechanics, AIHA, Assembly, Fabricator, etc. He also is the sole editor and translator of the English version of the “OSMAN HAMDI BEY, The Archeologist, Publications of the Turkish Business Bank 87”. While he was working as a "Human Factors" research scientist for the College of Engineering of the University of Michigan, instructor Eriğ carried on translation and interpretational duties in the languages of Spanish, Turkish, Portuguese, and English for eight years.

Mr. Eriğ has been a multi-lingual editor and a contracted translator to the UBE Industries of Japan, under the BELCAN Services Corporation of the USA. Instructor Eriğ has served as a North American Free Trade Act Programs teacher consultant for the General Motors Corporation since 1993 and the Ford Motor Company since 1990, in addition to his public school instruction deliveries in English Language Arts, Academic Writing, and Spanish Language for the Washtenaw County School Districts of the State of Michigan since 2005. Mr. Eriğ is the University of Michigan alumnus (85& 86) with a Master of Science double major degree in Human Factors & Applied Mechanics, the Graduate of Arcadia University American Language Academy (83) with a minor in languages, and the ITU alumnus (Istanbul Technical University, 82) with a major in Mechanical Engineering.

**Gülsün Paydak, B.A. ([paydakgulsun@gmail.com](mailto:paydakgulsun@gmail.com))**

Mrs. Paydak-Steen studied English literature and history at Ataturk University of Erzurum province, Turkey where she got her B.A. in English Literature & History. She worked for Turkish State Theatre and private theater companies as an actress and performed in numerous plays. She took part in the TV series while working for the Theatre...Theatre...Magazine as an editor, interpreter, and the coordinator for the international theatre festivals that took place in Istanbul. Mrs. Paydak-Steen also was a pupil of Mr. Tuncer Cücenoglu, a renowned play-write. She took classes on “Play Writing Art and the Technique” from him.

The first theatre play that Mrs. Paydak-Steen wrote was awarded by Turkish Ministry of Culture and Women 's Social Life Association (KASAIID) in 1999. She joined several international theatre workshops in Istanbul-Turkey, London-England, and Scotland. Her theatrical interest include, but not limited to; Children’s Theatre and Augusto Boal’s Forum Theatre, seminars of Grips Theatre- Wolker Ludwig of Berlin, and works of Simon Malbogot of Toronto, who is an artistic director of Mixed Company theatre group in Toronto. She has actively been delivering instructions of English Language Arts and Drama in High Schools of Izmir, Mugla, Istanbul and Ankara provinces. She is an oral exam committee member and a mentor of the AFS (American Field Service), an international exchange student program.

## - PREFACE-

Worldly renowned poet **Nazım Hikmet** describes the women in his poem as follows.

### WOMAN

Some says about woman;  
She is for long winter nights to sleep with  
Some says a woman is meant to be  
In the middle of a green harvest  
Getting her to dance as a hired dancer  
Some says, “she is my dream lady  
An obligation that I carry on my neck”.

Some says she is meant to be kneading the dough  
Some says she is meant to make kids though.  
Neither is she for this or that, for bed or for dance,  
She is my arms, legs, my head, my counselor,  
My baby, my wife, my sister, my mother,  
All and all, she is my life partner.

The founder of our republic and our supreme leader **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk** elevated the status of women numerous times as follow:  
“There is no scientific probability or a technical feasibility for a society to develop unless it advances to a common goal with its women and men together.”

“The very reason for a failure to succeed in our society is our neglect and fault toward our women”

“Our objective is to make Turkish women our partner in our work, to continue our lives with her, and to deem Turkish woman man’s partner, friend, associate, supporter in scientific, ethical, social, and economical life.”

It is so fortunate that our supreme leader **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk** and our public poet **Nazım Hikmet** lived in our world.  
May their final resting be in peace and light  
I am dedicating my new play “Women’s Shelter” to all the women of the world because today is March 8th, World Women’s Day.

**Tuncer CÜCENOĞLU**  
8 March, 2010, İstanbul.

## CAST

**LADY DUDU:** About 75-80 years old. From city of Corum. She got kicked out of her son's house after getting beat up by her daughter-in-law.

**FİDAN:** 17 years old teenager. Lady Gullu's daughter. Highschool senior student. She loves her father very much but accompanied her mother while she was running away from a cheating husband.

**DENNISE (DENİZ):** Around her 20s. She is from Adana. Middle School graduate. She is quite beautiful. Reportedly, she looked for remedies to get a way from the oppression of her family living in the slums of the city of Istanbul. She was hooking on the streets and around cafe's. Then she took a shelter this Safehouse. She was put through vocational courses and job placement.

**ALGERIA (CEZAYIR):** About 35 Years old. From Erzurum. Her husband tried to put her under veil. She resisted and took a shelter in the safehouse. She is having nightmares. Everynight she gets stoned. She wakes up with fears, and cannot recover for a long time.

**ROSEY (GÜLLÜ):** Around 38 years old. From Ordu. Elementary school graduate. When her husband got hooked into mistresses from up north, she ran away from her hometown ORDU and took a shelter in the Safehouse. She brought along only her daughter Fidan. Because Fidan is the one that her husband loves the most among their four children.

**SMYRNAEAN (İZMİRLİ):** In her mid 30s. She lives up to her name, from Izmir. Her husband is a taxi cab driver, drunk and gambler. They lived in the slums of Istanbul. At first abuse, she got fed up with the beating then ran back to her family. When she could not fit in, she returned to her marital home. After the intimidation at home, she took off (ran away) with her husband's friend who happened to be visiting often. However, her lover abused her too. She returned to her husband when her lover attempted selling her to a local brothel. She could not put up any further with her husband's abuses and ran to the shelter in the Safehouse.

**ZEYNEP (ZEINA):** In her 40s. From Istanbul. She is the administrator for the Women's Safehouse. University graduate. Married with one child. She has marital problems.

**SERAP:** In her mid 20s. From Ankara. She is a psychologist. She is a staff member of the Safehouse. Single. Collage graduate. She has a fiancee'. They are trying to get married but have financial problems that they cannot get over. Her fiancee' has to go a way for a military service.

**NAZAN the CHARITY LADY:** In her 40s. She is from Istanbul. She is jazzed up and flamboyant. She is not happy at home. She devoted herself to a charity work.

**DIYARBAKIRITE: (DIYARBAKIRLI):** About 17 years old. They call her DIYARBAKIRite but Her real name is Zılfo.

**HATUN:** In her 50s. Zılfo's mother. She desperately had to accept the tribal laws, reportedly.

## Stage Setting

The living room of the Safehouse. An American kitchen. An ordinary couch set. A dining table in the living room. Typical reproduced paintings on the wall. A window facing the street. A TV set hanging on the wall. An ordinary stereo set. Doors leading to bedrooms and outside. A dedicated door to the bathroom, which is visible for the last scene. An additional space to be used as a psychologist's office.

Place: Istanbul (or any city)

Season: Fall

Time: Present

## - ACT I -

*(FIDAN gets out the bedroom, slowly shuts the door. She is wearing sweat shirt and sweat pants. She turns the TV switch on right a way. Turns it back off after realizing that the TV set does not work. Moves in front of window. While looking through the windows, her cell phone rings.)*

*(Bedrom door opens, and DUDU comes out. She is in her night gown. Closes the door. Walks limping and quietly, and turns the TV set switch on. It does not work. Turns the TV switch off and moves to the restroom.)*

**FIDAN:** *(She checks the caller ID on the cell phone. Answers with excitement. Whispering)* Hello..Yes. Nobody is in. I am in the living room (lounge). I have just gotten up. I am listenning...

*(Gets emotional. She is about to shed some tears)* Okay...Fine. *(She cheers up)* Really? When?

*(Lady DUDU comes in. Tries to figure out what is going on, with curiosity)*

**FIDAN :**Okay. I will come. Okay. People here are going to get up soon. Do not call, text me. That way nobody will understand. Fine. *(She notices DUDU)* Okay. Understood....Yes. Fine. Mee too... *(Hang's up the phone)* Goodmorning Auntie Dudu.

**DUDU:** Good morning Fidan. Whom have you been talking to?

**FIDAN:** A classmate from highschool.

**DUDU:** *(Suspiciously)* What is she telling?

**FIDAN:** *(She hesitates)* Nothing.

**DUDU:** What you mean nothing? I 've herd you were talking about something.

**FIDAN:** Nothing serious. "What about the registration?" She asked. *(Changes the subject.)* The TV set is not working auntie DUDU.

**DUDU:** Oh yes. May be the electricity is cut off.

(Fidan turns on the light switch, then the living room lights up)

**DUDU:** I meant it is cut off at the city center. It was working last night.

(Suddenly) Do not do anything wrong!

**FİDAN:** I do not understand.

**DUDU:** Look, this is the City of Istanbul. It is not like Ordu

**FİDAN:** Why are you telling me these?

**DUDU:** Do not upset your Mother.

**FİDAN:** I will not upset my Mom. What can I possibly do anyway?

**DUDU:** You are a beautiful Girl. Guys in Istanbul are quite different from yours in your home town.

**FİDAN:** We are secluded here. Do I go out or socialize with anyone?

**DUDU:** Everyday you go out to buy newspaper and bread. Lots of guys are around the marketplace. They may fool and stray you.

**FİDAN:** Nobody can fool and lure me Auntie Dudu.

**DUDU:** They may fool you. Guys of Istanbul know the ways to lure in girls. They all are devils. That guy, he was looking at you like hawk.

**FİDAN:** Which one?

**DUDU:** The one in the grocery store. Skinny and boney thing. It does not skip my attention. You were laughing. You both were whispering. You think I did not see?

**FİDAN:** He asked where I was from. I told him I was from city of Ordu. He did not ask anything else anyway.

**DUDU:** Look, they always start hitting on you that way. Do not tell me later on that I did not warn you.

**FİDAN:** He already was from neighboring town Samsun. He said he was my homeboy. That is all we talked. Do not mention these to my Mom. She misunderstands.

**DUDU:** Why should I mention?

**FİDAN:** How would I know? Do not talk about the guy in the supermarket. If you talk about my incoming phone call, then she is gonna dig in. Agreed Auntie Dudu.

**DUDU:** I won't say anything even if I knew all about it. You can tell me everything. I know how to keep a secret.

**FİDAN:** I have no secret.

**DUDU:** If so, why do you get worried.

**FİDAN:** I am afraid of her misunderstanding. You see?

**DUDU:** Yes

**FİDAN:** (She takes it cool) Dad will get very upset too. I do not want to upset him ever.

**DUDU:** You mean to upset your Mom instead.

**FİDAN:** We should not upset Mom either. But never upset Dad.

**DUDU:** How could your Dad hear about it?

**FİDAN:** Just in case he hears about it. He gets upset about my mistake. He gets very upset. He loves me so much that you can not imagine. So many times he watched me while I was sleeping. He used to check on me throughout the night. He used to leave me alone than come back again.

**DUDU:** If he had really loved you, would he have caused you such misery? Would he have slept with staranger sluts of someone?

**FİDAN:** It is a different business. My Dad was not the only one at fault.

**DUDU:** You should have warned your Mom.

**FİDAN:** I warned her many times. Does Mom listen to what I say? No! Dad is an angel Auntie Dudu. Those fancy women, and Mom's frowning face too...Do not go there Auntie Dudu. (She changes the subject) It is time to get up for everybody. How many loaves of bread do we need?

**DUDU:** (She moves into kitchen. Looks around) Four is enough. Better make it five.

**FİDAN:** Anything else? Besides the daily paper?

**DUDU:** Nothing.

*(Fidan puts her raincoat on. Ties up the head scarf. Takes the grocer's tab book to buy on credit)*

**DUDU:** Make sure to have the grocer put a date on the Tab book for groceries. It causes a confusion in the account otherwise.

**FİDAN:** I won't forget. *(She leaves)*

*(DUDU moves into kitchen by swaying her head from side to side. Fills the tea pot with water. Lights the gas range up, turns the TV switch on. It does not work. Turns the switch off. Walking slowly she wipes the table off. Quietly, she sets the table up and counts the plates and silverware)*

**DENNISE:** (Appears from her bedroom. She is in nightgown. She is carrying her clothing. Turns the TV switch on. She drops her clothes on the sofa. She is in a hurry.) Goodmorning Auntie DUDU.

**DUDU:** Goodmorning the beauty of Getto district. You rise like a sunshine again. The TV is broken. How are you my child, my Dennise?

**DENNISE:** I am fine my Auntie DUDU. When did you get up?

**DUDU:** A while ago.

**DENNISE:** *(Passing in to bathroom)* I wish you had woken me up.

**DUDU:** I could not dare to break up your sleep.

**DENNISE:** (Hollers from inside her bedroom) I have to leave quickly today.

**DUDU:** I was about to wake you up anyway.

**DENNISE:** *(Drying her face, she rushes in)* Supposedly, big bosses are holding a meeting today. I should call their attention often. Is it not true Dudu Teyze?

**DUDU:** That is right. Out of sight, out of heart. The more you appear the better it is.

**DENNISE:** *(She is putting her make up on too)* Today is the payday too. I am gonna get my first salary. Tonight, you are gonna have my treat cake, that means.

**DUDU:** God willing my daughter.

**DENNISE:** How much do you guess they are gonna pay me?

**DUDU:** It is set already, isn't it?

**DENNISE:** The lady manager said "we had better not ask, it may be offending". Then I did not ask. God help me to get a good salary from them. I told the boss just in case. "We are two girls renting a home", I said. He asked about how much the rent was. I told out right. He thought a bit.

**DUDU:** It is not the rent only. Food, groceries. Commute to work.

**DENNISE:** The house is close to work. I will walk. Just as you said, food, groceries, clothing. *(She is getting dressed)* It all costs money Auntie.

**DUDU:** *(She places the breakfast plate right in front of her)* I wish you quit smoking too. It also is an expense.

**DENNISE:** Once I have streightened out my livelyhood income, I will quit, I promise.

**DUDU:** Quit it, quit it right now! You are still young, and unaware of the smoking damages. However, you suffer a lot in the future. I had quit years ago but I am still coughing. *(places the tea cup on the table for her)* Go on, do not let your tea get cold.

**DENNISE:** *(While having her breakfast, she is getting ready for work too)* How can I forget your goodness graciousness my Auntie Dudu? Not even one day you have sent me off to work without giving me a breakfast, while attending my classes or going to work too...My dear Auntie. *(She hugs and kisses DUDU)* You are the only one I can count on.

**DUDU:** You go ahead and explain this to my daughter-in-law .

**DENNISE:** I will tell her Auntie DUDU

**DUDU:** I was not any different from a maid of the house. I used to get up very early, and prep the breakfast for my grandchildren and son. I used to get the kids dressed, prepped and sent off to school. My silly son used to go to work. I was the one doing all the house work. House laundry in a mountain...I was in back pain from the work load. I had to lay down to rest wherever I could. What was I asking in return? Just a bowl of soup. She even made a fuss about my food. The woman was not a decent daughter-in-law... She was sleeping on her fat ass till noon. She raised a hell just because I gave an advice once or twice. What did I do? Saying "Early bird gets the bait and plentiful". She got offended apparently. She never liked me in the first place. She never said "Thank you mother" even for one day. I wish I never gave her a wisdom. I wish my tounge froze. At last, she beat me up and :

She is not the one at fault actaully Auntie.

**DUDU:** Is it my son's fault?

**DENNISE:** Yes. He was supposed to protect you.

**DUDU:** Do not make me laugh

**DENNISE:** My grandfather used to say, “The man of the house has the final say”. Your son could have prevented his unfair wife from treating you disrespectfully.

**DUDU:** He couldn’t have. Because he is just a pimp. He always held that vulgar bitch with high esteem. She never handed over a cup of tea to my pimp son. Even if she did, my son used to wink at me to get my help for everything. (She emmitates her son) “Mom, let us not tire my baby. Kids are wearing her down”. The one he calls “my baby” is actually a mule who never deserved to be my daughter-in-law. She was so lazy that she would have asked me to give birth to her children if she could. Anyway, she resented the pregnancy first three years of their marriage in order to preserve her body figure.

**DENNISE:** You mean she never cooked meals or sort?

**DUDU:** (Smiling) She used to cook once in a while. Once she cooked a chicken. She threw an unclean chicken with guts into a pressure pot. The chicken dissolved all its guts at the bottom of the pot after cooking naturally. She served a plate to my pimp son in the beginning of the dinner. You can not imagine how my son was gubbling it up. Just like taking a bitter pill. On the side, chattering “Good health to your skilled hands baby”. I took a bit of taste to make sure. Then what I get. A poison. I spitted out, otherwise I would get a food poisoning. I asked her, “Didn’t you clean the guts of this chicken my dear daughter”? Guess what she said? “I supposed the market cleaned the guts of the chicken then I did not bother.

**DENNISE:** (*She is laughing her guts out*) What a nice emmitation you are doing auntie Dudu. You should have been an actor.

**DUDU:** (*She likes the compliment*) I am used to acting my dear. My life got consumed by acting to appease the daughter-in-law. Do you know what was the hardest to swallow?

**DENNISE:** What happened Auntie?

**DUDU:** When my daughter-in-law beat me up and threw me on the street, my pimp son searched and found me. I was waiting at the street corner for him to come back from work anyway. I mean, for him to get me from the street. Because I had no place to go. He approached me with a sad face. Hhe said “Let us go home mom”. I put out some reluctance and said “I won’t go”. I was planning on going back anyway after putting up some demureness. I said “ I shall not return to the house where I got beaten up again”. What do you guess he says? “Her arm is in a bandage mom. She can not do any house work. Kids are in a mess. Please show no hesiation, the house needs you for an order and cleanyness.” Why should I hide the truth that God knows? I felt sorry for her. I thought she had fallen down. I thought the arm injury was from her fall, I mean. I asked “What happened, where did she fall down?”. Can you imagine what he said? “*She twisted her arm while beating you. Please have a pity on us, come home. The house is a mess!*” You see my dear, he still was feeling sorry for his violent wife beating me up? He had a pity on her arm which had stricken me! He

did not even see my black eye or bruises on my arms. I could not put up with it any longer and shouted, “Fuck you dumb ass!” then spit on his face.

**DENIZ:** You did the right thing! Nice!

**DUDU:** I turned my back and went away. Then I took a shelter in this safehouse, you know the rest.

**DENNISE:** It is better not to have such a son! I hope he gets worse!

**DUDU:** *(She still feels sorry for her son)* No badwish for him. Do it for the daughter-in-law if you are gonna curse.

**DENNISE:** Her hands may get broken Godwilling! I am praying to my Allmighty for *Him* to bless me with a Mother-in-law just like yourself. Look, this is from the bottom of my hearth Auntie DUDU.

**DUDU:** May God grant your heart’s wish my daughter.

**DENNISE:** This is exactly whay I fell. *(in a kidding manner)* Don’t you have a single batchelor son my Auntie? I will mary him without hesitation.

**DUDU:** All my kids were girls. They all passed away very young. They went to the other world in a hurry. The only surviving baby lause was my pimp son among them. Godbless my late husband and I raised this son of mine as a spoiled baby. May be this was the reason for him acting just like a baby lause, a nit, who knows?

**DENNISE:** Your story is even more sad and heart breaking than mine Auntie.

**DUDU:** It surely would have been a TV series script of I told the whole story. Many things happened unimagivable. Have you ever asked why my I was limping on this s leg? Go ahead, ask. Feel free to ask.

**DENNISE:** Why? *(Checks her watch)* But tell me quickly.

**DUDU:** *(She tells the story delightfully)* We were living a two story wood-frame house hen they were just married. It was a make shift house. With a stairway leading upstairs. One day, we are climbing down the stairs. She, Soyka the daughter-in-law, suddenly fell all over me. I fell down the stairs like a snow ball. *(Shows her leg)* It was broken in two places. Chiropracty and therapists. We spent all our small savings on the treatment. But no use, my leg stayed handicapped like this.

**DENNISE:** Well....? What does it have to do with your daughter-in-law?

**DUDU:** You really are naive my dear daughter. She pretended her foot slipped and pushed me down the stairs!

**DENNISE:** *(She can’t believe)* It is impossible, how could she get a way with that!

**DUDU:** If her foot slipped, then how come she did not fall rolling down he stairway? Look, think about it. Think it through. While holding on to the handrail, she pushed me down the stairway by using her other hand. Still I see that picture like yestarday.

**DENNISE:** *(She stands up.)* Oh well my Auntie. I should not be late. You will tell me more later. I can not have enough of your stories. Good bye for now

**DUDU:** I have plenty of stories! I will tell you one day. You will be astonished!

**DENNISE:** Okay my Auntie.

**DUDU:** Godspeed. May God clear your path.

**DENNISE:** Amen. May God give my boss some sense of justice so I can get a fair salary.

**DUDU :** God willing my dear daughter

**DENNISE:** Pray for me,

**DUDU:** I will pray for you. Good bye my dear.

*(Dennise leaves house while swaying her head from side to side. DUDU keeps praying for her and placing breakfast plates on the table along with the food she prepped for breakfast... The door bell rings three times, in a "codified manner". DUDU opens the door. Fidan arrives)*

**DUDU :** Why are you so late?

**FİDAN :** It took the supermarket staff some time to unbundle the newspaper piles, I had to wait for the bread warm from the bakery too. Look Auntie Dudu, the V set overthere is working fine. *(She drops of her grocery packages, turns the TV switch on again. No luck)* This is broken.

**DUDU:** We were watching it yesterday.

**FİDAN:** Apparently, something has broken inside,

**DUDU:** Alas! we are going to miss two TV show series. Was the young guy there in the supermarket?

**FİDAN:** *(Pretends she nas no idea)* Which young guy?

**DUDU:** The one from the city of Samsun.

**FİDAN:** He was there

**DUDU:** Did he hit on you again?

**FİDAN:** Where did you get such an idea Auntie Dudu.

**DUDU:** *(She takes the bread out of bags. Touches to check the temperature)* Go on, wake up everybody. Let them eat their bread while still warm.

**FİDAN:** *(Opens the door to the bedroom and hollers)* Goodmorning. The breakfast is ready.

**ROSEY:** *(She enters. She still is sleepy)* Goodmorning

**DUDU:** Goodmorning my dear daughter. What happened, could you not get your sleep.

**ROSEY:** *(Whispers)* I cold not blink my eyes. ALGERIA, she did not let me sleep again. I am drouzy and dizzy.

**DUDU:** Once I pull the quilt over my head, I never wake up even with a canon ball fire.

**ROSEY:** No use. She fights with the quilt and bed. *(Turns on the TV switch)*

**DUDU:** It is broken, apparently.

**ROSEY:** Why?

**DUDU:** I have no idea.

**ROSEY:** *(Turns the TV switch off)* Anyways, the Safehouse association represantative is supposed to come in today. She will get it fixed.

**DUDU:** Thank God she helps out with our needs.

**ROSEY:** If we count on our municipal staff, we would be lost. The city government does not care about our Safehouse. Thank God Lady Nazan exists from the foundation

**SMYRNAEAN:** (*Comes in. Energetic*) Goodmorning guys (gals)

**ROSEY:** Goodmorning **SMYRNAEAN**.

**DUDU:** Goodmorning

**SMYRNAEAN :** You have not turn the TV on,

**DUDU:** It is broken apprently.

**SMYRNAEAN:** It should be repaired today. (*Approaches the table, tears off the tip of the bread loaf.*) What a nice breakfast table my Auntie? May good health be upon your skillful hands.

**DUDU:** Enjoy it.

**SMYRNAEAN :** You have gotten us used to your cooking the meals. Whay will we do after you are gone.

**ROSEY:** She won't be gone.

**SMYRNAEAN:** She will get her turn. That is she is here temporarily.

**ROSEY:** You never know? God knows?

**SMYRNAEAN :** The winter is coming. Many elders pass away. What a cruel system, isn't it? Someone has to die for a bed to clear for Auntie Dudu in the needy senior living

**DUDU :** Who knows, may be I will pass away.

**ROSEY:** Never say such a thing, may winds blow your thoughts away from your lips

**SMYRNAEAN:** I did not hear this. May God give you a long life and prosper.

**DUDU:** Prayers have no use. When it is time, we all pass away. It is possible to get down six feet under in a coffin while waiting for a bed in the "Needy Senior Living" foundation.

**ROSEY:** Please repent. Look, the life still is beautiful inspite of all hardships.

**DUDU:** I did not say the life was bad. There is nothing to repent anyway.

**However, headache excuse is for the fool, once the death arrives to take the soul.**

**ROSEY:** It is not u to us. You said it yourself, we all go when the time comes. It is the verdict of the Almighty.

**DUDU:** Still, my heart is not in peace. I wish nobody had to die for me to get a place in the "Needy Senior Living". It is a last resort residency to wait for the death. It is hadr to keep the morale while living there. It is very depressing to loose all hope. Needy Senior Living residency is such a depressing place.

**SMYRNAEAN :** Is this place very good? What sort of a hope do we have left here? You are asking for the sun in the moon. They try to pull alot of favors for you to get into senior living. It is not possible for ordinary people. Even the mayor tried to pull some strings for you.

**DUDU** : Do not say such a thing. Let us not loose all hope before the soul leaves the body. I am content with staying with you gals till I die. Look I got to know you all. None of you are waiting for death to arrive.

**SMYRNAEAN**: *(She enters the bedroom)* Get up...come on get up. Come on!

*(ROSEY and FIDAN take a seat at the table. CEZAYIR comes out of the bedroom)*

**DUDU**: Goodmorning

**ALGERIA** : Goodmorning

**SMYRNAEAN**: Goodmorning ALGERIA.

**ROSEY** : How are you my child?

**ALGERIA** : How can I be? I got stoned again till the morning. I had a tough nightmare. My Dad was among the public stoning me.

**DUDU**: Good luck. It shold be good to dream about your Dad.

**ALGERIA** : What is good about it? He was throwing at me the pile of stones right in front of him non stop. “ Do not throw Dad” I was screaming. I could not get him to hear my voice at all. He did not know it was me. Would he stone me if he knew.

**ROSEY**: *(Other ladies whisper)* How is this gonna end? The same thing every night.

**ALGERIA** : You were also there. All of you. Auntie Dudu. Gullu.

**SMYRNAEAN**. Fidan. The lady manager. Even Lady Serap was there.

**DUDU** : How did I look in your dream?

**ALGERIA** : You were exactly the way you are now.

**DUDU** : What was I doing?

**ALGERIA** : You were picking up the stones. Then you were passing them on. Throwing some at me too.

**DUDU**: Repent. I do not do such a thing to anyone.

**SMYRNAEAN** : This is only a dream

**ALGERIA**: I remember know. You were serving the people tea too.

**ROSEY**: *(Asks with hesitation)* What was I doing ALGERIA?

**ALGERIA**: You were knocking my head off with stones given by Auntie Dudu. And you were grinning at times.

**ROSEY**: Dreams come true just the opposite. That means I was sad for you.

**ALGERIA**: Would you throw stones if you were sad? You were throwing non-stop. You even were passing what you have collected on to Fidan.

**ROSEY**: Oh come on ALGERIA! Would I throw stones at you? Would I let them throw at all?

**ALGERIA**: I am dont have desires to tell lies either. I am telling exactly what happened in my dream. *(Turns to SMYRNAEAN)* You too kicked up a large stone. You grabbed it with two hands since it was too big. Then you smashed it on my head. I tried blocking it off with my hands. No use? *(Desribes with hand gestures)* They apparently buried me up to my neck in the ground. The stone was

so big that the blood started squirting off my head. The lady director was shouting, “You have got to bear the consequences” without stopping

**SMYRNAEAN:** Did you see lady Nazan from the charity association too?

**ALGERIA:** Off course I saw her! She was carrying stones in a wheel barrow to the square. She then was emptying the wheel barrow to go back and fill it up. Look I remeber it now. There was other stuff the wheel barrow. (She reflects) Food. Apples. Even the bag of roasted chick peas was there.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Because she actually is supplying us with groceries and charity, you are dreaming with those.

**ALGERIA:** Lady Serap was screaming at me too...

**ROSEY:** What for?

**ALGERIA:** She was telling the same stuff as usual. “This is not really happenning! It is just your imagination”, she said. But she did not hear me. All of the supermarket staff was stoning me! That animal who was supposed to be my husband was yelling non-stop, “You did not listen! Did not follow Islam! There is much more to come!” Blood coming of my head created a pond right there

**DUDU:** That is enough! (*Holds out a mirror to CEZAYIR’s face*) Where, where is it? Look up here! Is there any injury on your head?

**ROSEY:** (*She feels ALGERIA’s clothing*) Look you have sweated out and dripping. Go ahead and change your underwear. You are getting ice cold too. (*Gullu helps her by the arm to get up and go to the bedroom*)

**SMYRNAEAN:** Let us inform the psychologist Lady Serap for an urgent session again.

**DUDU:** For what use?

**SMYRNAEAN:** Do not say that. She seems relaxed for at least three to five days. Otherwisem this is gonna get bad. I am afraid of her loosing her mind if this keeps going on.

**DUDU:** Maybe they will hospitalize her. This may be the best.

**SMYRNAEAN:** We shall tell the Safehouse director too. They should find the treatment!

**DUDU:** She cannot think straight either.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Be quiet. She can hear you.

**DUDU:** We are just talking for her benefit.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Still, it is better that she does not hear,

(*CEZAYIR and GULLU come back. Take a seat at the table. Fidan alrady poured tea for all*)

**DUDU:** Bon appetite, enjoy it.

**ROSEY:** Thanks

**SMYRNAEAN :** Wow. You have cooked eggs. How about some scrambled eggs with tomatoes and green peppers and groundbeef some day Auntie Dudu.

**DUDU:** If you get me the ingedients, sure I can cook.

**ROSEY:** We shall ask the Charity Lady about it. All it takes is a pound of groundbeef and half a dozen eggs.

**DUDU:** Ask for garlic too.

**ROSEY:** If it is just the garlic, it is simple. She will get it all for us.

**DUDU:** It will be delicious then.

**SMYRNAEAN:** It should be spicy too. Pour some crushed hot peppers too. *(She really pours the red pepper over her eggs)* I cannot resist hot spices. The more I eat, the more I get an appetite.

**DUDU:** Maybe that is the reason you are a hot chick.

**SMYRNAEAN:** *(Eating with a great appetite)* Let us imagine this is eggs scrambled with ground beef and tomatoes, a good appetite for me.

**ROSEY:** *(She sees Fidan eating in a hurry)* My little daughter, slow down. You should chew first. Nobody is taking it away from you.

**SMYRNAEAN:** You are gonna get stomach cramps.

**ROSEY:** Are you late to get somewhere!

**FIDAN:** I can not resist, what can I do?

**ALGERIA:** I am cold. I am freezing,

**ROSEY:** *(Goes into the bedroom. Brings a sweater. Puts it on CEZAYIR)* You are not taking care of yourself. You are gonna get sick. You should change your undershirts and underwear all at once if you have a nightmare in a sweat.

**ALGERIA:** Thanks a lot

*(Fidan finishes her breakfast. Moves on to the armchair. She is having her tea and reading the newspaper)*

**FIDAN:** Oh my God!

**ROSEY:** What happened

**FIDAN:** Just a minute Mom

**SMYRNAEAN:** Tell us what happened kiddo.

**FIDAN:** We heard some gunshots yesterday, you remember? That is it, the newspaper is writing all about it. *(They all hear an insistent car honking outside)*

**SMYRNAEAN:** Ahha, here comes our guy!

*(SMYRNAEAN gets up and moves to the window. Checks outside behind the curtain)*

**FIDAN:** *(Drops the paper. Moves near her. Looks outside)* He is here again.

**DUDU:** As if he were punching in a time-card.

**SMYRNAEAN:** He deserves the coffin board!

**ROSEY:** *(She comes over the window. She hides behind the curtain and checks outside)* You can not get rid of him easily my little daughter!

**SMYRNAEAN:** Look at him...He is drunk again!

**ROSEY:** *(She is kidding)* Maybe he is in love, then drunk.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Shameless pimp!

**DUDU:** The love listens to no shame.

**SMYRNAEAN:** I am falling more out of love since he behaves like this.

**DUDU** The more you pull back, the more he is going to chase you. You know what is the best thing to do?

**SMYRNAEAN** Yes I know. I should get down and beat the hell out of this mule right know! I did it once anyway!

**ROSEY** When was it?

**SMYRNAEAN:** He came home drunk as usual one of those days. It was before dawn. I had just fallen asleep. I opened my eyes feeling a heavy weight over my body. He was smelling stiking alcohol and garlic. I pushed him but could not have enough power. She was just like a dead mule over my body. And he was trying to get his pants off. I managed to slipp off under him. Then I got on with the drill on him using the heavy weight wood-stick that I had saved for the occasion just in case! I busted his head...eyes...what ever I could beat on with all I got. And know the devil tells me to get downstairs get o him and.....

**ROSEY:** Stop!

**DUDU:** Oh please!

**ROSEY:** This is an official Safehouse building! We are gonna be a laughing stock in the neighborhood too!

**DUDU:** The lady director is gonna be very upset too!

**SMYRNAEAN:** Tamam tamam! Bırakın işte! (*Pencereden bakar görünmeden.*)  
Şuna

bak şuna! Nasıl da yalpalıyor.

Okay okay! Let me go! (She looks through the window and hides behind curtains) Look at him! He is swaying, can not walk stright

**DUDU:** Was he drinking in daylight in the past?

**SMYRNAEAN** It is a new habit.

**ROSEY:** Isn't he holding an envelope in his hand? He wrote a letter again obviously. He is going to hand it over to the director lady again.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Damn with his letter! Why a women runs away from her house? Besides, I left three times so far. How can you put up with such a guy! No good luck for me, those other guys that I took a refuge with were no different either. I returned home everytime after realizing that my crazy husband was the least crazy of all. Otherwise, I would have become a street slut! But I have no patience left for him. I will never return home! I had better become somebody's whore rather than going back to him in that house!

**ROSEY:** Calm down.

**DUDU:** Do not go back if you don't want to.

*(They move SMYRNAEAN away from the window)*

**ROSEY:** *(She asks Fidan)* Bring a glass of water

*(SMYRNAEAN drinks the water brought by Fidan)*

**SMYRNAEAN** He is a certifiable crazy. He pays a bundle and gets poetic scripts painted on his car. One day you can see al over his car (she pretends) "I have learned singing blues from Ferdi, playing string instrument from the composer Orhan, and loving from bard Ibrahim" scripsts. He asks the stupid

question, “How does it look?” Then I have to say “Looks good to keep the peace” He spends another bundle and comes up with another script painted over his taxi cab two weeks later,

“I found a bar across the cemetery,  
And if you look for me one day,  
Then you can find me in the bar or in the cemetery!

He asks “How about this?” again and again,  
Then you are compelled to say “It looks good” in vain.

In short, he is a certifiable idiot.  
*(Other ladies are hardly holding their laughter)*

**ROSEY** You mean he was a fun guy.

**SMYRNAEAN!** (Standing) Hell with his fun!

**DUDU.** If I were you, I would just laugh at him and let it go,

**ROSEY** What else scripts did he get painted on his car?

**SMYRNAEAN:** He got plenty of poetry scripted all over? *(Thinks it over, recites them up)*

“If you have money, stand up to the people as a gentleman,  
If you have no money, go home to be a fatherly man”

**ROSEY** Did he used to come home broke?

**SMYRNAEAN:** Yes, he used to come. He used to run to the paintshop by even giving it up all down to his underware in order to finance his scripts painted. He was a funny guy actually. I used to enjoy his humor sometimes. At the beginning of our marriage, he used to say “I am getting all those scripts painted for you”. He had gotten many phrases spelled out;

“I could not get enough of sleeping with you and dawn time is blue”.

“Does your car go to prayes at Mosque, mine is a clio product”.

“When loved, the beauty shows her demure and coy,  
Ramming the FORD engine is a joy”.

“Get a Diesel FORD, love the town beauty in an accord”.

“If you have no space for a seat in your heat my dear,  
No worries, I will take the trip standing in the rear”.

“If you cannot see my point of perception,  
Then put out your antennas for a better reception”.

“Ring me once and hang up if I malfunction,  
I surely will call you back in a reciprocation”

“Let not the lady’s smile fool you,  
Or the winter blizzard sun mislead you”.

Afterwards he acted silly and foolish:

“Rather than marring and going on the honeymoon,

I would rather have a fun with lads under the bluemoon”.  
He tried taking me for a fool. He meant to say he can sleep around.

“Stab the dagger down my heart,  
To get it split apart,  
Push it not too deep or hard,  
Down inside filled with your love and our hearth”

**ROSEY** Look, the last one was nice.

**DUDU** He feels for you, really! The guy is in love with you!

**SMYRNAEAN:** In love? Which love? He is giving a message. Try to understand! His last script used to be, “Attention: Single one on board” Look at the faggot! What is he implying? “Come to papa” to other women. Do I look like a fool? I got him caught red handed in his taxi cab one day. I walked down the taxi cab stand to check o him one day. Coworkers said, “He drove his customer away”. While walking to get to the main road, what do I see? He pulled over at the street corner, and hooked up with some street slut looking gal in his taxi cab. Beer bottles in hand, they were drinking in the car near the gas station. God knows, which whorehouse he got the slut from! I asked, “What are you doing here”. Grinning his face, he said, “We are gettig some diesel fuel, her destination is far away abit”. The fuel is just a foreplay. Afterwards, he already was planing on getting his business done. The gal was in no shape to be worth the trouble either... I swear that I would have said, “go ahead” if she were worthed. This was the last incident after which I ran away from home without looking back.

**ROSEY** I swear you got all the right to be angry

**DUDU** He shouldn’t have done that.

**ROSEY** He went too far!

**SMYRNAEAN** I would not return to that house again even if the time of armageddon has come! Am I not justified?

**DUDU** Guys are stupid. They do not appreciate their good looking wives at home, then look for fun outside with those not worthed. There is a wisdom in the proverb (“Neighbour’s chicken may seem like a wellfed goose to the other neighbor”). The grass on the otherside of the fence is always greener

**ROSEY** Was mine any different? He was occupied and steady at work. He had a regular work routine. He objected to nothing. Once he got hooked into a Georgian from the north, he lost his mind. Ordu is just a tiny city. Everybody knows each other. The whole town got aware of his change once his passive personality got changed for a completely different womanizer one. Except me off course. Neighbors tried to give me a hint, but I presumed for a long time that they were talking about someone else.

**SMYRNAEAN** How did you notice?

**ROSEY** My man is a merchant. By then thank God, we had a comfortable and prosperous life. However financial strain started after that women arrived in town. He was saying, “Just spend the money carefully, the economic crises is everywhere. He was pinching the pennies. I was saving on everything that I could. Then I found out by a surprise that he was renting a mention for his mistress (realizes Fidan is right there) Make those beds. Come on. Do not listen into the conversations!. (Fidan moves into the bedroom) I was going on a low budget the best I could because it was very hard to get my man who was spending out of control right back on the track. I did not give up still. I got her caught up redhanded in the act of adultery. She ran a way back to her homeland. All the way to Georgia. We were just about to have some peace and say Oh thank God, but we couldn’t! He found apparently another mistress. This time she was from Moldova. The saying goes, “Once the guy is hooked into mistresses, he is worse than a runaway horse”. All the guys in town went astray. Azeries, Russians, Khazaks. My uncle’s son even found a misstress from Khirgyzistan. To cut the long story short, I got fed up with getting beaten up and assaults then run away with my young daughter to come right here

**SMYRNAEAN:** You have a tough choices to make sister Gullu. Fidan has to goto school. You have no income. How are you going to make the ends meet?

**ROSEY:** I have some limited savings. Will see. We have got to find a way. I miss my children so much actually. Between you and I, my guy cannot stand being away from Fidan, his favorite child. I am hoping that he will come to his common senses eventually and show up right here to drive us back home.

**SMYRNAEAN:** What if he never shows up?

**ROSEY:** Let it be, what else can I do? If one door closes another opens up eventually. Let us se the bright side of it. May be this is the best for all of us.

**DUDU** Is there any news worth the attention in the paper.

**FIDAN** Apparently, there has been a murder in our district.

**ROSEY:** When?

**FIDAN:** We heard gun shuts yesterday, remember!.

**SMYRNAEAN:** One day I am gonna commit too.

**ROSEY:** How do you know she is here?

**FIDAN:** The put the picture of our county adminstrator. Here , look.

The county adminstrator reportedly said ‘ we are obligted to help out Z .That means, here...

**DUDU:** Go ahead, read it.

**FIDAN:** (*reads*)

It is a murder by tribal law. The guy whom miss Diyarbakir ran away with got shot five times.

**DUDU:** Forget about the headlines, read the text.

**FIDAN** Miss Diyarbakir has run away with her lower on the eve of her arranged marriage ceremony and arrived Istanbul just a week ago. Realising his daughter run away, Mr.KT (45) went crazy and assembled the family counsil . By

unanimous vote it was decided that Miss Z and her lover C will be killed. This duty was assigned to the younger brother M (16). Chasing both, M traced the runaway couple all the way to C's relatives in Istanbul. M came to Istanbul with his shotgun. M located the address and waited in front of the couple's house for three days and three nights without any sleep. A meatball vendor T (34) around the corner told us the story how M waited there as follows: He bought meatball sandwiches when he got hungry and he had butter milk as a drink on and off. Finally fugitives stepped out side.

M valiantly pulled his gun and fired on C. and M put multiple holes on C. In the heat of the moment Z took a refuge at the police station next street. However M managed to flee into the crowd. C sustained five bullet wounds and was taken to a nearby hospital by an ambulance however, he lost his life while taken to the hospital ER. Miss Watermelon from Diyarbakir is in the photo, look the other photo shows C been taken to the hospital.

**ROSEY:** How can a man kill his own sister.

**SMYRNAEAN:** There is a tribal law and honor killings in those areas.

**ALGERIA:** I have been getting stoned and telling you all about it but you do not believe me.

**ROSEY:** Tribal law is a factual reality ALGERIA. Your's however is a hallucination.

(Gullu turns on the radio. The music is playing)

**DUDU:** She is a beauty actually.

**ROSEY:** She looks like a movie actor.

**DUDU:** This is not a good news that her older brother managed to escape. Eventually he is gonna find a way to erase Z.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Our county administrator is gonna protect her. Her brother won't be able find her.

**ROSEY:** How is he gonna protect her? Is he gonna keep her locked in his house.

**SMYRNAEAN:** In fact, they should have put her brother's picture in the newspaper. He would have not been walking free on the streets.

**ROSEY:** Hey, that is true.

**DUDU:** How the heck they are gonna find his picture.

**ROSEY:** From his hometown Diyarbakir.

**SMYRNAEAN:** The press can manage to get the family address from the Miss watermelon pageant. They can catch him if anyone recognizes and reports him. Then Z is gonna go be saved.

**ROSEY:** Many people are not going to report. Once they hear that is a matter of honor killing, the people are gonna keep quiet.

**SMYRNAEAN:**

Actually it is newspaper's fault. Why should they disclose her whereabouts.

**ROSEY:**

It there exist a tribal law, ultimately you get killed. How come she got into this fleeing business although she knew the consequences waiting for her.

**SMYRNAEAN:** If there is love, everything comes easy. She is blinded if a woman wants a man.

**DUDU:** Passion and desires guide the couples in love. The common sense is gone, and they act only on heartfelt emotions. Inshort, loving soul obeys no proclamation!

(They all get quit. A car honks outside. Then an engine sound of a car in motion.)

**ROSEY:** (Looks throught he windows) Your guy is leaving. He is gone.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Let him leave and hopefully never come back.

**ROSEY:** That means the director of the safehouse is coming. Once he hands over the letter, he is done and gone.

**ROSEY:** I told you so. (Opens the door) Welcome lady Zeynep

**ZEYNEP:** (She enters. She is carrying an envelope and a folder. He has one black eye. She is wearing sun glasses) İyi günler hanımlar. Good afternoon ladies

**DUDU:** Welcome lady director

**SMYRNAEAN:** Welcome

**ALGERIA:** Welcome

**ZEYNEP:** Aren't you welcoming me Fidan? Are we now not talking.

**FİDAN** Do not say such a think Auntie Zeynep?

**ZEYNEP:** I was kidding. (Talking to SMYRNAEAN). Your guy changed the script painted on his car again. This time is reads "Let me die in your arm sweetway, but not on the highway.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Thanks director.

**ZEYNEP:** You're not going to be able to get rid of this man easily! He is here every day.

**DUDU:** What's happened to your eye? I wish you get well soon.

**ZEYNEP:** (She lies). I happened to open the main door to the apartment building. When the door man pushed the door accidentally...

**ROSEY:** I wish you get well soon

**SMYRNAEAN:** God saved you apparently.

**DUDU:** This is an eye injury, the most delicate precious organ.

**ZEYNEP:** Oh well...It is not a big deal.

**DUDU:** You should have pressed some dough on it. Or a piece of raw meat. It would have taken the inflammation away. It had helped you with you leg injury while ago, remember?

**ZEYNEP:** I have stoped by the municipality doctor's office. He placed some ice on it, and did what he could. Thank God, my apartment is on the street right behind the doctor's office building. (Changes the subject) How come you have not turned the TV on.

**DUDU:** It is broken apparently.

**ZEYNEP:** It was working fine?

**ROSEY:** We watched it last night, then turned it off.

**SMYRNAEAN:** It did not work this morning

**ZEYNEP:** Hold on I am coming. (She drops off the folder on the table then moves on to bathroom) We will get it checked out.

**DUDU:** She got assaulted again.

**SMYRNAEAN:** She thinks she is fooling us!

**ROSEY:** She is ashamed, I suppose

**SMYRNAEAN:** May be it got hit from your stones while you were throwing at me. (She is kidding CEZAYIR who has been knitting)

**SMYRNAEAN:** What if she takes a refuge in this Safehouse soon!

**ROSEY:** Never say never, who knows! (*DUDU has been making some coffee for ZEYNEP*)

**ROSEY:** If I were in her shoes, I would never stay in that house even one more second. She is college educated. She has a good salary. She can earn a living. She would not be unemployed. What is she waiting for?

**SMYRNAEAN:** Her husband seems to be a gentleman, you know. Actually, it is unbelievable! He is a quiet and retraining kind. Only if I see with my own eyes, I believe that he beats up his wife.

**DUDU:** You should be beware of quiet types.

**ROSEY:** And the chubby short ass types too.

**DUDU:** For sure he is beating her up. She was crying and telling to Lady Serap, I heard.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Is crying going to solve the problem? How far can you manage by hiding the beating?

**DUDU:** (Whispering) Maybe...(She gives up on giving her opinion) It is better that I do not get involved in this business!

**ROSEY:** You should finish what you have started talking about.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Come on, tell us auntie Dudu.

**DUDU:** Some people enjoy getting beaten up.

**SMYRNAEAN:** What do you mean?

**ROSEY:** Oh my God, I have aged another year.

**DUDU:** We used to have a neighbor called MERGUP. He used to work for the Government office. He was walking around with a purple eye and wounded head. His wife used to beat him up on regular basis each week. On top of that, he used to tell us the story about how she was beating and battering him. We told him to get separated. Can you believe what he said? "We got used to. We are getting along fine! She does not have a powerful punch either!", he used to say

**SMYRNAEAN:** What do you mean?

**ROSEY:** I got aged another year

**SMYRNAEAN:** What are you getting to?

**DUDU::** I do not mean anything specific (*ZEYNEP comes and they all shut up*)

**ZEYNEP:** (She gets suspicious) What have been talking about.

**DUDU:** About the weather and the rain.

**ZEYNEP:** *(She takes the coffee that DUDU made for her)* You all got quiet all of a sudden, that is why? Thanks Auntie DUDU. I wish a “Good Health” for your skillful hands

**DUDU:** Enjoy it, bon appetite

**ZEYNEP:** You seem bothered, worried

**DUDU:** TV quit working.

**ROSEY:** We won’t be able to watch the TV show series

**ZEYNEP:** Lady Nazan will show up soon and will take care of the TV. Hey SMYRNAEAN, what did your hubby wrote about?

**SMYRNAEAN:** I did not take a look. He writes the same stuff each day.

**ZEYNEP:** Keep those. They are interesting letters. We can submit them to a publishing house, then get printed. You are gonna make some money. Go ahead read them, come on. I got hooked into these letters. Your husband is a strange character. Just the type to write about. I surely can use his material if I publish a book about this Safehouse in the future.

**DUDU:** It is opt ot her.

**ROSEY** Let her read. We all know all about her private life.

**SMYRNAEAN:** *(She opens the envelope. Pulls the lettet out. She does not seem to be happy about the situation)* He wrote like legend again. Let Fidan read it *(She gives the letter to Fidan)*

**FİDAN** *(Mektubu alır. Okumaya başlar)* *(Takes the letter. Starts reading)*

My Dear Yeter, First of all my greetings be upon you before I start my lines. Last night before down, our son Ozturk was sleeping in my bed when he wet his bed. He got me wet too. I got cold and woke up. It was ten minutes to four am. I got up and changed him. He wet his bed later again. I had to change him again. I checked on Tolga and Imran and they were dry okay. I tried taking them to the bathroom, But they said they had no pee. They went back to sleep. I went back to bed but could not sleep. Ozturk started crying. “Why are you crying son?”, I asked. “My leg is hurting dad”, he replied. The I said, “I can take you to the doctor in the morning”. He said, “No you don’t, you left me alone so many times already”. “But I have to work to earn money”, I said. He fell a sleep. I wanted to light up a cigarette but I could not find my lighter. I went to the window and started looking outside through the windows. A cemetery called my attention. I got filled up with fear. I got shivering. I got cold. I got up closed the curtains right away. I laid down. Then all of a sudden ghosts appeared over the sofa and on the wall accross. I said to my self “Spirits came over just like humans”. Then I saw a ghost of a fully burned person. It was so badly burned that it was not clear if the ghost was a male or female. But I did not get scared. I thought, “They must have burried such people in this cemetery”. I wanted to sleep. I got tired od thinking. I dozzed off then all of a sudden woke up again. I took the kids, Tolga & Imran, to the restroom. Took them back to bed. I washed my face then started writing this letter to you. My past life went by just like a movie in my mind. My baby, my dear Yeter. This is a very sincere letter. Please forgive me first for our

arguments that we had when you returned home after your second running away. I was upset because of your distorted explanations. I was filled with disappointment and anger. However, try to understand how I possibly could stand or forget my supposedly good friend TURGUT's confessing to my face that you were cheating on me by having a love affair with him, and his making fun of me by yeeling to my face, "I was pumping your wife and putting horns on you, she is having a love affair." Then I put the knife to his throat. This is the other side of the coin. The guy that you cheated on me with is nothing but trouble. He is such a scam bag that he took your golden bracelet jewelry and spent your money, kicked you out, and left you naked. Did you not come back home after you have realized this? This guy Turgut even tried selling you as a prostitute and acted as a pimp? Haven't you experience these? Have you not tell me those? Look, I am going to tell you onething more. No other women entered my world or bed besides Sennur before you. You were always the one for me. Those pictures of me with the sluts was Turgut's manufacturing tricks. His purpose was to make you hate me. See what kind of a friend he was! As for oyu Yeter, you can not stay in the Safehouse forever. What are you going to do when they discharge you from the Safehouse. Are you going to stay with your Aunt's? Are you going to go to Mother's ot Tarik's? You cannot take a shelter forever. Are going to risk falling in to the hands of a pimp? You must think about your future. Now, I have two propositions for you. The first one is as follows. I do not want a home without you. Let us forget about what's happened in the past. Past is past, and please come back to your love nest. I got drained from living a part. Because nothing is cooking in our hearth; no smell of soup, pasta, or baked chicken. I got tired of looking forward to your surprises when I come home from work. My dear Yeter, this is my final call to you. Forget about the past too! Come back to our nest. So far I have been talking about the first proposition. Everything will be better than the past if you accept this proposition to return home. We will get our home in order and live happily after, hand in hand. Because from now on, I won't be in any relationship with either my friends or my extended family. Please believe this with all your soul. I love you. If I did not love you and adore you, would I come to your door step and turn in those letters that I wrote for you? Here you go, a guy in love can committ all sorts of crazy acts. You might still be angry with me. But you are not justified in being upset with me. Because it has not been all my fault. We both made mistakes. My dear Yeter, we have been through thick and thin, and we braved hardships and suffering together. We had many storms. However, we have stayed alive, and still survive. You know that I always had a faith. That is why I lived with my faith through this fire and stood up. I have discusses these with a spiritual counsel and he has told me the following: "No matter how much you are drunk, your faith and your holly book saved you from this fire because you took a refuge in your belief in God and his script. Holy book can't catch fire even if you throw it in to the fire. That is why you have survied the ring of fire!" That is

it baby. The first thing I am going to do is quitting the alcohol once you return home. Believe me, I love you as much as the first day. I want to know your terms too. Tell me all clearly. I promise to keep my good faith, daily practice, and free of sins. Now, here comes my second proposition for just in case you refuse my first proposal.

**DUDU:** The guy came to his senses

**ROSEY:** I swear he impressed me.

**ZEYNEP:** I believed him too

**SMYRNAEAN:** Let's hear his second proposal. Go ahead read my child.

**FİDAN:** (Keeps on reading) If you do not accept my first proposal, then I will do the following: Your enclosed private photos are going to be made into posters and put (glued on) on the city walls of Istanbul starting with Eminonu district. Then Cağaloğlu, Beşiktaş, Şişli, Taksim, Mecidiyeköy districts will follow. Bakirkoy and all other districts will be surrounded with your and your lover's, enemy of my honor, photos. That is, I will make you both famous. Even IETT city bus stops will be surrounded with your posters. Those posters will read "This is the woman who abandoned her 3 children and ran away with her lover, honor enemy."

**ROSEY:** God forbid, he is dangerous.

**DUDU:** Is he a nut case, really?

**SMYRNAEAN:** I have told you already but you did not believe me. There you go. You see?

**ZEYNEP:** Let's listen to the end of it. Read my child.

**FİDAN:** (*keeps on reading*) Do not forget that you are still married to me. I am going to get a restraining order against you so that you won't be able to see the children. Besides, you won't be able to divorce me for at least three years based on family law updates. I will get you caught red handed, prosecuted, and jailed when you commit an adultery while still married to me.

**SMYRNAEAN:** He is dreaming! Extra marital sex is no longer a crime. He has no idea about the law.

**FİDAN:** (*She keeps on reading*) Even if you get a decent job, then I am still gonna hire people to put a shame on you and scream at you "Slut, aren't you ashamed of abandoning your three children and running away with your lover". I have consulted with my lawyer. I am going to destroy you, in short.

**ROSEY:** Look at this, how unbelievable!

**ALGERIA:** This guy is dangerous.

**DUDU:** He has nothing to lose.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Shameless bastard!

**ZEYNEP:** Is the letter almost over.

**FİDAN:** There is a small part remaining.

**ZEYNEP:** Be quiet you all. Finish up the letter.

**FİDAN:** Now, which proposal are going to accept? If you choose the first one, then we are gonna be happy in our nest. Otherwise you are going to live with all

I am gonna do, or you are gonna take your life with your own hands. I will understand that you are ending this for good if you do not meet me in a week and tell my face straight that you are accepting my first proposal. Today is the first of the month. And be ready, on seventh of September, your posters with him will be surrounding the whole city of Istanbul. When I am ending my letter, let me remind you onething. If you are not coming back to your home, return your outfit. You should return to your own family the way you came to me. You did not own your clothing and belongings in your father's house. That is why I am asking you to return your underware, shoes, dresses, silver jewelry, your boots and all. Otherwise, all I say is gonna start on the date I told you. My best wishes. Your loving husband MAHMUT. Signature, Note: Do not think that I won't do. I have set aside 3500 dollars. I will pay prints, publications, and the man I am gonna hire. Because, I have made up my mind.

**SMYRNAEAN:** He is dumb and dumber.

**ROSEY:** I can not find a word to say!

**FIDAN:** He wrote a poem too.

**SMYRNAEAN:** I would be surprised if he did not write.

**FIDAN:** Shall I read?

**ZEYNEP:** Let us see, go ahead read it.

**FIDAN:** (*She reads the script poetically*)

I prayed for our love.  
To last forever.  
I was afraid if my jelous eyes  
Would bring you devil eyes.

I am loosing my sleep  
Worried you are gonna leave  
I wrote your name on the beach sands  
My beloved Yeter.

I begged the waves  
To keep your name on the sands  
I told the ferries  
Not to make some wakes

Believe me I am loosing my sleep,  
Over you are gonna leave me quick.  
I am praying for,  
Your return home quick.

Your husband who still loves you. He attached someting else. "My dear Yeter, I will show up in front of the safehouse for the last time on September 6th morning. However, I am gonna show up every morning until then, and honk my

car horn for inviting you downstairs. Face me. I will talk to you for sure. Come downstairs. Otherwise you will lose. You may be sorry after it is too late. (Thankfully she says) It is over.

**ZEYNEP:** How nicely you have dramatized the letter. Just as if you were acting.

**ROSEY:** *(She gets proud)* She took a place in the highschool drama performances.

**ZEYNEP:** Is is obvious, your daughter is very talented.

**ROSEY:** She surely is.

*(There is asilence for a while. SMYRNAEAN has been demoralized particularly)*

**DUDU:** (Approches SMYRNAEAN and taps or pads her shoulder) Do not worry about it.

**ROSEY** He can not do a shit.

**DUDU:** He is fired up. He is bipolar too!

**ROSEY** Barking dog does not bite!

**ZEYNEP:** It still is scaring

**DUDU:** He is out of control.

**ROSEY** He is dreaming about scaring you.

**DUDU:** He is biting while saying he loves you!

**ZEYNEP:** He is not certain of he wants to love you or beat you up.

**GÜLLU:** His first proposal sounded good actually. I was impressed too. What is the use of it, he pissed into it at the end. In his short mind, he wanted to threaten you to secure your return!

**SMYRNAEAN:** You do not know him. He is nuts for sure. Did I abonden the house just for nothing? I can not stand being without my kids either. *(Tears drop from her eyes)*

**ROSEY:** It is usual for the kids to have pain on their legs

**DUDU:** Kids grow up as they fall down and get back up.

**ZEYNEP:** Do you mean he does all he says?

*(They all get quiet)*

**SMYRNAEAN** Yes he does. He calculated all his moves down to the finest detail.

**ZEYNEP:** What about your next move?

**SMYRNAEAN** I have no idea

*(They all get depressed)*

**ZEYNEP:** What do you say ALGERIA?

**ALGERIA:** What shall I say? If I knew what to do, I would help myself first.

**ZEYNEP:** Come on, don't worry. We will tink of some precaution. (Gets the folders and pulls a letter) Look there is a batchelor candidate. Listen. HE sent the letter to Mayor directly. (She reads it all)

Dear Mr. Mayor, Let me tell you my purpose in writing this letter. If one does not speak up about her/his trouble, then s/he can not find a cure. All can be

sorted out by conversation. I am single man. God took my wife away from me about a year ago. Lonesome life is very hard apparently. I have discovered this by experiences. I am fed up with being single. I know about your Safehouse establishing a Safehouse for women and extending your protection over them. I saw the news on TV and heard that you would help women needing protection. Please also extend your protection over me and match me up Mr. Mayor. I need a lady to be my wife. I do not need anything else. I will not forget the favor. I will return your favor one day. How would? Allow me tell you if you would. Here it comes. Please listen carefully. I have so many relatives among your constituents. Plenty of doormen at many apartment buildings are my relatives. They amount to a plenty of electoral votes taking into account their wives and children. This is a significant population. I can assure their working for you during municipal elections. You can appreciate how an important role can doormen play. They can get elected whoever they go for. They all follow my instructions. They will manually distribute, without complaining, your electoral propaganda papers, flyers, pictures, and your gifts door to door. They will not leave any house door undiscovered or any family not reached out. My people are going to secure your reelection by penetrating into private meetings. They now how to shut your opponents and rivals up. Because doormen know many secrets of apartment residents. Therefore, they are pretty good at plugging up negative campaigns against you. Actually, I do not need to tell you how important doormen could be. As you know, the movie "King of the doormen" explains it all. I am sure you have seen that movie many times. All the TV channels showed that movie too. That is why I am wrapping it up. As for me, I am in my mid 50s. I have plenty of land property. I have a summer house at my farm, and two winter houses in the city. I have retired as a ranger from the National Forest Service. Besides my retirement benefits, I have a rental income from rental property. I also own a lumberyard workshop but it is leased to someone at the moment. After losing my wife, I lost my inspiration to do any kind of work. I am at full retirement. My kids got married and are all gone. Nobody lives with me. I have a huge but empty house. God knows who is going to die or survive next. If my future wife outlives me, then she is going to enjoy my retirement pension and real estate properties. She can utilize my health insurance too. Let her enjoy it all. You might ask me if I cannot find such a woman in my home town. Well...there are many women here but they are widows with 3-4 children. It is not convenient for me. Mr. Mayor, city of Alanya is s nice beach town, with beautiful beaches on the Meditarranean. I got it all. I promise you on man's honor that were are going to be eternal relatives if you find me a nice looking lady in her early 40s. Then I will do all I possibly can for your re-election at next elections. She must be without kids. You must have so many kinds of women in your Safehouse. She could even be younger. I have no problem with that bu she must be without children. What you have at hand may even not be available to local businessmen. I will keep you happy Mr. Mayor if you extend me such a

humanitarian help. We will keep it confidential. I will be happy to hear from you as soon as possible. If you ask me to come, then I will come. Please let us not waste any time. My best regards. If you get this match done, I will be grateful to you forever. I travel alot. I travel our homeland town by town. It is difficult without a lady companion. Please let me know if you wish anything from Alanya. I will be happy to bring it over to you. Hasan Simsek, Ortalik Mahallesi, Tac Sokak, No: 6 Alanya. My phone (she reads a phone number) I am always home after 9 o'clock. You feel free to tell everything about me if need be. Mr. Mayor, you alreedy know that guys age is not important. I am looking for a lady to be my Mrs. Rather than my servant. She should be all dressed up with her jewelry to be the lady of the house. In my farm, we raise all sorts of animals except pigs. I have no lady in my farm. Remember that I will kep you pleased. Sincerely, I am looking forward to hearing from you. Signature. (She shows the picture of the available bachelor guy). Look at the phrase he wrote behind his picture. (She reads) Mr. Mayir, I am sending you my new photo. I pray for the best of the luck. (She passes on the photo to GULLU so that all the women can see him. She jokes) Here you go, ideal candiate husband for you...(DUDU, GULLU and SMYRNAEAN all look at it)

**DUDU:** He is not a good bachelor candidate for either of you.

**ROSEY:** I do not want him anyway

**SMYRNAEAN:** He actually seems to be a courageous guy.

**DUDU:** No use, he is looking for an available bachelorette lady without children! You both have an extra luggage.

**ZEYNEP:** Why don't you take a look at him ALGERIA.

**DUDU:** He has no kids, he is a good match, an available bachelor, just for you.

**ZEYNEP:** *(She hands over the letter and the photo to CEZAYIR.)* Go ahead, take a look at it. If you like him, we can match you up. *(Her cell phone rings. She answers.)* Hello. Goodmorning. I have just arrived. You mean right now? Okay. I will be there in five minutes. Okay. Okay I am on my way. What happened to be so urgent? *(She listens)* All right. Good bye.

**DUDU:** Have a nice day Lady Zeynep

**SMYRNAEAN** Good bye

*(As ZEYNEP exits, Charity Foundation lady NAZAN enters the stage with shopping bags)*

**NAZAN:** Where are you going Ms. Director?

**ZEYNEP:** The Mayor is calling for me. There is a new tenant just arrived. I will be right back *(She exits)*

**NAZAN:** There is more stuff in my car downstairs, go ahead and bring them up. *(Fidan & SMYRNAEAN exit the stage. DUDU and GULLU help out Nazan with shopping bags anf put them into the kitchen)*

**NAZAN:** *(She almost throws herself onto the lounge chair)* Wooow! I got tired. Climbing up even one flight of stairs is wearing me down. Am I getting older or what?

**DUDU:** If you feel so pessimistic, then how about us, Lady Nazan?

**ROSEY:** You will never get old Lady Nazan. I wish we were able to be full of life, just like you.

**DUDU:** You do not stop even for one second.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Moving iron rods shine

**ROSEY:** You have house work too. How can you manage doing this all.

**NAZAN:** Who says I can manage it all? The way things are, my husband is going to divorce me. "You should pay attention to our home too!" he says constantly/

**DUDU:** You can manage taking care of your home too Lady Nazan

**ROSEY:** Of course you are maticulously gonna take care of your home.

**NAZAN:** *(She laughs)* I will take care of house if I make the time to be there. However, the business of Charity Foundation is taking all of my time in fact.

**DUDU:** May God appreciate your work. You are bringing in all the charities for the Safehouse.

**NAZAN:** I feel compelled to doing it auntie Dudu. That is the only way I feel useful.

**DUDU:** *(She pulls her leg)* Well...you should still make the time for your house needs. It is very hard to find another husband these days.

**NAZAN:** The truth is, I am feeling confined and stressed out when I enter the house. I am happy with that kind of work, I can not help it? I am getting home just on time for bed. Still, I get house choires done by sacrificing some sleep time. Why have you not turned on the TV set.

**DUDU:** It broke down, reportedly.

**NAZAN:** Why wasn't I told about it.

**ROSEY:** We have been just waiting for you.

**NAZAN:** I wish you had called me on the phone. I would have come here with the repair man.

**DUDU:** We could not think about it.

**NAZAN:** *(Whispering at pointing out to CEZAYIR)* What is the matter with her?

**ROSEY:** She got stoned again last night,

*(SMYRNAEAN and FIDAN enter the stage with shopping bags in their hands. Others help them out to carry)*

**NAZAN:** Oh...be careful with that bag. There are plates and glasses in it. Let's make sure that they don't get broken. Is there anything left in the car?

**FIDAN:** We have brough them all up Auntie NAZAN

**NAZAN:** Good job my child.

**DUDU:** Shall I make some coffee for you?

**NAZAN:** Yes, read my coffee fortune too.

**DUDU:** Okay *(She puts some water into the coffee pot)*

*(Door bell rings. Fidan opens the door. Serap enters)*

**SERAP:** Goodmorning

**ALL THE LADIES TOGETHER** Goodmorning

**SERAP:** Woow how nice. Lady Nazan is here too. I am surprised.

**NAZAN:** Why?

**SERAP:** This is the first time I see you seated.

**NAZAN:** I got tired. I have been gathering supplies and groceries since the morning. Look Fidan, I got notebooks and pencils for you too. Once the school starts, they will give me your books too. I got the committment.

**FİDAN:** Thank you auntie Nazan.

**NAZAN:** Look at the shopping bag over there, it has your school supplies.

**FİDAN:** (She checks out the bag) This is full of meat and chicken.

**NAZAN:** No your supplies are in the other one. The bigger bag. Right that one...  
(*Fidan cheerfully pulls out the supplies. Notebook, pencils, etc.*)

**DUDU:** May God appreciate your goodness.

**ROSEY:** She keeps running around for us all the time

**DUDU:** (*Handing over a cup of coffee*) I do not know how we are gonne pay you back.

**NAZAN:** Read my coffee cup fortune, then we are even.

**DUDU:** Look, she is going to go the TV repair shop too now.

**SERAP:** What's happened to TV set.

**DUDU:** It did not work in the working. We got two TV shows in the evening too.

**SERAP:** Oh my God!

**NAZAN:** I will leave soon. The TV set will be fixed today.

**DUDU:** (*She reminds*) There will be three TV shows at night.

**NAZAN:** Tell the repairman to bring in a loaner TV set for just in case. If he cannot repair our TV set here, then he can leave it here.

**DUDU:** May God apprecite your goodwill.

**NAZAN:** When are you guys gonna get married.

**SERAP:** We have delayed it until after he is done with his military service Lady Nazan.

**NAZAN:** Is that so. Why did you guys changed your minds?

**SERAP:** Otherwise, it would have been a half decent. We have dediced not to rush it. We wanted first to get this problem of military service out of the way, feel better, and then build our lives without interruptions.

**NAZAN:** I think so too, you have made the right decision.

**SERAP:** We have got to rent a home, buy furniture. Marriage ceremony would have been rushed. Then he will go to do his military service. The rental home would not be occupied when he is away, and still the rent would have been pain in vain. I would have to afford the rent by my single salary too.

**NAZAN:** That is right.

**SERAP:** Besides, he does not have a job for certain after completing his military service. We have to clear these unknowns. My parents wanted that way too.

**NAZAN:** Ne zaman gidecek askere? When is he going to start his military service.

**SERAP:** Her an gidebilir. Gün sayıyoruz artık. He might be drafted any moment. We are counting the days.

**NAZAN:** I wish you the best of the luck.

**SERAP:** Thank you.

*(ALGERIA's silence and subdued posture calls SERAPs attention. She asks, by hand gestures, the other women about what happened to her. Gullu answers in turn by hand gestures that she got stoned.)*

**FİDAN:** *(She is done with checking out the school supplies)* Thank you very much auntie NAZAN.

**NAZAN:** I hope you enjoy them my child. Come on, take them to your room now. *(Fidan takes the supplies to her room)*

**SERAP:** *(Turns to ALGERIA)* Let us have a talk ALGERIA.

**ALGERIA:** All right Doctor.

**SERAP:** *(She turns to ALGERIA)* Go to my office. *(Then she turns to Nazan)* Give me few minutes please.

*(ALGERIA moves to the office, waits standing)*

**NAZAN:** Not at all. Take care of your work.

**SERAP:** We can continue our discussion if you are not gonna leave right away.

**NAZAN:** I am here for a short while. I have got to wait for the Director anyway.

**SERAP:** Okay. *(Moves into her office, and talks to ALGERIA)* Have a seat. Make yourself comfortable. I am not a stranger to you.

*(Fidan gets out of the room. Her cell phone vibrates about the incoming text message. She reads the message quietly. Gets excited. She answers the text. She starts looking for an opportunity to sneak out.)*

**ALGERIA:** What is gonna happen to my condition Doctor Serap? I can not stand this anymore!

**SERAP:** There is nothing wrong with your condition ALGERIA. You blame yourself for nothing.

**ALGERIA:** I don't blame myself.

**SERAP:** Yes you do. Do not hide anything from me. You have got to tell me everything so that I can help you. Otherwise, we cannot find a solution for your case. These are all imagination. There is no PUBLIC EXECUTION (LYNCHING) BY STONING in this country. At least not for now, it doesn't exist. No such thing. We have discussed this so many times. Did we not?

**ALGERIA:** Yes we discussed it

**SERAP:** And then?

**ALGERIA:** But I can't help it Doctor. I do not think about those things during the day. It all seems normal right now. Everything changes when I go to bed at night. Even you stoned me last night.

**SERAP:** Is this not natural? Isn't it natural that you dream about the familiar faces? You have been here for 15 days and you do not meet anyone besides us. Is it not so?

**ALGERIA:** Yes

**SERAP:** However, this is the unusual part? You are having such nightmares without any apparent reason. Do you understand me?

**ALGERIA:** Yes I do

**SERAP:** I am gonna ask you something specifically ALGERIA. It is going to stay confidential between us. It will stay private with me. Do you get it?

**ALGERIA:** I have always trusted you.

**SERAP:** Tell me then. Have you ever cheated on your husband?

**ALGERIA:** (*she overreacts*) NO! I have never done such a thing.

**SERAP:** Are you telling me the truth?

**ALGERIA:** Yes this is the truth.

**SERAP:** All right, fine. How about in your mind? {How about cheating on him in your imagination?}

**ALGERIA:** I did not understand Doctor.

**SERAP:** Look ALGERIA. Listen to me carefully. People have fantasies sometimes. They imagine that they are making love with someone. We all do this. Even I do this, you see? Even me. Do not hesitate. Let us put an end to your suffering, no more disturbing thoughts. Was there anyguy that you liked before or after your marriage?

**ALGERIA:** There was a guy whom I used to go out with in the past. We used to meet on the sea shores occasionally. We used to chat over a cup of tea?

**SERAP:** Did you have any relationship? I mean sexually?

**ALGERIA:** We used to just kiss. Nothing bad happened between us. That is it.

**SERAP:** You mean, you never made love.

**ALGERIA:** Flirting and kissing can not be considered making love, is it? They told my father that we were going out. He came and caught us dating in the outdoor cafe? He beat the hell out of us both. Then, we could not meet anymore. Afterwards, they married me to the guy called my husband. I have opened my eyes to sex with my husband.

**SERAP:** What is his occupation?

**ALGERIA:** He is a merchant.

**SERAP:** How did you get married?

**ALGERIA:** His family came over to meet my family and asked for my family's blessings. His mother was alive by then. My folks said yes to their marriage proposal.

**SERAP:** Did you want to get married too?

**ALGERIA:** Yes I wanted too. It all started nicely. We had our own house too. Then all of a sudden, his business went down. He started drinking. He was coming home drunk everynight. We could not conceive a baby either. I had to stay home all day long. I could not go out even to the food market. Once went to the grocery store around the corner. I found him home waiting for me when I came back. He jumped all over me and beat the hell out of me. All the bags full of apples and oranges scattered around. He was beating and assoultng me on

regular basis. One day all of a sudden, he demanded that I cover up with veil. He grew a long beard too. He did not quit drinking however. He kept the word of God in all of his sentences though. He was an example of a con artist when he used to talk about prayers and abulations with whomever we met on the street while going out together. He was going to the mosque for the evening prayes on purpose. Afterwards, he was intoxicationg himself with alcohol at home. He used to close up curtains so deligently at night and come up new habits every day. He used to go out with a long rosary for instance. He became a member of a religious sect too (clan). He used to go to their meetings all the time. Our family has a faith in religion, however, mom never covered up herself with veil. They also objected to my getting covered up under the black veil. But dad said, “go along with your husband’s wishes, otherwise there won’t be any peace at home and you won’t get along”. I could not have the courage to tell my parents, “He is a perfect con artist, as he appears quite a man of God but still gets drunk everynight”.

**SERAP:** I could not understand this. You mean your husband appeared to be a man of God but the actually wasn’t? Did I get it right? Why was he pretending then?

**ALGERIA:** Of course for the sake of financial benefit and saving his business. His business started looking up quickly. Business credits and such. He was getting a financial back up from everywhere. I lost all my respect for him beacuse of his hypocracy. I had to walk behind him while we were on the street. I could not swallow this. I started hating him with all my sould. I thought about killing him few times, even committing a suicide afterwards. But I could not. First I lost my Mother, then my father. Loosing my parents destroyed me mentally. I almost lost my mind. He took me to a doctor. The doctor was also a member of his religious sect. He prescribed, “Start praying five times a day, then you will be healed”. He said, “Take you husband as a role model!” I could not have the courage to tell the doctor, “I should be getting drunk everynight if I take him as a role model”.

**SERAP:** All right ALGERIA. Calm down a bit.

**ALGERIA:** I feel better by getting these out of my chest.

**SERAP:** All right then, let us go on. When did you see the video clip about that lady getting stoned by a public execution?

**ALGERIA:** We used to have a relative called Sevda. He was so astonished about my getting covered up under the black veil. He visited me at home one day because he is my childhood friend. He was an active member of associations following Kemalist doctrine, propoent of (pro) Ataturk. She had her laptop computer with her too. She showed me the video clip. It was showing a woman slowly dying under the rain of stoning by the public. There I saw a photo too. I started identifying with that executed woman evertime I saw the photo or think about the public executiuon by stoning. Where ever looked I saw her or me. Then one day, I went out with a regular secular dress when my supposedly

husband was about to take me out. He screamed, “what the hell are you doing” then pulled me into a house to beat me up. This was my very first rebellion. I screamed at him, “You are a liar and con artist, do not touch me any more! Otherwise I am gonna run out to scream and tell the neighborhood all about your deception”. He got scared and cooled off. We continued that way for while. I have seperated my bedroom too. He agreed to all of my terms, but he begged, Please get covered up with your veil when you go out, otherwise my commercial reputation will be over”. I could not stand that kind of a life anymore. I left the house and took a shelter right here, otherwise I could have killed him. I swear, I would have killed him. Do you understand me Doctor? I would have been a murderer. *(she gets quiet, and is about to fall a sleep)*

**SERAP:** All right ALGERIA. Now, listen to me carefully. It is obvious that you are travmatized. But must accept the following too. Those days are over. Look, you live here the way you want. There is no public execution by sHtoning in out country. First, you must believe this. *(She is unaware that ALGERIA is sleeping)* Nobody is stoning. Never can do. You must get rid of those halucinations, from now on. Our intructions are not sufficient alone. You also must put the effort on it. You must help us to. *(Serap realizes she is aslepp. Quietly stands up. Goes to the living room. FIDAN slips out quietly by taking an advantage of the others gathering around SERAP. She did not close the main door when she snuck out.)*

**SERAP:** *(Gives a signal to all to keep quiet)* She’s fallen a sleep.

**NAZAN:** She should have laid on her bed.

**SERAP:** It doesn’t matter

**DUDU:** How come?

**SERAP:** We all have got to help her. Even our help might not be enough.

**NAZAN:** The president of our charity foundation knows the cheif surgeon of the Psychiatric Hospital.

**SERAP:** It is good that I know this. We surely will need his help. Rightway, we have to talk to Safehouse direcor immediately.

**ROSEY:** Do you know what I am wondering about?

**SERAP:**What is it?

**ROSEY:** She is sleeping now, you know...

**SERAP:**Yes.

**ROSEY:** I wonder if they are going to stone her again in her nightmare? Right now, while she is sleeping I mean.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Hey... I never thought about it.

**DUDU:** Do you think that it will happen again Ms. Serap?

**SERAP:** I do not know

**ROSEY:** Who else would know if you don’t?

**SERAP:** You never know how these cases may progress. But the only think that I know is that we have to help her.

**SMYRNAEAN:** What can we do for her?

**SERAP:** The solution is Infusion... Prompting her constantly...In every occasion. All the time. Never allow her to listen to herself even for an instant. Keep her mind busy.

*(She wakes up. Looks around astonished. Gets up and goes to the living room)*

**DUDU:** Are you up finally?

**ROSEY:** You have gotten a nice nap for sure.

**ALGERIA:** I could not not understand how it happened. Please excuse me Doctor. I have dozzed of supposedly.

**SERAP:** You could have slept some more.

**ROSEY** Peki gene taşladılar mı seni? Şimdi içerde? Well..Did they stone you again? Now inside?

**ALGERIA:** No

**SERAP:** Look as I told you before. You will talk about this. All your fears must be stopped by now.

**DUDU:** They should stop by now.

**NAZAN:** How nice

*(The door opens. Zeynep enters the stage as she is accompanied with the black veiled lady from DIYARBAKIR. The lady in veil is looking around with a pair of scared eyes.)*

**ZEYNEP:** Look ladies. I have brought you a new friend. Come on, take of that veil off.

*(CEZAYIR becomes uneasy. She is staring at the lady in veil fearfully. The veil was taken off the lady from Diyarbakir with Zeynep's help. Serap sees Zeynep's purple eye right away.)*

**ZEYNEP:** Zılfo, Miss beauty paegent from Diyarbakir...Zılfo

**SMYRNAEAN:** *(She checks the newspaper out. Shows the others and says)* Aha, right here, this is her!

*(DIYARBAKIRite gets really scared. She stares around with fearful eyes.*

*GULLU panics when she cannot locate FIDAN, then runs between bedroom and the bathroom.)*

**ZEYNEP:** Don't be afraid any more Zılfo... Look you are safe her. Nobody can hurt you anymore! Come on in, have a seat.

*(SERAP mimes ZEYNEP for asking what's happened to her eye. ZEYNEPS answers by her mimicks to talk about it later)*

**ROSEY:** *(She screams.)* Fidan is gone! Fidan is missing!

**DUDU:** She was just here.

**SMYRNAEAN:** She was just over there

**ZEYNEP:** The door was already open when I came.

**ROSEY:** Did you send her anywhere for a shopping?

**ZEYNEP:** No

**DUDU:** I did not either

**SERAP:** Why don't you call her up.

**ROSEY:** I lost my mind. *(She calls her cellphone)* Her phone is off.

**ZEYNEP:** Slow down, don't panic!

**SMYRNAEAN:** Do not jump the conclusion so quick, !

**SERAP:** She is not a kind of girl to run away.

**ROSEY:** My daughter has run a way. I am dead. My husband is gonna kill me!  
He will shoot me! *(She puts something on in a rush and runs out the door. Her voice still echoes from the stairway outside the flat)*

**(CURTAIN)**  
**THE END OF ACT I**

## ACT II

*(The same living room. Diyarbakirite is having a lunch on the table. She is depressed and tired. SERAP and ZEYNEP are in SERAP's counseling office. DUDU, SMYRNAEAN and CEZAYIR are watching her carefully. CEZAYIR seems to be upset with DIYARBAKIRite.)*

**SERAP:** Did he beat you up again?

**ZEYNEP:** What a big mess.

**SERAP:** What was his reason supposedly?

**ZEYNEP:** I was getting on his nerve apparently. He has just become a mad man. While I am walking by him in the house, he is tackling me on purpose from his lazy chair. We cannot go on that way anymore.

**SERAP:** God blessed you eye. What can I say? Oh my God. Actually, he also needs a psychological counseling too Zeynep.

**ZEYNEP:** What good is it gonna do when you have a session with him. It is obvious. He was expectation to become a director. They have instead appointed someone as his supervisor from the party politics. He is jelous of my position as director here, he can not get over it. When he can not overpower his workmates, then he takes it on me. (defines punches by hand gestures) Slap and punch.

**SERAP:** Send him to ball games. He can swear and scream his anger there, then come home relaxed.

**ZEYNEP:** He is watching ball games on TV at home, not at the ball park. That is why he cannot get relaxed. He used to be an angel actually. I fell feel sorry for him too. But he alrady went overboard.

**SERAP:** What a mess, hard to believe

**ZEYNEP:** *(As though she were sharing a secret)* I am putting up with this for now. Our marriage is not going to go on! Let us go to the living room. We can talk again when we have more time.

*(ZEYNEP & SERAP enter the living room. Young lady from DIYARBAKIR wipes off her mouth with a napkin.)*

**ZEYNEP:** You should finish up your dish.

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** I am nauseated.

**ZEYNEP:** All right. *(She hands over a pill)* You should take this too.

*(Doctor sees that the young lady is suspicious and does ot trust her)* This is gonna calm you down. Auntie DUDU, would you pass on a glass of water please?

*(DUDU brings the water. Hands over. DIYARBAKIR lady takes both the water and the pill)*

**DUDU:** Would you like some tea too.

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** I am nauseated.

**ZEYNEP:** All right. *(Signals SERAP)* This will be all over. Zılfo, Ms. Serap wants to talk to you.

**SERAP:** There is nothing to be afraid. *(Helps her to get up)* Do not be tense anymore. Look, you are in safety here.

*(SERAP takes the young lady from DIYARBAKIR to her room slowly. Helps her sit down)*

**SERAP:** *(Approaches the door way and hollers)* Ms. Zeynep would you please come here? *(Zeynep enters her office, shuts the door, and sits by the young lady)*

**SERAP:** Welcome again.

**ZEYNEP:** Welcome to join our group Zılfo.

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** Nice to join you.

**SERAP:** Ms. Zeynep is our SafeHouse director.

**ZEYNEP:** Ms. Serap is a psycholohist too. She will listen to your all needs. She can solve your problems too. Do not hesitate to talk to her or me. We are here to help you.

**SERAP:** We want you to be sure of that.

**ZEYNEP:** Nobody can touch you. Here is no more danger for you. Agreed sweetie?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** *(She has her doubts but still says)* OKAY

**SERAP:** Tell me all about it from the beginning. I read some news in paper but I still do not want to miss anything. Is it OKAY?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** All right

**SERAP:** Thank you in advance. Do you and your family live in Diyarbakir downtown?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** No. We live in the city of Silvan.

**SERAP:** Is Silvan close to Diyarbakır ?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** Just an hour by bus. It is closer by a private car.

**SERAP:** *(Takes some notes)* What does your father do for a living?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** He is a cattle farmer

**SERAP:** How about your mom?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** She is a Housewife

**SERAP:** You mean she does not work?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** She does housework. Besides, she does the cattle and sheep milking in early morning. Picks up the eggs from the schack.

**SERAP:** Is the house your family's property

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** Yes it is ours. It is a single story house with three rooms. It is not an apartment flat. It has a huge backyard too.

**SERAP:** How many siblings do you have?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** We are eight siblings. Seven girls and one guy.

**SERAP:** The only son you mean?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** Yes

**SERAP:** You mean the one who followed you to İstanbul ?

**DIYARBAKIRITE :** Yes. He is a year younger than I am. He is the youngest of us.

**SERAP:** Your dad finally had a son after 7 daughters apparently, did he?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** Yes

**SERAP:** How old are you?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** Seventeen. I will be 18 in 3 months

**SERAP:** In this case, your younger brother is 17 years old.

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** Yes

**SERAP:** What is your level of education?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** I dropped out of vocational girls highschool 10th grade. It was last year. I did a distance learning, without going to school every day I mean. Dad allowed my distance learning since I was going to school just for exams and test. He did not let me attend the practical training year. He said that was enough.

**SERAP:** How about your brother?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** He is a 10 th grader. He was about to attend the 2nd year high school.

**SERAP:** He unfortunately won't be able to attend any more! (sees Zilo is crying). He did wrong. He destroyed his future. Do not cry. This is not your fault.

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** (She defends her bother) It is not really his fault. It is our tribal law.

**ZEYNEP:** Do you mean he would shoot you just because he loved you so much?

**SERAP:** You have barely survived his shootings. How about your sisters?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** All of them are married except one. My oldest sister is a widow. He lives with my parents. We lost her husband in a traffic accident.

**ZEYNEP:** My condolences Zilfo

**SERAP:** My condolences too.

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** May God bless our friends.

**SERAP:** How about their level of education?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** They all graduated from elementary school. Only my older sister completed the vocational highschool for girls. She did a distance learning. Then she got married and moved to Germany.

**SERAP:** Where do the other sisters live.

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** One in City of Bitlis. Others live in City of Diyarbakir. Only one of them lives in City of Silvan.

**SERAP:** Do you have any younger sister?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** They all are older. I am the youngest daughter.

**ZEYNEP:** You really are a beautiful girl. Were you chosen Miss. Watermelon beauty pageant for Diyarbakir.

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** No. Dad would never let me participate even if I wanted to enter.

**ZEYNEP:** It was in the newspaper. They must have made it up reportedly!

**SERAP:** But they expressed a truth apparently. You really are a beautiful girl Zilfo.

**ZILFO:** (She likes it). What can I do? I wish God had given me a fate of an ugly girl.

**ZEYNEP:** You have a potetial even to be chosen Miss Turkey at a beauty paegent. (Pulls her leg) Shall we enlist you for Miss Istanbul beauty paegent.

**ZILFO** Innocently) I can not enter.

**ZEYNEP:** Why?

**ZILFO:** (Naively) They will locate me by then.

**ZEYNEP:** Oh my sweetie. How naive you are.

**SERAP:** All right Zılfo. How did it happen?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** I don't understand.

**SERAP:** I mean your running away.

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** (She pauses) Someguy wanted to marry me. He was from city of Van. My father gave his blessings. We were about to get engaged. Then we were supposed to get married in Van and settle down there. We ran away a day before our engagement party.

**SERAP:** Who was he? I mean, the one you ran away with?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** We met each other during the exams. We talked about it. My father did not let me go to my internship. He went to do his military service. I have always waited for him. He was on leave. I sent him message that my family was selling me out. He suggested we should run away, so we did.

**SERAP:** Had your family had any ıdea about this?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** They had no idea. They wouldn't have let me live either if they had known. But I tried to tell my mother. "I do not know this guy that you are trying to marry me or I never met him either", I said. She said, "You will get to know him after you marry him". I said, "I do not love him". Then she said, "You are gonna love him after you marry him". "Your sisters did ot know their husbands either. Look they are getting along just fine right now", she said. This is our custom. They never ask girls' opinion. We bought the bus tickets, then made it to Istanbul. He had some relatives here. We were about to hide for a while. They have already arranged a religous ceremony by Imam for me right after we arrived. I had to wait till I am eighteen for an official marriage ceremony apparently. Then his relavies placed us with his far relatives. We started counting the days. (She cries) My family council had a meeting. Made a decision to kill us both. My brother apparently found our traced. Ultimately, he found us here. He was about to return to his military base the next day. He said "Let us go out and have some tea at the seaside". I wish we never went outside. Apparently he was waiting for us, in any case. He pointed his gun. He shot him. I fled. There was a police station next street. I ran there and took a shelter. Otherwise, he would have shot me. He already fired few rounds behind me. (She cries) . Police officers drew their weapons and chased him. But he managed to flee. Police officers took me to the officers' club and put me up there last night. Afterwards, they talked to the Mayor and the County Administrator. The Mayor apparently said, "We can accomodate her in our SafeHouse". Then, a senior police officer brough package. It was this black veil that I am wearing. He said,

“Put the veil on and wear this dark sunglasses. Nobody can recognize you”. He also instructed me not to go outside without it when I need to go out.

**ZEYNEP:** *(Gets confused)* Didn't you used to wear your black veil?

**DIYARBAKIRITE:** No. *(Cries more)* Nobody wears it in our family. They only use ladies' scarf to cover their hair.

**ZEYNEP:** *(She gets up and holds her friendly by the shoulders)* Come on now. It is all over. You need to get some sleep now. *(She turn to Serap)* I shall get the bed made in the bed room. *(Steps out to the living room. Whispers to DUDU)*. Let her get some sleep.

**DUDU:** I have already changed the sheets.

**ZEYNEP:** Thank you Auntie Dudu. *(She comes to SERAPs office)* Come on Zılfo. *(She stands up. SERAP, ZEYNEP, and ZILFO move to the living room, then to the bed room. All other women stare at them. CEZAYIR gets abit upset. ZEYNEP and SERAP leave ZILFO alone in her bedroom and shut the door.*

**ZEYNEP:** *(She talks to CEZAYIR)* The police officers put her under the cover of black veil. For covering up her identity, you see.

**DUDU:** *(Recalls)* Whores in the brother of our City of Corum used to wear black veil to go out on the street. To cover up their identity.

**ZEYNEP:** Any news from Gullu.

**DUDU:** She has not come yet.

**SMYRNAEAN:** This is ISTANBUL. How can she find her daughter?

**DUDU:** Actually, Fidan talked to someone on the phone this morning. When I got suspicious and asked her, she said she was talking to a friend from ORDU. I should have told her Mom.

**ZEYNEP:** What difference would that make any way?

**SERAP:** If she made up her mind to run away, how could that have been prevented anyways? Do not feel guilty, Auntie DUDU.

**ZEYNEP:** Is there something that I should know about and you have the knowledge of? Things happened, tell me, do not hesitate! At least, it is going to help from know on.!

**DUDU:** I already got suspicious of the guy in the supermarket. They were talking when Fidan and I went there together. She is naive and might be charmed away.

**ZEYNEP:** *(Her cell phone rings and she answers)* Hello. It is me. Yes. Hi.... What is up. *(She stares at DUDU)* All right. Okay. Thank you. I will tell her. I am in the Safehouse already. Of course I will also let Mr. Mayor know. See you, bye. Okay. *(She hangs up)* You got lucky, good news for you. May God give you a longer life. The lady before you on the waiting list for “needy senior housing” has passed away. So we will take you to there tomorrow.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Good luck to you Auntie Dudu.

**SERAP:** I swear you got lucky. This is a miracle that they found a housing for you so fast.

**ZEYNEP:** If the Mayor did not step in, this would never happen? We should say prayers for our MAYOR. Keep your prayers Auntie Dudu?

**SERAP:** *(Smiling)* Do not forget to say prayers to the Angel of Death either!

**SMYRNAEAN** May God appreciate the good deed.

**ZEYNEP:** *(Realizes that DUDU is not happy)* What is it, you do not seem to be happy? What can we do. That lady before you would have passed away in any case.

**SERAP:** This is not your fault. Do not feel guilty at all.

**ZEYNEP:** Tomorrow morning, I will take you there before noon. I am going to ask for a vehicle from the Mayor's office. You do not have much stuff either.

*(The door bell rings. SMYRNAEAN opens the door. It is GULLU at the door. She is miserable)*

**ZEYNEP:** What happened?

**SERAP:** Go ahead, give us some good news.

**SMYRNAEAN:** What don't you tell us!

**ROSEY:** *(She throws herself to the couch)* My man is gonna kill me. For sure he will kill me. He already warned me, "Do not take Fidan with you. You can not take care of her in Istanbul. I swear, I kill you if anything happens to our daughter".

**SERAP:** Calm down, do not panic.

**ROSEY:** *(Gets nervous)* She is gone, I am telling you. She is missing! Don't you see she is gone! I have covered all coffee shops, all pastry shops all over the Bakirkoy District. I have searched along the seashores. She is nowhere! The earth swallowed her, it seems! She is gone. I even showed her picture and asked the people on the street. She is nowhere found. Are you hiding anything from me? Do you know anything?

**ZEYNEP:** We don't know anything more than you do sister Gullu.

**SERAP:** I wish we knew, of course we tell you.

**ROSEY:** *(She cries)* My man will cut me up into pieces! He said already! I am going to lose my mind. I even went to the police station. *(She beats her breast in desperation)* What am I gonna do? Isn't there anybody else to give an advise? She turned off her cell phone. *(She dials again)* Look listen! She is nowhere found. *(She cries out)* She was tall and slender, lived up to her name. I would sacrifice myself for her on blink of an eye. What if they kidnapped her by car to take her to a desolate corner? How can they have a heart to hurt her. Oh my God? This is Istanbul. They rape many women and dumped them on deserted alleys. What am I gonna do? How am I going to explain this to my husband then. The earth is spinning around me. I am dizzy...oh my God!

**ZEYNEP:** There is no such a thing!

**DUDU:** Do not go there.

**ROSEY:** *(She passes out on the couch on her back. All women panic.)*

**ZEYNEP:** Bring some cologne!

**SERAP:** Keep her head up.

**ALGERIA:** Oh my sweetie.

**DUDU:** *(She massages her neck and head)* Good Forbid!

**SMYRNAEAN** It is not easy to be a mother.

*(Gullu is slowly waking up. She rises up and sits up. She is swaying and praying)*

**ZEYNEP:** Look it is over.

**SERAP:** Lean back.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Do not be scared.

**DUDU:** She is old enough to take of herself. Nothing will happen.

**ALGERIA:** I thought something bad happened.

*(The door bell rings. Gullu watches the door in excitement. She was hoping that it was Fidan).*

**ZEYNEP:** *(She warns her)* Auntie Dudu!

*(DUDU opens the door. NAZAN enters the flat as she is bent over carrying a small TV set. Gullu is disappointed. She keeps praying.)*

**NAZAN:** *(With pain)* Take this out of my hands.

*(DUDU takes the TV set and puts on the table. Others help NAZAN as she is bent over)*

**ZEYNEP:** What heppened Nazan?

**SERAP:** Have a seat.

**NAZAN:** Oh my back?

**SMYRNAEAN:** Does it make any sense carrying the TV set just by yourself lady NAZAN.

**NAZAN:** *(She lays on the couch, in pain)* You cannot believe what happened. I went to the TV repair shop. But it was closed. Then I thought about going home and grabbing the kitchen TV to bring here for you guys. I was using my living room TV set anyways. You need this TV more than I do, I thought. You should not miss on TV shows.)

**DUDU:** May God appreciate your good will.

**SMYRNAEAN:** She went throught all this trouble just for us.

**ALGERIA:** What if we had no TV for a day.

**NAZAN:** No it is not right. I gave you all my word already. I ran home right away. Checked the TV set out. For just in case. Once I tested the TV, I called the door man. His wife said, "He is not home". I asked, "Where is he, when is he going to be back? ". She said "He is going be back home in the evening. What did you need him for?" I said, "was trying to get him to carry the TV set to the car". She replied, "I am coming to help you" and came to help right away. We unplugged the TV. She is well built and strong anyway. She carried the whole thing on her own to the elevator then all the way to the car on the street, even though I suggested "Let us carry it together". She even offered, "I can come with you with you if you want but you should to drive me back home". I said, "Thank you, but I can not come back home because I got to go to Charity Foundation

office after the Safehouse. I cannot be late”. I gave her some change and got underway. I made it downstairs without any incident.

**ZEYNEP:** Why haven't you pushed the bell button, they would come down to pick it up.

**NAZAN:** Oh well my dear...I got confused could not think straight. I thought that I could use the elevator anyway, then I looked for a guy to carry it from the car to the elevator. I got him to do the carrying. It was just a flight to the elevator doors anyway. I thanked him and sent him away.

**SERAP:** He should have come all the way up here

**NAZAN:** As a matter of fact, I tried to give you a surprise. I should have known better, it was stupid.

**ZEYNEP:** You were careless. You have suffered alot from your back pain in the past.

**SERAP:** Even though you knew how vulnerable your back was.

**NAZAN:** Yes, I took a big risk. Sometimes a person can not think straight. I assumed that nothing would have happened then I grabbed the TV set and lifted up in the elevator. After a couple of steps, I heard something cracked on my back. I knew that I was in trouble then. I must have inflicted a sort of a back injury. I walked bent down. If I stoop down, then it does not hurt. I barely made it to the apartment door.

**DUDU:** How did you manage to ring the bell.

**SMYRNAEAN:** You have managed to give the signal by three ringings too.

**NAZAN:** (*Tanımlar yattığı yerden*) Şöyle yan dönüp başımla üç kez bastım zile. She shows from her bed) I turned my head sideways and used it to press the bell button three times.

**DUDU:** May God appreciate your good will still.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Bravo, honest.

**DUDU:** She is the woman of her word.

**ZEYNEP:** Her back gave a way.

**SERAP:** Now, you will have to keep shuttling to the Physical Therapy Clinic in Sirinevker district again.

**NAZAN:** God forbid.

**ZEYNEP:** Saying “God forbid” is not going to heal you, dear Nazan.

**SERAP:** I am afraid you will have shuttle to the clinic.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Otherwise you may have to go under the knife too.

**NAZAN:** Unfortunately, how am I going to get home? Let's suppose I made it to the house, than how am I going to explain this injury to him? He will be very upset if he hears that I lifted up the TV set. He already yelled at me the other day just because I am involved in this kind of a volunteer work. He was screaming, “You are going to be a martyr on this way”. My husband should never hear about this!

**ZEYNEP:** (She smiles) He is not unjustified either.

**SERAP:** Oh my God heavens...(Holy cow)

**ZEYNEP:** We will keep it quiet. Do not be afraid.

**DUDU:** Hold on. Let me take a look at you. Go ahead turn over and lay on your side lady Nazan.

**ZEYNEP:** Let it be now! You might make the injury worse.

**DUDU:** *(She feels offended)* I have skilled hands. Let me feel the muscle a little bit.

**SERAP:** We need a hard ground.

**DUDU:** Let's get her on the floor.

*(They take NAZAN down on the floor, by lifting her by arms and legs. They position her face down)*

**DUDU:** Do not tense up yourself. Let go. Be relaxed.

**NAZAN:** It hurts then

**DUDU:** My son also has a lover back disk hernia. It is obviously from lifting that Mule. *(She feels the back muscles of NAZAN)* Do you have a pain right here?

**NAZAN:** No

**DUDU:** How about now?

**NAZAN:** Yes. Oh my God! So much pain.

**DUDU:** Now?

**NAZAN:** It has decreased. The pain is much less. But it still aches and hurts abit.

**DUDU:** *(She massages her back)* Now lay on you back. Rest a bit. *(NAZAN barely turns on her back. She is hurting obviously)*

**NAZAN:** Give a pillow under my head. It hurts so much in this position.

*(Izmir ite gets a pillow and supports her)*

**SMYRNAEAN:** Does it feel better now?

**NAZAN:** It feels okay if I don't move.

**ZEYNEP::** Look my dear Nazan, I can call the ambulance if you like.

**NAZAN:** No I don't want it. This is fine...

**ZEYNEP::** Do not tell me later that I did not warn you. I know doctors in the ER clinic of the hospital. It is for your own good if the doctor looked at it.

**NAZAN:** Lets wait and see, let me rest for now... You can take me there if it really gets necessary. Plug in this TV and let me see if it works.

**SERAP:** Is it the time for it?

**NAZAN:** Bunu getireceğim diye geldi tüm bunlar başıma. Göreyim de değsin. I go this this injury trouble for the sake of getting the TV set here. Let me see if it was worth the trouble.

**DUDU:** *(Naively)* TV shows are going to start at night. There must be junk shows right now.

**SMYRNAEAN:** It is not worth watching.

**DUDU:** This place turned out to be a hospital room.

**NAZAN:** Look you can see the end of the power cord... A Plug .... You see? Unplug the other TVs power cord and replug this TV set instead. That is all there is.

**ZEYNEP:** (Her cell phone rings. She answers and explains to the shelter crowd) This call looks like coming from teh Mayor's office.. Helloo...Yes. I am in the Safehouse. (She listens for a while) How about letting me talk over the phone? Without getting all the way to the Municipal building, I mean? (listens) All right... I am coming right away. (Hangs up the phone) It is urgent, Mayor is calling me again.

**SERAP:** It must be important since he said it was urgent?

**ZEYNEP:** Everyting is important for the Mayor. He calls me up tot he office for even a short talk. (while she is leaving) Are you sure you do not want an ambulance my dear NAZAN?

**NAZAN:** It is nice here for now. Let me rest little bit more the we will see. If I go to the hospital, doctors might keep me overnight. I cann't explain this to my husband.

**ZEYNEP:** Okay it is your call. (While leaving) Do not tell me that I did not warn you.

**DUDU:** Lady Zeynep. May I ask you something?

**ZEYNEP:** Zhat is it Auntie Dudu?

**DUDU:** (she whispers) I do not wan to go to the "Needy Seniors Housing" living quarters.

**ZEYNEP:** Whooppps! Now, where the heck did you get this idea from?

**DUDU:** Am I supposed to wait for the Angel of Death there?

**ZEYNEP:** What do you mean?

**DUDU:** They all are seniors over there. They are waiting for death to arrive. This will depress me a great deal.

**ZEYNEP:** (Gets upset) You are asking for the Sun in the moon lady Dudu! It is not negotiable!

(smiles) Do you mean you are going to go back to your son's house? Do you mean your son has asked you back ?

**DUDU:** No

**ZEYNEP:** Where are you going to go then.

**DUDU:** Let me stay here. I will do all the chores. I do them already. Allow me to stay here in this Safehouse.

**ZEYNEP:** Stop talking nonsense! This is impossible!

**DUDU:** It is up to you. I can stay if you say so.

**ZEYNEP:** It is not up to me. There are rules here. Besides, how am I going to explain this to the Mayor? Come on, forget about it. Do you have any idea how many senoirs want to be in your shoes? Start packing now. I will take you there tomorrow.! (*ZEYNEP leaves the house. DUDU takes a seat and gets sad.*

*GULLU keeps swaying and praying. SERAP goes to her office. Takes a book and starts reading.*

*(There is a silence for a while)*

**NAZAN:** Is anything wrong Auntie Dudu?

**DUDU:** Nothing.

**SMYRNAEAN** You seem to be bored.

**DUDU:** I am going to leave you all tomorrow. I am sad about it. I got used to all of you.

**NAZAN:** You can visit again. You are not going to the prison, right?

**SMYRNAEAN** That is right. You can come occasionally. Actually, we got used to you too.

**NAZAN:** . Cheer up. I will come and visit you sometime.

**SMYRNAEAN:** I will come too. We got some much help from you. You were doing all our house chores.

**DUDU:** I wish I stayed here.

**SMYRNAEAN:** I wish.

**DUDU:** I have just told Ms. Zeynep. “Let me stay”, I asked. But she said, “No way Jose”. It is against the Safehouse rules apparently.

**NAZAN:** She also takes orders from her superiors.

**DUDU:** I know. But I am still disappointed.

**NAZAN:** Do not worry. If she could, she surely would of course, wouldn't she. I am going to miss your tea and coffee the most. Now I am craving for a nicely brewing tea...for real!

**DUDU:** I will give you some if you want.

**NAZAN:** But how am I going get up to drink it?

**DUDU:** What if we placed few pillows to support you?

**NAZAN:** Do you think it will help?

**DUDU:** Sure why not...

**NAZAN:** No, I changed my mind. Come on, someone turn the radio on at least. Silence is depressing me. (IZMIR it turns the radio on. A folk dance music starts)

**SERAP:** *(She hollers from her office)* Turn it down. Someone is sleeping in the bedroom. *(SMYRNAEAN turns it all the way down)*

**NAZAN:** Tune the radio to some other station. Otherwise, I feel like getting up and dancing. *(They all laugh except GULLU. SMYRNAEAN changes the channel. It is a folk song. The door bell rings after a while. GULLU is looking at the door and praying. DUDU opens the door. FIDAN, in fear, enters the flat. They all freeze and keep quiet in shock. Now everything is in a slow motion, as in the movies.)*

**ROSEY :** *(She cries and stans up. She approaches FIDAN with love and tender. All of a sudden, she jumps on her. Starts beating her)* You slut! Where have you been?

**FIDAN:** *(She falls down)* Oh...Mom!

**ROSEY:** *(She doesn't give her a chance to talk and keeps beating FIDAN)* You slut!

**FİDAN:** Stop! Listen to me! Stop hitting me!

**ROSEY:** You shameless girl! *(She keeps beating and assaulting her non stop)*  
What would I tell your father. How would I explain your absence? Slut! You slut! Are you gonna be a whore?

*(First SMYRNAEAN runs to stop GULLU. GULLU, throws SMYRNAEAN away. She keeps on beating FİDAN. Then CEZAYIR and DUDU arrive. SERAP runs to help from her office. They all grab and try to stop GULLU so that they can pull FİDAN away from her.)*

**FİDAN:** *(She reacts powerfully and defends herself)* Enough! Enough!  
*(GULLU gets thrown out. She never expected such a powerful reaction from her daughter. She gets silent. Other women hold on to FİDAN. All goes back to normal speed of motion.)*

You are the reason for my Dad's troubles. You have never greeted him with your smiling face, not even once! My Dad is an angel. You drove him crazy!

**SERAP:** It is enough girl.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Calm down!

**DUDU:** This is not the way to talk to your Mother?

*(GULLU is crying quietly)*

**FİDAN:** *(She starts crying)* She even did not ask! She never asked where I went! *(she gets upset and keeps talking)* I met Dad! Do you get it, I met Dad! My Dad whom you have mistreated. He made the voyage and arrived Istanbul. Just to talk to you *(FİDAN starts crying again. All the others get confused and stop talking)*

**SERAP:** But you could have let us know. Your mother worried to death, you do not know.

**DUDU:** She even passed out.

**SMYRNAEAN:** We though she was about to die.

**NAZAN:** *(from her couch)* You will understand when you become a mother.

**FİDAN:** *(very sad)* Would she have let me go if I had told you guys? Was my Dad supposed to go back to ORDU without seeing me? Was he supposed to travel all that distance in vain?

**SERAP:** You should have told me at least. Or let Ms. Zeynep know. We would have found another way for you *(silence)*

**FİDAN:** I wish I told you. But could not think well. He called me up on the phone in the morning. I got so cheered up that I could not think of anything. *(Silence. A disturbing car horn sounds. SMYRNAEAN realizes that her husband arrived again down the street.)*

**DUDU:** *(She hides behind curtains and looks outside)* Yes! Your guy has come again.

**SMYRNAEAN:** *(Waits a while. She seems decisive. She grabs the letter from her husband and stands up)* Let's end this misery.

**SERAP:** I hope you are not thinking about going down.

**SMYRNAEAN:** No!

**DUDU:** You are not going to make a peace, are you?

**SMYRNAEAN:** God forbid such a destiny! (Comes to the window. Pulls the curtain and shows herself) I am done with this guy for good!

**SERAP:** What are you thinking to do? I hope you are not going to do something wrong!

**NAZAN:** This guy seems he got nothing to lose. Be careful!

**SMYRNAEAN:** I cannot put up with this tension anymore. I am going to put an end to this today. Be rest assured. I am either going to finish it or finish it.

(Opens the window and yells out) Listen to me! I read it! I have made up my mind too! No need to waste any more time! Listen to me carefully! I am not going back home! My decision is final, I am not coming! Do all you want to do to me! Starting tomorrow, go ahead and post all the posters you want to hang up all over the city! Put shame on me! Do this without thinking about your children! Go ahead and destroy their future and my future. But remember this! Do not let me see you here tomorrow! If you come and bother me again, I am going to hand over this letter of yours to the county prosecutor. It has your signature too! I got my witnesses too. You will go to jail for threatening me. Do not dream that you will get a way from me after you are discharge from the prison. I will kill you for sure. Do you understand me! I will find you and kill you even if you hide in a hole. Do you get it you pimp! Now, fuck off! (She moves away from the window and sits down, she is shivering now)

**DUDU:** (comes to the window) He kneeled down. He is on his knees, saying something. His mouth is busy moving.

**SERAP:** (Comes) He seems to be crying

**SMYRNAEAN** Shameless bastard.

**DUDU:** (Just like a live reporter) He got in the car. (Car engine is rumming. Car honks sadly. The sound of the car goes away.

**DUDU:** He is gone.

**SERAP:** I hope nothing bad happens

**SMYRNAEAN** Nothing will happen. I know him

**DUDU:** What if he does what he says?

**SMYRNAEAN:** Then he goes to the grave.

**SERAP:** You will be wasted. They will put you in the prison

**SMYRNAEAN:** Let it be.

**SERAP:** Your kids will be parentless.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Someone will foster them.

**SERAP:** I am talking about your children. Don't you understand me?

**SMYRNAEAN:** I care about no one anymore. You too try to understand me! I am going to kill this guy. Whatever happens, I will kill him!

*(Everybody is silent. Silence goes on for a while. FIDAN gets up from her seat. Gets closer to GULLU. Tries to kiss her mother's hand. GULLU pulls her hand back. FIDAN insists on kissing her mother's hand. GULLU stops resisting. FIDAN grabs and kisses her mother's hands. She touches her hands to her*

*cheeks and face too. GULLU hugs her daughter, and embraces her. Mother and daughter duo wait a while silently in an embraced posture.)*

**ROSEY:** What did you father say?

**FİDAN:** He said, “ I can not do without you both”. She was about to call you but he hesitated.

**ROSEY:** What is to hesitate? I have been his wife for so many decades.

**FİDAN:** He was worried about your hanging up the phone. He is here to take us back home. (Silence.) Can he call you? I can let him know right now, if you like. But please do not yell at him. Are you going to talk? Look my school is about to start. Dad is repentant and truly sorry. He said, “It will never happen again”. Shall I call him up Mom? (Other women gesture her “go ahead call him up”. GULLU looks at them)

**NAZAN:** Look he is repentant apparently

**SMYRNAEAN:** You are not supposed to interfere with family business. I am not going to get involved.

**SERAP:** It is worth the try, in my opinion. Let us see what he has to say?

**ALGERIA:** He has no other fault either. Every guy does it. The important thing is his quitting the cheating business.

**FİDAN:** “It will not happen again”, my dad says. I am calling him. But do not give him hard time, please? I have missed our house very much. Dad, my siblings.

**ROSEY:** Call him.

(FİDAN calls her dad on the phone. Others wait curiously.

**FİDAN:** Hi Dad. Call Mom. Right away. All right. (Hangs up her phone. Desperately) Please for Gods sake Mom. Treat him well. (GULLU’s phone rings. She stands up and walks away to SERAP’s office, then answers her phone) They cannot hear what they are talking about.)

**SERAP:** Good job FİDAN

**DUDU:** You saved the marriage

**NAZAN:** You are a wise girl.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Hold on a second. Do not jump to the conclusion.

**FİDAN:** (She prays) Oh God!...Please God!

**DUDU:** No worries, they are going to reconcile.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Still, never forget. Men are never to be trusted even if they say that they are repentant and regretful. Once they get used to the habit, they become an animal. Do not be surprised if he finds another mistress from Uzbek culture.

**ALGERIA:** Do not speak of such a curse.

**SMYRNAEAN:** God willing, I am wrong

**ALL THE WOMEN ALTOGETHER:** GOD WILLING

**ROSEY:** He will take us back in the morning.

**DUDU:** Good luck to you all.

**ALGERIA:** I am happy for you

**SERAP:** It is a wise decision.

**SMYRNAEAN:** It is better to try at least.

**NAZAN:** Why tomorrow?

**ROSEY:** There is no space on the buses for tonight. Even there was, we could not make it. We got to pack and get ready for the trip. Two suit cases. It is not easy.

**DUDU:** Sabah ola hayır ola. Morning will bring a good luck. Each new day brings a better luck.

**NAZAN:** (Her cell phone rings. She checks the caller ID) Oh, Shoot! My husband. (Sits up and answers) Hello. I am in the Safehouse. I am going to be home in a bit. Are you? All right. Enjoy it sweet heart. Then I will be home when Zeynep gets here. All right. (Hangs up the cell phone) Thank God he is going to be home late. He had to attend a dinner. He had better not see me in this shape. I got stuck right here in the middle of the living room. (Tries standing up. But she can't) Fidan, would you give me a hand to get up?

(She manages with Fidan's help. Takes a seat on the couch.)

**NAZAN:** Thank you my dear. I feel a little better? Just like the tooth ache disappears on the way to the dental clinic, my pain seems to be gone because of home fear.

**DUDU:** Are you still in pain?

**NAZAN:** It aches a bit. I am much better though. Let me try getting up.

(NAZAN gets up slowly. She still is bent over. Slowly she rises her upper torso. Other women watch her curiously.)

**SMYRNAEAN:** It is gone.

**SERAP:** You still be careful.

**NAZAN:** I swear it is gone. May God appreciate your good will lady Dudu. You gave me a magic touch.

**DUDU:** (She brags) Oh yeah, I got a magic hand. In fact, you would have no pain left if I gave you a back massage with my feet. Fidan can do that too if you want.

**NAZAN:** Oh...not now. You never know it might get worse. I am happy with that much of a relief I got. (Door bell rings. Fidan answers. DENIZ arrives with a cake box in one hand and a package on the other hand. Fidan helps her with bags. DENIZ seems depressed)

**DENNISE:** Good afternoon.

**SERAP:** You are back early today.

**DENNISE:** I got two hours of leave of absence. I kept my word and bought you guys a cake. Could you make some tea for us now auntie Dudu.

**DUDU:** What is the rush my Child?

**DENNISE:** Workmates are going to pick me up in half an hour for taking me to a dinner. (Unwraps the package. It is full of small gifts wrapped separately and labeled with the names of Safehouse residents) It is just a small token. Please excuse the modest size. This is for you Fidan.

**FİDAN:** Thank you sister Dennise.

**DENNISE:** This is just for you auntie Dudu.

**DUDU:** You went through so much trouble.

**DENNISE:** You did so much for me. This is no trouble at all. Lady Serap, I thank you for everything you have done for me. (She hands over her small gift)

**SERAP:** Thank yo very much Dennise. You made feel very touched. You are very kind.

**DENNISE:** Nothing at all Lady Serap. You have done some many favors to me. (Talks to SMYRNAEAN) This is for you sister.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Thank you my dear child Dennise. (She kisses DENIZ on the head). You went through trouble.

**DENNISE:** (Talks to GULLU) And this is for you. Is anything wrong auntie Gullu?

**DUDU:** Her husband will take her back to hometown tomorrow.

**DENNISE:** I am happy for you. You should be happy too Auntie Gullu. You are luck hay to have a home to go to.

**ROSEY:** We'll see, I hope am doing the right thing,

**DENNISE:** (Talks to CEZAYIR) And this is for you Auntie ALGERIA.

**ALGERIA:** (She takes the gift and her eyes get filled with tears). You went through trouble for me.

**DENNISE:** (Talks to NAZAN) You always ran for our needs Auntie NAZAN. Whenever we were in a bind, you helped us. Let this be to our memories. (Hands over the gift).

**NAZAN:** I have not done much? I am happy if I could be of some help even little bit

**DUDU:** Do not say that Lady Nazan. ( Talks to DENIZ) Look, she even brought here her own house TV set just for us.

**NAZAN:** Do not mention it?

**DUDU:** She almost crippled her lower back.

**DENNISE:** Where is Lady Zeynep.

**SERAP:** Mayor sent for her.

**DENNISE:** She is going to be back, isnt she ? I want to see her too. I want to say my final farewell.

**SERAP:** She will be back momentarily? What do you mean by farewell?

**DUDU:** Are you going anywhere?

**SMYRNAEAN:** Are we not going to see you again?

**DENNISE:** Tonight, I am going to leave you all. I am going to move in with my friend after dinner.

**DUDU:** What is the rush for?

**SERAP:** You are welcome to stay few more days.

**DENNISE:** It is time to go. I got my pay roll too. I should get my life in order from now on. (She gets empotional) You all gave me a great support. You saved me from the streets. I will never forget lady Zeynep's helping me. She found a

computer training school for me and placed me in there too. She found me a job. She taught me how to stand on my feet on my own and keep my head up. I owe you all alot. May God appreciate your good will from all of you.

**SERAP:** This is our job anyway.

**DENNISE:** (Barely keeps the smile) Auntie Dudu, are going to send me away without having a piece of cake?

**DUDU:** Of course not? I am brewing our tea right away

**DENNISE:** I should get changed and get ready to leave. (She attempts to enter the bedroom)

**SERAP:** Dennise, we have a guest in the bedroom. She is asleep. Please be quiet.

**DENNISE** I will move like a cat and be silent.

**DUDU:** God willing your salary is what you have expected.

**DENNISE:** You are right Auntie Dudu! My salary will be good enough to cover my all needs. May God appreciate his good will. (She enters the bedroom quietly and shuts the door)

**SMYRNAEAN:** This saves another life.

**DUDU:** (Sets the table) What would have happened to her future if she did get help? Look, her life is saved. How can we forget your goodness from all of you? Is there any other deed better than this?

**ALGERIA:** A person can also earn the heaven without daily prayers. May God appreciate all of you Lady Nazan. (NAZAN was about to say something. The door bell rings. Fidan opens the door. ZEYNEP enters first)

**NAZAN:** What is Mr. Mayor saying?

**ZEYNEP:** (She talks to Hatun outside the door to the flat.) Lady HATUN, please do come in. (HATUN enters the flat. She seems uneasy and fearful)

**ZEYNEP:** Come on in, do not hesitate. Have a seat please. (She searches Zılfo) Is Zılfo sleeping?

**SERAP:** She still is sleeping.

**ZEYNEP:** Lady Hatun is Zılfo's mother. She came here all the way from Silvan. She is here for her daughter.

(HATUN takes her seat uneasily. Everbody looks astonished and curious)

**NAZAN:** Welcome

**HATUN:** Thank you, nice to be here.

**SERAP:** Welcome

**DUDU:** Welcome my child.

**ALGERIA:** You gave us a joy

**SMYRNAEAN:** Welcome auntie.

**HATUN:** Thank you.

**DUDU:** You are luck lady. You are welcome to enjoy Dennise's cake with us. Becuse she started working recently and brought us a cake with her first paycheck.

**ZEYNEP:** Has Dennise come yet?

**SERAP:** Yes. She is changing in the bedroom. Her friends are apparently going to take her out for dinner. She bought us a cake.

**ZEYNEP:** She is an appreciative girl. Do you have any idea how much salary was?

**SERAP:** We did not ask.

**DUDU:** I am glad we did not. She went through an expense of gifts for us too.

**ZEYNEP:** Lady Hatun, lady Nazan is from the foundation. She keeps helping our Safehouse for every need.

**DUDU:** She brought us her own house TV set after ours broke down..

**ZEYNEP:** Lady Serap us our psychologist. Other ladies live here. Lady Hatun jumped on the plane to get hear after hearing the sad news.

**SMYRNAEAN:** We felt so sorry for Zılfo.

**DUDU:** She arrived in bits and pieces.

**SERAP:** It is not easy to witness somebody getting murdered right next to you.

**ZEYNEP:** That somebody you talk about was the guy that she loved.

**DUDU:** Thank God nothing happened bad to her.

**ALGERIA:** She has more time left to live apparently.

**ZEYNEP:** Shall we let her sleep some more? We can get her up after having the cake.

**HATUN:** Where is she sleeping?

**ZEYNEP:** Over there. Beds are in that room.

**HATUN:** Let me see her.

**SERAP:** Sure you can see but do not wake her up

**HATUN:** I will look throught the door. I won't wake her up.

**ZEYNEP:** All right.

*(HATUN gets up. ZEYNEP opens the door. HATUN looks at her daughter without entering the bedroom. ZEYNEP gives signals to DENIZ to go out of the room)*

**ZEYNEP:** (She whispers) Let sleep abit more. (ZEYNEP leads HATUN by the arm back to her seat. HATUN appears all shaken up. Silence)

**HATUN:** She did the wrong thing, very unforgiveable. She knew our tribal laws. What is the use for running away with her lover? She already knew well the consequences of her actions. I looked for Zılfo a lot after my son grabbed his gun and came to Istanbul. I tried very hard to reach her on her phone. She kept it turned off. Oh my foolish girl. Why do you keep you phone turned off? Her sister in Germany tried reaching her on the phone so many times. If either of us had reached her, then would this murber have taken place?

**SERAP:** I wish you stopped you son.

**HATUN:** *(Desperately)* This is tribal law my child. Women has no say. I begged my man a lot. I said, "Please do not do this". He insisted and did not yield about changing his mind stubbornly. He said, "She put so much shame on our family honor that we can not face our people". He has point too. I have 6 more daughters besides Zılfo. None of them objected to father's wishes.

Whoever he deemed a good match to be married to, all of my daughters got married to him. None of them regretted later. Because there is a magic in a wedding. Parents always make the right decisions. All of my daughters are happily married with children. In our tribe, father has the final say. I got married that way too. I never objected my father's wish. However, my Daughter Zilfo turned out to be very different. She said, "I don't want to get married". She apparently fell in love with the guy she ran away with. Oh my crazy daughter. She saddened all of and herself too. She pushed her brother into committing a murder too. She should have thought about these. And daily news on the paper are not helping either. Miss. Watermelon from Diyarbakir beauty paegant. She shamed us to all. You cannot imagine how the people in our tribe are making fun of us and looking at us with disgrace. *(DENIZ gets out the bedroom quietly, shuts the door slowly. She is all dressed up and jazzed up. She over did her make up, and put on her high heels. She looks like street sluts ready to go out to get some business. She hands over the gift to ZEYNEP)*

**ZEYNEP:** Thank you very much. You look smashingly beautiful, I mean.

**SERAP:** Oh my Gosh.

**DUDU:** You already have God given beauty, and now you seem to be getting on the Miss. World beauty peagent.

**SMYRNAEAN:** Do not go out alone on the streets. I bet they will kidnap you.

**NAZAN:** Dennise, I haven't realized so far how beautiful you actually are. I admire you, I really do.

*(DENIZ looks as if she were embarrassed)*

**DUDU:** *(DENIZ cuts her cake using the knife given by DUDU. They all applaud. DUDU fills the plates. DENIZ passes the plates around. DUDU pours the tea as well)*

**ZEYNEP:** I wish the best of luck for you Dennise. Go ahead enjoy it, bon appetite.

*(They all enjoy the cake quietly)*

**DENNISE:** *(She moves next to ZEYNEP and talks quietly)* You have done so many favors for me lady Zeynep. I will never forget them.

**ZEYNEP:** Not at all Dennise. It is out duty. Your reaching to an orderly life also made me happy.

**DENNISE:** *(She lies)* I will earn a comfortable living Lady Zeynep

**ZEYNEP:** *(Kuşkulanmıştır.) (Got suspicious)* How much did they pay you?

**DENNISE:** Let us not talk about it because it might bring a bad luck.

**ZEYNEP:** Tell me my girl, how much is it?

**DENNISE :** *(All of a sudden)* I quit the job Lady Zeynep.

**ZEYNEP:** I don't understand. What are you talking about?

**DENNISE:** I am getting another job. *(She talks loud and clear)* I couldn't pay even my rent with the salary they paid Lady Zeynep!

**ZEYNEP:** What are you saying? Why didn't you tell me before?

**DENNISE:** What could you do, anyway?

**ZEYNEP:** We would let Mr. Mayor know, then he would have talked to your boss.

**DENNISE:** *(She gets it all out of her chest)* I have told my boss. “This salary pay is not going to cover even my rent”, I said. Can you imagine what he said? “Let me pay the rent for your house”. In return, supposedly he would live with me twice a week. (Silence.)

**DENNISE:** You did all you could lady Zeynep. You have done so much for me. But this is not enough. Do you understand this? *(She stops. She is about to cry)*. It is not enough, your trying hard is not enough !

**DUDU:** If there is a winter outside, how can you make a spring inside. I mean, no peace out, no peace in.

**ZEYNEP:** Do not loose your hope. We will do our best. *(She interrupts DENIZ)* I understand you clearly. You do not have to explain anymore! That workplace is not good .We will search some other job for you. Please be patient. *(Everybody is quiet. The bedroom door opens and Zilfo appears. She looks around surprised. HATUN stands up)*

**ZEYNEP:** Come on in Zilfo. Look who is here!  
*(Zilfo sees her mother and gets uneasy. HATUN and ZILFO exchange looks eye to eye. They all start acting as if they were in slow motion. ZILFO hugs her mother. HATUN hugs her back. ZILFO seems to be inhaling her mother’s hug. She kisses her mothers face and hands. Her tears come out in despare. HATUN on the other hand seems very cold hearted and tries very hard to hold her tears)*

**HATUN:** Why did you do this my child? Didn’t you think of me either? Didn’t you know the consequences of your all actions? *(ZILFO keeps her silence)* You are my baby. I carried you for nine months in my womb. I cannot let anyone hurt you. I have jumped on the plane in the morning and came here straight. Now, I will take you away from here. I am going to hide you till you become 18 years old. Nobody will be able to track us down! Then we are going to get our passports issued and fly to Germany to meet your sister there. Because they are not going to let me live since I am helping you. Your sister is waiting for us in Germany. Come on get dressed now and let’s get going.

**ZEYNEP:** What is the rush for Lady Hatun? You can stay here overnight.

**DENNISE:** You can take my bed.

**ZEYNEP:** You can stay overnight then leave in the morning.

**HATUN:** We should be on the go. Otherwise your brother can track us both down here. The same way I have found you. Newspapers gave you away and your whereabouts. Come on my child. Get dressed so that we can leave. Thank you so much Lady Zeynep. If you could call a taxi cab, that would be my final wish from you. Go on Zilfo you should get ready as well.

**ZEYNEP:** *(She calls for a taxi cab on the phone)* Hello! Could you dispatch a cab to the Woman’s Saferhouse? Thank you. Right away. Please ring the bell at the apartment building entry. They will come down. *(All the cast is waiting. Shortly they all hear a horn from a taxi cab downstairs.*

**ZEYNEP:** *(She looks out the window)* The cab is here. *(SERAP gets surprised and stops just before entering into the bedroom. ZILFO comes to the living room with her dark sunglasses, a handbag, black veil, and a long dress covering her up all over.)*

**HATUN:** Is this a new custom? Are you going to wear a black veil from now on.

**ZEYNEP:** Police officers put him under cover.

**HATUN:** *(She thinks for moment)* This is a good idea. Even I could not recognize you on the street. Thanks Lady Zeynep. God helped me to live this day. I have found my daughter. Wait a second Zilfo. We have a long way to go. Let me go to the rest room. *(Zeynep shows HATUN the way to the bathroom. HATUN enters the bathroom. The lights of the bathroom come on. The audience can clearly see inside the bathroom and HATUN. ZILFO stands by the main door to the flat and waits for her misfortune like a sacrificial lamb.)*

**HATUN:** *(Pulls out her cellphone. Calls someplace. She lives the desperation for awhile)* Are you there son? Do you see the taxi cab. *(She almost cries)* She is wearing a black veil and a long cover up! She will get down to the street ALONE. *(Hangs up her cell phone. Goes to the living room. Avoids seeing Zilfo).* Zilfo you go ahead and go downstairs. You never know. Get in the cab quickly and do not hang around. I am coming right behind you.

**ZILFO:** All right. *(Looks at ZEYNEP and SERAP with gratitude, then to all of them)* Forgive me for all the troubles that I might have caused you. *(Kisses their hands)*

**ALL THE WOMEN ALTOGETHER:** You already are forgiven

**DUDU:** We have not done much?

**ZEYNEP:** Good bye

**SERAP:** So long and good luck to you.

**DUDU:** May God ease your path and ways.

**ALGERIA** Thank you my child.

**SMYRNAEAN** May God let you receive the same respect as you are showing us, in the future.

**ROSEY:** May God help you. *(ZILFO hugs FIDAN too. She gets out of the apartment flat. Only her fading footsteps could be heard. HATUN waits by the main door to the flat. All the cast stands up for a while. Silence)*

**HATUN:** Farewell you all {Stay in one piece} *(As HATUN starts walking out the apartment flat door, few rounds of gun shots are heard. All the residents of the Safehouse freeze in shock, like a picture, while running to the window and the door. Silence. The cast keeps frozen while the gun shots multiply and get combined with machine gun shootings and hand grenade explosions. Lights go dim then gradually off.)*

– **THE END** - İstanbul, 22.02.2010

-----COMMENTARIES ON THE SCRIPT OF THE PLAY-----

**“WOMEN’S SAFEHOUSE IS A CONTEMPORARY TRAGEDY”**

Prof. Dr. Sevda ŞENER

**SAFEHOUSES, WITNESSES TO WOMAN’S DESPERATION  
(or SAFEHOUSES created by desperate men )**

Prof. Dr. Hülya NUTKU

**THE LAST PLAY OF CUCENOĞLU, “WOMEN’S SAFEHOUSE”**

Prof. Dr. Dikmen GÜRÜN

**A LONG JOURNEY, FROM “LITTLE WOMEN” TO “WOMEN’S  
SAFEHOUSE”**

Associate Prof. Dr. Elena OGANOVA

The Univesity of Moskov / Türkologist/ Dramaturgist/Translator

**A NEW PLAY FROM CÜCENOĞLU, WOMEN’S SHELTER  
Seçkin SELVİ/ Critique**

**CÜCENOĞLU IS THE SOLE TURKISH PLAYWRIGHT RENOWNED  
IN THE WORLD.**

Celile TOYON/Actor

**SOME TAKE SHELTER IN “WOMEN’S SAFEHOUSE”... HOW ABOUT  
THE REST OF THE WOMEN?**

Rengin Uz /Journalist /Critique

**A DRAMA WITH A TASTE OF A TRAGEDY FROM CÜCENOĞLU  
Başak SAKIZLIOĞLU/Critique**

**WHY DO WE BUILD SAFEHOUSES FOR ONLY WOMEN?**

Asmin SİNGEZ / Plawright/ Educator

**LET THE WOMEN TAKE SHELTER IN HOPE**

Dilara POLAT /Journalist

**A CONTEMPORARY TRAGEDY, “WOMEN’S SAFEHOUSE”**

Ege IŞIK / Critique

**WOMEN’S SAFEHOUSE**

**Nalan ÖZÜBEK**

The Editor, Theater... Theater Magazine

**“WOMEN’S SAFEHOUSE” WILL FILL A GREAT GAP IN THE  
REPERTOIRE OF OUR THEATER**

**Leyla GEZEN/Educator**

**A STRIKING TRAGEDY WITH ITS TIMELESSNESS AND DEPTH**

**Elif BEREKETLİ  
CUMHURİYET/ Journalist**

**WOMEN, VICTIMS OF A SOCIETY WITH CLASSES and MEN**

**Şule PERİNÇEK /Journalist/Author**