

Devorah's Two Weddings  
or  
Meet the Jamals  
by  
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Joachim Martillo  
Version 20  
December 13, 2006, 6:30 PM  
Registration: 134876  
12/22/2005  
WGA, E  
AFL-CIO

DEVORAH'S TWO WEDDINGS

BLACK SCREEN.

FADE IN:

CONTEXT -- THE PAST TO THE PRESENT (MARCH 2005)

SEQUENCE OF SHOTS

**SUPER: YOM HAATZMAUT (ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY) 1983**

A) Front facade of A.D. Gordon Elementary School, Tel Aviv, Israel. An Israeli flag flies over it.

B) In the auditorium of the Elementary School, the first grade class sings the Israeli national anthem (*Hatikvah*) before the parents of the children in grades K-3. There is momentary focus and identification on DEVORAH Goren, who is a first grader, as well as her parents, Dr. YEHUDAH Goren and ZAHAVAH Goren. The teachers, principal and many of the audience are wearing military uniforms.

**SUPER: YOM HASHOAH (HOLOCAUST DAY) 1987**

B) Sign for Dizengoff Street, Tel Aviv, Israel.

C) Traffic flows on Dizengoff Street. Loud sirens blare. Traffic stops, and everyone gets out of their cars to stand.

INSERT: PHOTO OF YAD VASHEM HOLOCAUST MUSEUM CIRCA 1987

D) Several classes including the fourth grade of the A. D. Gordon Elementary School are attending a special ceremony at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The sirens blare. The students and teachers stand up for a moment of silence. There is a momentary focus on Devorah Goren and identification of her.

**SUPER: BEN-GURION AIRPORT, SEPTEMBER 1988**

E) The Gorens are waiting to board their plane to the USA. Devorah is 10 years old.

YEHUDAH

Can't you stop pouting? You'll like Brookline.

DEVORAH FROWNS BUT SAYS NOTHING.

ZAHAVAH

Devorah dear, we'll come back home all the time.

DEVORAH

(Very unhappy)  
I'll be the geeky new kid in the class.

ZAHAVAH

In a few weeks they'll all want to belong to your clique.

DEVORAH

We always make fun of American Jews in school.

YEHUDAH

You mean like me.

DEVORAH

No, you became Israeli.

ZAHAVAH

Honey, you'll be Israeli American, and you'll help Israel in the USA.

F) An El-Al jet flies from Tel Aviv to Boston.

**SUPER: LOGAN AIRPORT, SEPTEMBER 1988**

G) Devorah and Yehudah are standing on line for US passport holders at immigration control. Zahavah is on line for those traveling without US passports. They are all bored.

H) The Gorens get their luggage from the baggage carousel.

I) The Gorens are driving on Route 90 to their new home. Yehudah is the driver. Zahavah sits on the front passenger side. Devorah is in the back seat. They see the sign for the Alston Cambridge exit. Yehudah turns off the highway.

**SUPER: BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL, JUNE 1995**

J) Devorah gives the valedictory speech in the school auditorium. A banner says, "**Congratulations, Class of '95!**" The class and the audience is racially and culturally diverse.

DEVORAH

... I thank all my friends and teachers, who taught me how to be American. Because of them I can serve as a bridge between cultures. ...

**SUPER: MASADAH, ISRAEL, AUGUST 1995**

**SUPER: INDUCTION CEREMONY FOR NEW SOLDIERS**

K) Young soldiers in formation.

DEVORAH STANDS AT ATTENTION.

Other young men and women of her age group stand and listen to an IDF GENERAL speak as he is drowned out by Israel Air Force Jets that fly over head.

INSERT -- MILITARY JET PLANES WITH ISRAELI INSIGNIA FLYING.

SUPER: **FRESHMAN WEEK, THAYER DORM, HARVARD, SEPTEMBER 1996**

L) Devorah and Yehudah enter the freshman double with luggage. JASMIN, FAROUK, and NILOFER Patel are further along in moving their daughter, JASMIN into the suite. They all introduce themselves to each other.

FAROUK

We were about to take a break to grab lunch.

YEHUDAH

I know a great place on Brattle St.

INSERT: THE FRONT OF CAFE INDIA.

M) The Patels and the Gorens are serving themselves from the buffet.

SUPER: **EMERSON HALL 202, HARVARD YARD, OCTOBER 1998**

N) The poster tacked to the door states the following:

**Harvard Students for Israel presents**

**Israel Advocacy 101 (members only)**

**Session led by Devorah Goren '99, President HSI**

O) Devorah's laptop is hooked to the projection system. The slide shows a confrontation between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian civilians at a check point in the West Bank.

DEVORAH

We must change the frame of the discussion from this ...

She advances the slide to a map of the Arab world and Iran with a collage of various Arab and Iranian army units.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

... to this.

SUPER: **MEMORIAL HALL, HARVARD, SPRING 1999**

P) Jasmin and Devorah are in the foyer of Memorial Hall. A sign in front of them says, "**MCAT EXAMINATION.**" The arrow points to the examination hall to the left (Annenberg Hall). They wish each other good luck. They look tense.

SUPER: **HARVARD MED. SCHOOL, FIRST DAY OF CLASS, SEPT. 2000**

Q) Devorah and Jasmin cross the Longwood Campus together to their first lecture.

SUPER: **SBARRO PIZZERIA, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, SEPTEMBER 2001**

R) One of the bodies in wreckage looks like Zahavah Goren.

S) The funeral for Zahavah Goren in Jerusalem. Yehudah Goren and other male family members and friends say the *Mourner's Kaddish* (in Hebrew). It is a prayer for mourning said when at least 10 males are present. Devorah weeps inconsolably.

Here is the first paragraph in transliterated Hebrew and in English translation.

*Yit-gadal v'yit-kadash sh'mey raba, b'alma di v'ra hirutey, vyam-lih mal-hutey b'ha-yey-hon uv'yomey-hon uv'ha-yey d'hol beyt yisrael ba-agala u-vizman kariv, v'imru amen.*

Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world which He has created according to His will. May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days, and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and say, Amen.

SUPER: **EMERSON 101, HARVARD YARD, JANUARY 2003**

T) The poster on the tripod at the entrance to the lecture hall says the following.

### **Victims of Terrorism**

**Devorah Goren: Sbarro, Jerusalem**

**Judith Lehrer: Frank Sinatra Hall, Hebrew University**

AMER, a local Palestinian activist, and RAWAN, another Palestinian activist, attend the talk. FRANK Kaufman, who wears a yarmulke, and his wife sit with them.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

... They killed my mother and 14 other Israelis including 7 children. They wounded 130. Can we even consider these terrorists human? We must do anything and everything to eradicate them ...

SUPER: **1ST FLOOR LECTURE HALL, HARVARD HILLEL, MARCH 2005**

U) Next to the door a poster has been taped that says, "**Hamas and the Upcoming Israeli Elections.**" The discussion has just ended, and the attendees are leaving. Devorah is talking to a TALL STUDENT that wears a yarmulke and has a beard.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

The Arabs just want to push us into the sea. Gaza disengagement will just encourage them.

He talks as they walk over to the event bulletin board.

TALL STUDENT

In other words, there is no hope.  
Israel should either exterminate  
them or prepare for eternal war.

Both of them look over the posted events. One says the following.

**What is the purpose of life?**

**Why do the wrong people die?**

**Jews have pondered these questions for millennia.**

**Join friends of Nishmat Women's Yeshivah for Shabbos.**

**Find a new perspective and true meaning.**

**Contact RLevin@hillel.harvard.Edu.**

BLACK SCREEN.

FADE IN:

EXT. LEVIN HOUSE DRIVEWAY BROOKLINE -- AFTERNOON (SPRING)

Devorah parks her car. Smartly dressed Orthodox Jews stroll about. She is wearing a doctor's jacket and slacks. While sitting in the car, she takes off her shoes, pulls a skirt up over slacks and discreetly slips off her pants.

INT. LEVIN DINING ROOM BROOKLINE -- JUST BEFORE SUNSET

FRUMA LEVIN, who is the wife of RABBI LEVIN, is about to bless and light the *Shabbos* (Sabbath) candles. Devorah and KHAVELE LEVIN (a girl about twelve) are watching Fruma. Fruma lights two candles.

FRUMA

*Barukh attoh Adonoi eloheynu melekh  
hooylam asher kiddishonu bemitzvotov  
vetzivonu lehadlik ner shel shabbos.*

Everyone responds: **Amen!**

Fruma says a private prayer.

INT. LEVIN DINING ROOM BROOKLINE -- AFTER DARK

RABBI LEVIN and his son FAIVI LEVIN (about 10 years old) enter. The two children gather in front of their father so that he can bless them. First he places his hand on Faivi's head and then on Khavele's.

RABBI LEVIN

May God make you like Ephraim and  
Manasseh.

(Pause)

May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca,  
Ruth and Leah.

DEVORAH SMILES.

INT. LEVIN DINING ROOM BROOKLINE -- NIGHT (EARLY SUMMER)

Rabbi Levin, Fruma, Khavele, Faivi and Devorah are gathered  
around the Sabbath table. Devorah is dressing more modestly.

KHAVELE

(To Devorah)

So, why aren't you married yet?

FAIVI

Don't you want to have kids?

DEVORAH

Ever since my mom died, I've been  
thinking about it more, but I still  
haven't met the right guy.

FRUMA

If you do not mind, maybe we can  
help.

She looks at her husband and winks.

INT. YOUNG ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE FOYER BROOKLINE -- NIGHT

Rabbi Levin, Faivi and MARTIN (MORDKHE) Dressler, tall, with  
a neatly trimmed beard, black suit, black stetson, (maybe  
black overcoat) meet Devorah in the foyer of the Brookline  
Young Israel Synagogue. People are shaking hands and wishing  
*gut shabbos* or *shabbat shalom*. There are more men than women.  
The women present are elegantly dressed with fine jewelry.

RABBI LEVIN

Devorah, my friend Mordkhe Dressler  
will be joining us this Shabbos tish.

Devorah smiles somewhat shyly.

MARTIN

*Gut shabbos.*

DEVORAH

*Gut shabbos.*

RABBI LEVIN

Mordkhe graduated from Harvard College  
one year before you.

(MORE)

RABBI LEVIN (CONT'D)  
 After he finished studying at the  
 Harvard Law School, he came to the  
 Yeshivah.

MARTIN  
 I needed something more.

DEVORAH  
 (Shy smile)  
 I know the feeling.

They walk toward Rabbi Levin's house.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)  
 How come I never met you as an  
 undergrad?

MARTIN  
 Where did you live?

DEVORAH  
 Thayer, then Adams. You?

INT. LEVIN DINING ROOM BROOKLINE -- NIGHT (MIDDLE SUMMER)

The Levins, Devorah and Martin are standing around the table.  
 Martin recites the blessing over wine.

MARTIN  
*Yom hashishi: Vayekhullu hashamayim  
 v'ha'aretz v'khol tz'v'am vaykhal  
 elohim b'yom hashvi`i m'lakhto asher  
 `asah...*

BLACK:

INT. LEVIN DINING ROOM BROOKLINE -- EVENING (5 DAYS LATER)

Rabbi Levin's weekly orthodox Jewish Bible class. About ten  
 women and eight men are seated around the dining table.  
 Rabbi Levin, at the head of the table, has yielded the class  
 to Martin seated at his right. Devorah is present.

MARTIN  
 ... even when we feel *itoruta  
 d'litata*, arousal from below, to  
 serve God, it is really an unconscious  
 response to an *itoruta d'layla*, an  
 arousal from above, through which  
 God inspires us.

The Piaseczner Rebbe limits this  
 teaching to studying Torah. This  
*mitzvah* obligates only men.

(MORE)

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Because women are exempt, they do not receive Divine subliminal messages to fulfill this commandment. A woman, who takes on extra study, deserves more credit than a man, for he receives a push from above, whereas she receives full credit for her actions!

DEVORAH FROWNS THOUGHTFULLY AT MARTIN.

She is wearing an engagement ring.

RABBI LEVIN PUTS HIS ARM AROUND MARTIN.

RABBI LEVIN

Rav Kook expresses a similar idea. Those voluntarily taking on extra service like dwelling in Israel --

He gestures at Martin and then at Devorah.

RABBI LEVIN (CONT'D)

-- are like the Patriarchs and Matriarchs.

REBBITSN LEVIN (FRUMA) --

-- enters carrying a cake decorated like the Israeli flag. Khavele and Faivi follow with other assorted goodies.

FRUMA

In honor of the bride and groom to be --

KHAVELE

FAIVI

Yay!

RABBI LEVIN

-- who will fulfill the commandment of settling the land of Israel.

Everyone starts clapping. Devorah gets up, walks over to Martin, who is also rising, and puts her hand on his shoulder. Fruma hands Martin a knife to cut the cake.

INT. HARVARD CLUB DINING ROOM -- EVENING (2 WEEKS LATER)

The MAITRE D. conducts Martin, Devorah, Martin's father JACK DRESSLER (a top Boston litigator), Martin's mother BEV DRESSLER and Devorah's father Dr. YEHUDAH GOREN to their table. A pianist plays.

The Maitre D. motions toward the table. They sit and start looking at menus.

YEHUDAH

(While seating himself)  
Jack, if you had told me a year ago that Devorah would turn religious, I would have laughed at you.

Devorah purses her lips.

WAITER

Would you like to order?

JACK

The Chicken Florentine for me.

BEV

I always like the Sea Scallops lunch.

YEHUDAH

I'm in the mood for Fillet Mignon.

DEVORAH

Cholesterol, Dad!

YEHUDAH

And garden salads for the two born-again Jews.

DEVORAH

Dad!

WAITER

Will that be all, messieurs and mesdames?

JACK

(To Waiter)  
Yes, thank you.  
(To everyone else)  
When I was starting out as an attorney, I always considered Jewishness a sort of impediment to a career, but nowadays with the Neocons in Washington, it seems almost fashionable.

MARTIN

The Mishnah says, "All who gain themselves advantage from the words of the Law of Moses are taking themselves away from the world."

YEHUDAH

If you think that religious leaders never profiteer from their status in Israeli political horse-trading, I have a nice bridge in Brooklyn that you might want to buy.

DEVORAH

Dad!

YEHUDAH

Pardon my cynicism. Sharing my household with two Ariel Sharon groupies like Devorah and her mother required a sense of the ironic.

The waiter brings the garden salads.

DEVORAH

Mom was a realist. I am too.

YEHUDAH

Big realists! We live in the Middle East surrounded by Arab countries. We have to learn to live with Arabs.

I would play Arabic music. Wife and daughter would tell me to turn off that barbarian trash.

(To Devorah)

Now you hang around with fossilized primitives in black yarmulkes.

(To Martin)

No offense.

Martin gesticulates that he takes no offense.

DEVORAH

The Palestinians killed Mom.

YEHUDAH

All Palestinians did not kill Mom.  
We have been killing and stealing from Palestinians for almost 60 years. If our leaders had genuinely sought a peaceful compromise, your mother would still be alive.

DEVORAH

What did you say about that bridge in Brooklyn?

BEV

(Semi-irrelevantly)

I agree with your dad. We contribute regularly to Peace Now.

DEVORAH  
 (To her father)  
 I just need to feel that there is  
 some sort of sense in the world.

The waiter starts bringing entrees.

YEHUDAH  
 (Moment of sadness)  
 I am sure your mother would have  
 been very happy for you and Martin.

DEVORAH  
 Thank you, Daddy. Now can we discuss  
 the wedding?

They settle into the standard family pre-Wedding conversation.

BLACK:

INT. DEVORAH'S CONDO 7½ CENTRE ST. -- MORNING

Devorah is in bed. The alarm goes off.

SEQUENCE OF SCENES

A) DEVORAH DOES THE MORNING ABLUTIONS.

Then she says the prayers for arising from bed. She uses a cup and washbowl on the night stand beside the bed.

B) She takes a prayer book from the bookshelf next to her desk. The top shelf contains Jewish and Zionist books.

She faces a wall hanging (*mizrah*) that indicates the direction of Jerusalem and starts to pray. The room fills with the glow of the morning light.

C) SHE FINISHES *SHAHRIT* PRAYERS WITH *ALEYNU*

There is an obvious bow toward the *mizrah*. Then she peacefully gets her sweats and an overskirt for her morning jog.

D) OUTSIDE HER CONDO BUILDING SHE JOGS TOWARD HARVARD YARD.

EXT. HARVARD YARD -- MORNING

She pauses before the John Harvard statue and then near Thayer Hall. She jogs out of the Yard past the Crimson building. She pauses by Adams House. She turns up Arrow Street.

CUT:

DEVORAH JOGS THROUGH HER DRIVEWAY.

Her sedan and some other cars are parked in the lot at 7½ Centre St. She checks her mail box. It reads:

**#3 Devorah Goren, MD**

Devorah unlocks the door and jogs up the stairs.

CUT:

DEVORAH WALKS DOWN THE STEPS AT THE CHARLES/MGH STATION.

She wears a doctor's jacket and skirt.

CUT:

DEVORAH FLASHES HER ID AT THE HOSPITAL ENTRANCE GUARD.

She walks through the main entrance hall of Mass. General.

THE CLOCK SAYS 7:55 AM.

The guard touches his hat.

CUT:

DEVORAH ENTERS THE NEUROLOGY DEPARTMENT.

RECEPTIONIST

(Rising)

The big day. Congratulations!

DEVORAH

Thanks.

A nurse walks buy and smiles.

NURSE

I'm so happy for you.

Devorah smiles.

DEVORAH

Thank you.

Devorah is making her way toward her office.

A male ATTENDING is chatting with a RESIDENT.

ATTENDING

So the intern says, "Sex has to be all pleasure because if there were any work in it, the senior staff would make me do it for them."

He sees Devorah and puts a big smile on.

ATTENDING (CONT'D)

Hey, Devorah...

DEVORAH  
That's a really old joke.

RESIDENT  
She's taking the plunge.

The resident grabs her hand and shakes it. The attending gives her shoulders a squeeze. (Devorah is a little uncomfortable about touching the opposite sex, but they knew her from before she became religious). Devorah smiles in gratitude.

Next to office door, the name plate reads:

**Devorah Goren, MD, Chief Resident**

**Jasmin Patel, MD, Resident**

As Devorah steps in, she finds flowers and boxes of chocolates. Jasmin looks crowded amidst the gifts.

JASMIN  
They wanted to pay a male stripper to come in, but I convinced them it would be inappropriate.

Devorah starts to pick up a present. She shakes it.

DEVORAH  
Nice Jewish girls don't look at naked men.

JASMIN  
Not even your husband?

INT. YOUNG ISRAEL RITUAL BATH BROOKLINE -- AFTERNOON

Fruma is supervising. Devorah is wearing only a towel.

FRUMA  
You must give me all your rings and other jewelry.

Devorah takes off a ring and her earrings, hands them to Fruma, steps behind a partition wall that hides the ritual bath, then gives Fruma the towel, and steps in.

FRUMA (CONT'D)  
You must say the blessing before you immerse yourself completely.

DEVORAH  
*Barukh attah adonai eloheinu melekh  
haolam asher kiddeshanu bimitzvavav  
vetzivanu al tevilah.*

She dunks herself and then comes up.

FRUMA

Perfect! You're ready to get married.

Devorah smiles at Fruma as she gets out of the water.

EXT. HARVARD HILLEL -- LATER

A sign on the door reads: **"Closed for Private Function."**

INT. HARVARD HILLEL -- CONTINUOUS

The groom Martin, Rabbi Levin and other members of the local higher Talmud study group are praying. Musicians are setting up in the large hall.

Guests, who include many local student Israel activists and returnees to Judaism, are talking and wishing Devorah well. Other attendees include Martin's friend and mentor ALAN as well as CHARLES, who is a local Zionist leader. Some of Devorah's colleagues and friends from Mass. General attend. A cameraman is making a video while a photographer takes stills. Yehudah and some of his expatriate Israeli friends are wearing Israeli army uniforms. Hair covered, Devorah walks over to her father.

DEVORAH

So Israeli Army Reserve Colonel Dr. Yehuda Goren, why are you wearing your uniform to my wedding?

YEHUDAH

Your friends --

He points to some Jewish returnee Yeshivah types.

YEHUDAH (CONT'D)

-- are wearing their uniforms. We decided to wear ours.

DR. JOSE TAVERAS (Director of Neurology, Devorah's boss, and Yehudah's friend) walks by with a drink.

ALAN AND CHARLES TALK/PLOT OFF TO THE SIDE. [SCARY MUSIC]

YEHUDAH (CONT'D)

Hey, Jose. I won the bet. My daughter is getting married first.

JOSE

(Checks out the uniform)  
That's a new look.

YEHUDAH

The uniform makes me look thinner.

JOSE

(To Devorah)

I still can't believe you are off the rotation for the next month.

Have you considered what you are doing to me? While you are happily honeymooning in Israel, I have to break in a substitute chief resident.

DEVORAH

Jasmin can handle it.

YEHUDAH

(To Jose)

So, Jose, I want to tell you about my new son-in-law.

DEVORAH

Oh no.

YEHUDAH

It's a family tradition. I have to tell it when my daughter gets married. Your grandfather told a version of it when I married your mother.

The prayers are completed. Martin brings his father over.

YEHUDAH (CONT'D)

So I ask my son-in-law to be, how will he support my daughter while he learns in a Yeshivah? He says, "God will provide."

Then I ask, "And if you or Devorah need, God forbid, expensive medical care?" "God will provide."

"And then if you have children, how will you pay for clothes, furniture, sitters, nannies, private schooling and such things?" "God will provide," says he.

Could I ask for more in a son-in-law? He thinks I'm God!

(Chuckles)

ALAN

Martin and Devorah will do very well.

CHARLES

Our Martin is making *aliyah* to Israel, and they are moving into a new Jerusalem settlement.

ALAN

Between Israeli state subsidies for immigrants, lower tax rates, and mortgage assistance, they should be able to live in Israel for free for at least a year while Martin studies at the Yeshivah and works at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

CHARLES

And then when they come back, they can sell their house at a profit and wipe out all their educational debt.

Devorah is frowning.

YEHUDAH

(To Devorah)

I chose the wrong profession. Doctors have to work for a living.

DEVORAH

(To Martin, with hint of anger)

I thought we were going to move permanently to Israel after I finished my residency.

MARTIN LOOKS A LITTLE SHEEPISH AND EMBARRASED.

MARTIN

Pumpkin.

ALAN

(To Devorah and Martin)

But there is so much more that you could do for the Jewish people in Washington.

MARTIN

(Changing the subject)

Speaking of real estate -- remember the property that my father and I bought in Sharon?

At the moment she is not so interested in real estate.

DEVORAH

Uh-huh.

MARTIN

(Excited and oblivious)

Rabbi Levin and I just convinced the municipality to let us set up an *Eruv*. It will be complete before Succoth.

JACK

(Blank expression)

What's an eruv?

MARTIN

(To Jack Dressler)

The rabbis run a wire around the town, and then observant Jewish parents can carry a diaper bag with them outside the house on the Sabbath.

(To everyone)

Sharon will become the most desirable town for young Orthodox couples in the Boston area. The property values will increase by at least 60% within a few weeks.

Devorah frowns some more as they walk over to take their positions for the ceremony.

DEVORAH

I thought the Mishnah said that "All who gain themselves advantage from the words of the Law of Moses are taking themselves away from the world"

MARTIN

The Mishnah says, "If one has studied much Torah, one will be given an abundant reward."

DEVORAH

But God's promise means, "If one acquires for oneself the words of the Torah, one acquires for oneself the life of the world to come."

MARTIN

I thought you would want me to work for the Jewish People.

DEVORAH

I just wish you had discussed your plans with me.

RABBI LEVIN

Are we going to start?

They nod yes. Jack and Bev escort Martin to the Wedding Canopy, and then Yehudah escorts Devorah. Devorah circles Martin seven times. Rabbi Levin makes the blessing over wine and then the betrothal blessing over the first cup of wine.

**"Boruch atoh Adonoi, Elohaynu, melech ho-olam, borei p'riy ha-gofen"**

**"Boruch atoh Adonoi, Elohaynu melech ho-olam asher kiddeshonu bemitzvosov, vetzivonu al ho`araiyos, ve-asayr lonu es ho`arusos ve-hittir lonu es hanisu'os lonu al yidei chuppoh ve-kiddushin. Boruch atoh Adonai, mekadaysh amo Yisroel al yeday chuppoh ve-kiddushin."**

Next, Martin and Devorah drink from it. Martin then gives Devorah a gold ring. Rabbi Levin reads the marriage contract to Devorah, Martin and the TWO WITNESSES.

Then everyone takes their places at the dining tables for the Seven Blessings. Rabbi Levin mixes wine from the first cup into the second cup.

RABBI LEVIN (CONT'D)

They are my two best students. Could they have been anything but destined for each other?

He makes the first blessing.

**"Boruch Atoh Adonai Elohainu Melech HaOlam, SheHakol Boroh Lichvodo"**

JACK

I thought my son was going to marry some semiliterate ultraorthodox woman from Crown Heights.

Who would have thought that return to Judaism would lead back to Harvard?

Jack Dressler uses a cheat sheet with the second Hebrew blessing transcribed into Roman letters. He reads the blessing.

**"Baruch Atoh Adonoi Elohainu Melech HoOlam, Yotzer Ho'Odom"**

CUT:

CHARLES

May they put as much effort into building a strong Jewish home

(Pause)

-- with many children -- as Devorah does into Israel advocacy. No one does it better!

He makes the fourth blessing.

**"Sos Tasis VeTagel HaAkarah, BeKibbutz Bane'ha Letocha BeSimchaa. Baruch Ata Adonai, Mesame'ach Tzion BeVaneha"**

CUT:

Devorah and Martin drink some more wine, and then Martin smashes a glass.

MARTIN AND DEVORAH LEAVE THE WEDDING PARTY.

They enter the small study room, where some snacks are laid out. They sit at the table and eat.

MARTIN

(Smiling)

Do you feel married?

DEVORAH

(Smiling much less)

I guess so.

They return to the guests, who have begun dining.

CUT:

The meal is winding down. The waiters are clearing tables. The tempo of the klezmer music is picking up. Yehudah stands.

YEHUDAH

Start dancing people! Why did I hire a band?

CUT:

The male and female guests are dancing separately in rings to the klezmer music. Jasmin and Devorah are holding hands in the ring. They drop out as Devorah focuses on the music. The ring heals itself.

JASMIN

Before tonight, I never thought much of this type of music.

DEVORAH

(Ear toward band)

I want to watch the band.

JASMIN

I need to talk with Dr. Taveras about tomorrow's rotation.

Jasmin starts towards Dr. Taveras.

DEVORAH MOVES UP CLOSER TO THE BAND AND WATCHES INTENTLY.

She listens in particular to the virtuosity of the violinist. On the band's platform is a sign that says:

**"Gilad's Oriental Ensemble and Klezmer Band"**

CUT:

The musicians are taking a break.

JASMIN TAPS DEVORAH ON THE SHOULDER.

JASMIN (CONT'D)

You are missing your own wedding.  
 (Dubiously)  
 They told me they want to "hoist"  
 you and Martin.

They return to the group. They musicians resume as does the dancing. On the men's side the men lift Martin in a chair. On the women's side the women lift Devorah in a chair next to him. Devorah steals a glance at the violinist. Those carrying the chairs tire. Martin and Devorah resume dancing.

During a pause in the music Devorah engages the band leader.

DEVORAH

*Shalom*, the violinist is amazing.

GILAD

(Hebrew accent)  
 We are lucky to have Mahmud.

DEVORAH

Mahmud? He's an Arab?

GILAD

Mahmud Jamal is Palestinian. I met him at Hebrew University. He plays Jewish Weddings because they pay best. You should hear him play bluegrass.

If you want to hear him again, he is playing Wednesday at Christ Church on Zero Garden St.

DEVORAH

(Wistful smile)  
 Thanks, but I'll be on my honeymoon.

Devorah returns to wedding party.

CUT:

The last song plays. The party has been winding down. Devorah goes to thank the musicians. Martin joins her.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

I do not know what to say. I'm in awe.

MARTIN

It was superb. Thanks for making our wedding truly memorable.

He notices that Devorah is lost in another world.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

(Pause)

Devorah we have to go.

He shakes Gilad's hand and leads Devorah to the door, where family and friends wish them many children and a great honeymoon in Israel. Yehudah embraces Devorah. Guests wave as limo drives off carrying the bride and groom.

EXT. MARRIOTT SWISS HOTEL BOSTON -- LATER

Devorah and Martin get out of the limo. Martin gets the bags.

INT. HONEYMOON SUITE MARRIOTT SWISS HOTEL -- MOMENTS LATER

They enter. Martin puts down the bags. Devorah walks toward the window to look out and releases the side snaps and zippers of her gown. Martin comes up behind her to embrace her.

DEVORAH

(Curt)

Eh, eh! I have to take off the gown, make-up and undo my hair. You have to wait.

MARTIN

(Disappointed)

It has been five years since I became religious.

DEVORAH

Right.

She removes his hands from her, zips into the bathroom, shuts the door and turns on the water.

MARTIN

(Calls over the noise)

I will set the alarm for six to take the shuttle to the airport.

DEVORAH (O.S.)

(Yells over the water)

Okay!

INT. MARRIOTT SUISSE HOTEL BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

She is about to undo her hair. Then her face changes as if she is trying not to cry. She looks at the mirror.

DEVORAH

(To no one, subtitle)

*Ima!*

The word means "Mommy." She gets her cell phone from her purse. She dials.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

Please answer.

JASMIN (O.S.)

(Answering machine)

You have reached 617-555-1498. Please leave a message.

DEVORAH

It's Devorah. Please have me paged for an emergency tomorrow morning at 5:00 AM.

Devorah dials again.

INT. JASMIN'S BEDROOM CHARLES RIVER APARTMENTS -- CONTINUOUS

The lights are dim. Jasmin is sleeping. She groans when the phone rings, cracks an eye and listens.

JASMIN (O.S.)

(Answering machine)

You have reached 617-555-8731. Please leave a message.

DEVORAH (O.S.)

(Getting desperate)

Please, please, Jasmin. I need you to page me for an emergency tomorrow morning at 5:00. I'll explain.

She then turns on the light on the nightstand and sets the alarm.

JASMIN

This better be good.

INT. MARRIOTT SUISSE HOTEL BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Devorah dials one last time.

MECHANICAL VOICE (O.S.)

Please leave a message for either  
(Devorah's voice)

Dr. Devorah Goren  
(Mechanical voice)

or

(Jasmin's voice)  
Dr. Jasmin Patel.

DEVORAH

(Very desperate)

Jasmin. You have to help me. Page me to an emergency at 5:00 AM.

She collects herself and then finishes undoing her hair.

INT. HONEYMOON SUITE MARRIOTT SUISSE HOTEL -- LATER

Devorah, wearing only a slip, comes out of the bathroom. Martin, naked, comes to undress her. [To get a PG-13 rating, the camera should be careful never to show more than Martin's chest.] Devorah turns away.

DEVORAH

I'm cold.

She adjusts the thermostat and then comes back. Martin releases her slip, which falls to the ground, and then he helps Devorah out of her panties. [To get a PG-13 rating the camera should focus on the slip and panties falling to the floor.] Devorah pushes Martin away.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

Too much light.

MARTIN

(With irritation)

Okay.

They go around turning off lights. Then Devorah leads Martin to the bed and under the covers. Martin embraces her.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I love you.

Devorah kisses him but not particularly enthusiastically. Martin fondles her breasts and nibbles her ears. He moves his hand to fondle her beneath the waist. Even though she is not particularly enthusiastic, Martin begins to try to penetrate her, but he is not succeeding. Devorah suddenly pushes him off, gets out of bed, runs to the bathroom and throws up. Martin follows. He turns on the light after we can no longer see her. [To get a PG-13 rating the camera never shows him below the waste.]

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Honey, are you okay?

Devorah washes her face and hands. Then she comes out of the bathroom. She is wearing a bathrobe.

DEVORAH

I just puked up everything I ate tonight. Maybe I drank too much.

(Genuinely guilty)

I'm sorry. I'll probably be okay in the morning. Can we just go to sleep?

She gives him a brief peck on the cheek and walks him back to the bed. She falls asleep curled up away from him on the bed. Martin leans back on his pillow in frustration.

CUT:

DEVORAH IS SLEEPING AS FAR FROM MARTIN AS POSSIBLE.

Her pager on the nightstand goes off. She reaches for it and then dials the message. Martin is waking up groggily.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

I have to go to the hospital.

MARTIN

(Waking, groggy)  
The plane.

DEVORAH

I'm a doctor. You go ahead. I will catch the first flight after Rosh Hashanah.

MARTIN

I'll stay too.

DEVORAH

It's best you just go. The hospital travel agency will reschedule my flight, but not yours.

She is getting some clothes and dashing to the bathroom.

CUT:

DEVORAH DASHES OUT AND ALMOST RUNS TO MASS. GENERAL HOSPITAL.

As a married orthodox Jewish woman, she covers her hair.

INT. LOGAN AIRPORT EL AL DEPARTURES -- MORNING

Martin is going through security.

INSERT - EL AL FLIGHT TAKE OFF.

Martin sits next to an empty seat in first class. He is reading a Hebrew book.

**SUPER: LETTERS OF THE (MYSTICAL) VISION OF RAV ABRAHAM YITZHAK HAKOHEN KOOK.**

Martin looks at the empty chair beside him as if to express a wish for Devorah's presence. A copy of *They Must Go* by Meir Kahane lies in Devorah's empty chair. The cover is plainly visible.

INSERT - EL AL FLIGHT CRUISING.

INT. DEVORAH'S CONDO 7½ CENTRE ST. -- LATE AFTERNOON

THE DOOR SAYS 3A.

Devorah gets out her key, opens the door, enters, the bathroom, brushes her teeth, crosses the hallway to the bedroom, takes off her clothes and flops on her bed and sighs in relief as she falls asleep.

INT. DEVORAH'S CONDO 7½ CENTRE ST. -- 8:00 AM

A phone is ringing. The answering machine picks up. Devorah is sleeping.

DEVORAH (V.O.)

You have reached 617-555-9988. Please leave a message.

MARTIN (O.S.)

I'm at our new home. Thank your father. It is about three hours to Rosh Hashanah. I'll be at the Yeshivah. Miss you. Love you.

IN THE DIM LIGHT OF HER BEDROOM --

-- Devorah looks at the phone and almost goes to answer it.

INT. DEVORAH'S CONDO 7½ CENTRE ST. -- AFTERNOON

Devorah is looking at herself in the mirror to make sure that her make-up and her clothes are right. She puts on her married lady head-covering and then exits.

INT. HARVARD HILLEL PRAYER HALL -- LATER

The orthodox service takes place. Rabbi Levin leads. There are about fifteen men and four women. Devorah is a little to the back and concentrating very hard on her prayers.

CUT:

Devorah, Rabbi Levin, Fruma, Khavele, Faivi, other Harvard grad and undergrad students and family are having a festive meal for Rosh Hashanah. There is a buffet and food on the tables. A decoration over the buffet says in Roman letters:

**Happy Rosh Hashanah 5766/2005! Shanah Tovah!**

FRUMA

(To Devorah, subtitle)

*Shanah tovah!* Aren't you supposed to be in Israel?

*Shanah tovah is happy new year.*

DEVORAH

(Subtitle)

*Todah, gam lakh!* I got an emergency call just before the flight. I will reschedule for right after Rosh Hashanah.

*Todah, gam lakh is Thanks, likewise for you.*

They are passing around side dishes and beginning to eat.

RABBI LEVIN

What a way to start a honeymoon!

DEVORAH

It's part of the package. He married a doctor.

FRUMA

Be sure to take the *tsimmes*. They are sweet carrots to bring you a good year and happy marriage.

FAIVI

(Crying)

Khavele won't talk to me.

Devorah takes some *tsimmes* less than enthusiastically.

KHAVELE

He was copying me.

FRUMA

Is this how you behave on Rosh Hashanah? This is the time when your whole life for the next year is written and inscribed.

AMY

(Israeli Hebrew accent)

I saw your new condo in Israel. It is a wonderful location near your husband's Yeshivah.

FRUMA

It is like an American suburb. All the amenities.

RABBI LEVIN

I remember the area before the government began developing it.

There was nothing but some trees.

Devorah looks sad.

FRUMA

Don't be sad. You'll be in Israel soon.

Did you know? Your new father-in-law just made the largest contribution to my husband's Yeshivah in its history to thank us for finding you.

DEVORAH

(Smiles dubiously)

That's wonderful.

FRUMA

And he bought us twenty 2000 year old olive trees. They were planted in Roman times!

DEVORAH

(Uncomfortable)

They probably belong to Palestinian farmers, whose groves the Israeli army has torn up. Please, don't say anything about this to my father.

INT. YESHIVAH AT HAR HOMAH -- MORNING

The yeshivah students are putting away their prayer shawls. Some students gather around Martin as they walk into the corridor to the banquet. A *khaver* is a member of the Yeshivah study group.

KHAVER #1

Like you, my wife and I became religious before we knew each other.

After we had kept chaste for so long, our wedding night was really special.

KHAVER #2

(To Martin)

Mordkhe, with someone like Devorah it must have been indescribable.

MARTIN

(Ambiguously)

It definitely was.

EXT. CHRIST CHURCH CAMBRIDGE -- EVENING (WEDNESDAY - AFTER 2ND DAY ROSH HASHANAH)

INSERT - EXTERIOR PHOTO OF CHURCH

The church sign says "Palestine Solidarity fundraiser."

INT. CHRIST CHURCH CAMBRIDGE -- EVENING

HUWAIDA ARRAF is presenting a video showing the current conditions under which Palestinians are living.

INSERT - HUWAIDA'S VIDEOCLIP

YUHANNA LATIF has gone over to check the videotaping equipment. Jasmin and Devorah are sitting toward the middle. AMY, ERICH and some other MEMBERS OF HARVARD STUDENTS FOR ISRAEL (HSI) are also present. Huwaida is showing the devastation that the Wall is causing.

INSERT - SHOTS OF DEVASTATION ALONG THE WALL

JASMIN

(To Devorah)

Aren't you going to watch the presentation?

Devorah is reviewing some medical charts from work.

DEVORAH

I am just here for the music not the politics.

JASMIN

I hope it will be worth scorching your honeymoon.

HUWAIDA'S PRESENTATION CONTINUES.

HUWAIDA

Here is a clip a Palestine Solidarity volunteer managed to make with a zoom camera of an Israeli checkpoint.

INSERT -- CHECKPOINT ABUSE VIDEOCLIP

While the clip plays, Yuhanna returns to the front.

YUHANNA

Huwaida will now answer a few questions about the presentation.

AMY AND HER FRIENDS RAISE THEIR HANDS.

YUHANNA (CONT'D)

Amy, do you perhaps have a new question?

AMY

(Israeli Hebrew Accent)

How can Palestine Solidarity call itself a non-violent movement when it refuses to condemn Palestinian terrorism and even aids or abets it?

The HSI members applaud.

YUHANNA

So much for dialogue.

HUWAIDA

I will answer. It is on their script whenever I speak.

She has a prepared and memorized speech on this subject.

HUWAIDA (CONT'D)

The question is hypocritical. Israel advocates do not condemn the use of violence by the State of Israel against Palestinians.

We use non-violent techniques to make it as difficult as possible for the State of Israel to destroy Palestinian homes or to drive Palestinians from their own land.

"When it comes to the demolition of a family's home, there is no grey area. It's just wrong."

ERICH

What about killing babies? Isn't that wrong?

The Harvard Students for Israel from now on start hissing and interrupting Huwaida.

HUWAIDA

Israeli bomber pilots kill far more babies, but Palestinian children don't count, do they?

Palestine supporters start yelling and arguing with the Harvard Students for Israel.

AMY

Israel only retaliates. Palestinian homicide bombers want to kill Jews.

HUWAIDA

If you take away homes, property, country, dignity and hope, people resort to suicide bombing.

The Harvard Students for Israel hiss and yell with calls of terrorists and anti-Semites.

YUHANNA

(Very loud)

Quiet! This forum is not a public debate. You can stay and listen, or I can have you thrown out.

The room becomes quiet.

YUHANNA (CONT'D)

(Soft-spoken)

Thank you. As far as I can tell, most of you never lived among Palestinians.

I grew up in Israel. Israeli violence is pervasive and always ready to strike at non-Jews.

I first met our guest violinist, Mahmud Jamal twelve years ago at a checkpoint.

DEVORAH STOPS READING THE CHARTS AND STARTS LISTENING.

YUHANNA (CONT'D)

I was behind his cab. He showed the Israeli officer his papers. The officer made him get out and open his violin case. The officer demanded he play, and Mahmud refused. The officer took the violin, inspected it and smashed it with his rifle.

DEVORAH BEGINS TO LOOK UPSET.

YUHANNA (CONT'D)

I got out of my car to intervene when the soldiers seemed about to beat Mahmud. I showed my Israeli ID. I argued for about 15 minutes with the officer, who threatened to arrest me. I paid the cab driver and drove Mahmud to the airport.

ERICH

What garbage! Arabs never stop lying.

DEVORAH STANDS UP. SHE IS UPSET.

DEVORAH

No, it's true. I was a soldier at the checkpoint. It happened just the way he said -- only worse.

I am so sorry.

She is tearful and tries to get out of the auditorium as quickly as possible. Jasmin follows.

MAHMUD WATCHES THEM LEAVE.

CUT:

JASMIN IS TRYING TO COMFORT DEVORAH IN THE CORRIDOR.

JASMIN

You didn't do anything wrong.

You didn't break the violin.

DEVORAH

(Privately to Jasmin)

At the time, I thought the Commander was right. The Commander seemed like such a man that I gave him a blowjob.

JASMIN

(Whispers)

You sucked off your Commander?

DEVORAH

(Whispers)

I was a kid. I thought he was cool.

She sobs now.

MAHMUD ENTERS THE CORRIDOR.

MAHMUD

You are the bride, are you not?

Devorah nods yes. Her face is burning in shame.

MAHMUD (CONT'D)

Please, do not be upset. What did you know? We are prisoners of our upbringing -- even your commander. Don't cry! This should be a happy time for you.

Do you like classical Arabic music?

DEVORAH

(Shyly)

My father likes it very much.

MAHMUD

Please, ladies, return to the auditorium with me.

CUT:

MAHMUD JAMAL TAKES CENTER STAGE.

Jasmin and Devorah return to their seats. Amy and Erich snicker at Devorah.

MAHMUD (CONT'D)

I dedicate the first song to our noble Israeli soldier, who told the truth about the checkpoints.

The musicians begin to play.

DEVORAH'S EXPRESSION TRANSFORMS FROM SADNESS TO PEACE.

The whole audience is transported. Amy and her confederates leave (or sneak out).

INT. CHRIST CHURCH CAMBRIDGE -- LATER

The music is over. Refreshments have been brought out. The organizers are hitting the audience one more time for contributions, and they are selling books and souvenirs all around the auditorium. The musicians are packing.

YUHANNA AND HUWAIDA TALK WITH JASMIN AND DEVORAH.

They walk back from the refreshments. Devorah has a glass of water.

YUHANNA CHECKS ONE OF HIS VIDEOCAMERAS.

He then walks over to Jasmin and Devorah.

YUHANNA

I thought you were with the infiltrators.

JASMIN

(Indignant)

I am a Muslim.

DEVORAH

I never knew you were pro-Palestinian.

JASMIN

There was no point in discussing it with you. You were a wonderful roommate when we were undergrads, but you were also super-Zionist.

YUHANNA

(To Devorah)

You're Devorah Goren, aren't you?

Devorah is very surprised that he knows her.

YUHANNA (CONT'D)

(To everyone)

Her Israel advocacy sessions are legendary. The David Project has circulated DVDs of them. I have them all.

DEVORAH

(Feeling out of place)

I'm sorry.

YUHANNA

I want to interview you. I am making a documentary on campus Middle East activism. I want to include both sides of the debate.

DEVORAH

What?

HUWAIDA

(To Devorah)

Yuhanna wants to give you your fifteen minutes of fame.

More than probably any other Israel advocate, you argue issues and avoid slander.

Mahmud has packed up.

MAHMUD

(To Huwaida)

I will take part in an open Klezmer Jam Sunday afternoon. Do you or Adam like klezmer music?

HUWAIDA

Not particularly.

DEVORAH

Can anyone attend?

JASMIN FROWNS AT HER.

YUHANNA

I need to develop a feel for this type of music.

MAHMUD

(To Devorah)

We'll be playing at the Workmen's Association in Brookline. The session is open to the public.

Do you play a musical instrument?

He smiles at her. (A chemistry moment.)

DEVORAH

(Sadly)

No.

MAHMUD

It was nice meeting you. *Shalom*.

Mahmud takes his leave of the group. Devorah stares as he kisses Huwaida on the cheek. He does not kiss Devorah. Then he departs.

DEVORAH

(Feeling guilty, to  
Jasmine)

I barely remembered that incident  
until Yuhanna reminded me.

I can't believe I was so stupid.

BLACK:

INT. MASS. GENERAL HOSPITAL NEUROLOGY DEPARTMENT -- MORNING

Devorah and Jasmin are in their usual doctors' clothes. Devorah wears a skirt and married woman's head-covering. They and other residents are reviewing CAT scans and charts in the radiography room. Dr. Yehudah Goren taps at the door.

YEHUDAH

(To Devorah)

Excuse me.

The residents look toward the door.

YEHUDAH (CONT'D)

Devorah, we have to talk.

DEVORAH

(To the other residents)

Excuse me.

DEVORAH GETS UP AND WALKS TO THE DOOR.

YEHUDAH

What is going on? Martin called me.  
You skipped your flight for an  
emergency that I know did not exist --  
don't worry I didn't tell him.

You don't return Martin's calls.

You did not even tell me you were  
here.

DEVORAH

I don't know. I had to think. At the wedding, I suddenly felt so insecure.

YEHUDAH

Everyone does.

DEVORAH

I needed to be alone for a while.

YEHUDAH

Whatever you decide, I will support you. I never understood the rush to get married, and I wasn't so crazy about Martin from the get-go.

If you need to talk, I am always here.

DEVORAH

I love you, Daddy.

He brushes her face, and then she goes back to the radiography room, and Yehudah goes back to his rounds.

BLACK:

INT. DEVORAH'S OFFICE MASS GENERAL -- AFTERNOON

Devorah sits in her chair and dials Martin in Jerusalem. A mechanical voice answers.

MECHANICAL VOICE (O.S.)

Please, leave a message.

DEVORAH

I'm sorry to call so late on *Shabbos* your time. I've been overwhelmed at work. I should be able to fly in after Yom Kippur. I will call after *Shabbos*. *Shabbat Shalom*.

INT. WORKMEN'S ASSOCIATION BROOKLINE -- AFTERNOON

Five musicians (four men including Mahmud and one woman, LEAH, also a violinist) are setting up their instruments and chairs. Yuhanna is setting up the video equipment. There is a reasonably sized audience. Only Devorah dresses religiously. She only knows Yuhanna and Mahmud.

DEVORAH

Do you videotape everything you attend?

YUHANNA

I am collecting material for my documentary on student activism. Mahmud is interesting to me because he is a sort of cross-cultural activist.

(Pause)

Are you available for an interview? You are not what I expected from the David Project DVD.

The musicians start warming up. Yuhanna and Devorah take seats next to each other.

DEVORAH

I'm not so interesting.

LEAH LOOKS AROUND THE ROOM --

-- looks at Yuhanna, and then smiles a wicked smile at Mahmud. She starts playing a very sad klezmer theme. She stops, and then Mahmud tries an even sadder more whining theme. Then they alternate in dueling Klezmer violins.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

(Tense, to Yuhanna)

They have a sort of chemistry between them, don't they?

YUHANNA

They better not. She's my wife.

DEVORAH EXHALES AND NOTICEABLY RELAXES.

The musicians practice a medley of klezmer songs and themes.

CUT:

The jam session finishes. Yuhanna and Devorah get up to approach the violinists. Leah's accent might be Modern Israeli Hebrew, German, Russian or Polish.

YUHANNA (CONT'D)

Leah, meet Devorah.

DEVORAH

Hello.

LEAH

Wasn't I horrible?

YUHANNA

Of course, just like you always are.

LEAH

(Feigning anger)

What did you say?

MAHMUD

You were excellent as always.

LEAH

(To Devorah)

But I will never be as good as Mahmud.

(Pause)

If only I were Palestinian, I could be under curfew for a month or more with nothing to do but practice.

Devorah looks a little embarrassed.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Devorah, Thursday evening after Yom Kippur services, when you feel all atoned, you should come to the first Harvard Interfaith Ramadan-Yom-Kippur Break-Fast *Iftar* in Ticknor Lounge

Afterwards you can come with me to the Carpenter Center. Yuhanna is presenting his award-winning movie, *The Olive Harvest*. It will make you feel really guilty.

MAHMUD

It will not, but it is a good film.

LEAH

Only good?

YUHANNA

(To Devorah)

Leah is teasing you because she assumes from your clothing that you are a religious Zionist.

(Subtitle)

When I first met her, she used to dress "*frum*" just like you.

*Frum* means *religious*.

LEAH

(Smiling)

And then you showed me the error of my ways.

EXT. THE BANK OF THE CHARLES -- LATE AFTERNOON

Devorah is running along the Charles in Cambridge.

Devorah's answering machine beeps.

RABBI LEVIN (O.S.)

Devorah, it's Rabbi Levin.

(MORE)

RABBI LEVIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Your husband Mordkhe called from  
 Jerusalem. If you need to talk, please  
 call me.

He hangs up.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

Devorah's answering machine beeps.

CHARLES (O.S.)  
 Charles here. Where's my trooper? I  
 have spoken with both Rabbi Levin  
 and Martin. Call me.

He hangs up.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

Devorah's answering machine beeps.

FRUMA (O.S.)  
 It's me Fruma. Devorah dear, can we  
 talk woman to woman?

She hangs up.

BLACK:

INT. HARVARD HILLEL SYNAGOGUE -- AFTERNOON (YOM KIPPUR)

Devorah is talking with Rabbi Levin. Lots of Jewish students  
 are present. Some Jewish faculty. Some pre-service hubbub.

DEVORAH  
 A few days ago, I remembered an  
 incident that I participated in, and  
 I need to atone for it.

RABBI LEVIN  
 Erich told me that you were behaving  
 oddly at an anti-Semitic fundraiser.

DEVORAH  
 I remembered that my commander abused  
 a Palestinian at a checkpoint.

RABBI LEVIN  
*Oy-yoi-yoi!* Why are you worrying  
 about that? It happens all the time.  
 You should be worrying about your  
 husband.

DEVORAH

My commander was wrong, but I thought he was right.

RABBI LEVIN

He was right. The Arabs don't belong in *Eretz Yisrael*. The Israeli army should hit them hard.

Suddenly, Devorah goes cold.

DEVORAH

You're right. I don't know what I was thinking.

THE SHALIAH TZIBUR (PRAYER LEADER) WALKS UP TO THE FRONT.

He starts the *Minhah* (afternoon) prayer service.

CUT:

Devorah leaves as quickly as possibly after the afternoon prayer completes. Everyone else continues to pray the evening prayer.

EXT. HARVARD HILLEL -- MOMENTS LATER

Devorah walks very fast toward Bow St. It is growing dark.

CUT:

DEVORAH ALMOST RUNS DOWN MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE.

She turns onto Dana street.

CUT:

Loud music is coming from a first floor apartment at the corner of Centre and Dana. Devorah pauses to stare.

A WOMAN IS DANCING NAKED IN FRONT OF HER WINDOW.

A passerby walks along Centre St. toward Devorah.

PASSERBY

Someone has been smoking the wacky tobacky.

Devorah bestirs herself and rushes home.

DEVORAH TAKES OUT HER KEYS AT THE CONDO BUILDING OUTER DOOR.

INT. DEVORAH'S CONDO 7½ CENTRE ST. -- MOMENTS LATER

Devorah is showering. She steps out dries herself off. Blow dries her hair, puts on a shirt and jeans. She leaves the apartment with no head covering.

INT. TICKNOR LOUNGE BOYLSTON HALL -- EVENING

40-50 undergrads, grads, and faculty are breaking Ramadan fast. Leah and Yuhanna are present. Most are Indo-Pak. Some Arabs and Muslims of other backgrounds (including white and black converts) are present. There are two tables near the far wall from the entrance. One bears open trays of *halal* food. The other table has closed trays of kosher food (so marked).

Someone makes the call to prayer (the *Adhan*).

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP TAKE MILK AND DATES TO BREAK THE FAST.

CUT:

THE GROUP IS PRAYING *MAGHRIB*.

A STUDENT acting as Imam leads the first *prayer section*. Leah is praying with the women behind the men. Yuhanna is setting up a camera.

CUT:

LEAH MOTIONS FOR DEVORAH TO JOIN HER --

-- now that the prayer is finished.

LEAH  
That's a new look?

DEVORAH  
I couldn't dress orthodox any more.

BARAKAH ISMAIL IS TAPPING THE MICROPHONE.

Barakah wears a full Egyptian-style scarf and dress.

BARAKAH  
Our Jewish guests will arrive soon to break their fast. Before they come, I will give a brief introduction to Yom Kippur.

DEVORAH AND LEAH WALK OVER TO THE TABLES WITH FOOD.

LEAH  
I started wearing jeans again Yom Kippur seven years ago.

DEVORAH  
Why?

LEAH  
I read Ann Frank's *Diary* when I was too young.

(MORE)

LEAH (CONT'D)

I was always afraid the Nazis would come to take me away. I was so angry at my family for being Germans. I did not understand how they could have gone along with Nazism.

DEVORAH

You aren't Jewish?

LEAH

I thought I was Jewish. When I started to study Judaica at Hebrew University, I assumed I would simply convert. Everyone called me Leah instead of Liesel. Leah stuck.

Devorah and Leah get plates and utensils.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Then I took part in Yuhanna's Jewish-Arab dialogue. Until then I had never really seen the Palestinians, who lived around me.

(Looking at the food,  
to herself)

-- It all looks really great. --

(Back to Devorah)

I realized I was acting just like my parents and grandparents, but worse.

Ja, my family tried to ignore what Germany did to Jews just as I was ignoring what Israel does to Palestinians.

But unlike me my family would have suffered severe consequences if they hadn't looked away.

And here I was living on land stolen from a Palestinian, who had been driven out of his home by Zionist soldiers. I was oblivious just like a good Nazi.

I was so ashamed. I prayed my last Yom Kippur. Then I took a plane home to Germany to apologize to my family.

BARAKAH IS JUST FINISHING UP AT THE MICROPHONE.

BARAKAH

When Moses returned, he brought down a replacement set of Ten Commandments, and he declared that the community

(MORE)

BARAKAH (CONT'D)  
 had fully repented for all sins  
 between man and God.

AT THIS POINT, ABOUT 20 JEWISH STUDENTS ENTER.

Many come from the synagogue group with whom Devorah had been praying. The men wear yarmulkes.

BARAKAH (CONT'D)  
 The Children of Israel slaughtered a heifer to remind themselves of the punishment they deserved, and Moses commanded the children of Israel to fast on Yom Kippur every year.

YUHANNA WAVES GOOD-BYE TO LEAH AND DEVORAH.

He points to his watch.

BARAKAH (CONT'D)  
 Some Islamic scholars relate Yom Kipper to the optional Islamic fast of Ashura, but Muslims fast on Ashura for different reasons.

KHALID, who is Pakistani American, takes the microphone.

KHALID  
 I am Khalid Sharif, president of the Harvard Islamic Society. Welcome to the first annual Yom Kippur Ramadan Break-the-Fast.

He chuckles. No one else gets the joke.

KHALID (CONT'D)  
 The table with kosher food is clearly marked. After everyone has gotten food, Leah Frank, who is a grad student in Jewish Studies, will discuss the relationship of Yom Kippur and Ramadan.

Khalid walks over to Leah and Devorah.

KHALID (CONT'D)  
 (To Devorah)  
 Just so you know, that food is not kosher.

DEVORAH  
 (Sour)  
 I don't care.

KHALID

(Puzzled)

Are you Muslim?

DEVORAH

No, but I was religious Jewish for about six months.

Do you know why we have all sorts of rules like keeping kosher?

Khalid shrugs his shoulders.

KHALID

Why?

DEVORAH

So we can spend so much time worrying about the rules that we do not think about basic right or wrong.

KHALID

(Cautious)

Islam has has some dietary restrictions too.

DEVORAH

When we are not obsessing about food, we spend so much time worrying about the Holocaust that we do not think about justice or other people.

KHALID

I visited Auschwitz over the summer. It made me think really hard about anti-Semitism.

DEVORAH

(Emphatic)

The Holocaust does not justify what we do to Palestinians!

Khalid is not sure what to make of Devorah.

LEAH

(To Khalid)

She is suffering from post-traumatic atonement stress syndrome.

Leah touches Devorah on the shoulder.

LEAH (CONT'D)

(To Devorah)

Are you okay?

Devorah nods yes.

LEAH (CONT'D)

It's my turn to speak.

CUT:

LEAH IS SPEAKING AT THE MICROPHONE.

Devorah continues to stand with Khalid and other students.

LEAH (CONT'D)

"*Qul: huwa-llahu ahadu!*" which translates as "*Say: He, Allah, is One.*"

"*Shma` Yisrael: Hashem elokeinu Hashem ehad!*" which translates as "*Hear, Israel: Jehovah our Divinity, Jehovah is One.*"

The verses and sentiments are practically identical. We find such similarities over and over when we study the Abrahamic religions.

Ashura takes place on the tenth day of the first month just like Yom Kippur takes place on the tenth day of the first month.

Up until the year Muhammad died, the Arabic calendar was lunar solar just like the Jewish calendar, and Ashura took place on almost the same day as Yom Kippur.

Leah looks around and notices that no one is really paying attention. Except for Devorah and Khalid, the Jewish students and the Muslim students are talking in their own separate groups.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Sometimes celebrants of Ashura flagellate themselves just as it was not an uncommon practice for Jews to flagellate themselves on Yom Kippur before the middle 18th century.

*La ilaaha illa-llaahu!* There is no god but Allah.

*Leit elaha ella hashem!* There is no god but Jehovah.

She looks around one more time and realizes that she is talking to herself. She covers the microphone with her hand.

LEAH (CONT'D)

This is like teaching section.

She gives up on her talk and taps the microphone.

LEAH (CONT'D)

So to wrap it up, in eleven days Muslim and Jewish students will swap scriptural stories in the Hillel Open Community Sukkah Dinner.

Mahmud Jamal, Boston's own violin virtuoso, is also an accomplished Quran reciter. He will demonstrate this art for us then.

DEVORAH PERKS UP AS SHE FOCUSES ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

LEAH (CONT'D)

I have to go because in fifteen minutes my husband, Yuhanna Latif, non-resident film tutor at Dunster house, will screen his movie, *The Olive Harvest*, at the Carpenter Center.

It does not directly relate either to Ramadan and Yom Kippur, but it takes place in the Holy Land. You are all invited.

THE GATHERING BEGINS TO BREAK UP AS ATTENDEES LEAVE.

DEVORAH TURNS TO KHALID.

DEVORAH

She never misses a chance to plug her hubby's film, does she?

KHALID

(Loud to assembly)

Everyone, before you leave, don't forget to donate for Kashmir earthquake relief! Sign up on the sheet if you want to sponsor an orphan.

CUT:

INT. CARPENTER CENTER MOVIE THEATER. -- LATER

A good-sized crowd. Leah, Devorah and Khalid sit in the upper audience left. The seat next to Leah is empty. They are eating and sharing pop corn as Yuhanna comes up to sit in the empty seat shortly after the film has started

EXT. HAR HOMAH (ABU GHNAIM), PALESTINE -- MORNING

INSERT PANORAMA OF JERUSALEM AND THEN HAR HOMAH (ABU GHNAIM)

A phone rings.

INT. CONDO BEDROOM IN HAR HOMAH -- CONTINUOUS

It is very early in Jerusalem. Martin is in bed. He groans and picks up the phone.

INT. DEVORAH'S CONDO 7½ CENTRE ST. -- SIMULTANEOUS (EVENING)

DEVORAH

Martin, I'm sorry. I had to think.  
Israel makes me nervous now.

MARTIN (V.O.)

But you were born here. You did your  
military service here. The Land of  
Israel is your home.

DEVORAH

I can't live there right now.

MARTIN (V.O.)

First you get mad because we'd only  
be in Israel a couple of years. Now  
you don't want to come here for your  
own honeymoon?

Look, we don't have to move to Israel.

DEVORAH

We can't make new plans together.

MARTIN (V.O.)

(Long pause)

That emergency call after the wedding.  
It wasn't about a patient. It was  
about you, wasn't it?

DEVORAH

What?

MARTIN (V.O.)

If you are sick, I will come back  
and take care of you.

DEVORAH

You're misunderstanding. I'm not  
the right wife for you.

(Beginning to sob)

I want a divorce.

MARTIN (O.S.)

(Pause)

I will come back to America right now.

DEVORAH

(Controlling tears)

I will give you everything.

MARTIN (O.S.)

I'm coming back.

DEVORAH

(Crying now)

But your Yeshivah study group is about to start.

MARTIN (O.S.)

We can talk when I get back.

DEVORAH

(Stops crying)

I'm sorry.

She hangs up.

INT. MASS. GENERAL HOSPITAL NEUROLOGY WARD -- LATE MORNING

DEVORAH PUTS KOHL AROUND HER EYES TO LOOK MORE PALESTINIAN.

She puts the kohl back into her purse.

CUT:

YEHUDAH (DR. GOREN) EXPLAINS THE CASE TO CARDIOLOGY AND --

-- neurology residents and interns outside Mr. al-Hiluw's hospital room. Devorah walks into the discussion. DR. GROTTA is Mr. al-Hiluw's neurologist.

YEHUDAH

(To Devorah)

That is a new look.

DEVORAH

I speak Arabic with an obvious Hebrew accent. I think it's better if he doesn't feel as if he is being interrogated at a Checkpoint.

YEHUDAH

Good point.

(To the group)

Mr. Al-Hiluw has significant constriction of the carotid artery and suffered a transient ischemic

(MORE)

YEHUDAH (CONT'D)

attack late last night. We have to make a decision how to proceed, but DR. GROTTA has been unable to interview him because he seems to have lost his English, and there is currently no Arabic translator available.

My daughter, Dr. Devorah Goren, who was quite fluent in Arabic during college, is going to try to substitute.

MR. AL-HILUW STARES BLANKLY INTO SPACE.

He sits propped up on his bed in his hospital room.

Devorah enters with her father, Dr. Grotta and the chief resident in cardiology. Devorah puts her purse down on a table. The rest stand at the door.

DEVORAH

(Subtitle)

*As-Salaam alayka, Sayyid Al-Hiluw.  
Ana Dr. Jarin.*

"Hello, Mr. Al-Hiluw. I am Dr. Goren."

Mr. Al-Hiluw is suddenly happy.

MR. AL-HILUW

(Arabic, subtitled)

Salma, my precious daughter, they told me the soldiers killed you when you came home from shopping.

He takes her hand and then hugs her.

MR. AL-HILUW (CONT'D)

(Arabic, subtitled)

I was so afraid I would never see you again, my precious daughter.

(Arabic, subtitled)

Everything lost, my home, my family. You are all I have left. I have so much to tell you.

Devorah realizes she must play the role of his daughter.

DEVORAH

(Arabic, subtitled)

*Baba, we have to talk with Dr. Grotta, and then you can tell me everything.*

*Baba* is dad. All but the neurologist and Devorah leave the room.

CUT:

DEVORAH ADJUSTS MR. AL-HILUW IN HIS BED.

He has fallen asleep. She picks up her purse and leaves.

INT. MGH - DR. GOREN'S OFFICE IN CARDIOLOGY -- MOMENTS LATER

Devorah enters and is carrying her purse.

YEHUDAH

I was impressed. Your Arabic seemed perfect.

DEVORAH

(Looks away)

I've been practicing. I watched a new film by an Israeli Palestinian director at Harvard. It refreshed my memory of colloquial Palestinian.

His wife lent me a DVD so that I could listen to the Director's Commentary.

She takes *The Olive Harvest* out of her purse and hands it to her father.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

Why don't you borrow it? It's very interesting.

(Pause)

About the patient, Mr. al-Hiluw told me where his key was to his home in Jaffa from which he was driven in 1948. He made me promise to make sure my son -- Salma's son -- gets it if he dies.

Do we have any addresses? I would send a letter.

YEHUDAH

(Smiles)

I will find out.

DEVORAH

(Pause)

Why can't Palestinians come home?

YEHUDAH

You're asking me? I thought you wanted to transfer all Palestinians out of Israel.

DEVORAH

It seems so sad.

YEHUDAH

We can't have a Jewish democratic state with 8-9 million non-Jews, but I am sure some of the original refugees, who really want to live in peace with Jews, could return. The rest can have a democratic or whatever state in the occupied territories.

That is a compromise solution.

Devorah exhales deeply.

DEVORAH

(Pause)

Abba, I need advice.

Abba is Dad.

INT. COOKIE TAVERAS' LAW OFFICE -- MORNING

Cookie's Harvard Law School diploma with full name, Carmen Angela Taveras Volteque, hangs on the wall behind her.

DEVORAH

(Upset)

...and then Martin started talking about his real estate deals at our wedding. The violin music seemed so pure and spiritual in comparison.

Suddenly I felt that I was just another acquisition, bought, packaged and paid for.

I am sorry I hurt Martin, but I did not become religious to become some sort of door prize. I need to believe that there is meaning to life.

I talked with my father. I can give Martin my half of the condo in Jerusalem so that we come to a divorce settlement quickly.

His fellowship, his studies at the Yeshivah will not be disrupted.

Devorah opens her mouth as if to speak several times as Cookie speaks below but is at a loss for words. Note that *shikse* is a derogatory Yiddish term for non-Jewish woman.

COOKIE

(Cool, professional)

Nah, you really don't have to do that. Martin's a jerk.

You said it yourself. He was making plans for you behind your back. Don't feel guilty! You should be pissed.

(Pause)

When my father, your boss, mentioned that you were looking for a divorce lawyer, I knew there was a God.

Martin and I were in the same class at Harvard Law School. I used to be Martin's girlfriend before he got involved with the Yeshivah and started to call himself Mordkhe.

I offered to convert to Judaism. We were the perfect couple -- equally materialistic and superficial.

It's not a big deal not to be able to shop on Saturday, and I like ritual -- it's quaint. But apparently a convert wife would be an embarrassment in the circles where he wants to move.

So I was Martin's secret *shikse*. Then two weeks ago after a thoroughly satisfying intimate evening, Martin gets up early.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. COOKIES BEDROOM CHELSEA -- EARLY MORNING

Cookie is lying in her futon bed. Martin has gotten up and is dressing quietly. He puts on his underpants and a tallit katan (scapular).

COOKIE

Leaving me?

She blows him a kiss as he continues dressing.

MARTIN

You looked so much like an angel. I was trying not to wake you.

COOKIE

I would not want you to leave without saying bye.

MARTIN

No one is closer to me than you.

(Pause)

Cookie, I have been working on a strategy to move into a leadership role in the Anti-Defamation League or one of the other Jewish communal organizations.

COOKIE

I'm always ready to help you.

MARTIN

I know. But I really have to get married.

COOKIE

I think you should, too.

MARTIN

I have to have kids.

COOKIE

(Smiling)

I fully support this idea too.

MARTIN

(Embarrassed smile)

The Levins found me the perfect wife. She's a returnee like me.

(Pause)

I am marrying her the day after tomorrow. I should have told your sooner.

COOKIE GAPES.

She does not what to say.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

(Shamefaced)

We will honeymoon in Israel. November first, I start a fellowship at a Jerusalem think-tank. My wife --

COOKIE WINCES AS IF SHE TOOK A PUNCH TO THE GUT.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

-- will join me permanently after she completes her residency.

COOKIE

It's all over between us?

MARTIN

No, honey, you'll always be my friend.

(MORE)

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I am going to come back to work as a lobbyist in Washington. We'll get together.

He is all dressed, puts on his hat, and leaves the bedroom. Cookie hears his footsteps going down the stairs.

COOKIE

Friend?

She starts crying.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Cookie starts crying.

COOKIE (CONT'D)

(Between tears)

And he tells me he is going to get married in two days to some Jewish returnee like himself.

And starts looking for a tissue. Devorah begins to get up to give her tissues from her purse.

DEVORAH

Maybe another attorney would be ...

COOKIE

No! I'm not mad at you. I like you.

(Pause)

Please.

DEVORAH RAISES AN EYEBROW --

-- while she absorbs everything Cookie just said.

EXT. YESHIVAH AT HAR HOMAH -- MORNING

Martin/Mordhke is about to get into a cab to go to Ben-Gurion airport. The Rosh Yeshiva (Head of the Yeshiva), RABBI SCHINDLER, sees him off. Rabbi Schindler dresses rather in a Modern Orthodox fashion with a Homburg hat. Martin wears a suit and kippah (yarmulke) with no tie. He has a suitcase. The cabby takes the suitcase to put it into the trunk.

ROSH YESHIVA

I am sorry you can't stay with us for the holidays.

MARTIN

(Showing uncertainty)

I'm sure that I'll return with Devorah within a week.

They shake hands and embrace. He gets into the cab.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
 Hatimah Tovah, Rabbi Schindler.

ROSH YESHIVA  
 Gemar tov!

MARTIN  
 To Ben-Gurion Airport, please.

BLACK:

INSERT: (POSSIBLY AERIAL) PICTURE OF TRAFFIC JAM

It refers to the main road between E. and W. Jerusalem. The unfinished Palestinian national library should be visible.

INT. CAB MAIN ROAD THROUGH JERUSALEM -- LATER

The cab driver is angry. He honks and curses. An ambulance blares.

MARTIN  
 Is it a terrorist attack?

CABBIE  
 Just bad driving.

He honks some more. Martin looks out the window toward the library, where men, women and children are engaged in various family activities. Somewhat closer to the road he sees a girl in somewhat tattered clothes.

SHE IS ABOUT FIVE OR SIX AND ROCKS A DOLL.

MARTIN  
 What's that?

CABBIE  
 I think it was supposed to be a library. Homeless Palestinians live there.

A SLIGHTLY OLDER BOY WALKS TOWARD THE GIRL.

When he reaches her, he starts talking to her, and he turns. Martin sees that he is missing part of his arm at the elbow, and there is a bandage over the side of his face. When the girl gets up, Martin sees that her doll is also missing part of its arm at the elbow, and there is a bandage over the side of its face. They hold hands and hurry back toward the unfinished library building.

MARTIN LOOKS AWAY.

MARTIN  
 Will we be stuck here for long?

EXT. HARVARD HILLEL -- LATE AFTERNOON

Yuhanna, Leah and Devorah, all carrying video equipment, approach the Harvard Hillel.

DEVORAH

(To Yuhanna and Leah)

... and then he told me where his key was and to make sure my son received it.

(Pause)

Suddenly, everything I believed or had been taught about Israel and Palestine just seemed so stupid and so wrong.

(Pause)

I want to work with Palestinians for the right of return.

YUHANNA

You have a reputation.

LEAH

There are many Jewish groups that work for Palestinian rights.

DEVORAH

Yeah, right. You know my mentor, Charles from the David Project? He manipulates all of the Jewish groups that claim to support Palestinians.

Even the groups that we did not infiltrate instinctively provide a sort of cover for Israel's crimes.

They read the sign: "**Harvard Hillel Welcomes the Harvard Islamic Society to the Community Sukkat Shalom for Iftar**"

LEAH

You can come with me to the Quran class. If you really want to work with Arabs, they have to get to know you, and it's a good place to start.

INT. HARVARD HILLEL -- MOMENTS LATER

There is a guard at the front desk.

Yuhanna greets him and shows his ID.

YUHANNA

We're working on a Harvard Foundation project to study intercommunal relations and activism at Harvard.

GUARD

One minute.

He calls Rabbi Levin.

YUHANNA

(To Leah and Devorah)

This should not take long.

Rabbi Levin appears and pauses for a moment to look at Devorah, who looks away. She is not dressed like an Orthodox Jewish woman.

RABBI LEVIN

(To Devorah)

Devorah, I've been trying to contact you for two weeks.

DEVORAH

I know, Rabbi. I'm sorry. I just needed to work out some issues.

YUHANNA

Rabbi Levin, I'm Yuhanna. We spoke yesterday.

RABBI LEVIN

(To guard)

They're okay.

(To Devorah)

I have time in my office.

DEVORAH

I'm not ready to talk about myself right now. I'm here to help Yuhanna film the Interfaith dinner tonight.

Rabbi Levin raises his eyebrows in surprise.

RABBI LEVIN

I'm always here for you.

RABBI LEVIN RETURNS TO HIS OFFICE.

He picks up his phone, and dials a number. He hears ringback.

RABBI LEVIN (CONT'D)

Hello, Mordkhe?

CUT:

Yuhanna, Leah and Devorah are setting up equipment in the internal courtyard/community succah area. A succah (a.k.a. tabernacle) is flimsy temporary housing with a leaky roof.

YUHANNA

We want to be able to film the people sitting and reacting to the speakers as well as speakers or performers at the front. It makes a much more interesting documentary.

INT. MUSLIM PRAYER ROOM CANADAY HALL -- EARLY EVENING

The Muslim students are finishing the sunset prayers. It is very cramped and somewhat depressing, for it is a basement and the walls are just painted cinder blocks. Mahmud Jamal attends. He wears a three piece suit.

BARAKAH

Brothers and sisters, today our cousins are sponsoring *iftar* in the Hillel building. Our cousins will teach us about their holiday Succoth, and then Mahmud Jamal will recite the Quran for us.

They leave the prayer room, pass the information tables, try to ignore the recycling room, walk through the laundromat, up the stairs and into the Harvard Yard by Canaday Hall. Some students leave for elsewhere. Barakah, Mahmud and others start walking toward the Hillel.

INT. HARVARD HILL DINING ROOM -- LATER

Yuhanna is working with the cameras at the back of the communal *sukkah*. Leah, Devorah, Mahmud, Jasmin and an older heavy set woman are sitting at a table in the *sukkah*. Amy is speaking at the podium in the front. Rabbi Levin is standing off to the side.

AMY

(Israeli Hebrew accent)

I wish to welcome all to *sukkat shelom eloheinu*, the tabernacle of the peace of the Lord.

Just as the Jewish people lived in uncertainty in the Diaspora, they lived in flimsy tabernacles before they entered into Israel.

Erich will chant the description of Succoth from the Torah in Hebrew, and I will translate.

LEAH COMMENTS TO DEVORAH.

LEAH

That was exceptionally efficient.  
(MORE)

LEAH (CONT'D)

She managed to be theologically  
unsound, anachronistically  
primordialist, and inappropriately  
Zionist all at once.

ERICH STEPS FORWARD WITH A HEBREW PENTATEUCH.

He starts chanting while Amy translates. Here is the  
translation of the passage from Leviticus 23.

**33 And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying: 34 Speak unto the  
children of Israel, saying: On the fifteenth day of this  
seventh month is the feast of tabernacles for seven days  
unto the LORD. 35 On the first day shall be a holy  
convocation; ye shall do no manner of servile work. 36 Seven  
days ye shall bring an offering made by fire unto the LORD;  
on the eighth day shall be a holy convocation unto you; and  
ye shall bring an offering made by fire unto the LORD; it is  
a day of solemn assembly; ye shall do no manner of servile  
work.**

Erich and Amy finish up.

MAHMUD IS FROWNING.

MAHMUD

(To Jasmin and Devorah)

I have to rethink my presentation.

MARTIN ENTERS THE SUKKAH WITH A GUITAR.

JASMIN POINTS HIM OUT TO DEVORAH AND LEAH.

RABBI LEVIN

The Harvard Islamic Society has  
invited Mahmud Jamal to recite the  
Quran in the Hillel Open Community  
Sukkah.

MAHMUD AND BARAKAH STAND UP.

They go to the podium.

MAHMUD

Thank you. Because of the tragedy in  
Kashmir, I thought it best to recite  
*Surat ash-Sharh* -- Opening Up the  
Heart -- as we break the Ramadan  
fast here. It speaks to the human  
soul struggling to be righteous amidst  
danger and uncertainty. Barakah will  
translate.

DEVORAH'S EYES TEAR DURING THE ARABIC [OPENING THE HEART].

(This is a spiritual moment.)

Here is the translation:

*Have we not opened up thy heart, and lifted from thee the burden that had weighed so heavily on thy back?*

*And [have We not] raised thee high in dignity?*

*And, behold, with every hardship comes ease;*

*verily with every hardship comes ease!*

*Hence, when thou are freed [from distress], remain steadfast, and unto thy Sustainer turn with love.*

LEAH NOTICES DEVORAH'S REACTION.

LEAH

(To Jasmin)

The translation generalizes the hardship of losing one's parents.

MAHMUD CONTINUES AT THE PODIUM.

MAHMUD

I had intended to discuss some relevant sayings of the Prophet, but after listening to the previous speaker, I have changed my mind.

MARTIN PLACES HIS GUITAR ON A TABLE NEAR THE FRONT --

-- and walks over to Devorah.

MAHMUD (CONT'D)

Arabs and Muslims today face more challenges than ever in our history. Sometimes I feel that our cultures have become fragile like a *sukkah*.

In making repairs we will make mistakes, and we probably need criticism from the outside world.

DEVORAH

Hi Martin, I used to think you didn't do interfaith activities.

Martin gives a small wave of greeting to Jasmin.

MARTIN

I'm going to talk about the Piaseczner Rebbe and the last Sukkos in the Warsaw Ghetto.

LEAH

That's my queue. Jasmin, let's get some coffee and pastry.

Jasmin and Leah leave Martin and Devorah to talk. Martin takes the seat opposite Devorah, who looks at Mahmud not Martin.

MARTIN

You don't return my calls?

DEVORAH

I've hired a divorce lawyer. She'll contact you.

MAHMUD

(Before the audience)

But sometimes we can see problems in other peoples' politics. Just as we do the courtesy of listening to you, you may do the courtesy of listening to us.

MARTIN

It's barely three weeks. Rabbi Levin told me you stopped dressing religious. We can talk it through.

MAHMUD

(Before the audience)

Let this occasion open a civil dialogue among us on the issues that divide us. Thank you.

He bows Suzuki style and steps over to the side.

RABBI LEVIN

(Clapping)

Thank you Mahmud.

Mahmud talks off to the side with Rabbi Levin.

DEVORAH

Did you know that Cookie Taveras' father is my boss?

MARTIN

Cookie spoke with you?

DEVORAH

I thought you kept chaste after you become religious.

MARTIN

Of course I did.

DEVORAH

(Angry)

You mean you immersed yourself to remove the ritual pollution you

(MORE)

DEVORAH (CONT'D)  
 incurred whenever you slept with a  
 non-Jewish woman.

Other people in the room start looking at them.

MARTIN  
 (Legalistic)  
 The Rabbis give permission to sleep  
 with non-Jewish prostitutes. It is  
 preferable to masturbation or defiling  
 a Jewish woman.

DEVORAH  
 (Louder)  
 What about God's permission? Do you  
 think God has a special place in his  
 heart for shyster lawyers that use  
 legal loopholes to excuse their lack  
 of self-control or responsibility?

MARTIN  
 She didn't mean anything to me.

DEVORAH  
 (Louder, angry)  
 Good, then you won't mind dealing  
 with her as my lawyer.

Now everyone is looking at them.

DEVORAH GETS UP IN A HUFF AND RUSHES OUT OF THE SUKKAH.

Martin has a flabbergasted expression on his face.

As she passes the serving area, Jasmin and Leah join her,  
 and they all leave the Hillel building together.

BLACK:

INT. DEVORAH'S CONDO KITCHEN 7½ CENTRE ST. -- LATER

Devorah sits at the kitchen table. Leah puts tea bags in tea  
 cups and adds hot water while Jasmin puts cookies on a plate.

DEVORAH  
 I've really ruined my life.

LEAH  
 It's not so hopeless. Everyone hits  
 a few bumps in the road.

DEVORAH  
 All my secular friends think I turned  
 psycho.

(MORE)

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

I've alienated all my new religious friends.

JASMIN

They aren't your only friends.

Jasmin puts her arm on Devorah's shoulder, notices her tension and begins to massage her shoulders.

DEVORAH

I have to make a change.

Can we start tomorrow at the mosque?

LEAH

Are you sure this isn't some sort of broken marriage backlash?

DEVORAH

Would you go back to how you were before you met Yuhanna?

LEAH

No, but no one will trust you. The Muslim and Arab communities will have to get to know you.

DEVORAH

(To Jasmin)

Will you come?

JASMIN

It's a mostly Arab Mosque, and I'm on-call tomorrow.

LEAH

Don't worry. I know Sheikh Elahi quite well.

DEVORAH

What time at the mosque tomorrow?

EXT. PROSPECT STREET MOSQUE -- AFTERNOON

Devorah and Leah pause outside the front of the mosque just before the early evening prayer.

DEVORAH

I took so many courses in Middle East studies when I was an undergrad, but I've never been inside a Mosque.

Leah reaches into her bag (an embroidered Palestinian handbag) to pull out two scarves.

LEAH

Mosques are a lot like synagogues.

The Mishnah says, "Teach concerning the daughters of Israel that they are to cover their heads."

Devorah takes the scarf. Leah helps her put it on.

THEY ENTER AND GO TO THE WOMEN'S AREA.

Leah grasps Devorah's hand and takes her to wash.

IN THE WOMEN'S SECTION LEAH SHOWS DEVORAH HOW TO PRAY.

There are five other women of various nationalities and garb. Barakah comes over to pray beside them.

CUT:

DEVORAH, LEAH AND BARAKAH FINISH THE PRAYERS.

DEVORAH

I feel better now. I had stopped doing my regular prayers.

LEAH

I did for a long time too, but then I realized God is present everywhere. Now I attend services at mosque, church and synagogue. God is too great to be contained in one religion.

BARAKAH

(To Devorah)

I remember you from the Hillel.

DEVORAH

How could anyone forget? I feel so bad about making a scene.

BARAKAH

No one was paying any attention.

DEVORAH

I was wondering. Where is the mosque at Harvard?

BARAKAH

There isn't one.

LEAH

They have a prayer room.

DEVORAH

Would anyone be upset if I came to attend services?

BARAKAH

As long as you cover your hair, no one will object.

CUT:

DEVORAH AND LEAH SIT WITH THE OTHER WOMEN IN HALF A CIRCLE.

Sheikh Elahi and the men sit in the other half of the circle. Mahmud sits next to Sheikh Elahi.

SHEIKH ELEAHI STARTS THE QURAN STUDY CLASS.

SHEIKH ELAHI

*As-salam alaykum*, everyone! Today we will study the Chapter of the Cave.

DEVORAH TALKS PRIVATELY WITH LEAH.

DEVORAH

(To Leah)

You didn't tell me Mahmud would be here.

LEAH

(Whispers)

Mahmud is a perfect Muslim yeshivah boy. He studies Quran, says his prayers and is always a perfect gentlemen with the ladies.

BLACK:

SHEIKH ELAHI IS JUST FINISHING THE LESSON.

SHEIKH ELAHI

We will have to continue in our next session.

He says *Surat al-Asr* and stands along with the other participants in the class. Mahmud waits for Sheikh Elahi. Devorah comes over to speak with the Sheikh.

DEVORAH

Thank you, Sheikh Elahi. I learned a lot.

SHEIKH ELAHI

*As-Salam alaykum*, sister. You are new here. What is your name?

DEVORAH

*Wa`alaykum as-salam*. I am Devorah Goren. I have a problem. I have spoken with many Rabbis, and I tried to be religious Jewish, but I failed. I am

(MORE)

DEVORAH (CONT'D)  
 afraid to believe in God, and I feel  
 so empty

SHEIKH ELAHI PUTS A HAND TO HIS CHIN.

SHEIKH ELAHI  
 Why are you afraid to believe in  
 God? Allah is the Merciful.

DEVORAH  
 I think I have always lived to please  
 my mother, and then my mother was  
 killed in the terrorist attack at  
 Sbarro in Jerusalem. My mother  
 believed some very horrible things  
 about Palestinians, Arabs, and  
 Muslims, and I did too.

At first I believed the attack  
 validated our beliefs, but I needed  
 to find some sort of meaning to life  
 beyond hatred.

As I learned more, I began to worry  
 that her belief system -- our belief  
 system -- may have been the cause of  
 the attack that killed her. I miss  
 her so much, but I'm scared of God's  
 judgment upon her if God exists.

The Muezzin makes the first call to prayer over the mosque  
 loudspeaker.

SHEIKH ELAHI  
 Allah forgives whom He will. God  
 judges each of us according to what  
 we know. We are constrained by our  
 education and upbringing but I cannot  
 believe you mother was entirely  
 unmindful of God because you are  
 here with us seeking knowledge. Your  
 mother has to receive credit from  
 the all-Merciful for raising such a  
 daughter.

DEVORAH  
 Mom trained me to prize knowledge  
 and education, but her goals for me  
 were tainted. I speak Arabic fluently  
 because my mother insisted that I  
 understand the language of the enemy.

SHEIKH ELAHI

Tragedy can free us from limitations of upbringing. We may suffer, but sometimes we gain new perspectives.

Sister, we have to pray Isha. I hope you will join us in the future. We can have a longer discussion if it will help you.

DEVORAH

I do have many questions.

LEAH

Sheikh Elahi, before you go, would you mind if Devorah and I put together a political advocacy session for the Muslim community?

SHEIKH ELAHI

(To Mahmud)

What do you think?

MAHMUD

Devorah knows much more about political activism in the USA than I do. She knows all the Zionist arguments and tactics. She could teach us a lot.

SHEIKH ELAHI

(To Devorah)

Mahmud is our community activist. Work it out with him, and then I will determine if we can accommodate.

The Muezzin makes the second call to prayer.

SHEIKH ELAHI NODS TO THEM AND TAKES HIS PLACE UP FRONT.

BLACK:

INT. ISLAMIC EDUCATION CENTER PROSPECT ST. -- EVENING

SUPER: **ONE WEEK LATER**

An easel in the lobby says:

**Explaining Muslim Political Issues to Americans**

**7:30 PM Rm 222**

**Speakers: Mahmud Jamal, Devorah Goren**

CUT:

IN ROOM 222 YUHANNA HAS SET UP HIS VIDEO EQUIPMENT.

He and Leah are sitting in the back. Leah wears a scarf. The audience is somewhat small and consists of six women and three men -- some from the Quran class. Barakah, who was present at the *Iftar* and the *Sukkah*, comes to this lecture. Devorah is sitting in the front. She wears a scarf.

MAHMUD

Devorah Goren will continue this class by sharing with us some of her long experience in teaching political advocacy.

Devorah gets up and exchanges places with Mahmud.

DEVORAH

Thank you.

(Pause)

When you explain Muslim issues to Americans, you must establish an American frame of reference. Often it is sufficient to use some popular song or character from TV or the movies.

I will demonstrate with an anti-Iraq War audiovisual display that I put together using a Vietnam-era anti-War song entitled "Send the Marines!"

(Smiling at Mahmud)

Music credit belongs to Mahmud.

Mahmud half stands for a small Arabic bow. Then she turns down the lights and starts the display, which is synchronized with Tom Lehrer's "Send the Marines." The song should probably start out in the original version and then switch to a more contemporary hip-hop arrangement.

Text of **Send The Marines**

*When someone makes a move of which we don't approve*

*Who is it that always intervenes U.N. and O.A.S.*

*They have their place, I guess but first send the marines*

*We'll send them all we've got John Wayne and Randolph Scott*

*Remember those exciting fighting scenes*

*To the shores of Tripoli but not to Mississippoli*

*What do we do, we send the Marines ...*

*For might makes right and 'til they've seen the light*

*They've got to be protected all their rights respected  
 Till somebody we like can be elected  
 Members of the corps all hate the thought of war  
 They'd rather kill them off by peaceful means  
 Stop calling it aggression we hate that expression  
 We only want the world to know that we support the status  
 quo  
 They love us everywhere we go so when in doubt, send the  
 Marines*

YUHANNA AND LEAH ARE DAZZLED.

LEAH

A good change of pace for your  
 documentary, don't you think?

YUHANNA NODS YES SERIOUSLY.

INT. DRIVING IN CAMBRIDGE, BROOKLINE, BOSTON -- MORNING

Devorah is driving to take pictures some of the main Jewish centers in the area. She parks near the Harvard Hillel to take a picture.

CUT:

She drives to Brookline. It is Shabbos (Sabbath). Many pedestrians are dressed up. She passes stores closed for the Sabbath. From her car she takes a picture of Kehillat Israel on Harvard Street. Then drives to Green St. where the Young Israel is located. The service is ending. She sees Fruma with Faivi and Khavele. For a moment Devorah looks at the children with pain and sadness. Then Rabbi Levin comes out with Martin, and an expression of anger crosses her face. She takes the picture from the car and then drives to the next site.

CUT:

She parks near the Combined Jewish Philanthropies building on High St. to take a picture. She walks closer to take a picture of the contribution thermometer, which shows that the CJP has received 29 of the projected \$33 million dollars it intended to raise this year.

CUT:

She drives to the Holocaust Memorial in Boston by the Union Oyster house, selects an angle and snaps a picture and gets back into her car.

CUT:

She drives to the Vilna Shul at 18 Philips St, gets out and takes pictures.

CUT:

INSERT: PHOTO OF STREET SIGN FOR MALCOLM X BOULEVARD.

She stops in front of the partially finished Roxbury Mosque. Mahmud is waiting for her.

DEVORAH

Sorry, collecting the pictures took longer than I expected.

She pauses to look at the Mosque with Mahmud.

THE MOSQUE GLISTENS IN THE BRIGHT SUNLIGHT.

MAHMUD

It's Hassan Fathy's last design. He tried to create appropriate architecture that fits its environment.

They start walking around the block.

MAHMUD (CONT'D)

If Arab Muslims had colonized New England along with the British, New England Arabs would have eventually built this sort of Mosque.

DEVORAH

Then they would have helped steal the country from the Indians.

The (primarily black) neighborhood around the back of the Mosque is dilapidated.

MAHMUD

Possibly but not necessarily. Islamic society integrated nomadic populations all over the world.

They come to a building where a woman is throwing a suitcase and some clothes out a second floor window at MYLES, a small bald black man in sunglasses. He is carrying a paper bag.

MYLES

Aw Bernice, I was only 17 hours late.

She throws a music stand at him.

MAHMUD

Myles, you have to put as much time into Bernice as you do into your sax.

MYLES

Mahmud, my man.

They start a complex homeboy greeting and end by embracing each other.

MYLES (CONT'D)

(To Mahmud)

Who de foxy lady?

DEVORAH

(Frowns)

She is Devorah. She is working on a project with Mahmud.

MAHMUD

(To Devorah)

I jam with Myles at the Roxbury Blues Club when I can.

MYLES

(To Devorah)

Jes' don' you keep him from his music. He done miss fo' session.

He grasps Mahmud's left hand.

MYLES (CONT'D)

See dis hand? It magic. Protec' it.

MAHMUD

Focus on Bernice.

MYLES

Yo' right.

He removes a gift-wrapped box from the bag and smiles

MYLES (CONT'D)

Her favorites!

And he dashes into the Bernice's building. Devorah and Mahmud continue walking.

DEVORAH

How do you know homeboy handshakes?

MAHMUD

I watched at the club. When I don't know what to do next, I hug him.

DEVORAH

Is that it? I thought it was something mysterious coded into the Y-chromosome.

He points to a building in really bad shape.

MAHMUD

The people here need the Roxbury Mosque. 150 years ago our ancestors were free, but theirs were slaves.

We benefit from the earnings that our ancestors were able to invest and the social networks they were able to build.

Everything was stolen from Black Americans.

They come to a local mosque (Masjid al-Hamdulillah).

MAHMUD (CONT'D)

If Muslims outside the USA can connect with American Black Muslims, they can provide African Americans with connections and capital. Everyone benefits.

DEVORAH

When Palestinians are so besieged, how can you even worry about Black Americans?

MAHMUD

Islam requires righteousness toward others and piety toward God.

I just try to be responsible.

Devorah smiles.

DEVORAH

Guys should be responsible.

MAHMUD

Then you won't mind if I do the noon prayers here.

BLACK:

INT. ISLAMIC EDUCATION CENTER PROSPECT ST. -- EVENING

An easel in the lobby says:

**The Conflict over the Roxbury Mosque**

**The forces against us**

7:30 PM Rm 222

**Speaker: Devorah Goren**

CUT:

IN ROOM 222 YUHANNA HAS SET UP HIS VIDEO EQUIPMENT.

He and Leah are sitting in the back. Mahmud sits with them. The audience has grown and consists of 12 women and 13 men. Devorah has a laser pointer. Barakah has brought Khalid along with more of the Harvard students. CHUCK TURNER, who is the Black Boston City Councillor for the Roxbury District where the Mosque is located and FRANK Kaufman from the Somerville Divestment Project are attending.

INSERT: FOX ANTI-MOSQUE NEWS COVERAGE

While Devorah speaks, the slides she shot appear on the screen beside her. One slide shows the Vilna Shul and the Roxbury Mosque side by side. The caption says:

**Hypocrisy**

**Vilna Shul: The organized Jewish community lobbies for \$400,000/year annual subsidy.**

**Roxbury Mosque: The organized Jewish community stages a lawsuit to reverse the sale because a \$175,000 discount in sale price violates separations of Church and State.**

DEVORAH

This talk is not a fun talk like last week.

To understand the controversy and the effectiveness of the anti-Mosque activists, I have to explain the structure of the Boston Jewish community.

Here is a chart of the connections.

She flashes a slide of something like a mafia organizational chart with the overhead projector.

She flashes a slide that focuses on the Combined Jewish Philanthropies organization and its president.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

This is Barry Shrage. Nothing happens in the Boston Jewish community that he does know about.

She plays a clip of Barry Shrage as he speaks to the Christian Jewish Learning Center at Boston College. A banner behind him says:

**Christian Jewish Learning Center, Boston College**

**Dialogue after Terrorism**

BEGIN VIDEOCLIP OF SHRAGE'S ADDRESSING AN AUDITORIUM AT BC

BARRY SHRAGE

How can we have any sort of dialogue with Arabs when Arab networks like al-Jazeera turn *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* into a 40 episode television series.

END VIDEOCLIP

FEMALE ATTENDEE #2

(Urdu accent)

What are The Elders of the Protocols of Zion?

MAHMUD AND LEAH CHAT IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM.

LEAH

A graphic example of how little American Muslims correspond to the mythology that American Jews have developed about them.

MAHMUD

Don't worry. She can deal with it.

BLACK:

Now on the screen, there is an Israel advocacy organizational chart that focuses on Devorah's former mentor Charles operating out of a central base that consists of the David Project, which is linked to CAMERA, the Christian Jewish Alliance, Israel on Campus Coalition, American Anti-Slavery Group, Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, Benador Associates, Hillel, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Citizens for Peace and Tolerance, etc. Next to the org chart is a large picture of Charles lecturing before a crowd at MIT. The picture is superimposed with the caption "**Local Hitman for Israel.**"

KHALID

Isn't this sort of personal for you?

DEVORAH

That's how Israel advocacy works. We were trained to take any sort of criticism of Israel or Zionism as a personal anti-Semitic attack on us.

She advances to an overhead slide that says "The Script" and lists the main erroneous beliefs of Boston Jews about Muslims.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

Boston Jews know very little about Muslims. Even though Zionist propaganda refers to the ages old conflict between Muslims and Jews, practically all American Jews have origins in Central and Eastern Europe, where there were hardly any Muslims at all.

She flashes a picture of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies building with the overhead projector.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

When Boston Jewish leaders look at the Roxbury Mosque plans, they see an impressive Muslim counterpart to the Combined Jewish Philanthropies or CJP building on High Street.

She flashes a picture of the unfinished Roxbury mosque building.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

The Roxbury Mosque and its congregation, even with the Mosque in its current unfinished state, is already more well integrated with the surrounding neighborhood than Jewish synagogues and communities ever manage to be.

She flashes a picture of the CJP building.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

The CJP building serves as command center for Zionist activities along the East Coast of the United States and at least as far west as Michigan. The CJP certainly will not sit by idly as Muslims create what it sees as an anti-Zionist command center right in the CJP's own backyard.

Anti-Mosque forces fear that ordinary Americans will realize that Muslims and Arabs are not much different from the vast majority of Americans.

Devorah turns off the projector.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

Mahmud would you recite *Surat al-Asr* to end the class?

MAHMUD STEPS UP TO THE FRONT AND RECITES FROM MEMORY.

LEAH COMMENTS TO YUHANNA.

LEAH

She learns the customs fast, doesn't she?

SOME OF THE ATTENDEES COME UP TO THE FRONT --

-- to talk with Devorah while Mahmud returns to the back where Yuhanna and Leah are.

FRANK

Have you ever researched Christian Zionist apocalyptic fundamentalists?

DEVORAH

The David Project has a subsection that specializes in outreach to them.

CHUCK TURNER

Hi, I'm Chuck Turner. We've never met, but...

Frank joins Yuhanna, Mahmud and Leah in the rear of the room.

DEVORAH

I wrote a horrible column about you because you took a stand for Palestinians at the Voting Rights Act Celebration. I'm so sorry.

CHUCK TURNER

I've wanted to thank you. A hatchet job in the *The New Republic* increases my margin of victory by at least 5%. This talk was also very helpful.

He shakes her hand.

MAHMUD TURNS TO FRANK, YUHANNA AND LEAH.

MAHMUD

She may be able persuade Alderman WILSON to support Divestment.

YUHANNA

She is good at explaining a complex topic, but can she persuade?

LEAH

Maybe we should invite her to the working brunch on Sunday. What do you think, Frank?

INT. YUHANNA & LEAH'S HOME, BENTON ST. SOMERVILLE -- MORNING

Sunday brunch: tee, coffee and pancakes. RAWAN, a Palestinian Pharmacy student, FRANK Kaufman, a local businessman, and AMER, a local Palestinian activist sit around the table. Yuhanna brings Devorah into the room.

YUHANNA

This is Devorah Goren.

AMER

(With scorn)

Why is she here?

YUHANNA

She is going to help us with Wilson.

AMER

Yeah, right.

I attended her talk about her mother's death two years ago. She practically called Palestinians animals that needed to be exterminated.

DEVORAH

I was in pain, and I was very wrong.

LEAH

She has a lot more information now.

MAHMUD

I think she is one of those people, who does the right thing despite herself once she realizes the truth.

AMER

How is it that she suddenly realizes the truth?

Mahmud, *habibi*, you have so many music lovers protecting you that you are naive. She is one of Charlie's Angels.

YUHANNA

I know Israelis very well. Devorah has changed.

AMER

Standard Zionist infiltration tactics. She shows you only the side of herself you want to see.

DEVORAH

He is right. Why should he trust me?

AMER

(To Yuhanna)

Ask her whether she forgives the  
Palestinian who killed her mother.

DEVORAH

I can't answer that.

AMER

See.

FRANK

(To Devorah)

Why can't you answer?

DEVORAH

It's a trick question.

Would he trust me if I forgave a man  
who killed my mother?

If I do forgive him, who am I to  
forgive someone for resistance to  
almost 60 years of Zionist aggression?

If I don't forgive him, then  
obviously, I believe Palestinians  
should just disappear themselves.

I should be asking the suicide bomber  
for forgiveness.

AMER

She's very clever, but I'm not working  
with you if you are working with  
her.

He storms out. And there is stunned silence.

DEVORAH

I don't blame him. I will have to  
prove myself.

BLACK:

The group (without Amer) is walking down Benton street then  
Winter Street to Alderman Wilson's house. It's cold.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

(To Leah)

What are music lovers are protecting  
Mahmud from?

LEAH

All the student Palestinian activists  
like Amer are either deported,

(MORE)

LEAH (CONT'D)

arrested or facing deportation. He believes that Charles has been the prime mover.

Don't you know?

DEVORAH

I never took part in denouncing immigrants and foreign visitors. I'm not a native-born citizen and was uncomfortable with a tactic that might haunt me or my mother.

RAWAN

But not enough to stop working with the David Project.

Devorah is ashamed and silent.

RAWAN (CONT'D)

Amer has a court appearance tomorrow. We are protesting. You could come.

DEVORAH

Of course, I'll be there.

CUT:

The group sits with ALDERMAN WILSON in his living room.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

Alderman Wilson, the organized Jewish community has condemned American corporations for being invested in 1930s Germany, which was a human rights violator not much different from Israel today.

Israel advocates use this history to pressure Americans to support Israel.

Isn't it wrong to reject a standard for Israel that Jews want to apply to non-Jews?

WILSON

Are you comparing Israel with Nazi Germany?

DEVORAH

I am saying there must be one standard of American behavior.

WILSON

I will think about it. I can assure you that this issue weighs heavily upon me.

But I do have to adjourn this meeting. It's getting late.

Everyone gets up and goes to the front door as Wilson and his wife get their coats and then pass them out. Wilson helps Devorah with her coat. She is the last to leave as a consequence.

WILSON (CONT'D)

(Just to Devorah)

Charles is very clever to send you out with these anti-Semites.

DEVORAH

I'm not working for Charles.

WILSON

Sure you aren't. Don't worry. Divestment will never go anywhere in Somerville. We have the mayor in the palms of our hands.

He lets her out of the house. She almost turns to argue.

CUT:

Wilson waves from his front door to the group outside. He gives Devorah a big smile and a wink.

WILSON (CONT'D)

Thanks for visiting. Walk safely.

The group bids him farewell. Wilson closes the door.

DEVORAH

(To everyone)

We have problems.

EXT. JF KENNEDY BUILDING GOVERNMENT CENTER -- MORNING

The Divestment team from last night and other area activists including FRANK Kaufman are protesting during Amer's deportation hearing. They carry signs and banners supporting Amer. Devorah brought Jasmin. They are both wearing white doctor's jackets. Some women wear scarves or other traditional Islamic dress. They are chanting slogans against the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Yuhanna is off to the side, filming. About 10 cops are watching them and making sure they keep to a circumscribed area. OFFICER PAT has an Irish accent. OFFICER RAY is a local Boston black. FURLONG is the INS lawyer arguing for deportation. Amer is represented by Attorney AYOUB.

AMER AND ATTORNEY AYOUB STEP OUT --

-- of the building and walk by the crowd to get the subway.

The crowd cheers. Devorah catches Amer's eye. He looks away in disgust.

FURLONG, THE INS ATTORNEY, TRIES TO CUT ACROSS --

-- to the subway station.

RAWAN

Look, Furlong!

LEAH

(Shouting)

Are you going to deport free speech!

Various members of the crowd shout.

**"Furlong is a Zionist tool."**

**"Deport some Zionist Traitors."**

**"Denaturalize Wolfowitz."**

**"How much does the David Project pay you?"**

OFFICERS RAY AND PAT MOVE TO PROTECT FURLONG.

OFFICER PAT

Back off.

DEVORAH

Move him back. This is our space.

OFFICER PAT

Just like the World Trade Center.

OFFICER RAY

(To Pat)

Cool off, man.

OFFICER PAT

They should go back to their own countries.

JASMIN

I was born here. So were my parents.  
What about you?

OFFICER PAT

(To Jasmin)

Move over there right now!

LEAH

What's with you? Did your son die  
for Bush's reelection in Iraq or  
something like that?

Officer Pat grabs her.

OFFICER PAT

You're under arrest.

OFFICER RAY

This is not a good idea. We are on  
camera.

Devorah tries to protect Leah.

DEVORAH

Leave her alone.

Now more cops join in, and more people are getting arrested.  
Frank blocks Rawan and Mahmud. He motions to some of the  
more Arabic looking protesters.

FRANK

You guys cannot get arrested.

He moves them away as the police round up the crowd.

EXT. POLICE STATION NEAR THE NEW COURTHOUSE BOSTON -- LATER

Dr. Yehudah Goren, Yuhanna, Attorney Ayoub and Frank are  
leaving with the released prisoners (Jasmin, Leah, Devorah  
and others arrested earlier at the protest).

ATTORNEY AYOUB

I spoke to the judge. Police behavior  
was irregular, and we have a  
videotape. The charges will be  
dropped.

YEHUDAH

Yuhanna, I really owe you for taping  
the demonstration.

Devorah, I am glad that you have  
suddenly developed empathy for  
Palestinians, but did you have to  
get arrested?

And Jasmin, I thought you had more  
sense.

JASMIN

My parents and I were born in the  
USA.

YEHUDAH

What?

FRANK

You had to be there.

YEHUDAH

Yuhanna, we have to hurry back to MGH, but I liked your movie. We should get together.

YUHANNA

Leah and I would like that.

YEHUDAH, JASMIN AND DEVORAH SEPARATE --

-- from the others and rush away.

ATTORNEY AYOUB

(Calling to them)

I will keep Frank updated on the case. I don't expect any trouble.

The doctors call back, "Thanks!"

YEHUDAH

(To Devorah)

So, how is the divorce going?

DEVORAH

Cookie says I'll be free in a week.

YEHUDAH

That's very fast. Jose told me Cookie goes an extra mile for her clients.

DEVORAH

I have that impression.

BLACK:

INT. SOMERVILLE TOWN HALL -- ALMOST A WEEK LATER

Many Divestment supporters are present as well as all the Aldermen. DENISE PROVO, the president of the Board of Alderman sits at an elevated podium. The other eleven Alderman sit in a circle at a curved table. The hearings are recorded, and Yuhanna is making his own tape. ALAN and CHARLES are sitting in the back. They can signal Alderman Wilson from where they are sitting. SASHA is a curly-haired Russian Jew. MR. HAMILTON has just explained a petition to the Board of Aldermen.

DENISE

We understand.

(MORE)

DENISE (CONT'D)

I make a motion to send an investigator to the site to find out what happened to St. Michael's Park.

Second?

ALDERMAN #4

Second.

DENISE

Show of hands.

In favor.

They all raise their hands.

DENISE (CONT'D)

Motion passed.

Thank you, Mr. Hamilton. You may return to your seat.

The petitioner leaves the podium.

DENISE ADDRESSES DIVESTMENT.

DENISE (CONT'D)

The next item is the proposed *Socially Responsible Investment Resolution*. It is also called the *Divestment Resolution*.

She reads the proposed resolution below into the record.

THE AUDIENCE SHOWS INTEREST AT FIRST --

-- but gradually drifts into private conversations.

DENISE PROVO HAS TO GAVEL --

-- every now and then to quiet the background murmuring. The reading can be cut only to include the most interesting or representative passages.

#### **Socially Responsible Investment Resolution**

**Whereas, Israel is currently militarily occupying land seized in the Six Day War of 1967, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242; and Whereas, during this occupation, Israel has, and continues to, violate the Fourth Geneva Convention on Rules of War of 1949, of which it is a signatory, by engaging in acts against Palestinians including**

**Blocking humanitarian aid**

Engaging in collective punishment such as demolishing homes,  
destroying olive groves and curfews

Using excessive force on demonstrators

Acquiring land illegally across the Green Line

Repopulating land in the occupied territories (settlements)

Using Palestinian homes as army military stations

Blocking ambulances

Detaining individuals without charge

The use of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and

Whereas, the City of Somerville abhors and unequivocally  
opposes all attacks, by either Israelis or Palestinians,  
where civilian casualties are likely, whether the attacks  
are aggressive or retaliatory; and

Whereas, the Board of Alderman of the City of Somerville, in  
order to remain consistent with its commitment to human  
rights, is against contributing to and profiting from the  
above violations of human rights by investment in companies  
that sell equipment used directly in these violations;  
Therefore be it resolved that:

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville urges all  
investors in the city to divest from companies involved with  
Israel's human rights violations.

DENISE (CONT'D)

The Somerville Divestment Project  
has collected 1000 signatures in  
support of the resolution.

SASHA BRINGS A MESSAGE TO ALDERMAN WILSON.

DENISE (CONT'D)

We have all reviewed the documentation  
of the human rights violations and  
the videos that Yuhanna Latif has  
supplied.

According to procedures the Council  
of Alderman must discuss the  
resolution before the president calls  
a vote.

WILSON

I request recognition.

DENISE

The president yields to Alderman  
Wilson.

WILSON

Madam President, the proposed resolution can only divide the community. It is one-sided and singles out Israel of all nations in which Somerville has investments. If we are going to vote on this resolution, let us at least call a hearing so that voices from the other side may express themselves.

YUHANNA

(Calls out)

Somerville has no other international investments!

DENISE

Out of order, the chair has recognized no witnesses.

ALDERMAN #4

I second the motion.

DENISE

Show of hands.

Motion passes.

I authorize a hearing next week 45 minutes to speakers opposed, 45 minutes to speakers in favor.

I make a motion to close this meeting.

ALDERMAN #3

I second.

DENISE

Show of hands.

Meeting is adjourned.

YUHANNA APPROACHES DENISE.

YUHANNA

Why are you doing this?

DENISE

We received many calls opposing Divestment.

DEVORAH, LEAH AND MAHMUD WAIT OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL ROOM DOOR.

DEVORAH

Charles must have organized a call-in from all over the Boston area.

MAHMUD

But you know all the tricks and strategies.

DEVORAH

A direct confrontation is bad for their image, but Charles has, compared with us, infinite ability to bribe.

LEAH

We need an emergency meeting.

She signals Yuhanna over.

LEAH (CONT'D)

We need to formulate a response.

YUHANNA

Tomorrow, 7:30 at Benton Street.

MAHMUD

I have the concert at the Longy Auditorium tomorrow.

DEVORAH

Can anyone come?

MAHMUD

Yes, sure.

YUHANNA

Emergency meeting Thursday then.

INT. DEVORAH'S CONDO 7½ CENTRE ST. -- LATER

Devorah sits at her computer. She checks for tickets to the concert.

CUT:

She is having a phone Conversation with Jasmin.

DEVORAH

Could you cover for me tomorrow? I have something important.

JASMIN (O.S.)

What's up?

DEVORAH

Mahmud is playing at Longy tomorrow night, and I don't want to miss it.

JASMIN (O.S.)

And you want to look just right.

(MORE)

JASMIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Don't worry, honey. I'll set you up  
 for the late night shift.

DEVORAH  
 Thanks, girl-friend. Bye-bye.

JASMIN (O.S.)  
 Later, girl-friend.

Devorah hangs up. Then she starts looking at some Arabic and Islamic fashion magazines.

INT. JUDY JETSON'S HAIR SALON -- MORNING

Judy Jetson's has a sort of combination of Christian religious, rock and heavy metal decor. Devorah is getting a manicure. The stylist is a little punk in dress.

STYLIST  
 I have not seen you since your  
 wedding.

DEVORAH  
 I'm single again.

STYLIST  
 The bastard.

DEVORAH  
 How did you know?

STYLIST  
 I've been married three times.  
 Is this your first date post marriage?

DEVORAH  
 No date. I am going to hear a friend  
 play in a string quartet.

STYLIST  
 How did you meet him?

DEVORAH  
 It's complicated.

INT. DEVORAH'S CONDO 7½ CENTRE ST. -- AFTERNOON

Devorah is ironing an elegant scarf.

CUT:

Devorah is dressing for the concert. She views herself in a full length mirror in her bedroom. She looks spectacular.

INT. CONCERT ROOM LONGY'S SCHOOL OF MUSICS -- LATER

Flowers and presents are piled on the table in the back. A lot of hubbub. The quartet (including Mahmud the violinist and SOLANGE the cellist) sits down to play. The crowd is large but not huge. Devorah closes her eyes and listens.

CUT:

DEVORAH WALKS UP -

- to congratulate Mahmud on a wonderful performance. She clasps Mahmud's right hand with two hands. The cellist, SOLANGE watches Devorah's performance.

DEVORAH

The concert was wonderful.

MAHMUD

(Disappointed)

You are the only one from the Somerville Divestment Project that came.

DEVORAH

Appreciating classical music can sometimes be hard for those not brought up with it.

MAHMUD

But more people understand classical music here than back home.

Solange has been watching Devorah clasp Mahmud's hand. She lifts an eyebrow.

SOLANGE

We are going to Casablanca. Would you like to join us?

DEVORAH

I have to get back to the hospital. I'm the resident on-duty tonight.

Devorah gives Mahmud's hand a squeeze, turns to leave, and then heads toward the exit.

MAHMUD

(To Solange)

Are you trying to get me in trouble with my parents.

SOLANGE

She's beautiful. She's clearly in love with you, and she's a doctor. Don't let her get away.

EXT. STEPS IN FRONT OF LONGY'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC -- CONTINUOUS

Devorah slaps herself in the side of the face.

DEVORAH

I'm so stupid. Why did I agree to  
work the late shift?

BLACK:

INT. YUHANNA & LEAH'S HOME, BENTON ST. SOMERVILLE -- EVENING

Yuhanna, Leah, Rawan, Mahmud, and Devorah are present. They are sitting in the living room. Yuhanna and Leah have prepared coffee, tea and pastries. They set up an easel with a large paper pad for writing. Yuhanna's cameras and recording equipment are set up.

YUHANNA

I wanted to keep the debate focused  
on human rights.

LEAH

we will have to deal with accusations  
of anti-Semitism, and they will claim  
that voting for Divestment is threat  
to every Jew in the world.

DEVORAH

There will be big media coverage.  
We have to put together an effective  
group of witnesses.

INT. SOMERVILLE CITY HALL ALDERMEN'S CHAMBER -- EVENING

SUPER: **SIX DAYS LATER**

Newspaper and TV reporters are present. Yuhanna has also set up his equipment. The whole Divestment Project is present (including Amer). Several are black. Some are wearing kufiyyahs. Harvard and Tufts Students for Israel sent a contingent, all wearing T-shirts with Hebrew slogans. All the witnesses (Israeli Consul MEIR SHLOMO, Alan, the UNION REPRESENTATIVE, Mayor TORTONE, YUHANNA, NORM, RAWAN, DEVORAH, FRANK) are present. Frank's wife KARIN and his kids, Timmy and Elly) are in the room. Frank wears a yarmulke, and Karin covers her hair in the modern orthodox Jewish style. CHARLES and SASHA are in their usual places. Martin Dressler (Devorah's former husband) is also sitting in the crowd just behind Alan's seat. There is spillover into the corridor. Members of the audience are carrying Israeli, Palestinian and American flags. There is a Muslim contingent from the Prospect St. Mosque in Cambridge. Sheikh Elahi, Chuck Turner and Mahdi Bray attend. There is a lot of sloganeering. One obnoxious anti-Divestment group from the Boston Israel Action Committee wears T-shirts with a baby dressed as a Palestinian suicide bomber.

The caption says "Pro-Divestment is Pro-Terrorism."

DENISE

The chair recognizes the Israeli  
consul, Meir Shlomo.

As Shlomo approaches the podium, Timmy (5) and Elly (3), who are crawling all over Karin and Frank, begin to have a melt down. Frank and Karin are sitting next to Devorah and Leah.

KARIN

I will have to take them outside.  
(To Frank)  
Call me on my cell phone.

The three of them make their way to the outside corridor.

INT. CITY HALL OUTSIDE ALDERMEN'S CHAMBER -- CONTINUOUS

There is a similar crowd and a monitor has been set up so that everyone can watch. Timmy is near a group with Israeli flags. They are ignoring him. Elly is clinging to Karin, who is listening on her cell phone.

FRANK (V.O.)

Standard Israeli line. They are a  
bastion of freedom as they plunder  
and abuse the natives. We Americans  
spewed such nonsense 125 years ago.

Elly slides off Karin to follow Timmy to the Zionist group.

TIMMY

How do Palestinian kids do their  
homework after Israelis destroy their  
homes?

Elly starts crying and runs to Mommy (Karin).

ELLY

They are bad people. Make them go  
away.

CUT:

ZIONIST WOMAN #1

(To Karin)

You are raising two little anti-  
Semites.

KARIN

(Subtitle)

*Garti im happalestinaiyim asher  
bimdinat yisrael uvartzot hakkibush  
arba shanim. Ani yoda`at giz`anim  
kamokh ksh'ani roah otam.*

**HEBREW: "I lived with the Palestinians in the State of Israel and the Occupied Territories for four years. I know racists like you when I see them."**

The woman stares at her blankly.

KARIN (CONT'D)

Don't understand Hebrew do you?  
Hating us for being Jews is anti-  
Semitism; hating Jews for what they  
do is not.

Why do Jewish soldiers wreck kids'  
houses? My kids ask me every day.

CUT:

The ADL group has moved closer to Karin and the kids.

FRANK (V.O.)

The union guy was so happy that  
pension money was invested in Israeli  
bonds.

He may as well flush his pension  
down the toilette.

Mayor Tortone is talking now.

FROM THE PODIUM MAYOR TORTONE CONTINUES.

MAYOR TORTONE

"It is wrong to suggest that the  
Jewish people would support a  
government in Israel or anywhere  
else that institutionalizes ethnically  
based suppression, and I reject that  
allegation vigorously!"

FRANK IS ON HIS CELL PHONE FROM A REAR PEW.

FRANK

Oh, the Israelis could not possibly  
be violating human rights. Tortone's  
Israeli boyfriend told him. I wonder  
when Tortone put him on the city  
payroll.

OUTSIDE THE ALDERMEN'S CHAMBER TIMMY QUESTIONS KARIN.

TIMMY

But what does The David Project do?

FRANK (V.O.)

He doesn't want Somerville residents  
to think about issues of foreign  
policy. He calls it divisive.

TIMMY

Mommy, what does it do?

KARIN

It calls people it does not like terrorists and anti-Semites so that they cannot work and so that the government will arrest them or put them on planes and send them some place where other people hit them.

FRANK (V.O.)

Alan is speaking. The usual. Negotiations are really delicate. They're singling out Israel. Peace would be so easy if Palestinians would just go live somewhere else. Yuhanna is next at the podium.

INT. SOMERVILLE CITY HALL ALDERMEN'S CHAMBER -- CONTINUOUS

YUHANNA

Americans have no more obligation to pay for Israel than they have to pay for Finland.

INT. CITY HALL OUTSIDE ALDERMEN'S CHAMBER -- CONTINUOUS

Karin has walked the kids over to the group of students wearing T-shirts with Hebrew letters. The cell phone is on speakerphone and loud enough for them to hear.

FRANK (V.O.)

Rawan told a horrible story about her cousin's son being killed right in front of his father as he played in their apartment. Her cousin is still being treated in a hospital.

One of the Harvard Students for Israel is entranced by Elly.

FRANK (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Devorah is making herself upset. She is telling about the pressure for new soldiers to bloody themselves by beating on helpless Palestinians.

Next, I speak.

INT. SOMERVILLE CITY HALL ALDERMEN'S CHAMBER -- 10 MIN. LATER

Karin and the kids take their seats as Frank goes to the podium.

FRANK

I am Frank Kaufman. I am President of Aetherio Telecommunications Corporation, whose main headquarters are in Somerville.

In 1992-3, I was enthusiastic that the ongoing negotiations between the Israeli government and the Palestinian leadership would lead to peace. Because I was raised in America, I had never even heard or read a challenge to the Zionist narrative of the creation of the State of Israel. Before my first visit to that country, I attended Israeli advocacy sessions ....

CHARLES TURNS TO SASHA.

CHARLES

Marginalizing this guy will be tough.

CUT:

FRANK

I attended the circumcision of the son of an Israeli business associate. After completing the operation, the circumciser, made his own blessing, "*Barukh attah hashem, elokeinu, melekh haolam, asher natan leam yisrael hayal hadash laharog ulehashmid et haaravim.*" It means, "Blessed art thou Lord, our God, King of the Universe, that has given to the people of Israel a new soldier to kill and to destroy the Arabs."

SASHA TURNS TO CHARLES.

SASHA

We have to get this guy.

SOME OF THE AUDIENCE CLAPS.

Zionism supporters shout, "Liar!" Provo uses her gavel.

CUT:

FRANK

In 2001-2002, I ordered American-made Cisco computer equipment (routers) for an EU-funded project to improve the Internet service for Palestinians in the Occupied

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

Territories. The Israeli government held the devices up at customs, asserting they could be used for terrorism. I complained to the American government to put pressure on the Israeli government to release my equipment with no luck. Then I changed my tactics.

Some vaguely official-looking Homeland Security types start photographing Frank.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I shipped the Cisco routers back to the US and specified inferior but more expensive Israeli routers made by RAD, an Israeli military electronics firm heavily subsidized by the Israeli government with US foreign aid dollars.

Suddenly all the problems in putting the routers in place vanished. In one fell swoop, the Israeli government ripped off the EU and the Palestinians while it helped an Israeli firm steal a business contract from an American company. I take it as typical of the rapacious nature of Israeli relations with the rest of the world.

In the end my efforts went for naught because by the end of 2002, the Israeli army had destroyed practically all the Internet communications equipment which I had installed for the Palestinian infrastructure.

That is Israel's definition of peace and security.

YUHANNA COMES OVER TO TALK TO KARIN.

YUHANNA

We see those guys taking pictures at a lot of our activities.

Karin looks tense. She holds Timmy tight.

FRANK CONTINUES SPEAKING.

FRANK

Divestment is not really enough, but it is a good start both for Palestinians and for America.

Frank returns to his seat where Karin and the kids are sitting. There is a lot of clapping and booing. Denise Provo uses her gavel.

DENISE

Is there a motion for cloture?

WILSON

I move for permanent cloture.

ALDERMAN ROCHE

I second.

FRANK REMARKS TO THE DIVESTMENT PROJECT MEMBERS NEAR HIM.

FRANK

Wilson is trying to stop all future discussion of Divestment. He will get a big reward from the Israel-firsters.

DENISE GAVELS.

DENISE

The Responsible Investment initiative is defeated: 0 in favor, 2 abstentions and 9 opposed.

CUT:

Devorah walks over to Charles and Sasha. Sasha gets between.

DEVORAH

You are such a moron, Sasha. Get out of my way.

She pushes him and then addresses Charles.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

You are such a hypocrite. You say Palestinians are evil because they resist with violence. Yet, when Palestinians and their friends develop a completely non-violent strategy to resist, you make sure that there is no rational civil discussion.

CHARLES

(Confused)

When did you become such a Jewish self-hater?

Devorah expresses frustration.

DEVORAH

You don't intimidate me any more.

SASHA GIVES HER THE DOUBLE FINGER.

Amer gets in between.

AMER  
(To Sasha)  
Tut tut tut!

SASHA  
We will be here when you are gone.

AMER  
I can say the same about you Russians  
in Palestine.

Devorah heads for Alan.

AMER PULLS DEVORAH ASIDE.

Now Mahmud approaches.

AMER (CONT'D)  
It's enough, my dear.  
(To Mahmud)  
I was wrong about her.

She looks at Amer.

AMER (CONT'D)  
Don't take it so personally.  
Divestment may still win.

At least, you aren't being deported.  
I have to leave in fourteen days.

She embraces him.

MARTIN WATCHES THIS DISPLAY, BUT DEVORAH CANNOT SEE HIM.

Martin is very angry.

MAHMUD  
Yuhanna wants us to meet at his house  
right now.

INT. YUHANNA & LEAH'S HOME, BENTON ST. SOMERVILLE -- LATER

The core Divestment project and affiliated members including Amer (minus Frank, Karin and the kids) are present.

Leah is getting pastries, and she brings them in as Yuhanna talks. Devorah's eyes are red, and she is wiping with tissues. The cameras are of course running.

YUHANNA

We lost... but we won because we got our message out. Our witnesses were on a live feed to CNN.

We have to build on this momentum.

LEAH

What do you think about doing street theater at the Nativity in the Boston Common? We could make portable Wall slabs and encircle the display. We could put messages on the wall.

Attendees call out.

**"Apartheid Wall -- Paid for with U.S. Tax Dollars"**

**"Herod and the Israeli Army Kill Children"**

**"Why is Jesus Born in a Manger? Joseph and Mary could not get through the checkpoints."**

LEAH (CONT'D)

Maybe we should add a checkpoint. We would need a couple. A pregnant woman trying to get through.

DEVORAH ADDRESSES YUHANNA PRIVATELY --

-- while everyone else continues to talk about street theater.

DEVORAH

Could I go back to Divestment?

YUHANNA

A moment.

(To the others)

Not too complicated. We only have three days to get ready.

LEAH

(Off to the side)

I will make sure the TV stations and newspapers send reporters.

YUHANNA

Go ahead.

DEVORAH

We don't have to give up. I am not sure about Somerville, but Cambridge has citizens' ballot initiatives. We voted on one two years ago.

YUHANNA SMILES.

BLACK:

EXT. BOSTON COMMON -- AFTERNOON (JUST AFTER THANKSGIVING)

Divestment Project activists wear wall slabs with anti-Israel slogans. The wall slabs surround the nativity and thwart Divestment Project members dressed as the three wise men (Sheikh Elahi, Chuck Turner, and Frank Kaufman) from getting to the crèche. Leah and others are handing out fliers. Some people are arguing with them. Yuhanna is filming. Channel 5 reporter JOE SHORTSLEEVE is covering the story with his CAMERAMAN. It is snowing lightly.

BY THE BRASS DUCKLINGS MAHMUD (AS A MODERN ARAB JOSEPH) --

-- and Devorah (as a modern Arab Mary) with a pregnancy pillow are enacting a Checkpoint scene. The soldiers wear IDF uniforms. They set up a mock checkpoint with an Israeli flag.

DEVORAH

Joseph, the contractions hurt.

She moans and grasps Mahmud.

MAHMUD

I have to get my wife to Bethlehem.

SOLDIER PLAYER #1

Show me your papers.

Mahmud hands the documents to SOLDIER PLAYER #1, who looks at them with the other SOLDIER PLAYERS. A group of historical reenactors (including BEN FRANKLIN and JOHN ADAMS) walk along the diagonal path toward the Checkpoint scene.

SOLDIER PLAYER #2

They are not in order. Go to the waiting area.

Mahmud helps Devorah.

MAHMUD

Just a little further, Mary.

DEVORAH

It hurts.

She lays down on a bench and groans to simulate a particularly painful contraction.

BEN FRANKLIN

(To the soldier players)

What are you doing to her?

RAWAN is handing out fliers.

RAWAN

(To Ben Franklin)

You should know street theater when  
you see it. Look at the Nativity.

BEN FRANKLIN looks at the Wall Segments, the Israeli flag  
and the Nativity. He decides to take part.

BEN FRANKLIN

What say you, John?

JOHN ADAMS

There has been no true public debate  
whether the State of Israel is a  
proper ally for the American Colonies.

I say George III in cooperation with  
a venal, corrupt, and unrepresentative  
Congress tyrannically taxes Americans  
to maintain criminal and unjust  
Zionist despotism in the Middle East.

I say, "No taxation without  
representation."

BEN FRANKLIN

(Gravely)

John Adams, we are in agreement.

(Less Grave)

I apologize to Tommy Jefferson for  
borrowing his eloquent words from  
the Declaration of Independence.

(Proclaiming)

*In every stage of their Oppressions  
Palestinians have Petitioned for  
Redress in the most humble terms:  
Their repeated Petitions have been  
answered only by repeated injury.*

Come! We hang together, or we surely  
hang separately. Let us march to  
Bethlehem. Let us protest together  
the injustices of King George.

(He sings)

Oh come, all ye faithful,

The Divestment Project team, the historical reenactors, and  
various passers-by join in the march and the song.

JOHN ADAMS

BEN FRANKLIN

Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, o  
come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold  
him, Born the king of angels.

OFFICER PAT AND OFFICER RAY ARE PARKED BESIDE THE PARK.

OFFICER PAT  
We have to check that out.

OFFICER RAY  
Some of them are dressed like Arabs.  
You going to be okay?

OFFICER PAT  
I'm cool.

They get out of the patrol car and walk over toward Franklin.

JOHN ADAMS

BEN FRANKLIN  
(Leading the march)  
O come let us adore him, O come let  
us adore him, O come let us adore  
him, Christ the Lord!

THE OFFICERS MEET BEN FRANKLIN AND JOHN ADAMS AT THE WALL.

OFFICER RAY  
Franklin, what's going on here?

BEN FRANKLIN  
We are protesting the injustice of  
building a wall around of Bethlehem.

OFFICER PAT  
(Loud)  
I don't care if you were the Holy  
Father himself. Get that wall out  
of here, right now!

The protesters by the wall mock-up move its pieces away to open up the nativity scene, and everyone starts cheering Officer Pat, who is not sure why he is receiving applause. Mahmud and Devorah enter the Nativity. The Wise Men kneel in front of the manger.

OFFICER RAY  
You just made your debut as a street  
actor.

Officer Ray and Ben Franklin pat Officer Pat on the back.

JOHN ADAMS  
Don't wall up Jesus!  
  
Don't bulldoze Palestine!  
  
Don't tread on America!

OFFICER PAT

OFFICER RAY

Amen!

CUT:

The snow is falling harder. Channel 5 Reporter Joe Shortsleeve is interviewing the participants in the nativity protest/street theater. His cameraman is filming and Yuhanna is filming the filming. Joe Shortsleeve is holding a microphone.

JOE SHORTSLEEVE

This is Joe Shortsleeve reporting for Channel 5 News at the Boston Common, where the Somerville Divestment Project has staged a remarkable street theater protest with the unanticipated aid of the Boston Police Department and local historical reenactors.

We are here with Sheikh Elahi, religious director of the Islamic Society of Boston, Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner, and SDP organizer Devorah Goren.

Shortsleeve approaches Sheikh Elahi.

JOE SHORTSLEEVE (CONT'D)

Sheikh Elahi, the Quran tells a nativity story that is very different from the Gospels. Are you perhaps compromising your religion in order to curry favor with Boston Christians in order to garner support for the Roxbury Mosque project?

SHEIKH ELAHI

The Gospel nativity story is symbolic. The Jesus of the Gospels is like the message of hope to the world.

Hope is born in a hovel in struggle like a tiny infant against the will of the rich and powerful, but he grows into a great man who can change the world.

This idea is fundamental to Islam. It resonates with all Palestinians, whether Christian or Muslim, and can move all human beings whatever their religion.

JOE SHORTSLEEVE

Thank you, Sheikh Elahi.

(Turning to Devorah)

I interviewed Devorah Goren last April when she was fundraising for the Red Magen David, which is the Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross.

Frankly, I am surprised that you are here. As an SDP organizer, can you elaborate on Sheikh Elahi's comment?

DEVORAH

There is no god but God, and Muhammad is his prophet.

JOE SHORTSLEEVE

I do not understand.

DEVORAH

I only just realized.

Islam demands righteousness towards others and piety towards God. That is a message of hope for all mankind.

*Ashhadu an la ilaha illa 'llahu wa-Muhammadun rasulu 'llahi.*

Sheikh Elahi and Mahmud and then all the SDP project members all applaud Devorah as the snowstorm increases.

JOE SHORTSLEEVE

You saw it first on Channel 5 -- dramatic street theater, followed by a dramatic conversion to Islam in the midst of a dramatically increasing snowstorm.

Everyone in the Boston Common tries to get to cover as the winds rise and the snow whips around them.

WHITE:

INSERT -- STILL SHOT MASS. GENERAL HOSPITAL

INT. MAIN LOBBY MGH -- AFTERNOON (THE NEXT DAY)

THE CLOCK ABOVE THE MOUTH OF THE CORRIDOR SHOWS 4:08 PM.

SEQUENCE OF SCENES

A) DEVORAH WALKS OUT THE MGH MAIN CORRIDOR TOWARD THE EXIT.

She has a canvas bag which contains some work that she is bringing home. The traffic of people indicates shift change.

B) SHE CLIMBS THE STEPS OF THE CHARLES MGH SUBWAY STATION.

There is a lot of snow from the big snowstorm yesterday.

C) SHE EXITS THE CENTRAL SQUARE STATION.

She starts walking up Mass. Ave toward Centre St.

There is snow all along her path home.

D) SHE ENTERS HER CONDO.

She puts her bag down on her desk chair in the living room. The bookshelf next to it now contains Islamic books as well as Hebrew and English books critical of Israel and Zionism.

She steps into the kitchen and starts a coffee in a single cup coffee maker and checks the schedule of prayer times. It is taped to the wall next. At this time of the year *Maghrib* (Sunset) prayers take place around now (4:30).

She gets a prayer rug and headscarf. She puts the prayer rug down pointing toward Mecca as indicated by a decorative tablet of the four *Qul* verses from the Quran. This tablet has replaced the *Mizrah*, which used to indicate the direction toward Jerusalem. She puts on the headscarf and begins to pray *Maghrib* in the moonlight. Her face takes on an expression of calmness.

BLACK:

EXT. DEVORAH'S CONDO 7½ CENTRE ST. -- LATER

Mahmud is ringing the doorbell. He is somewhat messed up and roughed up.

CUT:

INSIDE THE APARTMENT DEVORAH SITS ON A COUCH WHILE SHE READS.

She gets up and goes to answer the intercom. She carries the book she was reading, *Remembering Deir Yassin: The Future of Israel and Palestine*. She places it cover up open to the page she was reading on a table beneath the intercom.

THE COVER OF THE BOOK IS CLEARLY VISIBLE.

DEVORAH

Who's there?

MAHMUD (V.O.)

Mahmud, may I come up?

DEVORAH

Just a minute!

CUT:

DEVORAH RUSHES TO THE BATHROOM --

-- to make herself pretty with a little powder and lipstick. She returns to the intercom and buzzes him in. She puts on a scarf (tied in the back).

CUT:

DEVORAH OPENS THE DOOR.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

(Surprised)

What happened?

MAHMUD

We were playing a wedding. Your former husband pointed me out to the bride's family. They threw us out and told Gilad to stop pimping Jewish girls to filthy Arabs. They think I seduced you at your wedding.

DEVORAH

Maybe you did.

Mahmud raises his eyebrows. Devorah gets a medical kit.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

But not in their sense. Because of you I had to look at myself again.

(Pause)

But this is something different.

Martin and my lawyer had a history. I think she was sleeping with him to get me a better deal on the divorce.

Now that the case is over, she dumped him the way he dumped her. Martin is probably pissed at the world and not specifically at you.

MAHMUD

She sounds like quite an attorney.

DEVORAH

She did a very good job by me.

MAHMUD

Devorah, what do you want?

DEVORAH

First to patch you up.

She gets a first aid kit. He pulls back a little.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

I am a doctor.

She cleans him up and puts on a bandage.

MAHMUD

Devorah, what do you really want?

DEVORAH

I want to marry you.

(Pause, too serious)

And I want to bear at least six children for you.

MAHMUD

(Smiles)

You have been talking much too much with Leah about Palestinian demographics.

I am not an American. I will obey my father in matters of marriage. What if I cannot marry you?

DEVORAH

I would be devastated. But without you I am already a Muslim. I should always have been. I know it now. I feel more reassured now than since I don't know when.

Devorah's expression pleads.

MAHMUD

We will go to Palestine and ask my parents for approval of our marriage.

BLACK:

INT. MASS. GENERAL HOSPITAL NEUROLOGY DEPARTMENT -- MORNING

Jasmin and Devorah are checking charts. Yehudah enters somewhat abruptly. He seems riled up.

YEHUDAH

What's going on?

She gives an answer he is not expecting.

DEVORAH

I may be getting married.

JASMIN

Really! Already?

YEHUDAH

(Interrupting)

Every important Jewish leader in the area has called me about your performance at the Somerville Board of Alderman, and then you converted to Islam on the Channel 5 News over the weekend.

JASMIN

Mahmud?

DEVORAH

Mahmud.

YEHUDAH

What?

JASMIN

The Palestinian Violinist. I'm so happy for you. I'll be right back.

YEHUDAH

A Palestinian. Are you insane?

DEVORAH

You always told me we have to learn to live with the Arabs.

YEHUDAH

But not to marry them.

DEVORAH

You said you would support my choices.

YEHUDAH

But not when you decide to join the PLO. They killed you mother.

DEVORAH

Mahmud did not kill my mother, and we have been killing them and stealing from them for almost 60 years.

Anyway, what do you care? You always told me you were a Zionist by marriage because Mom was a Zionist. You didn't give a damn about nationalist crap.

YEHUDAH

But I am a Jew. Why do you think I immigrated to Israel? When friends visit, I'm going to introduce them to my Palestinian son-in-law and my Arab grandchildren?

(MORE)

YEHUDAH (CONT'D)

You are not marrying the Palestinian violinist!

JASMIN RETURNS WITH SOME OTHER RESIDENTS AND STAFF.

They shout congratulations

RESIDENT

Didn't we just do this a couple of months ago?

YEHUDAH STORMS OUT.

Devorah calls after him.

DEVORAH

I know you'll change your mind when you meet him.

YEHUDAH

(Calls back)

I already met him when you were marrying a Jewish boy.

INSERT - PLANE FLYING OUT OF LOGAN TO BEN-GURION

INT. BEN-GURION AIRPORT -- MORNING

The security personnel are interrogating Devorah and Mahmud.

TWO OTHER SECURITY PERSONNEL --

-- have a conversation away from Devorah and Mahmud.

SECURITY WOMAN #1

We should interrogate them more.

SECURITY MAN #1

Her father is a reserve colonel, and he plays the violin. There is nothing in their bags.

ANOTHER SECURITY WOMAN TRIES TO SCARE DEVORAH.

(The subtitles below indicate the original language.)

SECURITY WOMAN #1

(Hebrew, subtitle)

Aren't you afraid he might rape you?

DEVORAH

(Hebrew, subtitle)

I hope so --

(Arabic, subtitle, to Mahmud)

-- after we are married.

MAHMUD

(Hebrew, subtitle)

Perhaps you should compare the statistics for rape and other violent crimes in my home town of Tajasir with those for Tel-Aviv.

SECURITY MAN #1

We are wasting our time. Let them go.

They pick up their bags and hail a cab.

INT. CONDO IN HAR HOMAH -- MORNING

Devorah and Mahmud are inside Devorah's condo. It is empty.

MAHMUD

Why did we come here? If my father approves of our marriage, do you want us to come live here?

DEVORAH

It is an interesting thought. I'm sure we would make the neighbors really happy.

No, I just want you to drive out this place's association with Martin.

She looks at him with expectation. It takes Mahmud a moment but he realizes what she wants and kisses her on the lips. Mahmud's kiss is shy and tentative. He tries to be brief, but Devorah does not quite let him get away so fast.

MAHMUD

Now, we go to my parents?

EXT./INT. CHECKPOINT OUTSIDE JERUSALEM -- LATER

Devorah and Mahmud give their identification to a soldier. Devorah at this point looks like a Palestinian. The soldier is dubious. He makes them get out of the cab, take out their baggage, and wait.

THE COMMANDER APPROACHES.

He is Devorah's former commander, is 10-15 years older than Devorah, and has gone to seed since she served under him.

COMMANDER

They told me to expect you.

Has this terrorist guilt-tripped you into helping commit some atrocity?

DEVORAH

(Defiant)

He is my fiancé.

The Commander inspects the baggage. He takes the violin out of his case and plays a few bars of music not very well.

COMMANDER

Nice instrument. You're coming up in the world, Mahmud.

(Pause)

Don't worry! I won't smash this one. You probably have it insured.

He puts it back in its case with obvious and excessive care.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)

So, *habibi*, has she told you what happened after our previous meeting twelve years ago?

Mahmud remains silent.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)

Answer me.

MAHMUD

I don't know anything about it.

Devorah looks down and begins to breathe heavily.

COMMANDER

(To Mahmud)

Devorah and I bumped pelvises all night and then in the morning... Well, you probably know the things Devorah can do with her mouth.

The Commander makes an obscene tongue gesture.

DEVORAH

(To Mahmud)

I'm so sorry. Please forgive me.

The Commander laughs. Devorah weeps. Mahmud looks at her, then at the violin and then at Devorah again. Then he turns to the Commander.

MAHMUD

(To Commander)

I know what you want. Leave Devorah out of this.

Mahmud places his right hand on a small concrete barrier.

COMMANDER

The left hand, you dirty Arab!

Mahmud complies. The Commander prepares to smash Mahmud's hand with his rifle butt. Devorah puts herself between Mahmud and the Commander.

DEVORAH

No, don't touch Mahmud! Beat me.

The Commander stares at her and then glances at Mahmud. Then his eyes return to Devorah for a moment.

COMMANDER

You both disgust me.

(To his subordinates)

Complete body search, every cavity.

As long and as unpleasant as possible.

He leaves. Mahmud comforts Devorah who is still crying.

MAHMUD

You were just out of high school.

Exploitation of fresh female recruits

is the norm in the Israeli army.

Then he starts weeping.

DEVORAH

Why are you crying? I wasn't a virgin.

MAHMUD

He killed the violin my mother gave

me. Before it was hers, it was her

father's and her father's father's.

It was part of the family. Losing it

still hurts even twelve years later.

Devorah comforts him.

DEVORAH

The commander was exaggerating.

MAHMUD

I know what he is.

Then Mahmud embraces Devorah.

BLACK:

**SUPER: AFTER THE BODY SEARCH**

Devorah and Mahmud hail a cab to take them to Tajasir.

DEVORAH

(Shaken)

I never thought about how sadistic those searches were.

MAHMUD

(Also shaken)

Humiliation is part of being  
Palestinian. You are getting the  
full treatment.

Devorah and Mahmud ride from the checkpoint to the Palestinian area. The territory becomes poor and broken.

INSERT [OPTIONAL] - MAP OF THE ROUTE FROM HAR HOMA TO TAJASIR.

The cab drives up to the home of Mahmud's family.

INT. MAHMUD'S FAMILY HOME IN TAJASIR -- LATER

The home is run down but neat. The piano is the one beautiful piece of furniture. Mahmud's mother is HALA. His father is SALMAN. His sisters are ASMA (oldest), IMAN and QADIRA (youngest daughter). His brother, the youngest (nine), is ZAFIR. Everyone converses in Arabic during the sequence of scenes with Mahmud's family. [Use subtitles.]

Devorah gets up to clear dishes from the meal.

HALA

I will take care of it.

DEVORAH

I'd like to help in the kitchen.

HALA

But you're the guest. Sit down!

DEVORAH

Then I'd have to sit with the men.

Mahmud and his father move to the sitting area. Salman smokes a hubbly-bubbly. Hala comes out of the kitchen with a pot of Arabic coffee, small coffee cups and dates.

SALMAN

She seems like a nice girl, but she  
is not one of us.

MAHMUD

Every Arab young lady I meet is  
suspicious of musicians.

Devorah came to my concert. None of  
my other friends did.

SALMAN

If Muslims are suspicious of a Muslim  
musician, would they not be even  
more suspicious of a Muslim musician  
with an Israeli wife?

MAHMUD

People cannot choose their parents.

SALMAN

Where will you live?

MAHMUD

I will be studying at the New England Conservatory in Boston for a few more years. Then I will return.

SALMAN

How will you feel when her relatives in New York or in Israel invite your kids for a Jewish holiday?

Could we invite them to our celebrations?

The women and Zafir return.

ASMA

Mahmud, can we play our song?

MAHMUD

Of course.

They sit at the piano.

DEVORAH

(Taking a seat)

Are all your children musicians?

SALMAN

All my children and my wife.

I am always amazed.

HALA

It is a talent in my family.

Asma and Mahmud begin to play a duet. They all sit and listen.

CUT:

The two musicians finish up and join the others.

DEVORAH

My mother wanted me to learn piano, but I could not stick with it.

HALA

It helps when the parents are musical.

DEVORAH

Neither of my parents played.

Hala takes a picture from a shelf.

HALA

My grandfather. He got to know the European violin in Vienna at the beginning of the 20th century.

INSERT: PICTURE OF MIDDLE-AGED ARAB MAN.

He is playing a violin at a 1940s Jewish wedding in Palestine.

DEVORAH

It looks like a Jewish wedding.

HALA

His friend Tevye Milgrom fronted for Palestinian farmers during the Jewish boycott of the 40s. My grandfather played at the wedding of Tevye's son. Tevye took the picture.

The Haganah killed my grandfather in his home during the Catastrophe in 1948 and drove his family from El-Khayriyyah. It used to be called Banai Barqa.

Devorah looks away in shame.

DEVORAH

Bnei Brak. I'm so sorry.

MAHMUD

Devorah, it's not your fault.

DEVORAH

My grandparents were in the Zionist militia. They took part in the fighting there. I used to think they were heroes.

MAHMUD

And it would have been so much easier for you to keep believing that.

QADIRA

Mahmud, please play music like great-grandfather.

Mahmud takes his violin and improvises a mix of passages from 1930s klezmer songs, early 20th century Viennese music and Arabic folk song.

INT. MAHMUD'S FAMILY HOME GIRLS' BEDROOM -- LATER

They are all getting ready for bed. Qadira is already asleep. Iman is changing clothes.

Devorah is getting a prayer rug out of her suitcase.

DEVORAH  
Iman, which way is Mecca?

Iman indicates. Devorah places her rug.

IMAN  
(To Devorah)  
Before you start, I'm not the musician  
that my brothers and sisters are. I  
have to show you.

She gets a box from the closet. It has a handle and is decorated with red crosses and red crescents.

IMAN (CONT'D)  
I made it when I was four.

DEVORAH  
You made yourself a toy medical kit?

IMAN  
I want to be a doctor like you.

Iman smiles at Devorah.

She gets a rug and places it next to Devorah's. They pray.

INT. MAHMUD'S FAMILY HOME BOYS' BEDROOM -- LATER

ZAFIR  
Would you really marry her?

MAHMUD  
I will accept Father's decision.

ZAFIR  
She was an Israeli soldier. She  
could have killed little children.

MAHMUD  
But now she is a Muslim. God has  
forgiven her for everything.

INT. MAHMUD'S FAMILY HOME IN TAJASIR -- LATER

Salman and Hala are talking in the sitting area.

HALA  
She's a very good girl -- a doctor!

SALMAN  
She was an Israeli soldier.

HALA  
She loves Mahmud completely.

SALMAN

They stole our country. Now they  
want to steal our children.

EXT. CENTER OF TAJASIR -- MORNING

SUPER: **DAY 1**

An Israeli army vehicle announces the imposition of a curfew.

INT. MAHMUD'S FAMILY HOME IN TAJASIR -- MORNING

The Jamal family and Devorah are having breakfast.

SALMAN

I am surprised. The Israeli Army  
has mostly ignored us.

EXT. CENTER OF TAJASIR -- MORNING

SUPER: **DAY 2**

The kids are looking out the windows at the Israeli soldiers  
blocking the roads.

MAHMUD

(To Devorah)

It's so quiet here. Blocking the  
roads makes no sense.

EXT. CENTER OF TAJASIR -- MORNING

SUPER: **DAY 3**

The Israeli Army removes roadblocks and begins invading homes  
and roughing up or arresting the villagers.

INT. MAHMUD'S FAMILY HOME IN TAJASIR

Mahmud's parents and Devorah are listening to Mahmud  
practicing.

DEVORAH

(Angry)

It's my father. He asked his military  
officer friends to ruin our visit.

(Sad)

God is showing me that the marriage  
can't work.

SALMAN

Your father?

Mahmud stops playing.

DEVORAH

(Trying to be strong)

I'm sorry. Maybe you would be better off with a Palestinian girl.

MAHMUD

No, Devorah, we can live in the USA.

SALMAN

I decide who marries who in this family.

DEVORAH

(Holding back tears)

I will reschedule my flight for tomorrow, and Mahmud can take me back to the airport.

SALMAN

I will take you to the airport.

DEVORAH

(Verging on a sob)

I will call my father to get him to make the soldiers stop.

EXT. CENTER OF TAJASIR -- LATER

The Israeli soldiers begin pulling out of the town.

INT. SALMAN'S CAR ON ROAD NEAR SINJIL -- MORNING

Salman and Devorah look at the road ahead. They see a Red Crescent ambulance (old, beat up, dingy) ahead of them. It is pinned down by small arms fire from an Israeli Army unit. The ambulance cannot move. Salman cannot drive forward.

DEVORAH

My father's not responsible for this.

I will call the Red Crescent.

She dials her cell phone. She hears local ringback.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

Hello,

(Pause)

I am watching someone shoot at an ambulance on the road to Sinjil.

(She listens)

An Israeli army unit.

(To Salman)

A woman's having difficult labor -- needs a hospital.

(She hangs up)

I will call my father.

She dials. She hears international ringback.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

Dad, listen!

I'm on the Sinjil Tabus connecting road. An Israeli army unit is firing on an ambulance carrying an emergency case. In ten minutes, I will run to it. Get your army friends to order the soldiers not to shoot me.

INT. YEHUDAH'S CONDO IN BROOKLINE -- EVENING

Yehudah looks at his PDA (Personal Digital Assistant).

INSERT: **PDA SCREEN OF ISRAELI ARMY CONTACTS, RANKS, NUMBERS.**

He calls the high-ranking officers in succession. He talks with each and becomes more and more frustrated. He does not know what to do, and then he notices the Olive Harvest DVD case on the table. There is a note on it. "If found return to Yuhanna Latif, 617-555-3345." He dials his cell phone.

YEHUDAH

Yuhanna, this is Yehudah Goren,  
Devorah's father.

YUHANNA

I'm so happy that you called. We  
wanted to invite you over.

YEHUDAH

Yuhanna, Devorah's in trouble. She's  
under attack near Mahmud's home, and  
no one in Israel will help.

YUHANNA (O.S.)

Let me guess. They said "A rogue,"  
"they know something you don't," or  
"It isn't happening."

YEHUDAH

Something like that. I watched your  
film. You knew Arafat. You have  
connections.

YUHANNA (O.S.)

I don't. His presence was accidental.

YEHUDAH

(Desperate)  
She's all I have.

YUHANNA (O.S.)

There is a Russian underworld boss in Tel Aviv with pretensions to being a filmmaker. He likes my movies and keeps offering me "no strings" help.

Let me find his card. He gave me a number he claims to always answer.

Ah, have it.

Call IVAN PASKUDNYAKOV. Tell him Yuhanna Latif gave you the number. Tell him up front that you are an Israeli Army Reserve colonel. He likes to do favors for military officers so that they will owe him. Here's the number.

INT. CHOP SHOP NOT FAR FROM SINJIL. -- MORNING

Ilyas the Accursed (ILYA) is on a cell phone call.

ILYA

(Russian accent)

Yes.

Really.

The unit commander is ARI BEN CANAAN!

We get the name of Muhammad's killer!

You will clear the road.

But we can't make it in time.

I thought it was too risky for us to introduce the Ultimate Nullifier into the local conflict.

Just this once.

Boss, I love you.

Ilyas struts to the front and fires his gun into ceiling. All work stops.

ILYA (CONT'D)

Men, at one time we had beliefs, convictions. We were not scum and crooks.

(Looking around)

Well maybe some of us weren't.

We have a chance to serve a greater cause, a greater good.

No one is impressed.

ILYA (CONT'D)

And Paskudnyakov will pay us a bonus.

Lots of cheers.

ILYA (CONT'D)

Our mission is the rescue of an ambulance trapped between Tajasir and Sinjil. Get four launchers for the Ultimate Nullifier. Scramble!

Ilya watches the preparations, glances around and focuses on a bright shiny new ambulance with no markings. He has an idea. He calls to a nearby mechanic.

ILYA (CONT'D)

Assad, get the ambulance onto a flatbed truck. We will take it.

ASSAD

We just stole it.

ILYA

And we can steal another. Otherwise, we might have to do repairs right there on the road.

Assad and some workers start loading the ambulance.

EXT. HIGH GROUND ABOVE THE ROAD -- SIMULTANEOUS

ARI BEN CANAAN is exhorting the men of his unit, both those with him in front of the ambulance and by the radio in his hand those behind the ambulance. He is enjoying himself immensely.

ARI BEN CANAAN

Our faggot political leaders won't let us wipe out the terrorists, but we can stop these scum right here.

Every so often shoot in front and behind. Don't let the ambulance move! Someone gets out. Pop him. And take out the tires.

The men smile. They are enjoying themselves immensely.

EXT. ON THE ROAD TO THE AMBULANCE -- MOMENTS LATER

Ilya and his men comprise a light armored unit racing toward the ambulance. The flatbed truck with the stolen ambulance is at the rear. Ilya is holding up a Soviet flag.

EXT. NEAR THE AMBULANCE -- MORNING

SALMAN

We go together. I will shield you.

DEVORAH

I can make a distraction. I'll buy you a new car.

By means of cruise control, she rigs the car to speed off the road and distract the Israeli army unit. They run. Salman is grazed in the leg. Devorah helps him. She bangs on the door and begs for it to open. They enter the ambulance.

IN THE AMBULANCE DEVORAH TAKES CHARGE.

She grabs a bandage and covers Salman's wound with it. The driver THABET, the medic BILAL, the father RAMI and the mother in labor FARIDA are crowded in the ambulance.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

I'm Dr. Goren. What's the patient's condition? May I assist?

EXT. ON THE ROAD TO THE AMBULANCE

Ilya and his men comprise a light armored unit racing toward the ambulance.

INT. AMBULANCE

Shots outside the ambulance are audible.

DEVORAH

Thabet, do we have a fetal monitor?  
Do we have any way to heat water?  
Dad, make sure Mom is comfortable.

Devorah moves to the back where Salman is cramped.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)

(Low)

I'm not an obstetrician. The baby is mispositioned. Farida requires surgery. I can't do it here.

SALMAN

I could not see how the marriage would work, but I have never doubted that you were a most capable woman. My son would choose no less. You can do this.

DEVORAH

I did external rotations as a med student. I studied with a midwife. I

(MORE)

DEVORAH (CONT'D)  
 watched her reposition a baby, but  
 it was four years ago.

Salman puts his arm around her shoulder, and draws her close.

SALMAN  
 (Hebrew, subtitled)  
*Gam at yekholah.*

Salman said, "You can, too." Devorah is surprised and perhaps somewhat offended. She has been trying not to be Israeli. She collects herself.

DEVORAH  
 (Arabic, subtitled)  
*In sha'a-llah, I can, I can do this.*

She moves back to Farida. Devorah holds Farida's hand.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)  
 This will be hard, but I have to  
 reach in and move the baby's shoulder.

FARIDA  
 I can bear pain.

DEVORAH  
 (To Farida)  
 I know. Everything will be okay.  
 (Pause)  
 Bilal, I will need some clean towels  
 and washcloths.

EXT. ON THE ROAD TO THE AMBULANCE

Ilya's convoy races toward the ambulance.

INT. AMBULANCE

Devorah is struggling with the repositioning. Farida screams. Thabet is trying to call on the radio. Salman is praying.

EXT. ON THE ROAD TO THE AMBULANCE -- MOMENTS LATER

Ilya's men are setting up the Ultimate Nullifier launchers as the convoy continues toward the ambulance. They fit the portable minicruise missiles into the weapon mounts.

ILYA  
 GPS tap?

Members of the crew respond: "Working."

ILYA (CONT'D)  
 Spy satellite connections?

Members of the crew respond: "Working."

ILYA (CONT'D)

Video?

(Looking at the display)

Yes, I can see the attackers.

Perfect. They love these gizmos in Central Asia and South America.

Yeah, it is Ben Canaan. I've wanted to do that psycho for years. Lock onto both troop locations.

Fire!

Four small cruise missiles take off. Ilya watches on the video screen as they draw near to Ben Canaan and his men. There is a flash on the video, and they hear explosions a few miles away.

INT. INSIDE THE AMBULANCE -- CONTINUOUS

The occupants hear the explosion, and the ambulance shakes. No more bullets. Devorah continues working.

DEVORAH

Don't go out! It could be a trick.

EXT. ON THE ROAD TO THE AMBULANCE

Ilya and his men get to the ambulance.

ILYA

ASSAD, PYOTR, take care of any survivors. But quietly, the doctor may be working.

Pyotr takes a long knife out of its sheath and smiles. Yusuf is using one of the convoy's on-board satellite-Internet-connected computers.

ILYA (CONT'D)

DMITRY, BARUKH, copy the symbols from this ambulance onto ours. YUSUF, get the vehicle identification numbers and change the registration of this ambulance to the new one.

Everyone goes to work.

INT. AMBULANCE -- LATER

Devorah has delivered the baby and given her to Farida. Devorah shushes everyone in the ambulance so that Farida can hold the baby quietly. She covers mother and baby with a blanket. There is a knocking on the ambulance.

ILYA (O.S.)  
 (Russian accented  
 Arabic)  
*As-Salaam alaykum.* Open up.

DEVORAH  
 (Hebrew, subtitled)  
 We surrender. Don't shoot us!

Ilya opens the door.

ILYA  
 Why would I do that?

Ilya is wearing an old Soviet army uniform jacket and helmet.

DEVORAH  
 You can't be real.

ILYA  
 Ilyas the Accursed at your service.  
 Your father has access to some files  
 my boss wants desperately. They  
 made a deal.

SALMAN  
 I thought you were a myth.

ILYA  
 Sometimes I think so too.  
 (Pause)  
 Doctor please consult with me outside.

Devorah exits the ambulance.

ILYA (CONT'D)  
 Your ambulance has been shot up. We  
 will assist you to transfer the  
 patient to your new ambulance.

Devorah runs into the new ambulance. She calls outside.

DEVORAH  
 It's fully loaded. Everything we  
 need.

She gets out. Ilya's men help Bilal and Thabet transfer Farida and anything necessary from the old ambulance. They help Salman, who is limping, into the new ambulance. Rami hugs Ilya and thanks him somewhat incoherently. Some of Ilya's men are off to the side where they are painting on a canvas.

DEVORAH (CONT'D)  
 That ambulance looks familiar. Where  
 does it come from?

ILYA

The bill of lading said it was a gift from the Boston and Harvard Friends of the Red Magen David.

DEVORAH

(Giggling)

That's my ambulance. I ran the fundraisers.

ILYA

Once again the truth of Marxist-Leninist principles shines clearly. "From each according to his means to each according to his needs."

You should continue on to the hospital at Sinjil. We have to do some clean up and get back to work.

Merry Christmas! *Do svidanya!*

THABET

Can we get going?

DEVORAH

We should. As fast as possible.

EXT. NEW AMBULANCE

The ambulance speeds toward Sinjil. THABET tries the siren. In the distance, several explosions go off as Ilya blows up the old ambulance.

EXT. ON THE ROAD TO THE CHOP SHOP

Ilya and his convoy are returning to the chop shop. The empty flatbed truck is at the rear and a big sign that says "**Mission Accomplished**" has been hung on it.

INT. NEW AMBULANCE

Farida is sleeping. The umbilical cord may still be uncut. The baby lies on mom's belly.

RAMI

Doctor, what is your name? We want to name her after you.

DEVORAH

It might cause her problems. It is very Jewish.

RAMI

We are so grateful I wouldn't care if your name were Monica Lewinsky.

The reference surprises Devorah.

DEVORAH

What?

RAMI

(English)

I studied at Georgetown the last few years of the Clinton administration.

SALMAN

She is Devorah. It is a good name.

When we get to Sinjil, I will call my brother to take us back to Tajasir.

DEVORAH

I thought you were taking me to the airport. I may still have time to catch the flight.

SALMAN

Daughter, I decide who marries who in this family. You are coming home to wed my son.

EXT. BEN-GURION AIRPORT -- DAY

Jet lands at Ben-Gurion. It carries Yehudah and Sheikh Elahi as well as Devorah and Mahmud's Boston friends, who are attending the wedding. These guests debark from the plane.

INT. MOSQUE NEAR JAMAL HOME, PALESTINE -- AFTERNOON

Sheikh Elahi is officiating for the Islamic wedding ceremony of Mahmud and Devorah. Mahmud's intimate family is present as well as Amer, Yuhanna, Leah, Jasmin, and Yehuda.

Amer and Sheikh Elahi sign the marriage contract as witnesses. Those present begin to congratulate the bride and groom.

YEHUDAH APPROACHES SALMAN.

YEHUDAH

(Halting Arabic,  
subtitled)

I hope you can forgive me for trying to use the Israeli army to stop this marriage.

SALMAN

Don't worry. If I could have, I would have done the same thing. We were both wrong.

Salman extends his hand, and Yehudah takes it.

They look at the Bride and Groom. When Mahmud and Devorah see the reconciliation, they smile [Kodak moment].

INSERT: SHOT OF MEETING HALL NEAR JAMAL HOME

INT. MEETING HALL NEAR JAMAL HOME -- AFTERNOON

The Jamals host the wedding. The Jamal extended family is present as well as many of Mahmud's friends from Boston including the Kaufmans, Gilad and the rest of his band. Devorah's father attends. Devorah's (non-Zionist) friends from Massachusetts as well as Amer, who was deported to Jordan, come to the wedding. Paskudnyakov and Ilya attend in formal James Bond style attire. Yuhanna films the wedding.

A canopy has been erected for the bride and groom. Arabic wedding music is playing. The men and women form circles.

DEVORAH AND MAHMUD DANCE IN THE CENTER.

Mahmud's sisters are dancing together.

CUT:

Mahmud talks with his father while Devorah gets some refreshments from a buffet table.

ILYA SURPRISES HER.

ILYA  
(Russian accent)  
How are the patients?

DEVORAH  
They are doing great.

Ilya points to a gross fat man next to her father.

ILYA  
That is my boss.

She turns, and Ilya is gone.

YEHUDAH HANDS PASKUDNYAKOV A YELLOW PACKET.

YEHUDAH  
I am almost glad to give you his file. He is a real piece of shit.

PASKUDNYAKOV  
(Grim)  
That scum was on patrol at as-Saghra refugee camp and gratuitously killed my employee.

YEHUDAH

A Palestinian. I read the secret section of the military records.

PASKUDNYAKOV

Muhammad Akram was my friend, and I had promised to help his family.

(Menacing)

I never forget an obligation.

YEHUDAH

(Cautious)

I am no longer with the Israeli army. I joined Doctors without Borders. I can't do this sort of thing again.

PASKUDNYAKOV

(Jolly)

If I may partake of this sumptuous wedding feast, all debts are paid.

He reaches for some food.

YEHUDAH

So, let me tell you about the groom. I ask how he'll support my daughter while he fiddles in a Conservatory. "God will provide."

Then I ask, "And if you or Devorah need, God forbid, expensive medical care?" "God will provide."

"And then if you have children, how will you pay for clothes, furniture, sitters, nannies, private schooling and such things?" "God will provide."

Could I ask for more in a son-in-law? He thinks I'm God.

They both laugh. The wedding party continues.

EXT. MEDICAL BUILDING IN TAJASIR -- AFTERNOON (SUMMER)

Mahmud is adding a shingle to those of the other doctors.

**Dr. Shukri Goren, Cardiologist**

**Dr. Devorah Jamal, Neurologist**

Yehuda and Devorah get out of a car. Devorah is pregnant.

MAHMUD

What do you think? *Shukri* is Arabic for *Yehudah*.

YEHUDAH

(To Mahmud)

Looks good.

DEVORAH

Are you really certain that you want  
an office in the West Bank?

YEHUDAH

I replaced everything the Israeli  
army ruined and got your neighbors  
released, but it's not enough.

I served in the Israeli defense forces  
for 35 years. Fixing up and expanding  
this clinic is part of my penance.

Anyway, my family is where you are,  
not in Boston. When you are here, I  
will practice here. When you return  
to Boston, our Palestinian partners  
will run the clinic in our absence.

He puts his arm around his daughter.

INSERT: SHOT OF YUHANNA & LEAH'S HOME, BENTON ST. SOMERVILLE

INT. YUHANNA & LEAH'S HOME, BENTON ST. SOMERVILLE -- EVENING

Yuhanna, Leah, Yehudah, Mahmud, and Devorah are watching the  
credits from *Devorah's Two Weddings* on a TV screen. Devorah  
is eight months pregnant.

YUHANNA

How did you like my docudrama?

LEAH

Much too unbelievable. Probably not  
what the Harvard Foundation expected.

YEHUDAH

Am I really that fat?

MAHMUD

Am I really that boring?

DEVORAH

If you were so boring, I wouldn't be  
pregnant.

BLACK:

SEQUENCE OF SCENES

A) Mayor Tortone is dancing shirtless with his boyfriend at  
a gay nightspot in Tel-Aviv.

SUPER:

**The American Jewish Congress-Council for World Jewry paid all expenses for Mayor Tortone and his boyfriend to attend the 23rd Annual Jerusalem Conference of Mayors.**

B) Martin and a veiled woman stand under a canopy. Attendees include Jack Dressler, Bev, Jose Taveras, Fruma, Khavele and Faivi. Rabbi Levin hands the goblet to the bride and groom to sip the wine. Martin slides a ring on the woman's finger, lifts her veil and sees Cookie.

SUPER:

**Cookie Taveras converted to Judaism and married Martin Dressler. Martin joined the American Enterprise Institute and became a regular columnist for *The Weekly Standard*. A month into the Israel-Hezbollah war, Cookie was so disgusted that she made Martin quit and get an honest job as a personal injury lawyer.**

FADE TO BLACK: