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AN UNFINISHED TALE

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## Abstract

Nowadays, the desire for love and true connection has been exchanged for lust and physical hunger. The transition from different eras leads to notable differences in values and desires. An unassailable culture of sexual rendezvous took over. Flings became the new definition of love. This fictional playwright aims to present a test of love as it is put through unconventional situations. The strenuous circumstances will put the characters on personal journeys of discovering and attaining love. This is a type of love captured in words that will change your view of what love can look like; a marriage between the ideologies of love and loss. This project seeks to analyze and simultaneously clash with the common phrase of everything being fair in love and war. After reading and exploring different aspects of literature, this tale will revolve around the idea of justice in love and hate. One's definition of love and hate can invalidate what others believe. Specifically focusing on a backward society in today's world, this family with deep-rooted traditions and customs will come off as a shock to how we have been traditionally raised. The appalling customs make up the backbone of the path that the main characters are expected to walk upon. Specifically, the play covers an ancient Pakistani (Punjabi) cultural tradition of *Vani*, where girls or minors, are given in marriage or enslavement under the decision of the council of the village called Panchayat as compensation to end conflicts such as murder. In conclusion, this play will show how in some cases love might not be destined for marriage and instead, may feature sacrifice and facing the hardships that come your way.

## **Acknowledgment**

Many thanks to Charles Evered and Dr. Richard Cardullo for their professional guidance and personal insight.

To my parents.

**Scene 1: At the railway station:**

The rusty brown clock at Karachi Cantt chimes as the time is 5:00 AM. The sun is yet to rise. The long green Karachi Express departing at 5:30 AM is ready to be loaded with passengers. All passengers sitting at the station start to gather their luggage and start to head over to the train as the doors open up. It's currently 5:20 AM and Aimal is running with a black rolling suitcase and her large weighty leather purse on her right shoulder. Her long black hair is tied into a thick braid which flies behind her as she runs and two curly strands of hair on her forehead are flying in the air as she is running towards the train. She enters the train and realizes as she searches her pockets and bag that she has lost her ticket. She starts to panic as she can't miss the train.

**[AIMAL]**

*(In her head)* Oh God, I hope I can find an empty seat.

The conductor, who is wearing his railway uniform and has a big dad bod starts to walk towards Aimal.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

*(In his head)* I don't remember checking her in. She must be one of those.

He starts to speed walk. As Aimal sees him approaching her, she starts to run in the other direction.

The conductor says in a loud voice.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

STOP! Miss, listen... You must stop at this moment!

Aimal doesn't look back and keeps running. He keeps following her until he is distracted by another passenger who is very angry.

**[THE PASSENGER]**

Why isn't this stupid train moving? It is already a long enough journey.

The conductor calms the passenger down and tells him confidently.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

Sir, I understand your frustration. The train will be leaving soon.

While the conductor is talking to the other passenger, Aimal disappears. The conductor starts to walk in the direction he saw her running away.

**Scene 2:**

Aimal enters a cabin and shuts the door. With all the bags she's carrying, she stumbles over. The man in the cabin catches her as she twists her foot and lands in his arms. As she slowly opens her eyes, she sees a tall man with a beard. His hair is combed to the left and back as a strand of hair

fell and landed on his left eyebrow. The moment feels in slow-motion as the wind prevails in through the window of the cabin and moves her curls in front of her eyes. As Zayn is holding her with his right arm, he moves her curls away from her eyes with his left hand. As they both continue to stare at each other, there's a knock at the door. She opens her eyes wide as she looks towards the door from the periphery of her left eye. They both stand up and Zayn walks towards the door to open it and Aimal suddenly says:

**[AIMAL]**

*(With a quick shake of her head)* Don't open the door. It could be thieves or burglars!

**[THE MAN IN THE CABIN]**

Who is it?

The man outside the door is the conductor.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

It's me, the conductor.

Aimal tries to stop him by standing in front of the door, but he says please, and opens the door.

Aimal quickly turns around.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

Sir, may I please see your ticket?

**[THE MAN IN THE CABIN]**



Yes, give me a moment

The conductor sees Aimal's clothes and recognizes her right away.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

Ay, where is your ticket?

**[AIMAL]**

*(Aggressively)* What do you mean by "Ay"? Do you not know how to talk to girls?

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

*(With his index finger pointed at her)* Give these etiquette lessons to someone else, show me your ticket,

**[AIMAL]**

And if I don't...?

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

Oh, I knew you were traveling without a ticket.

The other man in the cabin tries to sort out the issue but Aimal starts to argue with the conductor.

**[AIMAL]**

Who gives a damn about a stupid ticket, you venal conductor! Pakistan railway is this bad just because of you.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

I am a very honest conductor!

**[AIMAL]**

Huh, have you seen your dad bod? You are way too much involved in bribery, you corrupt witless conductor! Keep eating all the illegal money and watch that dad bod burst open one day.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

Whatever I do with my money is none of your business.

**[AIMAL]**

*(Snaps her fingers at him and says)* Oh wow, now you're a great liar too? I swear you're one of a kind. I can swear upon my life that there is no one like you in all of Pakistan.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

*(Angrily)* Leave it! Show me your ticket.

Aimal gnashes her teeth as she clenches her right fist. The other man in the cabin gives him tickets for the whole cabin that he booked for himself and says.

**[THE MAN IN THE CABIN]**

Here, sir, she is with me.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

*(Confused)* She is with you?

Aimal, seeing the opportunity given to her by the man jumps right into the conversation and says.

**[AIMAL]**

*(Sarcastically)* Yes exactly.

*(She looks at the man in the cabin and says)*

Couldn't you tell him earlier?

**[THE MAN IN THE CABIN]**

*(The man giggles and says)* I didn't get a chance to say anything.

As the conductor is standing at the door checking the tickets. Aimal picks up her bag and puts it on the bed. As she is doing that she says.

**[AIMAL]**

I swear if they fire this man, they can hire four more people in his place that would eat less and work more.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

Did you say something to me?

**[THE MAN IN THE CABIN]**

*(Trying to resolve the issue),* No no, she isn't talking to you, sir.

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

Do fat people not deserve to live?

Aimal whipped her head around and turned to face him.

**[AIMAL]**

NO! About three people in this country go to sleep on empty stomachs because of you! Have you ever seen yourself in the mirror? I have never seen this big of a dad bod in my entire life. Oh,

God! *(She walks towards her bag)* They might even need to widen these train doors in a few days.

The man in the cabin quickly moves to calm the conductor down and reassures the conductor that she is just being funny.

**[AIMAL]**

*(Widens her eyes)* I am not being fun-ny, I am making fun of YOU!

The man in the cabin pats his shoulder and tells him to go. He closes the door. The conductor turns around and looks at his dad bod and says:

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

I get humiliated everywhere because of you! *(looks away)* but it's fine. *(And walks away)*

### **Scene 3:**

The man in the cabin is Zayn At Zayn's house:

Sun is about to go down. Zayn's mom Sughra is walking out of the kitchen and talking to one of her maids as both of them enter the living room located right next to the kitchen. This maid is not an ordinary maid. This maid has been working in their house for more than 20 years. She has been like a second mother to Zayn since he was a kid. She lives with them in the servant's quarters. As both of them are talking, a glass vase breaks in the dining room and Sughra vociferously calls out to the servant. The house is in complete chaos; the florists are arranging

white gladiolus in the vases, the dirty linens are being sent to the laundry, the electrician is fixing the bulbs in the main chandelier by the entrance of the house, and the gardener in the backyard is constantly mowing the lawn.

**[MAID]**

Is there anything else left to do? I've made sure that all tasks are taken care of. The furniture is dusted, the floors have been mopped, the mirrors have been wiped, and I have clinched the menu with the chef.

**[SUGHRA]**

Don't forget to iron his clothes. Zayn doesn't like when the other servants touch his personal things. *(As she looks at the clock)* He should be getting home around 10. Once you iron them all.

**[MAID]**

*(Nods her head showing her understanding of the tasks and then with a wide smile on her face)*

Madam, I haven't seen you this happy in such a long time.

**[SUGHRA]**

*(With an acknowledging tone)* Yes! Yes, my son is coming home after such a long time. I'm so elated to see my son. I miss everything about him. The way he used to come to lay on my lap and fall asleep when he used to request me to make his favorite food *(as she reminisced on her son her eyes begin to tear up. She wipes her tears away with her pinky finger and says to the maid fondly)* You've made me all emotional.

They both share a small laugh.

**[MAID]**

Your son is so lucky to have such a loving mother.

**[SUGHRA]**

*(Laughing)* Now stop buttering me up and instead finish all the tasks I just told you to do.

The maid starts to walk toward the backyard door and Sughra then proceeds to walk towards her bedroom. As she enters the room, the door shuts behind her.

**Scene 4:**

The train is seen from afar traveling through the beautiful mustard fields of Punjab. Then, inside the train Aimal and Zayn are sitting on opposite seats facing each other. Zayn is drinking tea in a white styrofoam cup as Aimal is looking out the window. She looks at him and looks away. She then takes a deep breath and looks at Zayn and says:

**[AIMAL]**

Thank you for saving me from the conductor *(opens her eyes wide, looks Zayn up and down, and says)* but that does not mean I'm going to fall into your feet.

**[Zayn]**

*(After he takes a sip)* I don't want you to fall to my feet. He places the cup on his lap.

**[AIMAL]**

*(Takes a pause before proceeding to raise her eyebrows at Zayn)* Then what would you like me to do?

*Zayn smiles in confusion, looks down, looks back up, and says nothing*

**[AIMAL]**

I did not have time to buy the ticket. Don't think of me as one of those girls.

**[ZAYN]**

What do you mean by "one of those" girls?

**[AIMAL]**

You look like a man with deep thoughts. Looks like you're coming from abroad somewhere.

**[ZAYN]**

Aha yes! I just came from the United States *(as he takes another sip of his tea)*

**[AIMAL]**

*(Nods her head with an impressed smirk:)* Then why are YOU traveling on a train?

**[ZAYN]**

*(Places his cup on the table and says:)* To meet people like you. You're not only blunt but also intelligent. Whatever you did with that man was absolutely right.

**[AIMAL]**

*(With a smile on her face but a serious tone:)* I can do that to you as well

**[ZAYN]**

*(Laughs)* If you're not comfortable here with me you can go to the ladies' department.

**[AIMAL]**

Why? Can a single woman not travel alone with a man?

**[ZAYN]**

She can.

**[AIMAL]**

Yeah, remember that! A man and a woman are both equal in everything.

**[ZAYN]**

And in some things, women are ahead compared to men.

**[AIMAL]**

*(With a confused look on her face)* What? *(Pauses and says)* Yea I'm totally smelling the hidden sarcasm in your words. Not until women have the same rights as men, this country won't develop.

**[ZAYN]**

I completely agree with you.

**[AIMAL]**

Oh really?

Zayn takes another sip of the tea.

**[AIMAL]**

Then pour me a cup of tea as well. *(Folds her arms:)* You're the only one enjoying the tea.

**[ZAYN]**

I'm really sorry. I'll make you a cup too. *Then proceeds to make tea*

**[AIMAL]**

You're not going to ask about how much sugar I want?

**[ZAYN]**



*(Smiles:)* How much SUGAR do you want?

**[AIMAL]**

I don't like sugar in my tea.

*Zayn chuckles.*

**Scene 5: At Zayn's house:**

Manal is Zayn's childhood destined fiancée. Aimal and her mother Sameena have been living with Zayn's mother in their house since Manal's father's death. Manal is a very shy and conservative girl who values old traditions over modern-day values and is getting ready for Zayn's arrival. Her mother Sameena is sitting on the bed knitting.

**[SAMEENA]**

Manal you should make yourself comfortable with modern-day values. You know how they call them "trends" these days. Yes, you should become more trendy. Zayn would want his wife to be modern, educated, and intelligent.

**[MANAL]**

Ammi (mother), Do you think I'm dumb?

*At this Sameena's face shifts as she realizes the implication of her words and rushes to correct her words. At the same time, Manal speaks to her mother to defend herself.*

**[SAMEENA]**

**[MANAL]**

Oh no, that's not...

Ammi, Zayn is a

family-oriented guy.

He would like a housewife.

*At the pause, Sameena sighs before gathering the proper words to address her daughter.*

**[SAMEENA]**

What I mean to say is that he has lived in the United States for so long. Values and morals can change over time.

**[MANAL]**

Ammi..you're worrying for no reason. I talked to him on the phone when he landed in Pakistan.

**[SAMEENA]**

*(Puts down the yarn and needles and walks over to Manal and proceeds in a hurry, eager to get information:)* OH, really? What was he saying?

**[MANAL]**

He was saying he was excited to be back home.

**[SAMEENA]**

Did he say that he's excited to see you?

**[MANAL]**

Ammi... I couldn't ask him that now, I'm not shameless.

**[SAMEENA]**

Manal... Manal... look, Sughra has been really generous to us for so long. After your father died, she let us live here. The only way our future can stay secured is if Zayn happily marries you.

**[MANAL]**

Ammi we will get married. We're already engaged.

**[SAMEENA]**

Yes, his father and your father arranged the engagement between the two of you so I don't think he'll say no, but I'm still sensing a great deal of apprehension. (*As she walks back to the bed*) I still say that you should make yourself more comfortable with these modern-day ideas.

*Manal nods her head with a smile on her face and leaves the room.*

**Scene 6: In the train:**

**[ZAYN]**

So, tell me about yourself?

*As Aimal says the word 'introductions' she puts up to finger quotes in the air to emphasize the ridiculousness of introductions.*

**[ZAYN]**

Why? Is your introduction that embarrassing?

**[AIMAL]**

*(In a mean tone) Uh (takes a pause) No! Anyways, who are YOU?*

**[ZAYN]**

My name is Zayn and I recently received a Master's in Psychology from Georgetown University.

And now I'm traveling back home to see my mother.

**[AIMAL]**

I'm Aimal.

**[ZAYN]**

That's it? Tell me more! What do you do?

**[AIMAL]**

I fix people. I make them aware of their own defects. In easy words, I show them their own reflection.

**[ZAYN]**

So, a motivational speaker?

**[AIMAL]**

Umm yeah, you can say that.

**[ZAYN]**

Damn! Aren't both our jobs very similar?

**[AIMAL]**

*Aren't we both similar? (Zayn giggles and doesn't say anything. Aimal looks at him, a smile on her lips as she hopes for his answer) Huh?*

Zayn just smiles but doesn't say anything.

They both laugh

**Scene 7: At Zayn's house:**

Sughra, Sameena, and Manal are walking toward the living room. Awamil (Zayn's dad) is sitting at the coffee table. The coffee table has tea and other snacks. Sameena calls Sughra Babhi g. As they're walking:

**[SAMEENA]**

So bhabhi g what did you think about Manal and Zayn's marriage?

**[SUGHRA]**

I and Zayn's dad want that to happen as soon as possible! I want this to be the first thing Zayn does when he arrives home?

**[SAMEENA]**

You're right bhabhi g. It's already late. We shouldn't have any further delays.

**[AWAMIL]**

*(Laughs:)* That's right! I mean both of them are here in this house so why delay anymore?

**[SAMEENA]**

I wonder what Zayn thinks about it? Does he ever talk about his marriage with Manal?

**[SUGHRA]**

He's always busy asking about his clinic here. "Is it ready?" "Is all the furniture here?" and so on.

**Scene 8: On the train:**

*The train is seen from far and then a close-up of the window from outside. Zayn and Aimal are both sitting on the same couchette seen smiling as Aimal is pointing at things in the newspaper. As the both of them are looking at the newspaper and laughing, Zayn's hand lands on Aimal's hand and they slowly look at each other. As they are staring, they move closer to each other. They keep moving closer until Zayn steps over Aimal's foot and she winces.*

**[AIMAL]**

Ouch.

**[ZAYN]**

*(Awkwardly laughs)* Oh sorry, my bad. Are you okay?

**[AIMAL]**

*(Rubbing her feet)* Yes I'm okay

**[ZAYN]**

No no, let me see [*He kneels down and puts her foot on his knee. He looks up and sees her being worried as she is squinching her eyebrows. She moves her hair behind her ears with one hand and uses the other to rub her foot. Zayn cannot stop staring at her. Aimal catches him staring at her. The hand she was rubbing her foot with is just still at her foot now. As they both are staring at each other, Zayn holds her hand and rubs the foot, and lowers his head to calmly blow air on the foot. The tension between the two continues to grow, only to be broken when there's a knock on the door. Aimal moves her leg away from him as he stands up in a hurry to open the door. He opens the door and it's the steward at the door.*]

**[STEWARD]**

Salam (hello) sir! May I get you anything to eat or drink?

**[AIMAL]**

No! There won't be a need for that. *(as she gets up, walks towards her bags, and takes out a steel tiffin box and hands it to the steward)* Can you please heat this up?

**[STEWARD]**

Certainly, madam.

**Scene 9: At the police station:**

Aimal's mother Qudrah Tahoor walks into the police station.

**[QUDRAH]**

Hello officer!

**[OFFICER]**

Hello Ma'am!

**[QUADRAH]**

*(With desperate eyes and frantically moving hands)* I'm here to report my daughter as a missing person Officer. Please help me! Her name is Aimal and she's my light in this world and I know that she would never have run away and she hasn't picked up her phone... I'm scared for my daughter sir. I just want her back home safe and sound. I had breakfast the other day with her and she was acting normal. I just don't understand why she would just disappear today. Please help me!

*As she finally seems to finish her plea with the officer she buckles under a new wave of sobs.*

**[OFFICER]**

Ma'am, I understand this is very saddening and we'll try our very best to find your daughter, but we do need more details to help us find your daughter. Normally we would need to wait a full twenty-four hours before filing a report but I'll fill out a report right now. Could you please provide me with her full name, age, approximate height and weight, current hair and eye color, and what she was wearing before she went missing?

**[QUDRAH]**

Yes of course Officer. She's about five-six and...

**Scene 10: On the train:**

**[ZAYN]**

So tell me what do you do for fun?

**[AIMAL]**

I cook, and I sew my own clothes. *(Sarcastically:)* Do you want to know more or is that enough to satisfy your curiosity?

**[ZAYN]**

Wow, you're a complete woman. *(Laughs:)* I think I know you a lot already.

**[AIMAL]**

*(Laughs and then smirks:)* Not even, do you want to get to know me more?



**[ZAYN]**

Sure.

**[AIMAL]**

*(She rolls her eyes at his answer, then her face flickers as a sudden idea seem to occur to her and she grins clapping her hands together)* Okay! Then I'm coming home with you!

*Zayn coughs as he lowers his head down. He looks up at Aimal hoping for her to say that she was joking about that. Yet when Aimal looks back at him and she nods her head with a dominant smile on her face. Zayn clears his throat and then proceeds to say:*

**[Zayn]**

Look, Aimal, When I was young, my father engaged me to this girl named Manal.

**[AIMAL]**

*(She nods and awkwardly giggles)* Ah, good...

**[ZAYN]**

That's where I'm going right now. So...

**[AIMAL]**

*(In a very slow manner)* M-A-N-A-L... *(She noticeably takes a pause as though through her name she could meet the woman and know her before she proceeds,)* I don't think Manal is the kind of girl you would marry. I can bet both of you have different views on life.

**[ZAYN]**

*(Furrows his eyebrows together in confusion)* How can you say that?

**[AIMAL]**

Look, Manal is most likely your cousin. After she completed high school, she was engaged to you and since that day, she's just been in love with you and the only goal she probably has in her life is to marry you.

**[ZAYN]**

*(Lowers his head and looks down)* Yea..., but there's nothing wrong with that.

**[AIMAL]**

*(With an awkward smile)* Yeah... And you're right there's nothing wrong with that, but you're a man of deep thoughts and she's probably a surface-level girl.

**[ZAYN]**

How can you say all that? You haven't even met her.

**[AIMAL]**

Yea, but I understand Pakistani girls and their psyche.

**[ZAYN]**

Yea, but you yourself are also a Pakistani girl.

**[AIMAL]**

But my mood, my mindset is very much like you.

**[ZAYN]**

You're just overly confident

**[AIMAL]**

Isn't that a good thing?

**[ZAYN]**

Yea but it could be a bad thing too.

**[AIMAL]**

Does Manal know who won the Nobel prize in literature? Does she know who got nominated for the Oscars this year? Who performed at VMA's? Does she know which team Messi is going to play with? No. Sadly she doesn't and you would want your life partner to talk to you about these things don't you?

**[ZAYN]**

*(With a very intrigued look on his face:)* Why are you saying all this?

**[AIMAL]**

Umm... I don't think you should marry Manal.

**[ZAYN]**

Then who should I marry?

**[AIMAL]**

*(Points at herself with her eyes as she has a smile on her face. When he doesn't respond she then coughs and says)* You should marry a girl like me.

*Smiles and looks down as Aimal is constantly smiling and looking at him. Zayn is in deep thinking as Aimal continues to smile.*

**[AIMAL]**

*(Grabs the water bottle and says)* Do you want water?

### **Scene 11: At Zayn's house**

Sughra opens the front door of the house. She then turns around and calls for her maid:

**[SUGHRA]**

Is everything ready? Zayn should be home any minute.

**[MAID]**

Yes, madam, I made sure everything was done.

As Manal and Sameena come to the front of the house with smiles on their face

**[SAMEENA]**

Zayn should almost be home.

**[SUGHRA]**

*(Smiles at Sameena and then turns towards the maid:)* What about the flowers?

**[MAID]**

I sent Kaka to get flowers.

**[SAMEENA]**

Who's going to get Kaka now?

**[SUGHRA]**

*(Looks toward the maid with a tired voice:)* You should've gone to get them yourself!

**[Maid]**

Don't worry madam I'll go get him.

**[SUGHRA]**

Hurry up! Go!

The maid walks away hurriedly.

**Scene 12: On the train:**

Zayn and Aimal have their backs to each other. They both are packing their bags

**[ZAYN]**

You were joking about the “going home with me” part right?

**[AIMAL]**

And you got serious right?

**[ZAYN]**

Oh great! Then that means you’re not going home with me. Then where are you going to go?

Anyways, wherever you’re headed, the car coming to pick me up will drop you off.

**[AIMAL]**

*(Picks up her bag from the seat and puts it on the floor next to Zayn and says with finality:)* I am going with you! So I can prove to you that you shouldn’t marry Manal, but instead, you should marry a girl like me.

Zayn turns his body towards Aimal. Both of them are standing facing each other. Zayn looks down, seemingly questioning his life before looking back at Aimal with a tired face.

**[AIMAL]**

What happened? Why are you so lost? Do you not want to take this exit?

[ZAYN]

Are you actually serious?

[AIMAL]

We both have everything in common, except for courage. You are such a coward! Men are usually scared of their wives, but you're scared of your fiance? *(And then giggles)*

[ZAYN]

No, I'm not scared of my fiance.

[AIMAL]

*(Look behind Zayn and call out:)* MANAL!!!

Zayn turns around frightened in a hurry as though Manal will appear out of nowhere

[AIMAL]

*(Laughs out loud and claps her hand:)* See! Haha, I'm sorry haha!

*Aimal looks away and picks up her bags and walks out. Zayn shakes his head, then picks his bag up and follows her out.*

**Scene 13: At Zayn's house:**

*Sughra, Awamil, Sameena, and Manal are still standing outside by the door.*

[SUGHRA]

Why is he not here yet? It's so late already

Right next minute a white SUV enters the driveway. The car slows down as it approaches the main door. Zayn walks out from the back left seat. The maid then runs to put a flower garland around his neck. Zayn walks over and hugs his mother with a wide smile on her face.

**[SUGHRA]**

My son! My love! You're finally home. I'm not going to let you go anywhere again.

**[ZAYN]**

I am not going anywhere again! I really missed you! *(Then walks over to his father)* Assalamu alaikum! *(then gives him a strong powerful hug).*

**[AWAMIL]**

Ah, my son! Missed you!

**[ZAYN]**

Missed you too dad!

Zayn then walks over to Sameena and Manal and says "salam". Manal looks down and smiles while Sameena replies:

**[SAMEENA]**

Walaikum salaam! How are you beta? *(Looks towards the maid:)* sweeten his mouth with the fresh mithai I made this morning.

Everyone is laughing and enjoying the moment as Aimal walks out of the car. Everyone is looking at her with questioning eyes aside from Zayn.

**[AIMAL]**

Y'all are probably surprised to see me here and most likely are wondering, Who is this girl with Zayn. Aslam Alaikum!

**[ZAYN]**

This is Aimal. She'll be staying with us for a few days.

Everyone keeps staring at Aimal judgmentally.

**[AIMAL]**

Don't be surprised. Zayn has seen the world, he's not a kid.

**[SAMEENA]**

He has seen the world, or you've shown him the world.

**[AIMAL]**

*(Laughs;)* That was a good joke, but Zayn is very smart. I can't show him the world. *(Steps over to Sameena and with a smile)* You're probably Manal's mother and your face is showing that you hate me so much.

**[SUGHRA]**

What's your name again?

**[AIMAL]**

*(Walks towards Sughra)* Aimal!



**[SUGHRA]**

Aimal, yes that's right. You came with Zayn so you are our guest. We welcome you here!

**[AIMAL]**

*(Tilts her head)* Ahh, you're so nice! Just like Zayn! *(Then looks at Manal and points with her finger:)* You're Manal right! You're exactly how I pictured you in my head. Look Zayn, I swear... Isn't she exactly-

**[ZAYN]**

*(Cuts her off and says:)* Let's all go inside

**[AIMAL]**

Ahh yea, I'm so tired *(as she speaks she follows Zayn's lead as she walks inside the house. From off-screen she can be heard asking)* What's for dinner?

Awamil, Sughra, Zayn, and the maid all follow Aimal and go inside the house. As Manal starts to walk, Sameena grabs her by the arm and stops her

**[SAMEENA]**

*(Aggressively:)* Where are you going?

**Scene 14: From inside the house:**

Zayn and his parents are standing in the corner of a room by the window.

**[ZAYN]**

She isn't my wife.

**[SUGHRA]**

*(Smiles calmly)* Beta, I didn't think she was your wife in the first place.

**[ZAYN]**

She'll just stay with us for a few days.

**[SUGHRA]**

Why only a few days? Tell her, she can stay with us for however long she wants to stay.

**[ZAYN]**

*(Walks over and holds his mother's hand)* I knew about your hospitality.

**[AWAMIL]**

But, why is she here though?

**[ZAYN]**

*(Takes a pause debating over his answer before slowly answering his mother with the words)* She is attempting to prove something.

**[AWAMIL]**

What?

**[ZAYN]**

I'll tell you when the time comes. Don't worry

**[AWAMIL]**

My beta is home. I'm not worried at all. It's just... Sameena. She's really worried about her daughter and the marriage.

**[ZAYN]**

Why is she worried?

[SUGHRA]

Look... she's a widow herself and she has a daughter who is at the age of marriage. I understand why she's worried.

[ZAYN]

Mom, don't worry it'll all be okay.

**Scene 15: In the front yard:**

Sameena and Manal are standing in the front yard.

[SAMEENA]

This is what I've always worried about. What if Zayn brings some girl from the U.S. with him?

[MANAL]

I mean... she could just be here for some study or work.

[SAMEENA]

*(Sameena's eyes are wide and she's unsure as to why her daughter isn't sharing that same concern and speaks with exasperation.)*

But he brought a girl with him!

[MANAL]

But, he didn't make any kind of announcement so... *(She shrugs and tries to soothe her mother with)* And he's engaged with me.

[SAMEENA]

Stupid girl! Why are you so dumb?

**[MANAL]**

He didn't even talk to me properly when he came.

**[SAMEENA]**

That's exactly what I'm saying! You need to get closer to Zayn. After all, you're his fiance

**[MANAL]**

Where is he right now?

**[SAMEENA]**

Bhabhi g took him inside her room. I guess we'll find out more details on exactly what is happening at dinner tonight.

**Scene 18: At the dining table:**

Awamil is sitting at the head of the table. Sameena and Manal are on one side and Zayn and Aimal on the other. Everyone is eating.

**[AIMAL]**

*(As she pours water into her glass)* Manal! Your fiance brought a girl home, are you not going to question him?

*Manal, who was eating at the time, looks up. Sughra first looks at Manal and then looks at Zayn*

**[SAMEENA]**

*(Looks at Manal whose mouth is still full with food and thus unable to properly defend herself before then turning her head towards Aimal)* The women in our family don't have big mouths.

**[ZAYN]**

I think she's right. Manal could have at least asked. I'm her fiance.

Zayn turns to face Manal who is watching the discussion take place with apprehension. Yet before either he or Manal can speak Sughra decides to speak instead.

**[AWAMIL]**

I'll tell! Aimal is here for some important task and after she's done with that, she'll go back.

**[AIMAL]**

And... If that doesn't happen?

Zayn chokes on his food, while Manal, Sughra, and Sameena are looking at each other awkwardly. Before anything can escalate Zayn wipes his mouth and hurriedly speaks to the group.

**[ZAYN]**

What she means to say is that if likes this city while she's here, she'll just move here.

**[AIMAL]**

As I said, you're a man of deep thoughts [*as she bites down her cucumber*]

**[ZAYN]**

(*Looks over to his mother to break the awkwardness:*) What about the clinic? Is it ready?

**[AWAMIL]**

Yes, beta! We've converted part of the house's next into your clinic. It's all furnished. It just needs medical supplies.

**[AIMAL]**

Do you think people really are going to consider themselves mentally ill and come to you? No psychotic calls themselves psychotic. I don't know about this psychology practice thing

**[ZAYN]**

What do you think I should do instead?

**[AIMAL]**

You should come up with something new

**[ZAYN]**

Like what?

**[AIMAL]**

You should do music therapy! All these rich people will come and it will definitely help your business boom!

**[ZAYN]**

You want me to disregard all that I learned and start learning about music.

**[AIMAL]**

Well, I'm not saying that...

**[ZAYN]**

Hmmm, what do you think Manal? What do you think of this?

Manal is caught off guard at the question and slowly sets down her drink before smiling awkwardly.

**[MANAL]**

Umm... I don't know, haha.

**[AIMAL]**

Ask Manal if she knows how much yeast is needed to fluff these naans, but I'm sure she doesn't even know about that. *(Then laughs it off).*

**Scene 19: The next morning:**

Sughra and Sameena are sitting on the balcony. The maid pours cups of tea for the other women to be able to drink.

**[SUGHRA]**

Aimal is a very different type of girl, isn't she Sameena?

**[SAMEENA]**

*(With a mean smirk on her face)* I think she's very ill-mannered.

**[MAID]**

Last night, she was doing yoga before dinner.

**[SAMEENA]**

I don't know what could have possessed Zayn to even consider bringing her home!

**[SUGHRA]**

But she does bring up some very excellent points! She's obviously very well educated scholastically.

**[SAMEENA]**

What do you even mean bhabhi g? She wants Zayn to start learning about music now! What about all this hard work in learning science huh?

**[SUGHRA]**

Oh talking about Zayn, where is he?

**[MAID]**

I think he was with Manal.

**[SAMEENA]**

Thank God Zayn finally remembered that he has a fiance.

**[SUGHRA]**

*(Smiles)* Don't worry Sameena! Zayn is very well-mannered and intelligent.

Sameena with a satisfied smile on her face proceeds to take a sip of the tea from the cup.

**Scene 20: In the backyard:**

Manal and Zayn are sitting facing each other.

**[ZAYN]**

You haven't changed at all! You're still like the same Manal I remember all these years.

**[MANAL]**

You haven't changed either.

**[ZAYN]**



How do you know?

[MANAL]

To me, you're the same old Zayn.

[ZAYN]

*(Smiles:)* What about your poetry? Do you still read poetry?

[MANAL]

I've read books and books haha.

[ZAYN]

So no new hobbies then huh?

Manal was about to respond but Aimal opens the backyard door and enters.

[AIMAL]

There's a difference between thoughts and poetry. Some people *[glances at Manal]* think that their thoughts are poetry when it could very well be the other way around.

[ZAYN]

What do you mean?

[AIMAL]

If you're hurt why do you want everyone to cry in your pain? Why?

*(Walks between both of them and sits on a chair)*

[ZAYN]

Then, what's poetry?

[AIMAL]

Hmm, poetry is...a way to state your pain in a manner that allows everyone to think of your pain as their own

**[ZAYN]**

*(Zayn looks at Aimal very impressed)* Wow, very well said!

**Scene 21: At Aimal's house:**

Qudrah (Aimal's mother) is sitting on a mat with her eyes closed near a window that opens up to the greenest mountains that are being blocked by the trees. A loud clang echoes when the cold wind drops a pot that had been placed on the corner of the balcony rail. Qudrah wakes up with a quick shock and calms down when she sees the cause of the noise is only the pot on the ground. As she heads over to clean the mess created, the phone rings and it's her friend Shakeela. Qudrah picks up the phone:

**[QUDRAH]**

Hello.

**[SHAKEELA]**

How are you, Qudrah? Or I should say where are you?

**[QUDRAH]**

What can I say? Ah... the police still haven't found Aimal. I'm so worried about her. It's been more than a week. I don't know what to do? I don't even know where to even start looking for her?

**[SHAKEELA]**

It doesn't help to stress so much over it, Qudrah. The police are doing whatever they can. We've looked everywhere too. We can only leave the rest upon Allah. Inshallah, they'll find Aimal.

**[QUDRAH]**

Inshallah! I really hope they can find my daughter ASAP. I just pray that she's okay.

**[SHAKEELA]**

Inshallah Inshallah! Oh, I wanted to ask you about...

**Scene 22: At Zayn's house:**

Aimal and the maid are helping set up the clinic with the medical supplies courier that just arrived.

**[MAID]**

*(Holding a box)* Where is this supposed to go?

**[AIMAL]**

Actually, that one should be by the reception desk. Do you know if Zayn ever hired a receptionist?

**[MAID]**

Not that I'm aware of.

**[AIMAL]**

Uh ho... This man is slow. After you're done placing the box, can you place an advertisement in the newspaper?

Zayn walks in:

**[ZAYN]**

Advertisement for what?

**[AIMAL]**

For a receptionist!

**[ZAYN]**

*(Looks at the maid)* You still haven't given the ad to be published?

**[AIMAL]**

Arey... how would she know? You have to tell her to do it in order for it to actually get done.

**[MAID]**

Don't worry sir, Aimal has told me everything. I will look after everything. You'll be able to start the clinic soon.

**[ZAYN]**

Thank you!

**[MAID]**

*(As she walks out)* I'll go check on other stuff.

**[ZAYN]**

*(Looks at Aimal)* Well, damn everything you do is impressive!

**[AIMAL]**

Am I not impressive?

**[ZAYN]**

Oh that you are! I am still a little confused, however.

**[AIMAL]**

About what?

**[ZAYN]**

About this! All of this that you're doing. It's as though you're causing a fog over my mind.

**[AIMAL]**

Well, my mind is FULLY clear and I'll prove that you should marry a girl like me. With these "little confused" that you are, you're blurring my vision now as well. Okay bye. I'll see you later.

*(and walks out).*

Sughra and Sameena are both sitting on the bed in Sughra's room. Sughra is folding laundry while Sameena is sitting on the left end of the bed.

**[SAMEENA]**

Where's Aimal?

**[SUGHRA]**

She was in my room like an hour ago. She was putting oil in my hair.

**[SAMEENA]**

Did you ask her about her family? Like where's she from? Who's her father? Her mother?

**[SUGHRA]**

Nahi, She came with Zayn. He would know. I don't want to investigate her like that. I don't want to make her feel uncomfortable here.

**[SAMEENA]**

Bhabhi g, Zayn came from the U.S. he doesn't know how the people are here. What if she's a thief?

**[SUGHRA]**

*(Laughs)* no haha Aimal's presence makes me feel so comforting. It feels like she's my own in a way and it scares me sometimes.

**[SAMEENA]**

*(Laughs as well although sarcastically)* What kinda black magic has she done on you? All you do is praise her now.

**[SUGHRA]**

I am only praising her personality. Look at how she's so involved with everyone. It feels like my house is all lit up.

**Scene 23: In Zayn's bedroom:**

Zayn is wearing a white tank and a white towel wrapped around his lower body. His chiseled and glistening pecs are protruding out of his tank. He is rubbing his hair dry with another towel as he is walking out of the bathroom. He then throws the towel on the sofa. He sees a blue shirt ironed and placed on the bed. As he picks up the shirt, there's a knock on the door.

**[ZAYN]**

Kon(who)? Come in.

Aimal walks in and Zayn gasps.

**[ZAYN]**

You!

**AIMAL**

Yes, me. I ironed your clothes. You should wear this shirt today because it's the first day of your clinic.

**[ZAYN]**

First day? The clinic is complete already?

**[AIMAL]**

Haan (yes), now hurry and get ready. The patients should be here any minute.

**[ZAYN]**

P A T I E N T S?

**[AIMAL]**

Jaan! I posted about the clinic on Instagram.

**[ZAYN]**

Did you mention your stupid "music therapy"...

**[AIMAL]**

Nahi (no). In the flier, it says "the doctor uses snake poison to treat the patients".

**[ZAYN]**

*(Laughs)* What?

**[AIMAL]**

Hurry up! They should be here any minute.

**[ZAYN]**

Who? Snakes?

**[AIMAL]**

No, the patients *(irritatedly)* Tobah (Oh God) you need treatment yourself!

**[ZAYN]**

*(Laughs)* Haan, I'll be down in a minute.

Aimal quickly turns around to walk towards the door but Zayn grabs her hand and pulls her towards himself. She slowly looks up at him and then blushes. Zayn's lips curl into a smile. As he places his hand on the side of her lower back. Her body uncontrollably moves closer to his. She feels heat spreading throughout her body. Zayn goes in to kiss her neck when she stops him by placing her first two fingers on his lips and pushing him away. She then sits on the bed. She puts her feet up and sits in a sideways position facing the opposite Zayn. She then looks back, slowly moving her hair to the side, and hints with subtlety for him to untie the strings on the back of her shirt. Zayn walks over and sits on the bed and slowly lays down next to her. He then rolls over and unties the back strings as he kisses her back with every string that he unties. The trail of kisses leaves a burning trail in her body and the grip of his hand on her lower back gets tighter and tighter. Aimal turns around and pushes him flat on the bed. She puts her head on his chest and lays as the fan on top spins round and round.

**[ZAYN]**

*(Takes a deep breath)* I really love you! You were right about Manal, she's not the girl that I want to spend the rest of my life with. It's you! I want you!

**[AIMAL]**

When I first saw you on the train, I actually felt my heart was beating faster than I was breathing.

It felt like time just stopped. It was you and it was me; everything else just blurred out.

**[ZAYN]**



Sometimes accidents happen for good too. I met you so unexpectedly and now I want to spend the rest of my life with you.

Aimal blushes and holds his hand. They both intertwine their fingers. Zayn brings their interlocked fingers near his lips and kisses Aimal's hand. As he's about to say something. Sughra calls out Aimal's name. Aimal pulls her hand away, gets up, fixes her clothes, and runs downstairs. As she is running down the stairs. She sees Manal going up the stairs. Manal sees Aimal and she stops.

**[MANAL]**

Aimal, what do you want?

**[AIMAL]**

What do I want? What do you mean?

**[MANAL]**

Why are you trying to make me look bad in front of Zayn? You're so bad Aimal! On the outside, you may look nice but on the inside, you're so ugly!

**[AIMAL]**

Manal...

**[MANAL]**

I know exactly why you're in this house. I might be a little quiet or even stupid, but I do know the difference between right and wrong. You've shown yourself as someone so well, so proper, so discerning in front of Zayn and made me look so bad in front of him, but the truth is that

you're clever, ugly, and manipulative. *(As tears are coming down her cheeks)* You're so bad  
Aimal! So bad! I hope you never find happiness in life *(And then leave)*.

She then runs to her room where Sameena is sitting reading a book. As Sameena sees Manal crying, she comes over to her and asks:

**[SAMEENA]**

What happened? Why are you crying? Didn't you say you were going to put Aimal back in her  
place? Why are you crying now?

**[MANAL]**

I did, but ammi, not everything goes according to plan.

**[SAMEENA]**

But the plan is that you and Zayn to get married.

**[MANAL]**

No ammi. I don't like this anymore. Zayn and Aima both like each other. I feel like I'm forcing  
this. As though I'm trying to get myself fixated on their lives.

**[SAMEENA]**

I will get you married to Zayn and that's final.

**[MANAL]**

No ammi, I'm not doing such a thing.

**Scene 24: At the Police Station:**

Qudrah is waiting in the police officer's cabin. She is patiently waiting with her hands clasped in front of her. She looks at the clock and then looks towards the door hoping for the officer to come in. After a while, the police officer walks in with the train conductor.

**[OFFICER]**

Good Morning Mrs. Tahoor!

**[QUDRAH]**

*(Stands up)* Hello Officer!

**[OFFICER]**

I have good news for you! We were finally able to get a lead on Aimal's whereabouts. This gentleman is a train conductor who saw her on the train with a man named Zayn who was traveling from the U.S. to Khairian.

**[QUDRAH]**

*(With great suspicion and confusion)* Zayn?

**[THE CONDUCTOR]**

Yes, Zayn. She was traveling without a ticket and then this man named Zayn said that she was with him.

**[QUDRAH]**

Ya Allah! Do we know where this man lives?

**[OFFICER]**

Yea I have all the information about Zayn. His number, address, and everything else we need to find him.

**[QUDRAH]**

So when are we going to go get my daughter?

**[OFFICER]**

Let's head over right now!

Qudrah and the officer exit the office.

**Scene 25: At Zayn's house:**

Sughra is sitting in her bedroom on the couch. Zayn walks in and sits next to her.

**[ZAYN]**

G Ammi you called me?

**[SUGHRA]**

Yea beta, I wanted to talk to you about what Sameena said to me.

**[ZAYN]**

About Manal?

**[SUGHRA]**

Yes, she was saying that you don't talk to Manal. You don't seem interested in her anymore even

though you both were really good friends before you left for the U.S.

**[ZAYN]**

She's right about that, but the thing is I haven't been able to get myself adjusted with Manal.

Even though we've been living together for so long she still doesn't know anything about me.

She doesn't know what I like, what I don't like, my hobbies, my schedule, nothing. And then when she tries to act like she knows everything, she overdoes it and that annoys me even more.

**[SUGHRA]**

*(Nodding her head)* Yes. I have noticed this too.

**[ZAYN]**

Yea that's all. I don't know if it's too early to say this, but I really like Aimal. I feel so euphoric every time I think about her. I saw a dream last night where I somehow ended up in a forest. Then, I saw a girl walking toward me with a lantern in her hand. I tried to look for her face, but she had a veil on. All I saw was her chin. It was Aimal Ammi! I love Aimal.

**[SUGHRA]**

*(Chuckles out loud)* Beta I really like Aimal too! She's a very nice girl. I think she'll be a perfect match for you.

**[ZAYN]**

*(As his pupils get bigger)* Really? But what about Manal and Sameena aunty?

**[SUGHRA]**

Don't worry I'll talk to Sameena. But what about Aimal's family? We still don't know anything about her family's background.

As Zayn and Sughra are talking, the doorbell rings. The maid walks over to the main door and opens it. It's Qudrah and the Police Officer.

**[OFFICER]**

Hello! Does someone named Zayn live here?

**[MAID]**

Yes yes, Zayn lives here. You guys wait here, I'll go call him.

Before she even turns around to go. Zayn walks over to the door.

**[MAID]**

Zayn, they're asking for you.

**[ZAYN]**

Hello! How may I help you?

**[OFFICER]**

Are you Zayn?

**[ZAYN]**

Yes, that would be me.

Officer takes out a photo of Aimal and shows it to Zayn.

**[OFFICER]**

Do you know this girl?

**[ZAYN]**

Yes, that's Aimal. Why? Why are you looking for her?

**[QUDRAH]**

Because she's my daughter and she's been missing.

**[ZAYN]**

*(In shock)* what? Aimal is your daughter?

**[OFFICER]**

Yes, this is Qudrah Tahoor, Aimal's mother. Can you please call her?

**[ZAYN]**

*(To the maid)* Go call Aimal!

Aimal comes running down the stairs. When she sees her mother with the police officer, she gets frightened.

**[AIMAL]**

Ammi g, you?

**[QUDRAH]**

*(Goes inside the house and hugs her)* Where did you go bache?

**[AIMAL]**

*(Still in shock)* Uh... well the... thing is I was planning on going to Lahore and then I met this young man *(points towards Zayn)* and...

**[ZAYN]**

Yea aunty trust me. I didn't kidnap your daughter. We just met on the way.

**[QUDRAH]**

I'm just glad that you're okay. Let's go home? I've made your favorite food. Let's go?

**[AIMAL]**

Ammi I can't. I mean, I don't want to. I like him and I want to marry him.

**[QUDRAH]**

*(Slaps Aimal)* What?! You left your house for a month and found a lover? I feel so ashamed right now. We're leaving right now!

**[AIMAL]**

*(With tears in her eyes and a hand on the cheek Qudrah slapped)* Ammi doesn't say-! You don't even know him.

**[ZAYN]**

Aunty trust me. I'm a good guy. I completed my education in the U.S. *(look around)* This is where I live. Trust me I'll give your daughter a happy life.

Meanwhile, Zayn is talking, and Sughra walks over.

**[SUGHRA]**

*(In a loud and happy tone)* Why is it so loud here? What are you guys talking about, huh?

As she turns into the doorway and sees Qudrah the words she had been speaking seem to get lost on the way out. Both women continue staring at each other. Everyone else is so confused as to why it seems like they know each other? Then Qudrah's eyes begin to tear up while the rest of her is showing anger. She then grabs Aimal's arm so tightly that her glass bangles break and she starts walking towards the gate. Aimal is tearing up as she's trying to get Qudrah to let go of her arm. She keeps looking back at Zayn and then looks at her mother as she's trying to let herself go. Zayn slowly starts to walk toward Aimal to stop Qudrah, but then he stops and kneels down on the ground. Qudrah and Aimal walk out the gate and the gatekeeper closes the gate behind them as Aimal screams "ZAYNNNN". *And the sun goes down.*

**Scene 26: The next morning at Aimal's house:**



Aimal is laying on her bed with teary eyes. Her long hair covers the pillow while she rests on the edge of the pillow. The tears are at the edge of her eyes. As a tear falls out, she rolls over to her side while wiping her tears away. Qudrah walks into the room.

**[QUDRAH]**

You're already up? (*She asks as she moves the curtains to the side.*)

**[AIMAL]**

Don't move them Ammi g. (*sits up*) I like the dark.

**[QUDRAH]**

(*Sits on the bed facing Aimal*) You're sad over a guy who you met like a month ago. I am your mother, I raised you! You don't love your mother?

**[AIMAL]**

Ammi g that's the thing I loved you, but you've never loved me back. You've always looked at Dad and I with hate and that man left this world with the belief that you've always hated him.

**[QUDRAH]**

Kameeni now you'll tell your mom that I've never loved you?

**[AIMAL]**

Marry me off to Zayn.

**[QUDRAH]**

(*Slaps Aimal*) YOU CANNOT MARRY HIM!

**[AIMAL]**

Ammi g how many times are you going to slap me now?

**[QUDRAH]**

Everytime you wish to marry him.

**[AIMAL]**

Why can't I marry him?

**[QUDRAH]**

*(With extreme anger, but in a low deep voice)* Who's putting these words in your mouth? You weren't like this before? Who gave you this courage huh? It's him. It's that Kameena!

**[AIMAL]**

Now don't call him a Kameena ammi g *(as she lays back down)*.

Qudrah gets up and leaves. On her way out she sees Iqra. Iqra is Aimal's childhood friend who is also their neighbor.

**[QUDRAH]**

You?

**[IQRA]**

Salam maasi g! (maasi g means mother-like/mothers sister)

**[QUDRAH]**

When did you come?

**[IQRA]**

Just right now. I saw the door open so I came inside. I heard that Aimal's home.

**[QUDRAH]**

Yes, she's laying on her bed like a dead soul. *(as she walks away)* Heer banni peyi aa. (She's lying there like Heer. Heer is the Punjab's equivalent of Juliet.)

**[IQRA]**

*(Enters the room and closes the door behind her.)* I heard you gave your heart to that Ranjha

(Romeo).

**[AIMAL]**

*(Gets up and hugs Iqra)* Acha lagta hai woh aur jab woh acha lagta hai tou khud ko mein achi lagti hoon. (I like him and when I like him, I like myself.)

**[IQRA]**

Tu te gayi! Tainu taan pyar hogaya (You're dead! You fell in love.)

**[AIMAL]**

I don't know why Ammi g hates him so much. She saw his mother and dragged me here immediately. I don't know why she reacted like that. Tu beh mein ayi. (You sit, I'll be back.)

Aimal runs downstairs in a hurry and goes into her mother's room.

**[Qudrah]**

Tu? (you?)

**[AIMAL]**

Ammi g why don't you like him? You can slap me after, but just tell me how you know his mother.

**[QUDRAH]**

Umm... *(While avoiding looking Aimal in the face)* I don't know *(then leaves)*

Aimal takes advantage of being left alone to pick up the phone to make a call. A look at the Caller ID lets us know that she's calling her Nani, her grandmother from her Mother's side.

**[NANI]**

Hello! Aimal bache how are you?

**[AIMAL]**

I'm goog nani g. I wanted to ask you something. It's so weird. Every time I try to ask Ammi g about Sughra, who is Zayn's mother, she resists facing me. She has slapped me twice since yesterday.

**[NANI]**

*(Shockingly)* Who? Sughra? Sughra Tahoor?

**[AIMAL]**

G (yes).

**[NANI]**

Haye meri bach (oh, my child) She's your Aunt! She's your mom's sister.

**[AIMAL]**

WHAT? What is happening?

**[NANI]**

Aimal listen to me now carefully. History has brought itself back. Allah knows what it wants now from us.

Mian Mikhaal Patras Zulfiqar was a rich and noble man. He owned so much land and was one of the richest men to walk on this land of Punjab. He had two sons; Tahoor Zulfiqar, your grandfather, and his brother Tirdad Zulfiqar. Tahoor Zulfiqar was married to me Rutaba and

Tirdad Tahoor was married to Iffat Tirdad. Tahoor and Rutaba had three children; Yafir, Sughra, and your mother Qudrah. Tirdad and Iffat had five children; Awamil, Bashir, Rayan, Awan, and Zimal. I and Iffat never had a good relationship due to your great grandfather's injustice towards land distribution. He gave more land to Tirdad's family because he had more sons. After that, our families had that love-hate relationship. Your mother kambakht (hapless) fell in love with Awamil. They both loved each other very much. One night they were caught holding hands by Bashir. Bashir made a big deal and was about to hit Qudrah when your mom's brother Yafir came. Bashir and Yafir got into a really big fight where Bashir was calling your mother awful words. Yafir had no control over his anger. He killed Bashir that night. Bashir's murder added more fuel to the flames. Back then we had a culture of the panchayat. Panchayat is a village council. So the panchayat's way of ending this dispute was to Vani (a custom where girls are given in marriage to the aggrieved family to end disputes like murder) your mother into their family. Your mother was married to not Awamil who she loved, but to his younger brother Rayan. Your mother was treated really badly by both Iffat and Tirdad. Your mother and Awamil still were in love and would meet until one day when Rayan caught them in an intimate moment. Rayan knew that your mother never loved him and would never fall in love with him. So he helped her escape. Your mother ran away and married your father and had you. But your mother's escape didn't look so good for Sughra. Since your mother ran away, Sughra was a Vani of Awamil; the man your mother loved. She is still married to Awamil and the Zayn you fell in love with is their son.

**[AIMAL]**

Oh my God! These customs, these traditions I won't let them cuff my hands. Ammi was never able to marry the man she loved, but I'll marry Zayn.

**Scene 27: At Zayn's house:**

Awamil and Sughra are in their bedroom.

**[SUGHRA]**

Today *(takes a deep breath)* Qudrah came to our house.

**[AWAMIL]**

*(In shock)* Who?

**[SUGHRA]**

Qudrah!

**[AWAMIL]**

Why did she come?

**[SUGHRA]**

She's Aimal's mother

**[AWAMIL]**

Qudrah's daughter has been living with us for this past month. That is insane. How was it?

Seeing your sister after years?

**[SUGHRA]**

With that dreadful past, it had changed my sister Awamil. She looks old now. The wrinkles on her face weren't from time but were from the painful memories that our families have put her

through. I still remember her as a girl, and today she looked like a woman; so grown yet so young.

**[AWAMIL]**

Our families did put her through so much, but I guess that's what her destiny was.

**[SUGHRA]**

I was going to tell you later, but Zayn likes Aimal and he wants to marry her.

**[AWAMIL]**

I like Aimal for Zayn too, but now that she's turned out to be Qudrah's daughter, I don't think she would ever want this.

**[SUGHRA]**

I'm thinking of going to her house. I'll apologize and beg for Aimal's hand. Zayn has been really sad since this happened. He is always in his room. I can't see my son in his condition. I'll go when the sun rises tomorrow.

Zayn is talking to Aimal on the phone. After Aimal tells him the story that Nani told her.

**[AIMAL]**

This is why my Ammi g is saying no to this.

**[ZAYN]**

Whatever happened in their life was very unfortunate, but that doesn't mean that they're going to put our life and happiness at stake too. I will not let this happen. You're mine and we're destined to be together. I don't care if it's by marrying you in front of 500 people or by running away with you.

**[AIMAL]**

Then run away with me!

**[Zayn]**

I'll come right now.

**[AIMAL]**

Then come right now.

**[ZAYN]**

You won't stop me.

**[AIMAL]**

If I stop you, will you be stopped?

**[ZAYN]**

No

**[AIMAL]**

Then come.

Zayn ends the call and runs downstairs. Sughra sees him running out from the kitchen window that opens to the front of the house.

**[SUGHRA]**

Where are you going right now?

**[ZAYN]**

*(In a far distant voice)* Aimal...



**Scene 28: At Aimal's house:**

Aimal sees Zayn standing down below her window. She wipes her tears, takes her shawl, grabs a few books, and then runs down the stairs. It's the same Aimal who has locked herself in that room for days and now she's running down the stairs happily. Qudrah who is sitting in the living room sees her.

**[QUDRAH]**

Where are you going?

**[AIMAL]**

To master (tutor) Saleem's house. I need help understanding this one passage.

**[QUDRAH]**

So he's at Master Saleem's house?

**[AIMAL]**

I don't know. You can have someone check. If he is there I won't go.

**[QUDRAH]**

Now you're going to lie to your mother?

**[AIMAL]**

Why would I lie to you ammi g? Now can I go?

**[QUDRAH]**

Go!

Aimal walks out.

**Scene 29: In Zayn's car:**

As Zayn is driving while Aimal is sitting next to him covering her face in her shawl.

**[Zayn]**

Now you're shy. Do you want me to drop you off at your place and go right now? Because the ones who are not shy say don't go, stay for a while. *(as he makes a U-turn and stops the car).*

**[AIMAL]**

Haan so I'm saying don't go, stay for a while.

**[ZAYN]**

I think about you all day, every day. I can't even pray.

**[AIMAL]**

Why can't you pray?

**[ZAYN ]**

Allah might not like that. He might argue why am I thinking of you while I'm praying to him?

I'm always picturing you in my eyes. I draw your face one way and think you might look like this and then draw your face differently and think you might look like this, but I actually forgot

how you actually look like.

**[AIMAL]**

*(Takes her shawl down)* So tell me how I look?

**[ZAYN]**

You look exactly like how I picture you in my eyes.

**[AIMAL]**

*(Looks down and then looks back up at him)* If I want I can hide all of you in my eyes.

**[ZAYN]**

What if someone else saw me in your eyes?

**[AIMAL]**

Then, I'll close my eyes until our nikkah.

**[ZAYN]**

And what if they don't agree?

**[AIMAL]**

Then they don't agree. I'll still love you.

**[ZAYN]**

What if they force you to marry someone else?

**[AIMAL]**

*(Smiles with tears in her eyes)* I'll drink a bottle of poison and happily die.

**[ZAYN]**

And what if I ask you to run away with me?

**[AIMAL]**

So then I'll run away with you.

**[ZAYN]**

*(Holds Aimal's hand)* I'll take you with me and disappear. You know they always say when two

people love each other too much, they either get married right away or die

**[AIMAL]**

Together we shall live, I can die alone. *(Laughs it off)* Let's not talk about this. Whatever is meant to be, will be. Oh, are you coming to Iqra's brother's wedding?

**[ZAYN]**

If she invites me, then I'll come.

**[AIMAL]**

She was begging me to bring you with me.

**[ZAYN]**

So you're going to take me with you?

**[AIMAL]**

Not with me, but I'll tell them you were here so Iqra invited you.

**[ZAYN]**

Well then, I'll see you at the wedding then.

Zayn drives back and parks a street down from Aimal's house. He is walking her home when Aimal tells him to return back from the corner. As Zayn is walking back to his car. Iqra is coming from the other side. She goes walking past him and then turns again.

**[IQRA]**

Excuse me?

**[ZAYN]**

*(Turns around)* Yes?

**[IQRA]**

Slim, tall, with the skin tone of tawny yellowish brown. You even comb your hair backward with a strand of hair on the forehead. Are you from Kharian?

**[ZAYN]**

*(Confused)* Yes?

**[IQRA]**

Are you Zayn?

**[ZAYN]**

Yes?

**[IQRA]**

*(Claps her hands together with a smile and brings her hands near her face)* My Aimal's Zayn?

*(Then runs away).*

Zayn is extremely confused. He places his hands on his hips, smiles as he looks to the side, and starts to follow Iqra to Aimal's house. Iqra runs to Aimal's house.

**[IQRA]**

Aimal...*(grabs her arm and takes her upstairs)* I saw him!

**[AIMAL]**

*(Blushes)* Me too! But how did you know it was him?

**[IQRA]**

*(places her hand under Aimal's chin and turns it towards the mirror)* He's that one man! If one looks closely, one can see your face in his eyes.

Aimal blushes at the declaration and promptly runs away from Iqra.

**Scene 30: At Aimal's house:**

It's the next day. There's a knock at the door. Qudrah opens the door and sees Awamil standing. Her smile widens as she sees the love of her life after all those years. Then, enters Sughra and her smile slowly fades away.

**[AWAMIL]**

Won't you let us come in?

**[QUDRAH]**

Come come...

Three of them walk over to the formal living room. Qudrah seems to be very happy because of Awamil.

**[Qudrah]**

So, how did all of you remember me after so many years?

**[AWAMIL]**

No, it isn't like that.

**[SUGHRA]**

Where's Aimal?

**[Qudrah]**

She's making a cup of tea for you.

**[SUGHRA]**

I'll have that later. (*loudly calls out Aimal*) Aimal! Come sit with me.

**[AWAMIL]**

So we're here to formally ask you for Aimal's hand in marriage for our son Zayn.

**[QUDRAH]**

Now, what can I say? I don't know what would her father want?

**[SUGHRA]**

You can tell me what YOU want?

**[QUDRAH]**

(*With an angry tone*) I heard he came two days ago. Warn him or stop him! Aimal's taya's (dad's older brother) sons can't control their anger. Let's hope there's no fight.

**[SUGHRA]**

So you're basically saying no.

**[AWAMIL]**

Whichever boy of her taya's has a problem, tell him to start the fight, because Zayn won't stop.

Let's go, Sughra.

**[SUGHRA]**

Wait let me go meet Aimal.

Sughra goes out the door and sees Aimal standing by the door.

**[SUGHRA]**

*(With a broken teared up voice)* Listen Aimal! Neither can Awamil stop him from coming here nor can I. If you want him to stop coming here, it has to be you. He only listens to you.

**[AIMAL]**

My tongue shall burn if I tell him to stop from coming here. Do you really think I would tell him to stop?

Sughra lowers her eyes and leaves. Qudrah comes to Aimal who is still standing by the door. She grabs Aimal by both of her arms and asks:

**[QUDRAH]**

What did you say? When she asked if you tell him to stop, he'll stop, what did you tell her?

**[AIMAL]**

Slap me! After I tell you what I told her, you're going to slap me anyways.

There's a knock at the door. Qudrah opens the door; it's Zayn. She tells Aimal to go inside.

**[QUDRAH]**

I'm not going to let you see her.

**[ZAYN]**

I'm here to talk to you.

**[QUDRAH]**



What is it now? I have already told your parents no!

**[ZAYN]**

I know! But I'll die without her.

**[QUDRAH]**

God makes the decisions of life and death.

**[ZAYN]**

She'll die without me too.

**[QUDRAH]**

So let it be.

**[ZAYN]**

What's our fault?

**[QUDRAH]**

Listen beta life is never fair. Sometimes the ones with no fault also suffer.

**[ZAYN]**

Who are those people? Show me aunty g.

**[QUDRAH]**

Me. I am right here in front of you.

**[ZAYN]**

How have you been punished?

**[QUDRAH]**

Ask your father. Listen Zayn, there's no solution to this. You and Aimal can't get married while

I'm alive. I won't let this happen.

**[ZAYN]**

Don't challenge me!

**[QUDRAH]**

Go! I challenge you!

**[ZAYN]**

*(Zayn gets up and starts to walk away)*I want to say one last thing. Whoever did wrong to you. May Allah forgive him and give you sabr (patience), but I won't suffer because I have nothing wrong. One day I'll come on a white horse with a buggy and take her with me.

**[QUDRAH]**

That would be the last day.

**[ZAYN]**

Even if it is the last day, I'll take her.

**[QUDRAH]**

Then pray that I die.

**[ZAYN]**

I pray that you live a long life, but whoever comes in my way, I won't care who he or she is.

**Scene 31: At Iqra's brother's wedding:**

Aimal who's running with a tray of flowers bumps into Zayn. Zayn holds Aimal's hand and gently pulls her to sit next to him. Aimal and Zayn are sitting under a tree with the flower tray placed next to Aimal.

[ZAYN]

Should I just take you away from here?

[AIMAL]

Where will you take me?

[ZAYN]

To the molvi sahab (Muslim doctor of law; iman).

[AIMAL]

And why will you take me to him?

[ZAYN]

I'll ask him to get us married.

[AIMAL]

*(Laughs)* And he'll do that?

[ZAYN]

If I beg him, he'll do it.

[AIMAL]

If you beg, he'll get mad at you and tell you that falling in love isn't in your control, but getting married surely is and you're the only one in control of this. *(Takes a pause and then says)* I

believe that you don't, but you were joking about this right?

[ZAYN]

I said the truth, but not from my heart.

[AIMAL]

But always remember, if you were to ever ask me to go with you, whether to the molvi sahab or to the court, I'll close my eyes and walk with you. After that, it's on you and Allah. *(Moves her hand forward towards Zayn)* Take me?

ZAYN just stares at her and doesn't say anything.

**[AIMAL]**

No?

**[ZAYN]**

Never. *(gets up and takes a few steps forward)* There are only two solutions: either get married in court or not get married and die. It's easier to die than to disrespect you by fleeing you.

Daud, who is Iqra's cousin, comes behind Aimal and puts his hand on her shoulder. Aimal gets scared so she runs to Zayn and tells him to leave.

**[ZAYN]**

Who is this?

**[AIMAL]**

Iqra's cousin, but let's go!

**[ZAYN]**

Wait a minute.

**[DAUD]**

Oh wow, you know that too? *(laughs and then walks over to where Zayn and Aimal are standing)*

You must know my name too huh?

Aimal goes and stands behind Zayn.

**[DAUD]**

*(To Zayn) Your introduction? (While he's looking Aimal with hungry eyes).*

**[ZAYN]**

*(Grabs him by his mouth and turns it towards himself)* Don't ever look in that direction.

Aimal starts getting scared that this might break into a big fight. She goes to call Iqra.

**[IQRA]**

DAUD!

Daud grabs Zayn's collar so Zayn smacks him to the ground. Daud looks up and he is bleeding from his forehead.

**[ZAYN]**

*(To Iqra)* I'm going to drop Aimal at her house. Tell him to stay here because I'm not going to let him go to his house tonight.

Zayn and Aimal leave. Both of them are walking on a dark street.

**[AIMAL]**

Don't go back!

**[ZAYN]**

Don't make me promise you. I don't mind if someone looks at you, but if someone looks at you with those dirty eyes, then he doesn't deserve to see at all.

**[AIMAL]**

His father is in the police.

**[ZAYN]**

He's a criminal.

**[AIMAL]**

I'll get worried.

**[ZAYN]**

Don't! And don't be scared that his father is a policeman. Now go inside.

Aimal goes inside and Zayn turns back.

**Scene 32: At Iqra's house:**

Daud, his father Murad, and Iqra are sitting at the venue of the wedding.

**[IQRA]**

It's all Daud's fault. First, he came into the woman's section and then he went behind my friend.

**[MURAD]**

Then, he should've complained.

**[IQRA]**

He doesn't complain.

**[DAUD]**

Why? What does he think of himself?

**[IQRA]**

Have some shame when you talk about him. He treats me as if I'm his younger sister.

**[DAUD]**

*(In anger with a loud voice)* Oh! I won't let him go!

**[IQRA]**

He won't let you go either!

There's a knock on the door.

**[IQRA]**

He's here! Don't open the door, he'll just leave it a bit if we don't open the door.

**[MURAD]**

I'll open the door!

**[IQRA]**

I'll go talk to him. He'll listen to me and go.

**[MURAD]**

He hit my son. That's a smudge of dirt on my police badge.

Zayn hits the door with his leg and it opens.

**[ZAYN]**

My name is Zayn. I'm here to meet Daud.

**[MURAD]**

*(Looks at Daud with disgust)* Did you get beaten by him?

**[IQRA]**

Stop! Daud is at fault here. Just ask him to apologize so we can end this fight here.

**[MURAD]**

My blood is boiling.

**[ZAYN]**

I won't leave either. Tell that bastard to come out. I'm waiting for him right here.

**[MURAD]**

*(Gets really angry)* Where's my gun? *(As he turns back around to find it).*

**[IQRA]**

No! Stop! You can't stop him with a gun. The only solution to this is Daud's apology. If you don't believe me, I'll get you the gun and you shoot him or you can handcuff him, or you can create an even bigger scene, but in the end, Daud still has to apologize.

MURAD turns around and goes toward Zayn.

**[MURAD]**

You go, I'll talk to him.

**[ZAYN]**



No! Bring him out!

**[MURAD]**

*(Look back at Daud and yells)* Come here!

Daud slowly comes out. Fear can be seen on his face.

**[ZAYN]**

Look! If you ever hear that someone has love in their heart, then respect them! People that love are not from your world. If you hit them, they'll die, but if they survive then they'll KILL you. You love your life, you're scared to die, I don't care about my life. I love her! The one who you looked at with dirty eyes. Never come in front of my eyes now! *(turns around and leaves)*.

**Scene 33: At Aimals house:**

Aimal is sitting in her room. Qudrah walks in.

**[QUDRAH]**

*(With anger)* What happened at the wedding? What new scene did he create there now?

**[AIMAL]**

He didn't create a scene. It was Daud who touched me.

Qudrah slaps Aimal.

**[QUDRAH]**

Begairat! How are you talking like this? Have some shame!

**[AIMAL]**

Daud is the one who's lacking shame.

There's a knock at the door. Aimal runs to the door barefoot to open it. Its Zayn.

**[ZAYN]**

You were scared huh?

*(Aimal nods her head agreeing to the statement and Zayn speaks to Aimal to tell her what had occurred after he dropped her off)*

I didn't fight with him! I just talked to him. I told him that whatever he did today, to not ever do that ever again.

Qudrah from offscreen asks "Who's at the door".

**[AIMAL]**

Come inside! I'll tell her that it's you!

**[ZAYN]**

No, I'm leaving. I'll come back tomorrow.

**[AIMAL]**

This late?

**[ZAYN]**

The day starts at this time in my city.

**[AIMAL]**

It's cold.

Qudrah from off-screen: "Who is it? Why aren't you saying anything?"

**[ZAYN]**

What are you going to say now?

**[AIMAL]**

I'll say it's you!

**[ZAYN]**

*(loudly)* It's me aunty g, your Zayn. *(To Aimal)* Should I go now?

**[AIMAL]**

If you go now, don't come back tomorrow.

**[ZAYN]**

Why?

**[AIMAL]**

*(Smiles)* Take a day off?

Qudrah walks over to the door and slaps Aimal.

**[QUDRAH]**

Love has lifted your head so high up in the clouds that you don't even notice the shame of standing out here in the middle of the street in the middle of the night.

**[AIMAL]**

*(To zayn)* Ammi g is right. You should go now and don't come back tomorrow. Goodbye! May God be with you *(as she goes inside the house)*.

**[QUDRAH]**

Are you going to come inside or go?

**[ZAYN]**

No! I won't come inside.

**[QUDRAH]**

Then goodbye! *(and shuts the door in his face)*.

It's 5 AM. It's the time for the morning prayer. Aimal wakes up and goes to the main door. She opens the door and sees Zayn sitting outside the door sleeping on the ground. Aimal sits next to him.

**[AIMAL]**

*(Touches his shoulder)* Zayn! *(as a tear drops from her eye)* Don't do this to me!

**[ZAYN]**

Did she hit you again?

**[AIMAL]**

No!

**[ZAYN]**

I saw her hit you, that's why I stayed.

**[AIMAL]**

If she hits me next time, don't stay.

**[ZAYN]**

Arey, no I won't, but tell her if she hits you next time in front of me, I won't stop her, but I also won't let her hit you either. You should go inside, it's cold.

**[AIMAL]**

What about you?

**[ZAYN]**

I'll offer the morning prayers and then leave.

Aimal closes the door and goes upstairs to the roof. She takes her shoes off on the cold floor and sits behind the plants where she can't be seen. Qudrah wakes up for the morning prayer. She checks into Aimal's room and she's not there. Qudrah checks the rest of the house and is unable to find Aimal. She then calls Aimal's taya and tells her that Aimal ran away with Zayn. Aimal's taya tells her to calm down and he'll come over to their house right now to talk about this. On his way to Qudrah's house, he sees Zayn on the street. He instantly starts hitting him. He hits to a point where his mouth starts to bleed. Zayn then stops him but gets himself away.

**[TAYA]**

Where is Aimal?

**[ZAYN]**

She's at home.

**[TAYA]**

Stop lying and tell me the truth.

**[ZAYN]**

I respect her and I believe her! If you don't want to respect her, at least you should believe her.

She's at home and if she's not you can kill me with your own hands.

They both head towards the house.

**Scene 34: At Aimal's house:**

Qudrah is sitting crying.

**[QUDRAH]**

Allah! How am I going to face this society? What am I going to tell them? That my daughter ran away? *(And continues to cry).*

Aimal's taya and Zayn walk into the house. Qudrah runs to Zayn and hits on his chest and says:

**[QUDRAH]**

Tell me! Where is my daughter? Give me my daughter back! Where is she?

Zayn looks towards the roof. Qudrah runs to the stairs.

**[ZAYN]**

AIMAL!!

Aimals asleep on the cold floor on the roof wakes up from Zayn's voice. Qudrah sees Aimal sitting on the roof and runs towards her. She's about to hit Aimal.

**[AIMAL]**

Don't hit me Ammi g. I think I have a fever.

Qudrah touches her forehead to check.

**[AIMAI]**

Right?

Qudrah slowly helps to stand Aimal up and takes her downstairs.

**[TAYA]**

What were you doing up there all night?

**AIMAL**

I don't know. I thought maybe if I sit in the cold all night, maybe Allah will change my destiny  
*(as she looks at Zayn)*. But why would Allah change my destiny when I missed the morning  
prayer? *(looks at Zayn)* Your mouth is bleeding? Did someone hit you again? Please never come

back here ever again. I can't see you in such pain. *(A tear drops from her eye. She then turns around and continues to walk inside with Qudrah).*

Zayn turns around and leaves. As Aimal is walking inside. She trips and hits the door. She starts to bleed from her mouth, the same spot from where Zayn was bleeding from. Qudrah runs towards her, but Aimal closes the door shut.

**Scene 35: At Zayn's house:**

Zayn enters the house. Sughra and Awamil see him bleeding. She hugs Zayn.

**[SUGHRA]**

My bacha. I would go again to Qudrah and beg her for Aimal's hand. I can't see you like this *(as she touches his blood).*

Zayn doesn't say anything. He goes to his room and shuts the door. That same night, Sughra leaves to go talk to Qudrah. As she's sitting in the car:

**[AWAMIL]**

Should I come with you?

**[SUGHRA]**

No! She hates me, let me go alone and fix this.

Sughra leaves.



**Scene 36: At Aimal's house:**

Sughra sits Qudrah down on the bed while she herself sits on the floor.

**[SUGHRA]**

Listen Qudrah, please forgive me. Don't punish our kids. I can't see them suffering. *(Puts her head down on Qudrah's hands and starts to cry).*

**[QUDRAH]**

*(Laughs)* What are you doing, appa? *(lifts her head up and rubs her fingers on Sughra's cheeks)*

Now that you're old with all these wrinkles and gray hair, now you're asking for forgiveness?

And I am not punishing anyone. It's karma. It's nature. Why else would Sughra and Awamil's son fall in love with Qudrah's daughter? *(Laughs)* It is something to think about, right?

**[SUGHRA]**

Have some mercy! If you don't care about Zayn, look at Aimal. She's melancholy and crestfallen.

**[QUDRAH]**

I don't care. *(Turns around)* I hope she dies than for Zayn and her to become one.

**[SUGHRA]**

Would there ever be a mother like you?

**[QUDRAH]**

*(Turns back around)* Would there ever be a WOMAN like you?

**[SUGHRA]**

Kameeniye!! Do you remember what he did? And what did YOU do?

**[QUDRAH]**

*(Walks closer to Sughra)* Have you ever sat down and thought about what happened to me? What did he do? And what did YOU do? You had to marry the love of my life? Or should I put it this way, you fell in love with your younger sister's lover!!

Sughra slaps Qudrah and Qudrah starts laughing.

**[QUDRAH]**

I slap Aimal like this every day. She's innocent, but so am I.

Sughra then grabs her purse and leaves. Qudrah grabs food and puts poison in it and takes it to Aimal's room. Aimal is sitting on the bed crying. Qudrah sits next to her and starts feeding her bites of food.

**[QUDRAH]**

I was wrong, you're not innocent, you're jinxed. Stop crying, your tears have no value. Neither can they undo what happened to me and nor can they change what's happening to you. Don't cry. Everything will be okay. When life becomes too hard, then there's only one thing left, and that is death.

Aimal looks at Qudrah as she realizes that the food has poison. Qudrah makes another bite and Aimal smiles and eats it. She swallows the last bite and goes to sleep.

**Scene 37: At Zayn's house:**

Sughra enters Zayn's room crying.

**[ZAYN]**

Why are you crying ammi g?

**[SUGHRA]**

First, tell me how courageous you are.

**[ZAYN]**

Tell me what happened, and you'll know how much courage I have.

**[SUGHRA]**

BEta... *(as she's crying herself)* Aimal died!

**[ZAYN]**

*(Looks at Sughra while holding his own tears back)* Life was a living hell for her and that's over now.

**[SUGHRA]**

Go! Go to her funeral.

**[ZAYN]**

No! Never! I'll never go! She told me to never return to her city. Now that she died, that whole city has died for me. I'll never go.