

NADIM

A story about destiny

Treatment

Written prologue in V.O. on black screen:

There are men upon whom such an endless succession of calamities shower down from the bright heavens above, that at least they stand motionless and unresisting while the dark hailing thunderstorm passes over them, while, on the contrary, there are others whom fortune so perversely singles out as her favourites, that it would appear, in some cases, as though the laws of nature were inverted, simply that all things might turn to their advantage.

FADE IN:

NADIM

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A petrol station somewhere on a highway. A YOUNG WOMAN (26) is hitchhiking. She observes a MAN (40) who is filling up his rental truck.

It is already getting dark. The rental truck is parked in front of the restaurant.

The young woman enters through the back door. She spots the man. He is eating dinner. She approaches the table, asking for his direction and for a ride. After a short conversation the man is willing to take her but only under one condition. He has to drive through the night and he is already tired. He needs somebody who will keep him awake with a good story. Not the usual small talk or bla bla but a story that will fascinate him. If she can deliver such a story he will take her.

But he will drop her if it is getting boring. First the woman considers the offer as ridiculous but then she accepts.

Both enter the car. He ignites the motor, lights a cigarette and looks at her. "Well?" "Well, I can tell you something about destiny", she starts. He narrows his eyes sceptically. "I was working once in an old people's home where I met this black guy. His name was NADIM, he was probably 90 years old, nearly blind. And I was wondering what the hell a black guy from Africa was doing in a small town in Bavaria. Over the next weeks I learned his story. Nadim grew up in the desert, somewhere in Africa at the border between Sudan and Ethiopia...

RAHEL

...we see an old desert town partly in ruins from the air. The late sun turns every colour from crimson to black. A click-click noise can be heard. Young Nadim (10) is playing Ngoli with his friend, a kind of boules-game with stones. All the children are in rags only Nadim is looking a bit better. He loses but can't pay. An argument starts. The other children start to push him. Finally he runs away through the narrow alleys followed by a crowd of children. They pass a group of men at the market place, the door of the blacksmith and the butcher who is cutting a goat into pieces. Blood covers the floor. The followers are still on his heels.

Nadim reaches his home. In front of the house a caravan is unloading goods that are meticulously counted by Nadim's father. Servants are carrying the merchandise away. The salesman

greets Nadim and gently strokes his head. At the same moment the other children arrive. Nadim turns around. They see that he is under protection of his family and let up on him.

Nadim enters the underground home of his family. He steps down into a cavern where we discover a structure of illuminated rooms all laid out with finest hand woven carpets. In the corners and against the wall are cushions with curtains above them. The light steams in through upper windows which are latticed and half covered with myrrh-plants. The whole place is full of merchandise that the father brought from all over the world. We can see that the family is wealthy. Nadim's mother (RAHEL, 35) immediately takes care of the young boy. He gets food and new clothes that make him look more than a girl but Nadim doesn't care. He puts his head on her lap; she caresses his hairs and starts singing.

When his father arrives with a merchant the freedom is over. Nadim has to help the servants, while both men are having a tea. They start negotiating about a camel.

A couple of days later the fasting period end. There is a lot of commotion in the small alleys of the old town. Also Nadim's family is having a festivity together with all the servants. They serve food in abundance and by the end of the festivity Nadim is getting his first camel. Everybody claps when he mounts the animal but we can see that his mother is not doing well.

The next morning Nadim is sitting in front of the house while a servant comes out and empties a bowl of blood on the flour.

Apparently some doctors are trying to save the life of Nadim's mother with a simple bloodletting.

Nadim tries to get a view of his mother but he is chased away by a medicine man. While leaving the house he sees a shaman arriving.

"The next day when he returned from school the house was empty. The medicine men were gone." First Nadim is in a good mood but then he can hear the crying of the mourner's. One of the maids takes him in her arms. She cries. For a moment Nadim is paralyzed. Everything is so unreal.

An uncle passes by and takes Nadim to the big market in order to distract him. They see people from different nation, wild animals, merchants and musicians. Nadim is fascinated.

Suddenly a balloon appears. Everybody is looking up and we can see the old city and the vivid market place from above. Young Nadim waves with his hand...

...and back on earth we are again with Nadim who is 18 now. His view still directed to the sky.

Nadim stands in front of his camel. He stuffs some of his belongings in the side pockets. His father comes out of the house and hands him a small money bag. *"Nadim's father was rich but at the age of 18 he sent his son away and told him not to come back before he could make a living on his own."*

Back in the car. "What you have inherited from your fathers, you must earn in order to possess", resumes the driver. "If you like. In any case..."

...he had to leave his home for the first time." Nadim is leaving his hometown. At a hill outside of the settlement he stops and overlooks the scenery again.

We see a caravan crossing the desert in the sun. We see Nadim talking to strangers. We see him entering a city, we see him at the beach. "Over the next years Nadim traveled through the entire region. He was confronted with poverty; he saw the big cities and even made it to the ocean."

Nadim is changing goods with a merchant; he stuffs the money in his caftan. We see him sleeping in the rain on the floor next to his camel. He pulls his camel through a desert storm. It is visible that he became older.

Inside a tent Nadim is delivering rugs to an elder man. They negotiate a price. The host organizes a group of belly dancers. Nadim is instantly struck by the beauty of one dancer (SEMIRA, 18). They exchange glances and he loses his thread of thoughts. The guests applaud. Nadim is enlightened by her and by the performance.

Later in the evening he visits Semira. In the moonlight they walk through the oasis.

"After 15 years Nadim returned for the first time to his hometown again." It is night. He comes alone and by feet. His

clothes are worn out. The father is sitting on a bench in front of his house and immediately recognizes his son as if he was expecting him. They do not embrace each other but Nadim just opens his caftan and takes out an enormous amount of money.

The old man enters the house. The candle light is dim. Meticulously he starts counting the money, stuffs it into a hideout and finally rushes to his son embraces him and presses him close to his breast. *"But Nadim only had one thought..."*

A big wedding ceremony. Nadim asks Semira's hand in marriage. His father slaughters a lamb. He invites all the neighbours and a festivity of three day starts. The neighbours are curious to see Nadim and his new bride but they are also full of distrust and envy.

Back in the car: "They weren't even married for a month when Nadim's father died. He buried him next to his mother and he took over his fathers business."

SEMIRA

Nadim talks to his servants. He is doubling their salary, but it seems that they are not happy. They complain about their situation

"He lavished his wife with rarities from the several lands he visited..." Nadim surprises Semira with jewels. *"...but it turned out that she was infertile."* Both are having sex but it doesn't look very passionate.

Neighbours and his own servants talk bad about Nadim behind his back. They make fun about him and blame him for her infertility.

Nadim is having dinner with his wife. Nobody is saying a word. Servants bring in the food. *"So Nadim plunged himself more and more into business and left his wife with her maids"*. We see Nadim saddling a caravan and leaving his house. *"He did good business but destiny struck him again."*

Alone and hunched upon his camel Nadim reaches the outskirts of a small town. It is already dusk. Suddenly he slides from the back of the animal to the dusty ground. Some residents are trying to help him but all of a sudden they back up and one man shouts: "Smallpox, smallpox, he has smallpox!"

Entirely wrapped in bedclothes Nadim is carried in to an old colonial hospital. The clothes are opened and the first thing he can see with his blurry eyes is bespectacled Dr. Förster, a doctor from Germany who is not afraid of touching him. Förster examines Nadim, gives some orders to the nurses and leaves the room.

The nurses take his clothes off and wash his body with hot water and herbs. Nadim half in trance is having a nightmare about his father.

A couple of days later Dr. Förster enters a spartanly equipped hospital room in the clinic. Nadim is lying in a simple bed. He has bandages all over but he is awake and in a better mood. And the doctor can talk to him.

Back in the car. We are already deep in night. The driver has to concentrate in order not to get distracted by the lights from drivers coming in the opposite direction but he is listening carefully. "It took Nadim 10 weeks to recover. In the end he was fine again except from the scars that did remain in his face."

Nadim is packing his few belongings. He is with the back to us. There's a knock at the door. Dr. Förster enters the room, Nadim turns around and we can see the deep scars that were left by the disease. The doctor gives Nadim a special crème and wishes him good bye. "I hope my treatment will help you. Write me whenever you can. And whenever you come to Germany please visit me." He hands Nadim his business card with name and address. Nadim stares at the piece of paper.

There is a lot of excitement in the alleys of his hometown when Nadim returns. But people also immediately start to whisper behind his back. At home he wants to embrace his wife but she backs off terrified by the way he looks. Nadim pretends as if nothing has happened. At night he approaches Semira again. They have sex but for her it is nothing but a conjugal duty that she has to fulfil.

The next morning he can feel that even his servants make fun about him. In an angry mood he leaves his domicile and goes to the graves of his parents. He talks to his mother.

Nadim is lead onto the roof terrace of a noble house. It is the time of sunset. A couple of merchants welcome him. He is

treated with respect and it is obvious that these men want to do business with him. Tee is offered. *"Only aboard he found what was denied to him at home: honour, deep esteem and authority. He often repeated this to himself, and exercised his power despotically for the mere pleasure of feeling that it was indeed his. Thus he became more and more arrogant."*

While the group is in discussion a young, good looking man (TARIK BEN AMAR, 30) who was sent by his chief needs to talk to Nadim regarding an important loan. Nadim first makes him wait a couple of hours and although the courtly ambassador kindly asks again and again he finally is send away without any chance to present his case.

Back in the car. "So this way he took revenge for what happened to him?" "Worse, he also became fond of weapons". "Did he kill somebody?" "Yes, he did." A longer moment of silence. We can hear the monotone "do-dong-do-dong" noise of the wheels...

...that goes over into the noise of boxes dangling at the side of camels that do form a longer caravan of merchants, pilgrims and people of all ranks. *"After a longer travel Nadim teamed up with a caravan that was on his way to the ocean."* The caravan rests at a water place. The evening sun is still burning merciless but the whole situation is peaceful. All of the sudden gun shots can be heard. The caravan is attacked by Bedouins. A general cry of terror arises. Nadim is the only one who keeps a clear head. He organizes the defence. He takes on an opponent in a one to one fight and stabs him down. His deter-

mination encourages the others. The attackers are chased away and no mercy is shown.

After the fight the group makes a campfire and prepares for the night. A merchant approaches Nadim in order to thank him. The two men sit together under the full moon. When the merchant learns to whom he is talking he tells Nadim that before he joined the caravan he overheard a conversation of Tarik Ben Amar. Tarik was apparently furious and he was planning to go to Nadim's home town.

The next Nadim leaves the caravan. While being close to his village he already sees smoke in the air. The entire village is under attack and his home has been looted by the men of Tarik Ben Amar. There is no time to fight. Paralyzed Nadim can see strangers that do carry all kinds of good out of his house. At the palm trees he sees Tarik mounted on a horse with several men around him. Nadim grabs one of the weapons that are hidden under the saddle, aims at Tarik but misses him. Some of Tarik's men turn back. He is thrown to the ground and beaten to death. At least that is what Tarik thinks. They leave the lifeless body of Nadim in the dust. The neighbours witness everything without helping.

Once Tarik and his men are gone Nadim drags himself up from the ground. He chases away the neighbours and enters his home, looking for Semira. The light streams through the foliage of the myrrh-plants. Already at the entrance he can hear a strange wailing.

Nadim finds his wife in a larger room that has been totally looted. She smiles as if she has fallen in love with him again. Nadim brings some water to her lips and then he sees a newborn next to her. *"So in the middle of the worst destruction he experienced the most unbelievable happiness. His wife gave birth to a little daughter."* Semira touches his face. "Nadim, you are beautiful as ever."

Nadim puts his wife in a comfortable position, he covers her with blankets, brings some wine that has been hidden and prepares a kind of soup. Semira is calm and more relaxed now. She drinks a bit of wine and falls asleep.

While his wife is sleeping Nadim searches the home. All of a sudden he makes out a figure standing before him. It is one of his servants (DRISS, 25), who fled when the attack started but now he is back. Nadim hands him a gun and gives him the order to look after his wife and the newborn. He takes some money and leaves.

Outside it is raining. Nadim confronts his neighbours. He is willing to pay for all damages caused by the looting if in exchange they will sell a dairy goat to him.

When Nadim returns with the goat his wife is dead while the baby still sleeps. He gives some milk to the newborn and puts it in a protected corner of the room. Then he sits on the ground and starts crying. Nadim remembers how he met his wife the first time; he remembers her belly dance, her beautiful face and the marriage. He kisses her again.

Nadim stands close to the grave of his father and his mother. *"The following day Nadim buried his wife and the neighbours kept on telling that in the end he was the one who killed her."*

Back in the car. "What was the name of the child?" asks the driver.

MALI

The little baby is lying in a room that has been provisory arranged by MIRA (28), the former maid of Nadim's wife who is helping him with the child. Mali is smiling. In contrary to mother and father her eyes are deep blue but her view is somehow empty as if she is looking at something she can not understand.

While Mira looks after the baby Nadim starts repairing his house. He finds some provisions that have been forgotten by the plunderers and he puts a new door at the entrance. He drags the greater part of the scattered garments into the two rooms which are destined to serve as his present abode.

In the evening Nadim treats himself the wounds he did get from the fight with Tarik's men. He goes down into the cellar fills a bowl with cold water, dips a cloth in it and applies it to his loins and other aching parts of his body.

Nadim is having a simple dinner together with Mira and Driss. Later he closes the doors and they all go to sleep.

The following morning Nadim is working on a little strip of land next to his house where he grows his vegetables when a messenger sent by the neighbours arrives. He learns that the neighbours had a counsel. They consider Nadim the one who occasioned their disaster as well. He must make them compensation. Nadim listens to their demand. He takes out some gold coins and counts out the required sum in the messenger's hand. "That is all Tarik left." The messenger takes the money, leaves a receipt in Nadim's hand and goes away. Nadim also tells him to greet the neighbours. Once the messenger is gone he keeps on working.

The messenger puts the money on a table. The neighbours immediately agree that the amount is not high enough. He has to pay tenfold back and more what has been taken from them. Considering his actual situation they agree to spare him now but press him hard at some future time.

Nadim irrigates his plants. The garden looks a lot better. He carries part of the harvest from his strip of land to the home. *"Time passed by and the neighbours still believed that Nadim was rich and that he was just biding his time, waiting for some favourable opportunity when he might revenge himself..."*

Back in the car: ...for all the affronts he had received. Nadim, however, only had eyes for his little girl."

Mira waits with Mali in front of the house. Nadim takes his daughter from the maid. He holds her in his arms, brings the little girl inside and puts her down. *"But soon he noticed*

that something was wrong." Mali sits on the floor surrounded by a lot of toys in her reach. Nadim goes to the door. He calls her and encourages her to crawl over. Mali turns around but she remains motionless. Her eyes remain wide open, neither moving nor changing their expression. An idea rushes into his mind. He waves his fingers quickly, but noiselessly, through the air close above her eye-lashes, an operation which will make almost all people, certainly all children, wink; but Mali is perfectly unaware of these motions over her eye-lids. *"Now all the mystery was cleared up. His child was blind."*

Head in hands Nadim sits at night time in front of his house. *"Nadim was desperate and he only had one hope."* Suddenly he gets up and starts searching his house. In one of the drawers he finally finds what he is looking for. Nadim holds in his hands the card that Dr. Förster gave him a long time ago.

By night Nadim leaves his house. He goes to a spot closed in by black and seemingly scorched stones which are screened from observation by rocks. He turns up the sand and earth with a trowel and soon brings to light a quantity of gold coins and jewels. He counts them. Then he digs again and finds still more. Then he throws sand over the flat stones under which the gold has been hidden. At some distance he digs again and takes the same precautions as before. At several other places he does the same.

At home Nadim locks himself in, approaches an angle of the wall and begins to loosen one of the stones. Behind the stone he finds a small flat chest of copper. He takes out a couple

of papers wrapped in silk, puts the empty chest back into the wall and replaces the stone.

The next morning he takes some food and gives Mira the order to prepare the little child. Meanwhile he harnesses his camel and explains to the maid that he intends seeking another place of abode, and that she must get ready for the journey.

An hour later he brings out the camel, lifts Mira upon it, gives her the child and leads them forth. Outside the town on top of the sand hill he looks again at his home as if it is a paradise to which he is bidding goodbye forever.

We see the three crossing the dessert; we see them preparing a night camp. Nadim chases away a wild animal. We see them close to the blue Atlas Mountains. They cross a small oasis. Finally they reach rural land and than we can see the Mediterranean.

"After 19 days of journey they reached the coastline. Nadim hired a small white house and waited three more weeks until a ship was ready to go to Europe and could take him." Nadim leads his party through the town. They reach a house at the coast and start to unpack.

In town Nadim sells his camel and gets in exchange the first European money. He talks to the owner of a vessel at the harbour. They shake hands. *"Three weeks later he got a boat to Europe."*

An iron anchor is raised out of the water, and the wooded shores begin, as it were, to rock to and fro. Mira, who is left behind stays at the pier and waves good bye.

During the whole trip Nadim does not move. He sits with his back against the railing and the child in his arms. The trip is favourable the sky always clear and a gentle breeze cools the air.

The vessel reaches the European coast. *"One afternoon the friendly shores of Europe arose from out of the blue water."*

Back in the car: "Nadim and his daughter were the last to leave the boat. - Can we stop for a moment I have to pee?" The car stops at the side of the road and the young woman disappears. We stay with the driver who sits for a short moment motionless, the motor running. Then he lights a cigarette and inhales."

The woman comes back and they keep on driving. „Let me speed things up a bit for you", says the woman. "Once in Europe Nadim got in contact with Dr. Förster who was more than happy to help..."

"...he picked him up with his car and managed to bring him over the borders to his house in the Bavarian mountains." We see Nadim and Förster embrace. They get into a van. They drive on a highway, then on a forest path. They reach a typical German house of the region surrounded by pine forests and fields.

Little Mali is lying on a big bed. The beam of a flashlight is directed into her eye. The eye stays motionless. The flashlight is turned on and off again. No reaction, no light perception. A doctor, stethoscope ever dangling, washes his hands in a sink. The result of all the detailed examinations is still the same: Mali has no perception, she is blind and there is nothing that can be done about it.

"But instead of beginning her education and developing her mental faculties as much as possible Nadim became obsessed with a complete different idea." We see Nadim enter the study of his friend. He informs Förster that he decided to stay in Europe. He resolves to amass as much riches as possible for his child, so that when he should die, she might thereby be enabled to get hands to help her, and hearts to love her. In the room next door we can hear the baby cry.

Back in the car. "So Nadim stayed at a cottage Dr. Förster let him. He got himself a maid and he started doing business again. Meanwhile Mali grew up."

Outside it is stormy and rainy. Through the window we see Mali, who is eleven now sitting at the kitchen table. It is a house of the region but the interior is dressed similar to the home he left in Africa. The maid is teaching her German. She has problems following the lines in Braille. There's a noise. Mali turns around. Nadim enters the room looking a lot older than the last time we left him. Mali reaches to hold his hand. He generously takes her hand... And they sit like that holding hands, Nadim and his daughter.

After a while she tells him that she feels so different, but he comforts her that everybody feels different about themselves one way or another. "We're all goin' the same way, just taking different roads to get there... You're on your own road, Mali." We see the door quietly open, a dog sneaks in...

Mali is sitting in the room, listening to the sounds of the house. Various calculations are spread on the ground. Nadim's fallen fast asleep in his chair, an accounting book on his lap...

"One day Nadim left with the dog, at a time when several cases of hydrophobia had occurred in various parts of the neighbourhood." We see Nadim saying good bye to Förster, whom he just visited.

Nadim and the dog are crossing the wood by feed. Suddenly the dog begins to bark repeatedly and angrily and runs in the way they just came from. Nadim stops but then as he keeps on going the dog returns and begins to behave as before. The eyes of the animal are sparkling and Nadim begins to feel a serious apprehension.

While they reach a small stream the dog has foam on his lips darts forward and snaps at Nadim's feed just as he is about to enter the water. Nadim takes a rifle he was carrying and points the weapon at the dog. He sees the bleeding creature collapse and crosses the water.

A couple of minutes later Nadim becomes aware that he lost his shoulder bag with the money inside and returns. We see him

reaching the stream, but the dog is no longer there. Only traces of his blood can be seen. Nadim goes back farther and then he finds the bag and the dying dog beside it. He kneels down, caresses the dog and examines his wound. The animal licks his hand and dies.

Back in the car: "Nadim did not tell his daughter about the incident. He returned to his business but a short time afterwards he fell ill. And when he was on the way to recover another mysterious event came to pass..."

We see Nadim sitting in a dressing gown at the table of his room busy calculating the expenses of a business. Outside a thunderstorm is approaching. The rain is already tickling down from the ledge of the roof. All at once a blaze of thunder can be heard and the entire building seems to be in a blaze of light.

Nadim hurries immediately into Mali's apartment. The lightning has struck her room but Mali is unhurt. She is sitting upright in her bed. We see Nadim rushing in through the door. He opens a window to let out the strong phosphor smell that fills the room. Then he approaches Mali who shrieks as if being in apprehension of some horrible danger. She waves her hands towards him as if to avert him.

Nadim leaves the room and comes back with a piece of glowing ember that he took from the fire place. He swings the ember in front of Mali's eyes and she shrieks again. Her eyes are following the flaming circles described by the fire brand. Nadim

closes all the shutters of the room and draws the curtains. Then he calls for his friend Förster.

We can see a bright rainbow over the valley. „*The same thunderstorm that had shattered the roof of his house and destroyed his neighbour's harvest gave his daughter back her eye sight.*”

Dr. Förster comes out of Mali's room and shakes his head in astonishment. Indeed she has received her eye sight again. Nadim gets the order that the light must be let in upon her only by degrees so that she can slowly get accustomed to the objects around her.

“*Nadim gave up his business which he had lately pursued so vigorously and began to teach his daughter to see.*” We see him showing her around in the house. She follows him reluctantly and evidently afraid of stumbling against the various objects in her way. He is leading Mali into the small garden. He points his finger to the sky and explains the colours. He shows her trees and flowers. Later Nadim carries his daughter to bed. He dims the light, takes her hand and sings a song in the language of his father till she falls asleep.

We see Nadim setting up a new garden behind the house with his daughter. Mali puts little name tags on the recently planted flowers and vegetables. A couple of small trees are set into the ground. They are leafless.

The trees are already bigger. Some of them are carrying fruits. A beautiful sea of green corn waves on the spot where

formerly had been nothing but short, pale grass with grey stones on the ground. Also the garden is more beautiful, surrounded by a wall and in full bloom. A small radio is playing music. We can see that Mali is a young lady now who is helping Nadim. Her cheeks and lips are more blooming; her limbs are fuller and stronger.

Mali is walking together with Nadim at some distance from home through a pine forest. Their figures are gliding along. They reach a wide field of flax in full blossom. Mali is delighted by the colour of the flowers and Nadim promises her that soon she will have a blue field like this on her own.

We see Nadim sitting on a bench placed against the house wall. He talks to his daughter in Arabic and we see the time fading away till it becomes night...

It is summer and harvest time. Mali ascends a rising ground covered with corn. The weather is sultry and she is all on her own. She walks on till she has reached the summit of the hill. We can see a vast field of flax, which is about to burst out into blossom. A veil of clouds starts to spread over the sky...

...it is becoming darker and thicker. Nadim looks at the clouds and although in most parts the sun is still shining he notices the approaching storm. A farmer on a thrasher, who is passing by, tells him that he can find his daughter on the hill.

Nadim finds Mali standing beside the flax. The field is covered with blue flowers. Tiny insects buzz around. "Don't you see the clouds?" "I see the clouds but they will not come near us yet." Nadim glances towards the sky. And as a first breeze is stirring both seek shelter in a hut of sheaves standing at the edge of the field.

Sitting inside their shelter they can see a yellow stubble field laid stretched before them. "How glorious this is and now that you are with me it delights me even more." We can hear the first thunder. "It seems to me", says Mali "that the clouds are not very thick, and that they will not fall in very large drops." They keep on talking when suddenly, in the middle of their conversation...

...a LIGHTNING strikes their shelter and leaves Mali dead. The light we have seen for a short moment is followed by a crushing sound. Not a single drop of rain falls, only the clouds sweep rustling across the sky, like curtains quickly drawn.

"Nadim took his daughter and carried her home." We see him striding through the wind, which is now rising, the head and arm of his child hanging down behind his shoulder. Every second step is looped so that his way seems endless...

Rain starts and finally we see a rainbow. *"The thunderstorm which took away the young girl's life, showered the same day its rich blessings upon all farmers and closed, like the one which had given Mali her eyesight with a wide and beautiful rainbow."*

Back in the car. It is already dusk. „After this event Nadim used to sit on the bench in front of his house, not moving and not speaking but gazing intently at the sun. Later he had nobody who could take care of him so they moved him to the old people's home. And that is how my story ends.”

“That was a good story. And I think you really deserved the trip. But I still do have one question.”

She looks at him. “Why did he tell ‘you’ his story?”

Now we change to an outside perspective. “When I first met Nadim everybody told me that he hadn't spoken to anyone for over 15 years. Then he read on the badge that my name was Mali and he began to talk on his own. He also told me that he wanted to travel to Africa again and thrust a dagger into Tarik's heart. But it was too late, he was powerless.”

The car disappears at the horizon. The sun rises.

END