

Son Of Darkness

written by
Imad chelloufi

Address Bachir boukadoum N43 Skikda Algérie
Phone +213552838845
E-mail imadchelloufi@gmail.com

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - NIGHT.

Rain slashes through the darkness.

The village lies EMPTY, abandoned.

Parked cars glisten under feeble streetlights.

Shuttered shops amplify the silence.

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - NIGHT.

SISI (40s, enigmatic in a gray cloak) materializes from shadow.

He surveys the void, a predator in a graveyard.

He strolls calmly through the village, his gaze faint and curious, yet he never loses his poise or his presence.

SISI

(Mocking the silence)

Death has settled here.. as if this town welcomed its own end... Every corner whispers of hearts that stopped beating.

(*Eyes on the horizon*)

Solitude is a rare art. Only the darkness understands it.

He sighs, gazing into the dark horizon.

SISI (CONT'D)

How I love this solitude... how enchanting this stillness is. No movement, no shouting, no noise... just me and the darkness. Perhaps, one day, this city will tell the story of my death too... or perhaps I'll be the one to tell its final tale.

INT. JACK'S HOUSE - NIGHT.

JACK (39, stern)height with a serious, demeanor that rarely welcomes humor, sits on a rocking chair.

Sips tea in a rocking chair. Thunder rattles the windows.

JACK

(speaking quietly)

Nature's at war tonight.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)
(as he gazes at the sky)
All I asked for was peace.

He takes a sip of his tea and sighs.

JACK (CONT'D)
I was hoping for a quiet evening,
away from all the chaos... but even
that seems out of reach.

His son SEEDORF (13) bursts in, peppering Jack with kisses.

Jack's sternness melts.

Jack smiles, sets his tea aside, then lifts Seedorf and places him on his knee, kissing him affectionately on the cheek.

JACK (CONT'D)
How was school, champ?

SEEDORF
(excitedly)
Today was amazing, Dad! We learned
planets orbit the sun! Some are
ice-cold!

Jack laughs—a rare, warm sound.

JACK
(chuckling softly)
Really? Sounds like you learned
something fascinating. And what
else? Did you behave well?

SEEDORF
(grinning widely)
Yes! I tried to help my teacher
carry the books! Everyone was
happy.

JACK
(proudly)
That's the boy I'm proud of! Keep
it up, and you'll be the star of
the school.

JACK (CONT'D)
(proudly)
That's the boy I'm proud of! Keep
it up, and you'll be the star of
the school.

Seedorf rushes back toward the house with incredible speed, not bothering to say goodbye to his father or even glance back.

Jack, left behind, continues drinking his tea in a deep silence for a few moments.

Suddenly, he notices a laser pointer aimed at his chest, slowly descending until it reaches a sensitive area.

Jack speaks mockingly, maintaining his composure.

JACK (CONT'D)
(sarcastically)
Only one crazy person would prefer
targeting that area.

From the shadows, Said, a short young man in his mid-twenties with black eyes, laughs mockingly as holding a gun.

SAID
Yeah, I love torturing men!

JACK
You did well hiding... I didn't
expect to find you in Seedorf's
tent.

SAID
Your kid's tent is colder than a
crypt.

Said sneezes violently, then moves closer.

SAID (CONT'D)
(complaining)
I think I'm going to get sick from
this weather!

JACK
(getting up from his
chair)
Come inside before you freeze
solid.

Jack walks toward the house, with Said following behind.

INT. JACK HOUSE - THE KITCHEN - NIGHT.

Jack's kitchen is simple and practical, with a warm and cozy atmosphere.

The walls are covered in glossy white tiles that reflect the soft light from the hanging lamps.

A small wooden table in the corner holds empty tea cups and clean plates.

Above the sink, a collection of shiny copper pots catch the light, while open shelves hold a few old cooking utensils.

The air is filled with the scent of tea and toasted bread, creating a sense of calm and tranquility in the space.

anna Jack's wife, washing the dishes with wide smile.

ANNA
(turning to smile at Jack)
Hello, my love.

JACK
(smiling)
Hey, sweetheart.

Anna looks toward Said with a mischievous smile.

ANNA
Hello, the sexy devil.

SAID
(laughing)
Hello, ma'am Anna, how are you?

ANNA
(teasing)
I'm still alive! Where did you hide this time?

JACK (O.S.)
In Seedorf's tent, just as you expected.

Meanwhile, Seedorf runs toward Said and hugs him tightly.

SEEDORF
(excitedly, hugging Said)
I missed you, Said! Why don't you come play with me more often?

SAID
(laughing, patting his back)
You're a little troublemaker, but don't worry, I'll visit you more!

SEEDORF
(eagerly)
Promise?

SAID
(laughing)
Yes, I promise, little one!

Jack enters the kitchen, holding a towel and some clothes, to find Anna offering a glass of orange juice to Said, who pauses from playing with Seedorf.

ANNA
(handing him the glass
with a smile)
Here you go, Said. This healthy
juice is much better than that
awful coffee and cigarette.

SAID
(gratefully)
Thank you very much, Anna. I'm
actually thinking of quitting.

ANNA returning to wash the dishes, with a playful, warning
tone

ANNA
You'd better, or I'll break your
legs. And you know I'm worse than
my kind, forgiving husband.

SAID
(jokingly)
Of course, Mrs. Anna, I still feel
that punch.

ANNA
(smiling without turning)
Good! It's better I don't catch you
smoking again. And you should think
about finding a wife soon,
especially with your beliefs... you
know the consequences.

SAID
(nodding thoughtfully)
You're right. There's a girl I have
in mind, but I don't know if she
feels the same.

Suddenly, Jack interrupts them.

JACK
(calmly and practically)
Take the towel and go change in the
bathroom before you give me a
headache.

Said chuckles lightly, grabs the towel, and heads to the room
ahead, while Seedorf follows him excitedly.

Jack gently stopping Seedorf and setting him down.

JACK (CONT'D)
Where do you think you're
going, little one?

SEEDORF
(innocently)
I'm going to Uncle Said!

JACK smiling, motioning for him to stay.

JACK
Wait for him here; he's changing
his clothes.

INT. JACK HOUSE - THE LIVING-ROOM - CONTINUOUS.

The living room is simple and cozy, with comfortable
furniture that gives a calm, family-friendly atmosphere.

Said and Jack sit side by side on the couch, quietly sipping
their glasses of orange juice.

To their right, Anna sits on a comfortable chair, holding a
cup of herbal tea and taking slow sips, smiling from time to
time.

Across from her, Seedorf sits at a small table, absorbed in
his drawing, holding his colored pencils, his face showing
signs of concentration.

ANNA
(calmly, looking at Said)
You know, Said, Family gives life
weight, Said. Purpose.

JACK
(nodding in agreement,
with a slight smile)
Exactly.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

Family changes a person, And
someone to come home to. Nothing
beats that.

SAID

(smiling gratefully and
nodding in understanding)
I know, I know... Maybe it's time.
(Wistful)
If I can find the right partner.

ANNA

(teasing)
Oh, Said, I think you're making
excuses, Partners don't fall from
the sky. You chase them.

SAID

(laughing)
I promise, I'll make an effort...
maybe I'll need some guidance from
you two.

They exchange smiles, but then Said surprises them by
suddenly changing the subject.

SAID (CONT'D)

(with a serious
expression)
By the way, there's something
strange I wanted to tell you... I saw
a stranger today for the first
time, heading toward the orphanage.
(Looking around)
I didn't feel comfortable with
him, so I decided to follow him from
a distance.

JACK

(with a concerned look)
A stranger? What was he doing
there?

SAID

(cautiously)
I couldn't quite tell, but he had
an unsettling aura. I just thought
you two should know... maybe we
should keep an eye out.

ANNA

(with concern)
Yes, we don't want any threats near
the children.

EXT. THE ORPHANAGE - NIGHT.

The front yard of the orphanage is spacious and cheerful, with green spaces surrounded by trees.

In the center, there's a small field for football, where a colorful ball waits for children's feet to bring it to life.

Next to the field, there are various toys: small cars for children in different colors, and neatly arranged bikes, some well-worn and others looking almost new.

The atmosphere is quiet except for a gentle breeze rustling the leaves, adding a sense of safety and peace to the place.

INT. THE ORPHANAGE - THE FRONT DOOR - NIGHT.

Sissi approaches the orphanage door with quiet steps.

He raises his hand and knocks gently, as if wary of disturbing anyone inside.

After knocking, he stands waiting, looking around in eerie silence.

His eyes scan the surroundings calmly, the stillness of the scene unbroken as he waits for someone to open the door.

SISI
(to himself)
I hope they're not asleep.

NUN (O.S.)
hold on, I'm coming.

Sissi waits for a moment before a nun in her forties opens the door, her face adorned with a gentle, innocent smile.

NUN (CONT'D)
(with a warm smile)
How can I help you?

SISI
(in a calm and polite voice)
Hello, Sister. How are you? Father

Francis III sent me from the Vatican to bless this orphanage and the children. May I come in?

NUN
(surprised)
Father Francis sent you? Thank God!
(MORE)

NUN (CONT'D)
Of course, come in. I'll prepare
some tea for you.

SISI
(smiling kindly)
Thank you very much.

Sissi quickly steps inside, and the nun closes the door
behind him immediately.

INT.SMALL POLICE STATION - DAY.

In the small police station, a calm atmosphere fills the
room.

It contains three desks, arranged neatly across the space.

At the far corner, there's Maria's desk, where she sits
playing a crossword puzzle.

In the middle, Said sits at his desk, smoking and sipping his
coffee.

Next to him, Jack's desk is where he's reading a newspaper
quietly.

JACK without looking up from the newspaper.

JACK
So, do we have more tasks today?

SAID sipping his coffee slowly, speaking with a teasing tone.

SAID
Yes, looks like we have some new
investigations. But you know who we
should blame... Maria!

JACK raising an eyebrow, trying to hide a smile.

JACK
Maria? Why blame her?

SAID
(jokingly)
Because she always finds a way to
make us work twice as long! If she
had just finished what we asked,
we'd have time to relax!

At that moment, Maria grabs the empty trash can and throws it
towards Said, but it misses him completely.

MARIA

(teasing, smiling)

You need some exercise, SaId! You should at least try to take me seriously before complaining about work.

SAID

(laughing)

When was the last time I wasn't the target?

JACK flicking through the newspaper, smiling lightly.

JACK

Maybe now we should focus more on work than on games and insults.

A beautiful young woman with a voluptuous figure enters the room, her body glistening with sweat after exercising.

She approaches said with a seductive sway to her hips, her large breasts bouncing with each step.

Her eyes lock onto yours with intense desire.

she saunters closer, her breasts swaying hypnotically with each step holding her breasts as gazing towards said

THE BLOND WOMAN

(A seductive tone)

Officer, I hid some marijuana there.

Can you search me and take me to the cell? There are other places to search.

SAID Stands up and has sexually influenced.

SAID

my pleasure

Jack without looking at him and reading in the newspaper.

JACK

Do it, and you will pay a heavy price. Even your Prophet cannot intercede for you, as your religion says.

Maria watches from a distance, disapproving of the girl's behavior, and a sign of jealousy is evident in her eyes.

THE BLOND WOMAN

What is your opinion, officer, or
as they call you, the sexy devil?

SAID

It's a pleasure to inspect every
suspicious area, how about the
cell. It's empty.

Maria stands up and heads towards said while the blonde girl
precedes him and then stops to turn around and find Maria has
put the shackles in a said hand and in the edge of the
office.

Maria turns towards her with a tone of anger.

MARIA

(quietly,)

Leave before I arrest you for
flirting.

THE BLOND WOMAN

(surprised)

Since when did flirting become a
crime?

MARIA returning to her desk.

MARIA

(calmly)

Since you started messing with my friends. He's with me, and
if you approach him again, I'll take you down.

The blond woman leaves angrily without a reply.

SAID

(baffled, whispers to
Maria)
What are you planning, Maria?

MARIA

(calmly)

I just saved you from a thousand
years of torment in hell, as your
religion says.

(As kissing him on his
cheek)

And I saved you from her as well.

(Smiling)

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)
She's a sex addict and has been
with most of the guys here, I want
you to wait for the right moment,
and it better be with your wife.

SAID
(teasing)
I think you're jealous and
maybe...you love me?

MARIA covers his mouth with her hand.

MARIA
Shut up! I... love you? You're crazy!

Jack stares at her in silence.

MARIA (CONT'D)
(nervously)
Don't look at me like that.

JACK
(teasingly)
What, me?

MARIA
(tense)
Yes, I don't have feelings for
anyone right now. Said is just a
friend.

JACK
(adding fuel, teasing
Said)
Alright, then.
(looks at Said)
There's a girl I want you to
meet, my wife's friend. She's
beautiful and looking for a
boyfriend to settle down with.

Suddenly, Maria interrupts him by firing a shot that narrowly
misses his right ear.

Everyone is shocked. Maria aims the gun at Said.

MARIA
Are you still considering his
offer?

SAID frantically, raising his hands in surrender.

SAID
No, I'd rather stay friends... I
mean, friends alive. I don't mean...
to be together. Please, don't kill
me!

They exchange playful glances, which turn into light-hearted
and romantic banter.

EXT.THE OUTSIDE OF SMALL POLICE STATION - DAY.

Two police cars are parked beside a regular car.

Three girls stand on the side of the road, talking in low
voices.

Said steps out of the station, holding a cigarette and
lighting it.

He stands there, blowing out smoke slowly as Maria follows
him and stands beside him, trying to start a conversation.

MARIA
(with a slight smile)
You look tired today, Said.

SAID
(exhales smoke again)
Just another day in this place.

Life here doesn't change.

MARIA looks at him, moving closer.

MARIA
Maybe you need someone to take care
of you... someone to be by your side.

SAID smiling softly, looking at her.

SAID
Maybe... maybe you need the
samething.

noticing his smile, she moves even closer.

Said gently hugs Maria, the feelings between them evident but
unspoken, Maria feels it and hugs him back.

Suddenly, a short woman appears with her husband.

WIFE
(anxiously)
Where is Sheriff Jack?

SAID
He's inside.

MARIA
(kindly)
Do you need help with something?

HUSBAND
Our son George is missing.

SAID
(concerned)
When was the last time you saw him?

WIFE
Last night, after I read him a
bedtime story and tucked him in.
When I woke up in the middle of the night, he was gone.

SAID
Maybe he went to his grand mother's
house?

HUSBAND
I don't think so. I called
everyone, and there's no sign of
him.

MARIA
(taking quick action)
Wait a moment, I'll get Sheriff
Jack.

Maria rushes back toward the station to get Jack, while Said
watches them, sinking into thought.

He mutters to himself quietly.

SAID
(whispering)
I hope my suspicions aren't
correct.

INT.SMALL POLICE STATION - DAY.

The husband and wife sit across from Jack's desk, while Said
and Maria stand beside him, listening in intense silence.

Jack picks up his notepad and begins asking routine, investigative questions.

JACK

(calmly and focused)

Tell me, do you have any enemies or issues that might cause someone to come near your son?

HUSBAND

(shakes his head quickly)

No, no, George is just a little boy. He has no enemies.

WIFE

(nervously)

We're a quiet family; we don't get involved with anyone.

JACK

When was the last time you saw George?

WIFE

(quietly)

Last night. I read him a story until he fell asleep, then tucked him in bed.

JACK

Did you notice anything unusual in recent days? Any strangers in the neighborhood?

HUSBAND

(thinking for a moment)

No, we haven't seen anything out of the ordinary.

JACK

Was George acting in any unusual way recently? Did he mention going anywhere?

WIFE

(shakes her head quickly)

No, he was just his usual self, playing and laughing as always.

JACK

Do you have any relatives or friends he might have gone to without telling you?

WIFE
(in a fearful tone)
No, we've called everyone, and no
one knows where he is.

JACK looking at them seriously, taking notes.

JACK
Alright, we'll do everything we can
to find him. I need you to stay
calm and cooperate with us every
step of the way.

HUSBAND
(pleading)
Please, do everything you can.

The husband and wife shake Jack's hand, then leave, saying
goodbye to Saeed and Maria, who watch them until they
disappear from sight, Maria decides to speak.

MARIA
Is there any suspect, Jack?

JACK
I don't know. There isn't much
evidence yet.
(Jack glances at Said)
What do you think, you madman?

Said doesn't answer, deep in thought.

JACK (CONT'D)
(joking tone)
From the days of the Crusades until
now, Salah al-Din calls for you.

Said still doesn't respond, lost in deep thought, Maria's
gaze reveals jealousy.

MARIA
He's probably thinking about
betraying me.

JACK
(smirking)
Since when have you two been dating
for him to consider betraying you?

MARIA
(glares at Jack)
Stay out of it!

She moves to slap him.

MARIA (CONT'D)
I'll show you what happens if you
dare to think about cheat on me!

Said catches her hand with remarkable speed and then steps away.

SAID
(slightly dismissive)
Sorry, I need to check on
something.

Saeed walks out of the room as they watching him without saying word.

JACK
(chuckling to himself)
Sometimes I think he's possessed by
a Muslim jinn.
(Looking at Maria)
What are you waiting for?

MARIA
(slightly startled)
Oh, you're right. I'll follow him.

JACK
Good. But don't interfere—just
watch from a distance.

MARIA
(defiantly)
I'll show him who I am if he think
about having sex with another
woman.

JACK
(slams his desk in
frustration)
Don't get involved! You don't know
Said and his dark past.

MARIA
(shocked, nods)
Alright. I'll follow him and tell
you everything

JACK
I feel he knows something.

Maria dashes off, chasing after Said.

Jack stays in his office, pulls out a pack of cigarettes from his desk, and lights one, speaking to himself.

JACK (CONT'D)

Thank you so much for this pack of cigarettes.

(as smoking)

Damn you... anna, i'm smoking again, and there's nothing I can do about it.

EXT. THW WOODS - NIGHT.

Near a large cave, Sisi stands smoking a cigarette, staring out at the trees in front of him.

He flicks his cigarette to the ground and moves to enter the cave, but he pauses near the entrance and laughs loudly.

SISI

(smirking)

It's been a long time, my old friend.

Suddenly, Said steps out of the shadows, also smoking a cigarette.

SAID

(coldly)

What are you doing here, Sisi? You shouldn't have shown up again.

SISI

(smiling)

Oh, come on, Said. Don't start blaming me already. Isn't this a good reunion?

SAID

(determined)

I warned you before... Don't make this like the children of Oran, Algeria.

SISI

(chuckles)

This time, it's going to happen. And there's nothing you can do about it.

SAID
 (defiant)
 I'll stop you, just like I did
 before.

Maria is hiding among the trees nearby, listening in.

MARIA
 (whispering to herself)
 What? He knows him? Is Said hiding
 secrets from us?

Returning to Sisi and Said.

SISI
 (grinning)
 Join us, Said. Immortality could be
 yours.

SAID
 (firmly)
 I choose mortality. And stopping
 you.

SISI
 (sighs)
 Then you'll die like the rest.

SAID
 (suspicious)
 Did you take George?

SISI
 (smiling wickedly)
 Yes, he's here. And if you think of
 bringing help, I'll kill him.

Maria, still hidden, clenches her fists in anger.

MARIA
 (whispering to herself)
 shit... this is worse than I thought.

SAID
 (firmly)
 I'll end this once and for all.

Sisi Draws a knife and, without turning, throws it straight
 toward Saeed's heart.

SISI
 (smiling)
 Not if I finish you first.

Said collapses.

SISI (CONT'D)
Farewell, old friend.

Maria emerges from hiding, dragging him away as Sisi vanishes into the cave.

MARIA
(panicked)
You're going to be okay.

SAID
(barely speaking)
It... it must stay a secret. Don't tell anyone.

MARIA
(resolutely)
I won't tell anyone... except Jack.

Said tries to stand but stumbles.

SAID
(grimacing)
Good... he knows the story anyway.

Said attempts to pull the knife out, but Maria gently slaps his hand.

MARIA
Leave it. If you pull it out,
you'll lose more blood and die.

SAID
(half-smiling)
But... it's bothering me.

Maria, struggling to carry him, gives him a teasing smile.

MARIA
I thought you'd be the one carrying
me in our marriage, not the other
way around.

SAID
(laughing weakly)
You witch... you dreamed of carrying
you on our wedding day, but here
you are... carrying me as I bleed
out.

MARIA
(shushing him)
Shut up before I leave you to die
right here.

Maria continues to carry him, disappearing into the forest.

The only things visible are darkness, tall trees, the howl of
wolves, and the distant hoot of an owl.

FADE OUT.