

Untitled

written by

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FAGRET

By Hiabu Hassebu

Owna Village, in 1970.

FADE IN:

EXT. RIVER - DAY

GESHMERIT (40) and his oldest son SIRAK (14), are crossing the Dearit river, just to reach their destination, Ertola farm.

SIRAK
Daddy! Daddy.

His father turns his face around.

GESHMERIT
Come on! You are not crossing the Nile river.

SIRAK
Daddy I'm not kidding, I can't cross the water.

GESHMERIT
If you don't trust yourself, at least you trust me.

Holds his son's right hand and attempt, dragging him to cross the water.

SIRAK
I trust you in everything- but not in water.

GESHMERIT
I will take care of all your fears, just hold my hand.

Finally both cross the river.

EXT. SHRINE - DAY

Next to the river, there is the shrine of the Black Lady, resting under a big Baobab tree. Both stand in front of the Baobab Tree. After praying silently they walk towards the farm.

GESHMERIT

What did you ask the Black Lady?

SIRAK

To stop the awful war.

GESHMERIT

I know, the war has destroyed, our spiritual and social life.

SIRAK

Why's the enemy soldiers, always kill the innocent citizen?

GESHMERIT

"Well", since they can't stand, the revolution up rise, they revenge to kill the innocent.

Sirak looks frightened when he sees the tip of a pistol, under his father's waist.

SIRAK

Daddy, are you involved in the revolution?

GESHMERIT

What made you think that?

SIRAK

I just suspected, something...I mean.

GESHMERIT

You mean what?

SIRAK

I mean... I mean, you are carrying a gun.

EXT. ERTOLA FARM - DAY

Finally they reach their destination Ertola farm.

Geshmerit steps towards a big mango tree.

Several Bilen GIRLS workers (18-20), are picking and collecting, the fruits from the trees.

With a big basket full of fruits, on her head, one of the girl approaches him from behind.

GIRL

Is it allowed to eat one fruit from
the many bunch on my basket?

GESHMERIT

Not allowed while in work- but
before you leave is free.

All the girls, are singing in the local language.

Sirak, stands before them, turning around and listening them.

CUT TO:

ERTOLA (45), the owner of the farm, is at the backyard of his
farm, sitting in his old Jeep, trying to start the engine,
smoking his big cigar.

ERTOLA

Dammit! The engine is not running.

Ertola tries his best to start the engine, several times.
Gets so mad, just showing it in his face.

Geshmerit, approaches him from behind, dropping aside a big
bag of fruits, on the ground.

GESHMERIT

You okay boss! You feeling bad!

Geshmerit walks at the back of the car and picks a wrench
from down. Steps towards the front and opens the hood. Tries
to fix the untied connector of the battery.

CONT'D

Now try to start it again boss.

The engine starts.

ERTOLA

Thank you, Mr. Handy Man! I never
knew you were a mechanic.

In the middle, his pistol falls on the ground. Ertola gets
scared and looks at his face side way.

ERTOLA (CONT'D)

Are you involved...Um...I mean
involved with the freedom fighters?

Geshmerit bows down to collect it.

GESHMERIT

I ain't telling. I ain't telling
nobody about that.

Ertola reaches the gas pad. He first drive in reverse then
forwar, without even saying goodbye, disappears from the
area.

INT. HUT - DAY

All children with their mother HIRIA (35), are together in
their house. Sirak carrying the little baby on his chest sits
in the middle.

SIRAK

Do you think my Dad is doing the
right choice to join the
revolution?

HIRIA

No I don't. By the way how did you
know, that your Daddy is in the
revolution?

SIRAK

I just see him always carrying his
gun.

CUT TO:

Geshmerit under the sun, sits on a stool outside the hut,
making ready his farming tools.

GESHMERIT

Oh, the revolution! Though I didn't
join it willingly, I believe it's
right to fight the enemy.

Beat.

I hope my wife understands me.

He steps in towards the house.

INT. HUT - DAY

Inside the hut, Hiria is sitting on a mat, preparing
breakfast, brewing the local coffee on a local stove.

Geshmerit sneaks through the door and stands in front of his
wife.

She gets scared and shakes her head so bad.

HIRIA

It's horrible to even think about this dumb revolution. I wonder why you joined it.

Hiria pours the coffee, into a local mug and hands to her husband.

GESHMERIT

Oh, I hope you feel, like what I am feeling. I really don't feel discussing the issue, right now.

Again she lowers her head down, gazing with fearful eyes, onto her husband's face.

HIRIA

Huh, I don't see there is a way, to avoid it either.

EXT. UNDER A TREE - DAY

To avoid their arguments, invites her husband, to step outside. Both sit under a tree each one with a mug of coffee.

An awkward silence, follows between them, as she stands beside him.

HIRIA

The rank of being a boss of the village, might hurt you and all our family.

Beat.

Please don't put our family in danger.

He turns his face towards his wife, standing up from where he is sitting.

GESHMERIT

Which rank? Which rank? I don't know what you are talking about?

HIRIA

Clear and neat, the one from the Emperor HaileSilasie. I mean the rank of being the boss of the village.

Geshmerit sadly fumbles, for another sip of coffee. Suddenly, he feels very innocent.

GESHMERIT

Do you believe that? Huh...It is the villagers who awarded me, not the Emperor. It's not worth feeling like this.

She draws back her eyes to herself, giving him a horrible face.

HIRIA

I hope the freedom fighters, won't hear about that dumb affair. I don't have time to ramble around, to buy your real motive.

He stands and stretches his hands, on his slender hips.

GESHMERIT

I know who I am, and one who acts doesn't tell his mother.

In the middle, they hear a sound of bullets and bomb shells.

HIRIA

I'm kind of scared. Let's go inside.

CUT TO:

Both walk inside hut. Hiria hears the cry of the little baby, and rushes to the baby's bed, to calm the crying baby.

She walks back, collecting the crying baby and steps towards her husband, her eyes flickering from side to side.

HIRIA (CONT'D)

Please don't join this revolution. I'm begging you in the name of our baby.

He evades his wife's increasingly pointed questions, about his private political affair. Gives her his back and avoids looking at her.

GESHMERIT

I think you have it wrong. I really don't want to be trapped by your petty perceptions.

She shrugs, sounding more worried, with a puzzled air, on her face.

HIRIA

Today they give you a rank and
tomorrow they kill you. I just see
you imprisoned by your own ideas.

He appears totally unconcerned, about all her preoccupations.

GESHMERIT

I am not scared and worried about
getting involved, in politics.

She stares at him in an odd, blinking her eyes.

HIRIA

You are not exactly talking right
about our situation.

Pauses thinking it over and over.

HIRIA (CONT'D)

Why you put yourself in danger?

GESHMERIT

Believe me! My heart is with the
freedom fighters.

CUT TO:

He steps out from the hut and stands in front of the door.
She follows him stepping out.

HIRIA

I believe you are a created actor.

GESHMERIT

You only know one thing, but I know
two things.

Hiria allows herself another big sigh.

HIRIA

Please when you do it, do it
cautiously.

GESHMERIT

Don't worry, I have a green light,
I can play two balls at the same
time.

Hiria turns her head away, reaching the front door, trying to
open it.

HIRIA

Nothing to say, you know what you
are doing.

EXT. LALUMBA MOUNTAIN - DAY

The (ELF) Eritrean Liberation Front leader AREMREM 40, his
hair braided to his shoulder, sits on a big rock.

Takes out a cigar and tries to light it. After several puffs
of smoke he picks his binocular and watches Keren city.

Looks around the Fort area, the military base.

Immediately he grabs his radio to communicate with Geshmerit,
the double agent.

AREMREM

(Over the radio)

The Northern part of the fort, it
looks empty.

GESHMERIT (O.S.)

I can't see, what you see
commander.

AREMREM

It's my order we will attack the
enemy on the day of Christmas eve
day.

GESHMERIT (O.S.)

Received, just waiting for the
final order.

EXT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

The enemy military, in an open pickup truck, fully loaded
with big microphones, drive through the whole town and the
surrounding villages.

A SOLDIER 25, holding a microphone starts to announce, the
state of emergency to be followed by the people.

SOLDIER

(Reading)

To all the people of Keren and the
surrounding villages. This message
is from the Emperor Hailesilasie.
It's ordered in all the surrounding
a curfew from 8:00 to 5:00 morning.

(MORE)

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

If you don't follow the rules it's your responsibility. You either tell the bandits and the separatist to drop their gun and surrender to the Government.

All people of the surroundings in fear they rush towards their houses.

EXT. CHECK POINT - DAY

Geshmerit walks down towards his village. On the way he meets with a FRIEND 40, near the check point.

FRIEND

You look very relaxed. Didn't you hear about the Emperor announcement?

GESHMERIT

I don't give it dumb shit.

FRIEND

I wonder, if this fight against the Elephant, would make any political change.

GESHMERIT

I can't foretell about tomorrows, but I can assure you, the liberation of the country is for sure.

Both walk down the street, heading towards the checkpoint.

FRIEND

The soldier might suspect us. Do you carry your ID?

GESHMERIT

Yes, I do. Don't worry about me.

At the checkpoint, the soldier asks for their ID and lets them to proceed their way.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

A helicopter hovers up on the sky's of keren, dropping leaflets.

Friend picks one of the leaflets, and steps towards Geshmerit. Geshmerit is busy washing his feet.

The Friend reads the terrorizing message, to Geshmerit.

FRIEND

I told you! Your revolution, is going to put, the whole town, in danger.

GESHMERIT

I did not, catch your point.

FRIEND

Come on! We don't deserve, to be the victims of the wild soldiers.

GESHMERIT

Our ELF [Eritrean Liberation Front] leaders, are not so stupid.

FRIEND

No one crazy is found, to strike the first match, to burn the whole villages.

GESHMERIT

What do you mean?

FRIEND

Talking common sense.

Beat.

In the era of Cobra, what the Cobra say's, we must have to do, period!

GESHMERIT

At least, we have to show them, who we are.

INT. KEREN RESTAURANT - DAY

ELDERS (70-80) in a Restaurant, they're chatting about the top military envoy of King Haileselassie, to the capital city Asmara.

ELDER ONE

The little Jamaican god, is sending, his top general, to Asmara.

ELDER TWO

Jamaican GOD! Who?

ELDER ONE

The Emperor! Who else! Heard it on the radio.

ELDER TWO

Too late, the revolutionary train is half way.

Beat.

They might strike him on the way. I know, from their experience, once they decide, they do it.

ELDER ONE

The bald headed general will be confronted, by our Afro's guerillas fighters.

EXT. FORTO ATTACK - NIGHT

Heavy fighting erupts, between the freedom fighters and the enemy soldiers.

CUT TO:

Hiria is in her house, with six of her children. She observes outside through a hole and checks out the surroundings.

Stands cross-legged, facing towards the shrine, the Black Lady of Mariam Deari.

HIRIA

Damn is heavy fighting. No good can come out of this crazy and dangerous revolution. Black lady, have mercy on us.

She looks right and left.

HIRIA (CONT'D)

I hope we survive, with the survivors.

Beat.

Oh, God! We don't deserve it!

CUT TO:

The fighting heats up, big noise of bombs and bullets bombards the area. Six months old baby, is crying none-stop. To calm her child from crying, she leans against her baby's bed.

She points her breast, towards the infant baby, to feed her, with her eyes closed. Struggles to the end, to make the baby gets calm and quiet.

A minute later, she tries one more time, to make her drink, the holy water.

HIRIA (CONT'D)

Did we implore, all these sufferings! Let my fate be, before all my children! Let me die and my children, survive!

EXT. VILLAGE UNDER FIRE - NIGHT

Hundreds of mud house huts, are under fire. The military soldiers, are chanting and running around the burning huts. OWNA village is under fire.

CUT TO:

Geshmerit with his son, is on the farm. Sirak from a distant, observes Owna, surrounded by a big cloud of smoke. He turns his face, towards Owna village.

Geshmerit is busy doing his daily job of farming.

SIRAK

Oh, Lord my village is burning.
Owna, is under fire! Under fire!

He stands on a big stone, looking towards his father, again screaming loudly, his legs trembling.

SIRAK (CONT'D)

Daddy! Daddy! Our village is under fire.

Geshmerit sitting under a big mango tree, hears a loud scream from a distance.

He jumps from where he is sitting and walks towards his son Sirak.

Speeds his steps, heading towards Sirak, his heart beating fast.

GESHMERIT

What's going on? What's going on my son?

In the middle he stops and looks up at Sirak. Sirak is still standing on top of a big stone. Geshmerit stands there and taps hardly his foot on the ground.

CONT'D

Are you Okay. Are you Okay.

Sirak gets down from the rock and steps towards his father. Sweat drips down his face.

SIRAK

Don't you see, OWNA village is under fire?

Sirak feeling a panicky feeling, he leans against his upper body. Grabs him around his body, tight with his two hands. Geshmerit watches towards the village, as a big cloud of smoke covers the wide area.

Shrugs his shoulders in fear.

GESHMERIT

That would be the goddamn enemy soldiers, that set Owna Village on fire.

Sirak shakes his head right and left, as a sound of bullets and mortars dominate the area.

SIRAK

It's non-sense to kill innocent people. These cruel creatures, they don't own conscience besides killing and destroying.

GESHMERIT

If ever lucky souls would survive from the assassin soldiers.

Both stay sitting on hilltop, their faces facing towards OWNA village as it is under fire.

Silence dominates in between them as they see each other.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

BILL (35), a white American serviceman, wakes up from his sleep terribly shocked, by the sound of bomb shells and bullets. The fighting is not very far from their military base.

Gets down from his bed and attempts to look his socks under his bed. He tries to wear them, in a hurry, feeling dizzy and tired.

CUT TO:

Walks down the corridor towards the window, just to see of what's going. The early morning sun is shining brightly.

CUT TO:

Walks back to his bed.

BILL

I hope the dumb soldiers of the Emperor, will not revenge by killing innocent people.

CUT TO:

SARA (30), wife, steps towards the bedroom, to wake him up from his bed.

SARA

Honey, are you awake?

Bill turns his face up to the ceiling.

Rubs his arms as if he is still cold.

SARA (CONT'D)

(smiles)

Today you look so tired. By the way, did you hear the sound of bombs and bullets? Is very scary!

BILL

Nods.

CUT TO:

Runs back towards the kitchen.

Returns after one minute with coffee in mug.

SARA

I hope, our two kids are not aware, of this horrible sound of bombs.

EXT. CATHEDRAL - DAY

A BISHOP 55, staged on the stairs of the Cathedral, gives a touching sermon to more than 1000 people gathered there.

BISHOP

Cain, Cain where is your brother
Abel.

All started to cry.

BISHOP (CONT'D)

As the spirit of jealousy, entered
into your soul, you killed your own
brother.

Beat.

Your action will humiliate you for
all your life. Don't kill! Don't
kill.

INT. DINING-ROOM - MORNING

Bill sits down on a chair, stretching out his legs on the
floor. He listens the early morning news on the radio,
broadcasted from the USA.

Lays down the radio on the table, still on in a loud tone.

BILL

Unlucky people! Dealing with this
awful war! UN endless war! I hope
the years of my services get short.

Breaths deeply, as he tries to lower the volume of the radio.

BILL (CONT'D)

One day America will be regretful,
for helping the Emperor, in
fighting against the freedom
fighters.

CUT TO:

Their two kids, MAT (13) and LILY (10), are playing out door.

LILY

It's so nice finally to be here.

MAT

I hear you. No snow no cold
whether, for days to keep you
indoor.

They see a caravan of camels passing by the road.

LILY

Do you see live camels passing by?

Both start to count the camels in line.

MAT

I count 50.

LILY

Me too. I count 50.

From far distant, they see a big smoke rising up on the sky.
Both rush running inside the house.

CUT TO:

Matt, with a ball in his right hand and holding his sister tight they step towards the father, both trembling out of fear.

MAT

Daddy, Daddy don't you see all the
smoke over the sky?

Bill glances at them without saying anything.

CUT TO:

Sara stomps, as she steps on the stairs and walks forward towards her husband.

Feeling a feeling of fear, she stands up in front of him.

SARA

How will it end, all this
suffering, of these poor people?
Did you hear, more than 500 people
are massacred, in Owana Village?

His eyes flies open with a look of sadness.

BILL

I have been following the Radio and
it's true! I personally feel guilty
of being part of it, because of the
wrong policy attitude of the USA.

EXT. MASS GRAVE - DAY

The day after the massacre, about 100 STUDENTS (18-20) from King David high school, rush towards the scene, to bury the bodies in a mass grave.

Dead bodies are scattered here and there on the ground.

STUDENT A

It was as I feared, the destruction
of a whole village.

Student B, feels very sad with his face framed, reviewing in
his mind the atrocity of the enemy soldiers.

STUDENT B

It is a mass destruction.

Student C, tears run down his cheeks as he sees all the dead
bodies.

STUDENT C

Let us make a plan, to bury the
bodies.

Student D, shakes his head left and right in despair.

STUDENT D

I wonder if any survivor, will be
out there.

In the middle of their discussion they hear a baby crying.

Student A, his face get frozen with shock.

STUDENT A

Wait! Wait! I am hearing a baby's
cry.

Student C, expresses his worries of the crying baby.

STUDENT C

Me too, let us locate the crying
baby.

Student D, steps towards the crying baby, in a shaky breath.

STUDENT D

Here she is... Here she is. I got
her.

They found the baby, still sucking her dead mother breast,
her face full of blood.

Student A and D, take charge to take the baby to the Hospital
rushing down a narrow path. Student A, carries the baby over
his chest, while student D follows him.

STUDENT A

Hurry, hurry.

CUT TO:

All remaining students remain on the area to bury the dead in a mass grave.

INT. OFFICE — DAY

HUGHES (45), a retired American service man, is inside his office at the hospital. A NURSE 25, knocks gently at the office door.

HUGHES
Come on in!

She steps in and stands right in front of him.

HUGHES (CONT'D)
Did you hear of any survivor.

NURSE
No..., No...

HUGHES
It's Okay, I actually like hearing good news only.

She steps out of the office.

CUT TO:

We see the two Students at the Entrance of the hospital, with the survivor baby. Stepping down the long corridor in the middle they meet with a Nurse.

Instantly, STUDENT (A) opens his mouth.

STUDENT A
A survivor baby! The only survivor of the massacre.

The Nurse winces, looking sad.

NURSE
I feel sad for all the victims of the massacre.

Student A, hands the baby to the Nurse.

NURSE (CONT'D)
Is it a boy or a girl?

STUDENT A
A girl.

She takes the baby to a room.

CUT TO:

Hughes steps in the room, as the Nurse is bathing the baby.

HUGHES

How is she doing, the baby girl
survivor?

The Nurse appears hopeful and confident, about the baby's condition, smiling a wide smile looking towards the baby.

NURSE

She is doing fine. I hope, at least
one of her family member survives,
to take care of the baby.

HUGHES

Is really a miracle at least to
find a survivor.

CUT TO:

Hughes, walks out down the corridor of the hospital.

CUT TO:

The Nurse raises up the baby from her bed, holding her with her hand on her chest. For quite time she entertains enjoying the baby.

NURSE

Cute and adorable baby. To take
care of you is a blessing for me.

Kisses the baby on her both cheeks, as the baby starts to smile and laugh.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Three days later, Geshmerit hears on the news, about a survivor baby girl.

He walks towards downtown to Keren hospital.

He reaches the hospital and enters through an open door, slightly slamming the door behind him.

CUT TO:

The hospital ADMINISTRATOR (25), smiles, as he invites him to sit down.

ADMIN

How may I help you sir?

Geshmerit reclines forward, pulling himself towards the table, with a mild smile.

GESHMERIT

I came to see the survivor, if she is my child.

The Administrator stares at him.

ADMIN

(smiles)

Sure! Can you describe, the cloth or any other descriptions of the Baby?

Geshmerit keeps his head down.

GESHMERIT

If the baby is wearing a green cloth and on her right arm she has a bracelet, with Mary's medal.

ADMIN

Exact description! Congratulations! Mr. Geshmerit, the baby is yours.

Feels happy and excited.

GESHMERIT

God is great! Losing the whole of my family, to see someone alive for me!

CUT TO:

The Hospital Administrator, steps out of his office together with Geshmerit, stepping towards Mr. Hughes office, walking side by side.

He sits across from Mr. Hughes. Geshmerit stands behind him.

ADMIN

(grins)

I came to tell you about the good news. The gentle man behind me is the father of the surviving Baby Girl.

Hughes grabs Geshmerit's hand, shaking his hand hardly, looking at his eyes.

HUGHES

Congratulation Mr. Geshmerit! It's so nice someone to claim the baby.

Raises his hands up to the air.

GESHMERIT

Thank you. God is great!

CUT TO:

Hughes leading Geshmerit, both walk towards the Hospital compound. They stand under a big tree near an artificial little fountain.

HUGHES

I feel sad about all the massacre of Owna people. Did you lose other members of your family besides the surviving baby?

Geshmerit drops his eyes to the floor, tears coming down his cheeks.

GESHMERIT

Nods.

Again he takes a deep breath.

GESHMERIT (CONT'D)

I Lost five of my children with their mother. I and my oldest son survived, because at the time of the massacre incident, we were away from the place, both working at Ertola's Farm.

Hughes puts his smile back, giving him an advice, to get out from the bad experience and get connected to his next future hopes.

HUGHES

I feel sad about all that. But one thing I tell you, you don't die with the dead, hope within the process and God will be besides you.

CUT TO:

Hughes steers him down the corridor, towards the bedroom of the baby girl. One time he turns his face, towards Geshmerit.

GESHMERIT

This is the hard part, to take care of my orphaned baby girl. I don't know what to expect.

HUGHES

I feel you Mr. Geshmerit. On my part I will do my best to be part of the solution for your problems.

CUT TO:

Both reach at the baby's bedroom door. They walk in through the open door.

GESHMERIT

How are you going to help me?

HUGHES

It will only be a surprise, for now let's see your baby girl.

The baby assisted by the Nurse, who's sitting on a chair, with the baby in her arm, feeding her milk.

CUT TO:

Hughes tries to tiptoe towards the baby's bed. Glances at Geshmerit.

Both smiling at the same time gazing at each other.

Hughes to the Nurse.

HUGHES (CONT'D)

You are having a good time with the baby.

Still with her feeding attention to the baby, the Nurse smiles.

NURSE

Nods.

Again her eyes get fixed at Geshmerit.

NURSE (CONT'D)

(smiles)

Who is this gentleman?

Hughes taps Geshmerit's shoulder lightly.

HUGHES

He is the father of the baby you
are taking care.

NURSE

Oh, really! The baby is very lucky
to get someone in her life. After
all, he too is lucky.

The Nurse hands the baby to Geshmerit. He lightly grabs her
in his hands, kissing the baby repeatedly, for quite long
time.

CUT TO:

Hughes and Geshmerit, walk out from the Hospital bedroom,
stepping towards the exit door.

They reach the out door stairs. Hughes one time he glances at
Geshmerit, in a smile.

His eyes follow the trail of gazes and finally land on
Geshmerit.

HUGHES

Are you ready to take care of your
daughter?

Looks at his face shyly.

GESHMERIT

Not yet, just give me time. By the
way, I prefer, her name from now on
to be "Fagret".

HUGHES

Fagret! What to mean the name?

GESHMERIT

In Tigre language, it means a
female survivor.

Hughes grabs Geshmerit's hand and shakes his hand hardly.
They both make their way out.

HUGHES

When ready just inform me, on my
part I will help you.

EXT. TENNIS COURT - DAY

Bill meets with Hughes, at St. Joe's Tennis court. After they
played enough both sit on the green grass under a tree.

Hughes pats Bill's shoulder, as he is yawning widely, trying to cover his mouth.

HUGHES

How do you find life in Keren?

Bill listening him dispassionately, looks down the ground.

BILL

Very peaceful, than the noisy city of New York.

Hughes picks a banana fruit from his bag and throws to Bill.

HUGHES

I know, all the hustle and bustle of the city.

HUGHES (CONT'D)

Did you hear, about the Owna massacre, surviving baby girl?

Bill pauses in silence for several seconds, as he is excited to hear from him.

BILL

Really! I can't believe you.

HUGHES

In fact, the baby is under my custody in Keren hospital.

The plan of adopting a baby, being in his heart and mind, Bill interjects in surprise.

BILL

I hope you don't mind of my asking. Is the survivor an orphan?

Hughes curiously follows his eyes.

HUGHES

Motherless, but her father is alive.

INT. UN PAVED STREET - DAY

Geshmerit walks down on Unpaved street, heading towards his sister's house.

CUT TO:

His sister SELEM 35, is sitting at the front stairs doing her hair. She gets disturbed by dogs non-stop barks.

She deeply sighs.

SELEM
(whisper tone)
It's kind weird to be disturbed by
Hyenas in the night and dogs day
time.

CUT TO:

She sees Geshmerit stepping through the door and immediately raises up standing.

Both enter in to the house.

GESHMERIT
I came to tell you about the good
news.

SELEM
Glad to hear about the good news.

GESHMERIT
The surviving baby girl that you
are aware of on the news, is my
baby girl.

She shouts a shout of joy, raising both her hands on to the air.

SELEM
You made my dumb day bright. I feel
good and happy. By the way where is
she now?

GESHMERIT
In the main Hospital.

SELEM
She will be part of my family, I'll
take care of her.

GESHMERIT
I appreciate for all your kindness-
but.

SELEM
But what?

GESHMERIT

Mr. Hughes has mentioned me, to give his hand, in assisting me.

Beat.

Though I don't know, what kind it's.

SELEM

I advise you, to follow the wise man idea, for whatever the surprise will be.

INT. MUNICIPALITY PALACE - DAY

We see an Italian built Municipality in Keren downtown. On the upper building at the veranda, Hughes and Bill are sitting on a bench, waiting for Geshmerit to show up for the deal of an adoption.

Bill hoping to be part of the child's life, gazes at his face seriously.

BILL

I hope he accepts the deal of adopting his daughter.

HUGHES

Definitely, he's going.

BILL

Are you sure?

Hughes catches himself just in time, whispering back.

HUGHES

Hundred percent, I am sure, he will.

CUT TO:

Geshmerit steps up the stairs talking to himself, still grieving, for the loss of his entire family.

GESHMERIT

Huh! I can't climb two trees because I have two legs.

Beat.

I mean, I'm caught and challenged between two goods, that of adopting my daughter or keeping her with me.

He reaches the last step of the stairs, breathing hardly.

Glances left and right there to see Hughes and Bill sitting on a bench, at the corner of the veranda.

Hughes stands and steps towards him, leaving Bill who sitting on the bench.

Considering the situation of Geshmerit, Hughes smiles.

HUGHES

Welcome dear. On time.

Getting too long to get back to his feet, he politely gives a half-smile, dropping his eyelids.

GESHMERIT

Nice to meet you.

Hughes gazes straight at his face.

HUGHES

(grins)

You don't seem mentally alright?

The grief of the loss of his entire family, is still in his mind.

GESHMERIT

I am still in yesterday's memory.

Hughes puts his right hand behind his head, scratching his bald head.

GESHMERIT (CONT'D)

I know, the negative experience that is troubling my mind.

Hughes turns back to Bill, leaving Geshmerit on his own.

BILL

Any good news? I hope you convinced him.

HUGHES

Don't worry, we'll make it out.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

All walk inside the main Municipality office, to do their business of adoption.

An OFFICER 40, is sitting on a chair, waiting calmly arranging the documents to be signed.

The signing ceremony begins.

The Officer reads, the rules and regulation of the adoption case.

He invites all parties to sign the document.

OFFICER

To the record of your signing, the adoption law is applied.

CUT TO:

All walk out from the office silently, stepping down the stairs.

Hughes leads Geshmerit and Bill follow their footsteps.

Hughes stares at Geshmerit, slightly breathing.

HUGHES

(smiles)

This time I feel you made a good decision, I guess.

GESHMERIT

(in a say)

"The bread that satisfy me I know it while on the oven".

HUGHES

I love the say.

Geshmerit facing the possible loss of his daughter, flags down a sign of grief.

GESHMERIT

You know, I made a challenging decision and I don't know the future outcome either.

Hughes speaks softly with a caring look.

HUGHES

I am happy you did not refuse.

CUT TO:

After the adoption ceremony, Geshmerit walks along a dirty street, stepping, towards his sister's house.

On his way meets with Sirak, who's playing out with his peers.

SIRAK
How did it go?

Geshmerit sighs.

GESHMERIT
I decided your sister to be adopted.

SIRAK
I can't stay on it. To lose my sister.

GESHMERIT
I can tell you.

SIRAK
Tell me what?

GESHMERIT
I know you won't buy my decision.

Beat.

I'll feel guilty if ever I have taken unnecessary chances.

CUT TO:

Geshmerit proceeds walking, carrying the documents of agreement in his bag.

Reaches the house and slowly steps towards the door of the house.

CUT TO:

Selem's outside her house, giving her back to the afternoon sun.

She sees him entering through the door, pale and sweating like a pig.

SELEM
I see in your face something is not right.

He gets silent for a couple of seconds. Tears flooding his eyes, he deeply immerses into an ocean of thoughts.

GESHMERIT
Nods.

She gets confused over the cause of his disappointment and pain.

SELEM

But why you take it all by yourself?

GESHMERIT

I'm only worried, about the involuntary initiative, I have taken to adopt my baby.

SELEM

Get over it.

After a moment's hesitation, he expresses unfavorable feelings about his conditions.

GESHMERIT

If ever I can be relieved from the decision I made.

Selem becomes serious and takes a deep breath.

SELEM

Don't go back, like camels shit.

INT. DINING-ROOM - DAY

We see Bill and Sara, being in their apartment, eating their breakfast in the Dining room.

SARA

Thank you.

BILL

Thank you for what?

Sara breathing a sigh of relief.

SARA

For you being the agent to adopt a baby.

BILL

Now you got a full time job.

SARA

Is it a compliment?

BILL
 (chuckles)
 At last you will drop all the job
 interviews.

SARA
 (chuckles)
 After all you are my reference.

BILL
 (chuckles)
 No your counselor!

EXT. AIRPORT TARMAC - DAY

On their way we see all walking towards the plane, stepping
 on the paved tarmac.

Fagret is under the arms of Sara.

Matt and Lily step behind their parents, making happy faces
 to the baby.

Lily waves her hands on the air, with a smile, gazing at the
 baby.

LILY
 What a cute baby. She smiles all
 the time.

Mat gets to his feet and smooths his shirt, gazing at her
 with a smile.

MAT
 I hope you don't get jealous if
 ever I kiss the baby.

INT. ON THE PLANE - DAY

Mat and Lily sit on their seat, opposite to their parents.
 Bill sits next to his wife, while Fagret is under the arms of
 Sara.

BILL
 Are you happy?

SARA
 I'm happy and excited.

After a short pause, Sara lifts the baby up.

SARA (CONT'D)
A new guest to join our company.

Mat and Lily respond at the same time.

MATT/LILY
She is welcome.

EXT. CAMELS CARAVAN TOUR PLACE - DAY

Sirak starts a job as a lead, for camel's caravan, a business owned by a local rich man, in Keren downtown.

BOSS 45, early in the morning meets with Sirak on the job site.

BOSS
Today is a good day for our business!

SIRAK
Why?

BOSS
All our customers are from the dollar country, America.

SIRAK
So!

BOSS
Good for me and you.

SIRAK
How for me?

BOSS
You will have a good tip.

SIRAK
I hope my salary be in dollars!
Deal!

BOSS
No deal!

CUT TO:

Dozens white people from the USA. are waiting for the tour, sitting under a big tree.

SIRAK
Welcome to the camel's ride!

ALL

Thank you!

Sirak in a loud voice introduces himself.

SIRAK

Camel's ride is not like riding a taxi. Though camel has four legs, the ride is totally different.

SIRAK (CONT'D)

Okay, follow my instructions carefully.

All glances at each other not saying anything.

SIRAK (CONT'D)

Camel's ride, is free of air pollution. An open air, panoramic site. Its shit doesn't smell. Above all, it is a symbol, of our struggle, for our independence.

Sirak to show them practically he ride on the lead camel.

SIRAK (CONT'D)

Camel when it stands and sits, it makes four movements, two forward and two backward. Everyone has to move his/her body as to what the camel's movement is.... Okay.

ALL

Nod.

All get ready each standing at the allotted camel.

ALL (CONT'D)

Okay, we are ready.

A FEMALE 35, white lady doesn't follow, the instruction. She falls down.

Sirak runs to pick the lady up.

SIRAK

I told you! No insurance!
But she is okay! Only first aid.

All laugh at what happened.

ALL

No Insurance!

SIRAK

Yes no insurance! Only the holy
water of Mary the black lady.

The tour starts from down town and ends at the Shrine of
Mariam Deari. As they reach, near the village of OWNA, Sirak
starts to cry, tears running down his cheeks.

He points his finger towards OWNA.

SIRAK (CONT'D)

This's the village where I was
born. Few months ago about 500
people were massacred.

CONT'D

My mother with 5 of her kids,
became a victim. Only my little
sister Fagret survived.

A GENTLE WOMAN 40, from the group, steps forward.

GENTLE WOMAN

Sorry to hear that bad and sad
story!

SIRAK

Thank you all for feeling my
feelings.

GENTLE WOMAN

Where is the survivor?

SIRAK

In the USA.

The Gentle Woman collects money from all and hands to Sirak.

GENTLE WOMAN

Is little but it might help! What
else can I help you?

SIRAK

I really appreciate! May the
blessings of Mary the black Lady be
with you all.

Ten years later.

INT. SOFA - DAY

Fagret is alone sitting on a sofa watching TV. Sara is
cooking inside the kitchen.

FAGRET
Mommy watch this?

Sara steps swiftly towards Fagret.

SARA
Watch what? My baby.

FAGRET
Mommy look at that!

Sara sits down besides Fagret and join her watching.

SARA
What are you watching my baby?

FAGRET
I didn't expect that to happen. I
am very sad.

SARA
What really is going on? I am kind
worried about you.

FAGRET
Don't you see a black kid is
bullied by his skin color?

SARA
Really that doesn't feel good.

Sara caresses gently her hair.

SARA (CONT'D)
That is crazy, but don't ever get
stressed by this. Just be honest of
how you are treated at home.

FAGRET
It's very unfortunate moment, just
to see that. I mean the action in
itself stub my back.

SARA
Well, don't force your mind to
think like that. It won't work in
our house. Just collect yourself
back and forget the whole things of
what ever happened.

FAGRET

Sorry for that, I am just confused.
I should have made an attention to
my wordings, before I made it to be
a big noise.

SARA

Please, try to distinguish the bad
influences that come from outside
and the reality of your life.

Beat.

That's all I'm asking. For now
let's lock this down.

CUT TO:

Fagret steps out to the compound and joins Mat and Lily who
are playing on their own.

Mat throws the ball towards Fagret.

MAT

I would like to see you playing
with us.

Fagret grabs the ball.

LILY

You look distressed.

Fagret throws the ball back to Lily.

Shakes her head.

Lily steps towards Fagret.

LILY (CONT'D)

We care about you.

CUT TO:

A kicked ball lands to their compound, from the next
apartment. Two KIDS 14, jump over the fence to recover their
ball.

Lily takes the ball and run towards the house.

KID ONE

(in angry tone)
Give us our ball.

MAT
 Whatever lands in our property it
 becomes ours.

KID TWO
 Give back, if not I will break your
 head.

Fagret comes from behind and intervenes politely.

FAGRET
 What is going on with you boys?

KID ONE
 It is none of your business! You
 over baked black girl!

FAGRET
 Thank you! You half-baked face.

CUT TO:

Lily crafts and writes on the ball, with a charcoal.
 "Whatever lands in our property belongs to us".

CUT TO:

Again she runs back with the ball, towards the Kids.
 She hands the ball and gazes at them, sarcastically.

LILY
 Don't do it again! From now on the
 law applies!

KID TWO
 Which law?

LILY
 The one scripted on your ball!

Kid Two reads the script aloud.

KID TWO
 I hear you, the future neighborhood
 lawyer.

EXT. BACKYARD — DAY

Bill and Sara are having good time, at the backyard of their
 home, sitting on a long wooden bench.

Sara gives him a kind of smile.

SARA

All of our experience living in
Africa, just renews my spirit.

Bill remembering the years of his service in Africa, with
nostalgia he smiles to himself.

BILL

I miss the beautiful Bilen People
from Eritrea. Above all I miss the
females long hair, braided in
Shelil.

Sara again appreciates in her way.

SARA

They are crazy for dance too,
everywhere you hear their drums.

Beat.

I am glad, we adopted our Fagret
from Bilen people.

CUT TO:

Bill and Sara are still entertaining in chat. Fagret, Mat and
Lily show up from their school, entering through the main
gate.

Mat and Lily greet their parents, as they step towards their
bedrooms.

Only Fagret stays with her parents, together sitting beside
them.

Sara rubs her head gently.

SARA (CONT'D)

Good afternoon Fagret, You will
live for long!

Again gives her a kiss on her cheeks.

SARA (CONT'D)

As we were discussing about the
beauty of your origin- you showed
up.

Beat.

What a coincidence to our good
wish!

Fagret jumps from where she is sitting and stands straight
before them.

FAGRET
My origin who! What people?

Bill grabs her hands pulling her gently towards him.

BILL
The Bilen people!

Fagret stares at him with a smile.

FAGRET
So, my origin is Bilen! How about
being an American.

Bill taps her shoulder as she bows down.

BILL
Born from Bilen but adopted by
American.

EXT. HOUSE — DAY

Sirak that night he has a nightmare dream. He comes awake slowly feeling disoriented.

Geshmerit is listening his radio, sitting on a stool.

Sirak tries to focus his gaze to his father. He wipes his face still half asleep.

GESHMERIT
Are you okay my son?

SIRAK
I'm okay, but my mind was busy the
whole night.

Geshmerit feels unhappy, about the unfamiliar interaction of his son.

GESHMERIT
You mean dreaming?

SIRAK
Nods.

Coming out from the hut, Selem joins their conversation. Her feet padding through the door, steps towards Sirak and sits next to him.

Sirak braces himself.

SIRAK (CONT'D)

I love you Aunty, for not letting me to be orphan.

Beat.

My mind is struggling with reality of losing my true mom, but I appreciate you trying to be one there.

Gently repeats his phrase and pats on his arm.

SELEM

Is my duty my son. I am where I have to be there.

Beat.

If ever I will cover your mom's love and care.

Sirak walks out from the house.

CUT TO:

Selem stretches out her hand and stands behind Geshmerit. She grabs him from behind, whispering in his ear.

SELEM (CONT'D)

I think you don't get interested about-.

Pauses for seconds.

I mean about his dream.

Geshmerit unable to express himself, after briefly being silent, his eyes becomes moist.

GESHMERIT

Let me hear his dream, but don't expect act like a dream teller. Since I am not the one to give him one.

Geshmerit leaves the house and stays out

Selem remains on her own. Sirak steps in.

SELEM

Recite for me your dream Sirak.

Sirak gives her a long scary stare.

SIRAK

I see a very green hill, under it a small stream flowing. Suddenly the hill is surrounded, by a flaming fire.

She curiously follows his dream.

SELEM

Nods.

SIRAK

From the inside of the burning fire, I see a woman with some children playing.

Selem wonders about the strange dream, again glances at his face, with a smile.

CONT'D

Immediately, a voice comes out from the lady. Calling my name, SIRAK, SIRAK, would you like to join our company.

Selem breathes deep and follow his eyes, speechless.

CONT'D

I said, how can I do it, when all around is burning and in flames.

Selem touches the corner of her mouth with her fingers, waiting for the conclusion of the dream.

CONT'D

The woman then vanished.

Selem stands over Sirak's head, gently scratching his head. She can't help thinking of the message of his dream, though she is not a dream teller.

To give him confidence, in order to feel less stressed, she tries to express herself and share what she feels about the dream.

SELEM

Very powerful dream!

Sirak glances over at her.

SIRAK

Aunty, any idea of what the dream might be?

She goes through his line of thinking over and over, gazing at Sirak.

SELEM
(in a say)
"Never ask a blind and deaf, to
give you a direction".

Beat.

But I may try.

Based on his dream, she tries to elaborate about the dream, on her own.

SELEM (CONT'D)
Okay, the woman you saw in your
dream, might be your biological
mother. And all the children could
be your siblings.

His convictions somewhat clicks, to the reality of his dream.

SIRAK
Thanks' Aunty.

Ten years later.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Fagret's in her last days of her graduation time. That day Fagret is rambling inside the the corridor of the University.

The dean invites Fagret to his office. He approaches her, in a surprise and tells her to accept the honor of giving a speech, to the audience.

Fagret could hold back no longer and bursts into tears of joy.

DEAN
Fagret, you are being selected to
give a speech-

FAGRET
Give a speech?

DEAN
Nods.

FAGRET
It is a miracle!

DEAN
Miracles do happen.

FAGRET
I don't deserve, to have that
honor-but

DEAN
But what Fagret?

FAGRET
Just checking my strength versus
the availability.

INT. VILLA FRONT DOOR - DAY

After the rehearsal, Fagret by the time she reaches home, she meets at the front door, with Mat and Lily. She greets them, before she heads towards her room.

Fagret smiles.

MAT
How was your rehearsal?

FAGRET
Still working on it.

LILY
It betters be.

CUT TO:

She walks in with the rehearsal paper in her hand and sees both of her parents, sitting on a sofa.

FAGRET
Hi Daddy! Hi Mommy!

SARA
Good afternoon my daughter.

BILL
Hello! The honored speaker!

FAGRET

Sara's full-hearted comments, is interrupted by a sweet voice of Fagret.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
Oh, no! All that honor for me?

SARA

You deserved it since you have earned it.

EXT. INDEPENDENCE SQUARE - DAY

It is May 24, 1991, and it's Eritrean Independence Day. The whole population, is amidst a big celebration. The jubilant Commander Aremrem arrives to Keren town.

On his arrival, standing on a podium he delivers his speech of a victory, long awaited.

AREMREM

"Thanks to the martyrs, what we were waiting for years, we have it now. Our armed struggle for the independence, it cost us our dear life. Only the martyrs know what we went through. May all rest in peace.

Big shout of joy, claps and loud cheerings is heard.

AREMREM (CONT'D)

From now on we want to shape and build the future, with love and understanding.

(Light breath)

The martyr's last will is the unity of the people. If we stayed united, nothing bad will happen to us. Our voices are raised to forgive the enemy. As we are marching ahead, we must never allow our children live in the ocean of hatred.

CONT'D

(Sighs)

The enemy will not be enemy forever, we pardoned them, but not all their evil deeds. May the discipline of not taking revenge, dominate our souls.

CONT'D (CONT'D)

The door of oppression, is closed, Eritrea now is a free country. Glory be to those who glorified our people with freedom. Let's give time for healing, for the wound they wounded us was not that simple.

(MORE)

CONT'D (CONT'D)

Take care of the future, our
relationship will be from now on,
to live as neighbors, respecting
each other".

All cheering and shouting a shout of joy, they start to
dance, along the streets.

One more time he smiles at the crowd and raises his voice.

AREMREM

As we rejoice, let us remember all
the martyrs of the war.

Beat.

Heros don't live it is their deed
that live.

From a distant Aremrem, sees an old man walking towards the
podium. It is Mr. Geshmerit.

Geshmerit before he is to reach the podium, he stands
straight.

GESHMERIT

Long live the revolution and
victory to the masses.

Aremrem looks straight at Geshmerit. He immediately notices,
the man standing before him.

Aremrem extends a big smile and invites him, to join him at
the podium.

AREMREM

I am glad to see my old comrade Mr.
Geshmerit, live and healthy.
Here is the real living hero.

Again all cheer and shout a shout of joy.

CONT'D

Right now, if everyone is enjoying
this very day, of the Independence
Day, is because of all the martyrs
and the living heroes, like Mr.
Geshmerit.

All clap and cheer fills the area.

ALL

Our heroes are in our hearts.

CUT TO

Commander Aremrem and Mr. Geshmerit walk away, side by side, from the crowd.

CUT TO:

On their way they step to the old tea-shop, of Ajak.

AREMREM

How are you? Long time! I am glad to see you breathing and alive.

GESHMERIT

(Deeply coughing)

I am also lucky, to see you alive, after 30 years. How are you my lovely and brave commander?

AREMREM

Great! If I am not dead, I still am alive and healthy. How about you my dear?

GESHMERIT

I am feeling the feeling of an old age, plus the sickness are adding up-

AREMREM

Adding up! To better or worse.

GESHMERIT

To worse! As rivers never flow towards a steep slope, I can't go against the nature.

INT. GRADUATION HALL - DAY

Fagret is at the graduation ceremony. We see Fagret from the back seats stepping towards the podium. On the podium she ties to adjust the microphone towards her mouth, as she begins her speech.

FAGRET

This school has given me, much joy, since the day I started it. All my thanks be, to all my teachers and my colleagues.

Pauses and looks towards the audience.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

I am very grateful, to the family,
who adopted me and it is a small
way, of returning some love, I have
felt, all those years, since they
welcomed me, to be part of their
lives.....

Her adoptive parents, Matt and Lily, are sitting in the front row, each carrying a bunch of flowers and a balloon banner.

In the middle, tears of joy flows down her cheeks. She tries to wipe out the tears with a handkerchief.

CUT TO:

Sara as she sees a sudden interruption of her speech, gasps covering her face, with her slender white hands. Gazes and reaches out her hand, on her husband's arm.

SARA

Is it real or a show performance?
What is going on?

Bill looking concerned and confused, returns his gaze.

BILL

I don't understand, what is going
on.

His voice falters.

BILL (CONT'D)

I am really confused.

Sara feels humiliated and ashamed.

SARA

It distracted my mood to celebrate.

We see the Dean stepping towards the podium holding a trophy of an honor. He fist hugs Fagret and hands it to her. Fagret, holds up the trophy and kisses it.

FAGRET

(in a whiper tone)
Let me kiss the surprise, till the
luck materializes.

CUT TO:

Fagret sees her girlfriend ZIZI (21), stepping towards the podium, her eyes twinkling in a humor.

ZIZI
Fagret! Fagret! Congratulations!

Fagret gets down from the podium.

CUT TO:

Both step side by side towards the audience to reach their seat. All audiences eyes dart towards Fagret, still clapping and cheering. One more time Fagret glances at her parents from a distant.

After all the loud noises the hall turns to a real quiet.

ZIZI (CONT'D)
What a day! I really enjoyed the whole scen.

FAGRET
I hope, you liked my speech too!

Zizi holds her hand.

ZIZI
I believe so.

CUT TO:

CUT TO:

A brief silence follows.

Fagret enters into a status of an uncomfortable situation. She slowly steps towards her Adoptive Parents.

FAGRET
Today I feel very happy Mom. I am honored when I list expected it.

SARA
You deserve it my daughter. But what made you cry in the middle?

FAGRET
My innermost feeling, which myself I can't explain.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Fagret is having a little chat with Zizi, at the cafeteria of the university. Zizi stands up straight and fights back, to know Fagret's real identity.

A smile spreads across her face, gazing at Fagret's face.

ZIZI

To be honest with you, your look is
from East Africa.

Fagret stares at her and responds in a deep voice.

FAGRET

Could be! How about my accent?

Zizi glances at her again and takes a deep breath.

ZIZI

No doubt, you are American.

Hiding her precious secret of her identity, in kindly manner
hse changes the subject.

FAGRET

By the way how about you?

Zizi smiles up at her face. Bowing down her head scratches
her hair.

ZIZI

American from the Irish
descendants.

Changing her voice to a serious tone.

ZIZI (CONT'D)

For how long, have you been in the
USA?

FAGRET

All my life.

ZIZI

No accent, your English is good.

Again outlining her feeling, to discover better about
Fagret's hidden identity.

ZIZI (CONT'D)

Have you ever tried, to discover
your origin?

A smile touches the corners of Fagret's mouth.

FAGRET

"No".

Fagret didn't want to give too much information, about her identity and family.

She watches the time in her watch.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
Okay, for now I have to go!

EXT. DIRTY PATH - DAY

After twenty years living with his father, Sirak, decides to immigrate to the USA. He wearing a tattered jeans and old black coat, steps towards his aunt's home, walking fast on a dirt path way.

CUT TO:

Geshmerit and Selem are sitting outside the house.

SELEM
I don't mean to bury you in your own troubles. Things, have been pretty much changing, in here.

Geshmerit shakes his head.

GESHMERIT
After all what do you mean by that?

SELEM
All is in regard to Sirak.

GESHMERIT
What's new about Sirak, that I'm not aware of?

SELEM
In plain words, he plans to immigrate to the USA.

Geshmerit feels a sinking feelings, about where their discussion is heading.

GESHMERIT
I hear you, but that doesn't make sense for me. I don't want to lose him.

Her sensitive Habesha culture of being timid, hammers her inside.

SELEM

Don't you see, that Sirak is in bad shape? Though, you can't read his mind, his outward body is saying something, if ever you are aware of it.

Beat.

Sirak doesn't want to live in his own town, he just wants to desert it.

He swallows back a mouthful spit and stares at her.

GESHMERIT

Never got chance to read other minds, but what actually are you reading? I will figure out, how to handle the situation, though I respect your instinct and observations.

CUT TO:

After long walk, Sirak steps slowly towards the house. First he greets them both and sits next to them. He slightly leans towards his Aunt, as he sternly gazes at his father.

SIRAK

I hate to tell you the truth Daddy! It's my way of saying it. Enough, is enough! Though it is painful, I decided to leave this country, I hope temporarily.

Geshmerit finally he shrugs.

GESHMERIT

There is nothing wrong, with your decisions. Since, you are one step ahead of me, I will not disengage you.

EXT. DRIVING - DAY

Fagret, Mat and Lily are driving towards the auction place in Tyson's Corner a car in Virginia.

Mat is on the wheel.

Fagret gets upset and tells Mat to speed up.

FAGRET
Give it more gas.

CUT TO:

They reach the auction place.

Fagret hurriedly opens the car and starts to walk fast towards the main building.

Lily and Mat follow her relaxingly.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
I hope today will be my lucky day.

LILY
I hope you woke up, from the right side of your bed.

FAGRET
You know, my sister! I wish to kiss my dream car.

MAT
Me too, I wish you to succeed, in obtaining your dream car.

FAGRET
God help me.

CUT TO:

The bid is already in session.

Fagret as she is short, she steps towards the highest standing platform, for a better view of the cars.

Lily and Mat stand near her.

Fagret points to the black Hyundai.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
I will bid for that black car.

Beat.

I like that black color, I hope it is a Japanese car.

LILY
It looks good, from outside. Don't get excited so easily, my friend.

FAGRET
What kind of car is that?

MAT

Wait until it is on the bid.

CUT TO:

In a raised platform, the bid announcer with a microphone on his left hand and a small stick on his right, starts to introduce the bidders, as the black Hyundai reaches the stage.

The bid announcer, arranging his words to convince the bidders, in a monotonous broken sentences, recounts its type, model, year and its condition.

In the middle Fagret raises her hand.

LILY

I think it is Hyundai.

FAGRET

Not knowing the difference.

That is what I like. The Honda!

Fagret very excitedly raises her hand.

The bid announcer points at Fagret, with his stick.

ANNOUNCER

Young lady at the back, you win the bid!

FAGRET

Wow! I am lucky.

ANNOUNCER

Congratulation! Go to the next window.

CUT TO:

Fagret steps towards the window booth.

All follow her footsteps.

Only Fagret goes to the office to complete the deal.

Mat and Zizi walk back to see the car.

MAT

I doubt, if the car is according to her liking.

LILY
What is her preference?

MAT
I guess Honda.

MAT (CONT'D)
Does she know the difference?

LILY
After all, it is not camels market.

CUT TO:

At the parking lot Mat attempts to see through the window glass looking the millage.

MAT
It is law millage.

LILY
I hope it is functioning car.

CUT TO:

Fagret coming out from the office, walks down the stairs.
She calls Mat, to pick the key of the car, and start it.

FAGRET
Here you have the key.

At the corner Fagret speaking to herself.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
Finally, Fagret to own a car, a
Honda of my liking.

Mat starts the car. A huge smoke comes out of the car.

Fagret shouts to stop the engine, since the smoke is high.

MAT
I smell something, inside.

FAGRET
It's Okay my brother, maybe,
because it was parked for a long.

MAT
Believe me, car auction is a
gambling place.

All see to each other, intruiged by the situation

Fagret gets frustrated.

MAT (CONT'D)

Isn't that what I said, the car has a transmission failure.

FAGRET

What a bad day.

MAT

Is it worth, spending on this junk car.

FAGRET

The system makes you, decide and lose at the same time.

LILY

Don't blame the system, blame yourself my sweet friend.

FAGRET

If my cow is stolen! How about to shout! Really, black Sunday of misfortune.

EXT. VILLA COMPOUND — DAY

We see half-naked Bill, now on his mid 70s, walking towards his mowing truck. Holding a big plastic bag he starts to collect unnecessary thrown bottles from the grass.

He stands near the grass field, just to oversee, the grass. He walks down the compound observing the front and back yard.

Before he's to start cutting the grass, looks back to his wife Sara, who is sitting under the villa porch, rocking on a chair.

He starts the engine.

BILL

Gorgeous day! Right time to cut the grass.

SARA

Good for you.

BILL

I'm doing it, if ever I can assure my love to you.

Sitting on his truck, makes several rounds of mowing. Smiles back to his wife, who returns a smile with a smile, watching her husband from a distant.

BILL (CONT'D)

I hope you enjoy of what I'm doing?

Driving the mowing machine in a straight line, back and forth, enjoying his pepsi drink.

SARA

I realize that. It isn't the first time to ever enjoyed you, doing men's job.

BILL

Just to get connected in love with you, darling. I think this is what women like.

Half an hour later, after he finishes cutting the grass, he steps towards the front stairs, wiping his sweat from his face, with his white shirt.

INT. THE SOFA - NIGHT

Fagret, after relaxing the whole day, before she is to go to bed, she lies on the sofa.

When no one seems to notice her, she decides to call Zizi.

FAGRET

(Over the phone)

Hi, Zizi! How are you?

Zizi, waking up from her sleep, steps towards phone.

ZIZI (O.S)

The same!

Beat.

It is early in the morning! You did not sleep?

FAGRET

Not really!

ZIZI (O.S)

Why?

FAGRET

The dumb Auction tragedy, made me focus, my skin color.

ZIZI (O.S)
What do you mean?

FAGRET
The way they treat me, I experience
as being different.

Zizi lightly scratches her head.

ZIZI (O.S)
I hope it does not consume, your
life reality.

Fagret before to hung-up the phone, she sighs.

FAGRET
I hate when the reality, is not
stepping the right way.

ZIZI (O.S)
We can talk about the reality.

FAGRET
Maybe tomorrow, take your time.

EXT. HILLTOP - NIGHT

We see Sirak walking alone down the streets of Mexico, a bag pack at his back heading towards the border. He already made a deal with a Mexican a human trafficker.

Half a mile distant, from the checking point, a HUMAN TRAFFICKER 35, is making his last last pay of the deal.

HUMAN TRAFFICKER
Gentle man, you have the last
remaining money, to pay me right
now.

SIRAK
How much is it?

HUMAN TRAFFICKER
1500 dollars.

Looks up and down, left and right.

SIRAK
Please I run out of money.

Collects from his pocket a bunch of dollars and starts to count.

SIRAK (CONT'D)

Sir, I can give you what I have. I have the last 1000 dollar.

HUMAN TRAFFICKER

I need the full pay, sir.

SIRAK

Well, that's all I put down.

EXT. A PAVED PATH - DAY

Fagret walks along side a paved concrete, with her heavy black jacket, on her hand.

CUT TO:

She reaches, at the threshold of her house gate. Bill is sitting on the stairs.

BILL

How was your job today our beloved daughter?

Inhales deeply and glances around quickly.

FAGRET

It's fine but still I need time to adopt to my new job.

Bill smiles at her to ease her mind.

BILL

Little by little you will adopt.

CUT TO:

Fagret steps inside the house.

She meets Sara who's sitting on a sofa, watching TV. Fagret, greets her mom and steps towards her room.

A little later she steps back. She sits on the sofa, closer to her, wearing a dark night gown.

Sara puts off the TV by a remote.

FAGRET

"Mommy".

Sara gives her an encouraging smile.

SARA
What's up Fagret.

FAGRET
I want to tell you something.

SARA
Well, go on.

FAGRET
I can't get over... it...um.

SARA
What's going on with you this time?

FAGRET
I mean something inside me is
bothering me. I mean-

Sara interrupts her looking over at her and inquiring, what is going through her head.

SARA
May I know what is bothering your
mind?

Her eyes crinkling at their corners.

FAGRET
I'm just complicated by the
identity crisis.

SARA
Identity crises! What do you mean
by that?

FAGRET
Though the family connection I have
with you, is in its place,
something is bothering me inside.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
I only want to know-

SARA
Know what?

FAGRET
May I know the name of my natural
father?

Sara rubs her fingertips, not ready to confront her concern.

SARA

Sorry for not telling you earlier.
We followed the river on our own
way. Your natural father name is
Mr. Geshmerit from Owna village
Keren Eritrea.

Fagret lowers her head down, as if she is shy.

FAGRET

I am so sad to hear it, after
twenty-five goddamn, years. All
those years, I was suffering
because of my skin color.

Pauses, ruminating on her own words.

Beat.

I wish my skin is like Mat and
Lily.

EXT. BORDER CHECKPOINT – NIGHT

We see Sirak on the hilltop, together with other illegal
immigrants, who are wating to cross the border. The time they
have chosen to fulfil their plan is in a complete darkness.

At mid-night, when total darkness dominate the area, all the
group, succeed crossing the fence.

After walking half a mile on foot, suddenly, a border patrol
pick up approaches them from behind, lighting the area with a
high beam flash.

Unluckily Sirak is apprehended by the patrol agents with
dozens of other nationality.

Two PATROL AGENTS on their mid forty, step out from their car
and walk towards the group, with their flash-light on.

PATROL ONE

Stop where you are and don't move.

All stop, as Sirak is trembling his whole body, in fear.

PATROL TWO

Let them walk towards the car.

Patrol Two walking behind the group, drives them, with his
gun in his hand. They load them all, on the Pickup truck and
drive fast towards the detention center.

EXT. MASS GRAVE - DAY

We see Selem and Geshmerit at the shrine of the Black Lady both praying.

SELEM

I hope you collect yourself with prayer. Am I right?

GESHMERIT

You are totally right-but.

SELEM

But what?

GESHMERIT

I'm still worried about what will happen to my two kids, that are out of my sight.

SELEM

Still, I don't see any reason to fall onto this anguish.

GESHMERIT

I hear you but my mind is rambling between "If" and "What".

SELEM

Totally lost unable to read your mind.

GESHMERIT

I mean, what if Sirak gets apprehended by police as he cross the border. Will he be able, to find his sister Fagret whom I don't have a clue, if she is still alive.

SELEM

Well, it's about time to go home. Let's wait for the miracle from the Black Lady.

CUT TO:

On their way back home, they pass nearby the mass grave, of OWNA's massacre.

Geshmerit starts to cry loudly.

GESHMERIT

What sin I made to suffer all my life, to remain without children and wife.

SELEM

At least you have to thank God, for the remaining of your children, Fagret and Sirak.

GESHMERIT

I don't doubt about that but I feel still guilty of two reasons.

SELEM

What reasons?

GESHMERIT

First, for allowing my child to be adopted by foreigners and second about Sirak who escaped the country.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

We see Zizi parking her car on the parking lot of Fagret's house.

CUT TO:

Fagret is busy in the kitchen, together with Sara.

CUT TO:

Zizi steps towards the house as she reaches the front door, she rings the bell.

Fagret opens the door.

All family are on the table, eating their lunch.

Zizi greets them all.

ZIZI

Hi! Dears.

BILL

Welcome Zizi!

SARA

(in a say)

"Your mother, in-law loves you".

ZIZI
Sorry! What do you mean by that?

BILL
You showed up at the right time.

ZIZI
Right time? What?

BILL
You happened to be here, at the
time of our meal.

FAGRET
Ha...ha...ha..., latecomers, either
they win or lose.

ZIZI
Which one refers to me? Winner or
loser?

FAGRET
I guess you are a winner, Zizi! We
are just starting to eat. You are
still on time, to share the food
with us.

Beat.

After all, you are a winner. Come
and help yourself my dear.

Zizi joins them eating.

Fagret looks at her watch.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
Time to go, Zizi.

Both leave the house, stepping out.

CUT TO:

It is 4th of July. The streets in downtown are full packed by
people walking on the sidewalk of the streets, all talking,
laughing and enjoying the nice warm weather of the late
afternoon, after the hot and sunny day.

CUT TO:

Fagret and Zizi arrive Downtown DC, driving for half an hour.

CUT TO:

Both walk on the sidewalk, curiously observing the surrounding and the people walking around.

ZIZI

This is a real life, where everybody is freely walking. I'm really enjoying the true freedom.

CUT TO:

They walk slowly smiling at each other, in day light. When they reach an open pizza house, both enter to eat their food.

Fagret Keeps her line to be served by the clerk, for an order. Zizi steps towards an empty table and sits down.

A young WHITE MALE 20, a customer, who is in line behind Fagret, starts to shout and curse.

Coming from the back.

WHITE MALE

You Nigger! I am before you.

FAGRET

No problem there is no need to yell. Fix yourself up. I wouldn't care at all, of your crazy, name-calling.

Beat.

Don't penalize my mind, with your stupid and unattractive, scolds.

A CLERK 25, intervenes in the middle, to change and cool down the air of their arguments, in a smart move.

CLERK

Early in the morning, either meet a smiling lady, or pray to your God, for your dumb day, to be bright and right.

Fagret smiles at the Clerk.

FAGRET

I hope I offerd my smile, but he needs to pray his God, I assume.

One more again Fagret faces the White Male.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

What wrong did I do to you, just to rein me with that curse.

The White Male chuckles, not accepting Clerks say.

WHITE MALE

I don't care.

Zizi loses her eyes and gasps voice less. Fagret steps towards Zizi and sits across her.

After 10 minutes their order, comes.

A WAITRESS 23, carrying a whole pizza, on plate steps towards their table.

WAITRESS

Help yourself.

Zizi looks down to the plate and she watches curiously, for seconds.

She holds a slice of it, up towards her mouth.

ZIZI

Oh, my God! This is very delicious.

FAGRET

It is wholesome.

After they finish eating, both go out and proceed walking again, on the side of the main street.

CUT TO:

Bill and Sara together with Mat and Lily are in Down town. Both walk on the main street.

Mat and Lily follow stepping behind. They enjoy their walk by looking and admiring, through the glass windows of the mini-shops.

In the middle a fire work starts.

CUT TO:

Lily and Mat though they are not able to see, the firework popping up on the sky, they hear the big noise and sound. On the other side of the street, they see an IMMIGRANT 30, running. He immediately lies on the ground, protecting his face, with his backpack.

IMMIGRANT

Shit! Always the war follows me.

Bill and Sara turn their face back to see their kids. They step back few yards to see of what is happening. They see the Immigrant, lying straight on the ground.

Mat and Lily step towards him in a tiptoe, as he covers his head with his hands, shivering out of fear.

MAT

Are you okay? Are you okay?

Lily bows her head, trying to talk to the Immigrant, in a soft voice.

LILY

What is going on with you gentleman?

The firework is still continuing.

The Immigrant hears the voice of Lily. He opens his eyes and glances at them both.

IMMIGRANT

Don't you hear all these loud noises of bullets, grenade and mortars. A war broke out. Please lie down to save your life.

CUT TO:

Bill and Sara joins them.

Though they don't understand of all his actions, they get curious. Bill stretches his hand to lift him up

BILL

Oh, be calm it is not war. Don't you know today it is the 4th of July.

Beat.

It is a firework. It is the sound of joy and happiness.

IMMIGRANT

So, why do they do that dumb thing. In my country we express our joy, simply by drums only.

Two middle ages COPS stepping relaxedly they reach the immigrant who is sitting on the age of the walking path.

Cop One politely asks his ID, as he flashes his eyes up at the sky and back down.

COP ONE

Is your first time in America? Do you have an ID?

Scratches his head, his legs trembling.

IMMIGRANT

I don't have an ID.

The Immigrant, one time controls himself, standing up on a sidewalk. Cop One sees him distracted in his mind.

Takes out the hand shackle from his right side ordering him to stretch his hands forward.

COP ONE

You are under arrest.

The Immigrant politely complies to the order.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The whole family are sitting in a round table.

CUT TO:

Fagret steps down the stairs to join them.

Fagret sits in between Mat and Lily.

MATT

I'm excited about your new job as a judge.

LILY

Me too.

FAGRET

Well, I need to play few practices to be the real one.

In the middle Sara intervenes, as she follows their discussion.

SARA

Very polite, I don't have to contribute to your conversations.

BILL

Congratulation again, for your first day on the job as judge.

Fagret's eyes drops, from looking straight to all.

FAGRET

I accept all your good wishes and intentions. Though I'm a beginner to this profession, keep me onto your prayers.

INT. COURT HOUSE OFFICE — DAY

A month later by coincidence, the case of Sirak is lead to Fagret. Judge Fagret starts her daily job, in a silent contemplation.

She sits meditating in solitude, in a room behind the courtroom.

CUT TO:

The SECRETARY 30, steps down the corridor with a bunch of files in her hand. She gently knocks the door.

Fagret hears a gentle knock, from the outside of the door.

FAGRET

Come on in.

The Secretary steps in, in a tip-toe.

SECRETARY

(smiles)

Good morning judge Margaret.

She lays all the court documents, on top of her desk and walks back out, as Judge Fagret gives her a smile.

Judge Margareth, her original name being Fagret, all of what they call her is by this American name.

The Secretary steps out of the room.

FAGRET

(sighs)

I wish they know me all, by my real African name!

Drags the court files towards her and starts to read, the names of the due date court hearing. Suddenly, she reads the name Geshmerit. She gets confused lost in the reality.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Mr. Geshmerit! Mr. Geshmerit!

Before she is to read the whole content, for a couple of minutes, she stays in silence, meditating on this sensible issue.

The one that increased her irritation, is the name Geshmerit.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
 Could it be, the name of my
 biological father!

INT. COURT LOBBY ROOM - DAY

Sirak as a defendant of his case, is already at the courtroom lobby, with hands shackled and guarded by a Cop. Sirak's LAWYER (45), sits besides him.

Sirak leans towards his lawyer's ear.

SIRAK
 Do you think we will win the case?

Beat.

If ever they deport me back home,
 one thing I feel sad about is,
 never to see my blood sister
 Fagret, the survivor of the
 massacre of Owna.

LAWYER
 At least we try, let the day judge
 itself!

INT. COURT ROOM HALL - DAY

Judge Fagret wearing the court vestment, led by the security GUARD (40) sits on the elevated court podium.

Fagret makes a quick glance looking right and left.

She sees Sirak his hands shackled, sitting on the front row.

Few minutes later the Cop unshackles his hand.

Sirak walks to the right side of the courtroom and sits beside his Lawyer.

The Security Guard faces to all the court attendees.

GUARD
 "All arise".

All get stand.

Judge Fagret orders all to sit down.

She starts to organize all the court files of the day, arranging them in their order.

Glances toward the attendees, not saying a word.

She starts to read the procedure and law order as all remain silent and seated.

FAGRET

The session is open.

Lowers the hammer down.

Fagret looks left and right and greets all.

The court protocol begins.

Fagret faces towards the defendant Sirak, gazing at his face. Calls his name by his family name.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

Mr. Geshmerit!

SIRAK

Nods.

FAGRET

Did I read your name, correctly?

Sirak returns a smile.

SIRAK

You read it perfectly, despite the accent.

She turns her face down breathing deep.

One time she tries to look up to Sirak. She politely invites him to sit down.

The defendant Lawyer for Sirak, raises up and loudly he reads the case of his defense.

After listening carefully, to the defendant's case, she starts to interrogate, the defendant Sirak.

Invites the defendant to give his full information.

FAGRET

What is your full name?

Sirak snaps his head, straight as he stands.

SIRAK
Geshmerit Sirak.

Shifts her eyes away licking her lips.

FAGRET
I guess you are an immigrant from
Africa.

SIRAK
Nods.

FAGRET
But where precisely?

He gives her a tired smile.

SIRAK
Keren town - Owna village - state
of Eritrea.

Sirak accurately responds to all her questions.

Her hands start to tremble.

The Government Lawyer opens his case against the defendant.

The courtroom turns dead silent.

After listening carefully from both sides, the time for the
verdict comes.

FAGRET
Here is the court last decision and
order!

Sirak slightly bows his head, looking sideways to his lawyer.

Tears come out from her eyes down to her cheeks.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
Unfortunately, the defendant Mr.
Geshmerit has to be deported to his
country, based on our immigration
law.

Beat.

I give him three months of
probation to stay in a house
detention before he is to be
deported.

Pauses for seconds.

Her head falls down over the desk.

In the middle, the Security Guard steps towards the podium. He steps towards Fagret. He sees her eyes, twinkling in horror.

Behind him the Secretary following his footsteps, reaches the podium.

The Secretary leans towards her ears.

SECRETARY
(whisper tone)
What's going on Judge Margareth?

The whole atmosphere of the court attendees has changed. All in a murmur in a low voice, they start to talk to each other.

Judge Fagret with the help of the Security Guard and the Secretary, tries to move down from the podium.

CUT TO:

She leaves the courtroom hall and steps towards her office room. In a hurry she takes out all her court vestment and wears her casual dress.

FAGRET
This is a real miracle!

Touches her body.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
Is it real! Or I am in the world of dreams.

CUT TO:

Sirak and his Lawyer get astounded by the situation. They remain standing, glancing at each other without talking.

CUT TO:

Fagret walks out form the room quietly. She walks down the corridor in a slow motion, stepping towards Sirak.

The Secretary and the Guard follow her, still not knowing of what is going on.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
Mr. Geshmerit! Mr. Geshmerit!

Beat.

I am Fagret your sister.

Sirak gets embarrassed.

SIRAK
My Sister! My sister.

She hugs and kisses Sirak.

FAGRET
Yes! Your sister!

Sirak remains stand and astounded, smiling and nodding, like he couldn't wait to burst into a shout of joy.

SIRAK
Is this a real action of the last
film show?

After a moment of a dubious status between them, Fagret moves forward to give a hug and a kiss.

CUT TO:

The Security Guard moves to the center of the hall.

In a loud voice, he announces, facing to the court attendees.

GUARD
Sorry! Today's court session is
canceled.

All the court attendee, one by one start to walk out, from the hall.

CUT TO:

Fagret holding his hand, invites Sirak to move to her office.

FAGRET
Let's get out of here! Be alone on
our own and talk for some time.

SIRAK
Nods.

INT. HUT - DAY

Geshmerit, is at Selem's house. Selem gives him a suspicious look and points her finger at him, rolling her eyes.

SELEM
I see you mentally disturbed. Don't
you?

On his part he regrets about his daughters adoption,
complaining to himself and deeply immersed in a thought.

GESHMERIT

Nods.

SELEM

Don't doubt, the Angels of our
country one day they will respond.

GESHMERIT

After all what is life, without
wife, without children to take
care.

His pain overwhelming her mind and looking puzzled.

SELEM

Complaining to whom.

GESHMERIT

To my and your creator.

Dropping her eyelids halfway.

SELEM

All things will pass, just try to
stay firm and have faith.

GESHMERIT

I am totally confused, weather to
bless or curse my life.

INT. STAIRS — DAY

Fagret after a brief silence that has kept her, to be in a
status of an uncomfortable situation, slowly goes down the
stairs of the house.

CUT TO:

Sara's busy cooking in the kitchen. Fagret steps into the
kitchen, in her mind thinking about how to address herself,
about the good news.

FAGRET

Today I feel very happy, Mom.

Sara in a shocking low voice, gets embarrassed.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

After lingering for years, with the
pregnant hope-

Sara interrupts her.

SARA
Pregnant hope-...what?

FAGRET
The delivery happened.

SARA
Just say it.

FAGRET
I met...-I met...

To verify the situation, Sara steps out from the kitchen, inviting her to sit on a chair, of the dining table.

SARA
Met who?

Sara walks to the kitchen, to fetch some food.

SARA (CONT'D)
I hope it is good news.

Bill after staying outside, working at the garden, joins their conversation.

Fagret blinks her eyes and reflects to the real show.

FAGRET
I met my blood brother from Africa,
today at the court house. It
happened right at the courtroom
while in session.

BILL
But how?

Fagret takes off her black glasses and rubs her eyes.

FAGRET
Give me a few seconds.

Puts her black glasses back.

FAGRET (CONT'D)
I'll tell you everything of what
has happened.

BILL
I hope all will be good news.

FAGRET

Good and bad.

BILL

What do you mean by that?

FAGRET

The good news is, the surprise I got in the court room. I mean to see the defendant to be my blood brother.

BILL

Good to hear about the good news- but what is the bad news?

FAGRET

Unfortunately, I ruled against my blood brother to be deported, back to Africa.

BILL

Don't tell me.

FAGRET

Two battles, two feelings. Knowingly, I can't transgress the law of the country, though I feel bad in deporting my brother.

INT. DRIVING — DAY

We see Fagret early in the morning, driving towards the house detention place. After twenty minutes she reaches her destination.

Parks the car at the parking lot and proceeds walking towards the main building.

After a long walk, through the corridors and the stairs, reaches Sirak's place.

Sirak is sitting with other detainees, having his breakfast. As soon as he sees her, walking towards him, steps towards her.

CUT TO:

Both step towards his room. She sits on a chair near him, sitting face to face.

FAGRET

I'm not left alone, to worry about
all my job. I feel happy to be with
you, my brother.

Sirak smiles sweetly.

SIRAK

Me too.

Soon Fagret's mind starts to recollect, all the courtroom
scene, as she tries to join with her brother mentally.

She feels a feeling of cheerfulness, as she starts her
conversation, eagerly to know about her biological father.

FAGRET

Where is my father? Is he still
alive?

Sirak takes a bunch of photos out of his pocket. Hands her
the picture of his Father Geshmerit.

SIRAK

Here it is!

SIRAK (CONT'D)

This is your biological Father!

Her eyes being fixed at seen her Dad's photos, her mind
starts to revive her life as an orphan, in a painful
sensation, tears running down her cheeks.

FAGRET

Oh my God! I have to see him
immediately before he dies.

She sighs, gazes at the picture, holding it close enough to
her eyes.

Gets impatient to learn about her biological father.

After the pause of half a minute again smiles to her brother.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

I wish to meet him soon!

INT. AIRPORT TICKET LOUNGE AREA -DAY

Fagret sets her departure to Africa, the same day of the
deportation day of Sirak. Both meet at the airport ticket
lounge area.

After exchanging hugs and greetings, he shouts out of joy.

SIRAK

Nice to see you, my sister!

She again and again hugs and kisses him.

FAGRET

I can't believe it! Do you think we can do it? I mean see my Daddy alive.

CUT TO:

Both walk side by side heading towards the plane, through the man made airport tunnel, to reach the parked plane.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

I hope you don't feel bad and sad, about the decision I made, to deport you back home.

In a plain excitement.

CONT'D

"All things serve a purpose". God is great! Never to pressure Gods ways and never get guilty about your decisions. My mind already compensated it, to seen my sister after many years.

Again both hug and kiss each other.

CUT TO:

Both step towards the plane, sitting side by side.

Fagret searching her bag she takes out the photo of her Daddy. She kisses the photo repeatedly.

Sirak enters into a deep sleep.

Again she picks the whole photo album of her adopting Family.

Sirak wakes up from his sleep.

She extends her kindness with great politeness and cordiality, reading the sincerity on his face.

FAGRET

All the time I was asking, about my origin.

SIRAK

Asking what? To who?

FAGRET

I mean asking my Adoptive Parents.

SIRAK

I'm so glad about the coincidence.

FAGRET

I hope to meet my Father, alive.

She enters into a deep thought. In her mind she recites all those years, of her absence from her biological father.

All the positive and affectionate attention, she got from her Adopting Parents, drains into her mind in a day dream, in a series of pictures.

Sirak, without saying anything, he just glances out through the window of the plane.

Suddenly, she changes her conversations, merely, her emotion being more tranquil.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

The things about being an immigrant, is to take it with all its joy and pain.

Beat.

This time I don't complain at all.

The pain of separation pounds his mind.

SIRAK

Two real purposes kissed each other. I mean, the time I learned, you being my sister and me your brother.

After he honestly confesses, to tell her the truth, she hugs him and gazes at him with conscious smile.

FAGRET

I can't imagine your moral strength, all the way to come to the USA.

Both get tired and sleep all the way on the plane.

INT. HOSPITAL BED ROOM - DAY

Geshmerit is treated in Keren Hospital, for terminal illness reason.

Selem is together with him, sitting on a wooden chair.

GESHMERIT

I am going to leave this world for good, my sister. Right now I am in my darker moments, sister.

Beat.

If ever, God gives me, the chance to see my daughter Fagret, one more time, it would be a great blessing.

SELEM

Please don't try to see God's stand from your stand. There is nothing impossible to our God.

EXT. ASMARA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

After 13 hours of flight, the plane lands in Asmara International Airport.

CUT TO:

Fagret and Sirak, immediately rush towards Keren town, driving about 50 miles (91 km).

Sirak is on a wheel, driving.

Fagret adjusts her hair, looking through the front mirror.

FAGRET

I hope and wish to see my father alive and healthy.

Sirak drives fast and glances to her, with a smile.

SIRAK

Me too sister.

CUT TO:

They reach Keren hospital. Sirak park the car, at the compound.

CUT TO:

Both walk faster down the hospital corridor. At the threshold Sirak first shows up, walking through the door.

Selem gets surprised, as she comes out to greet Sirak.

SELEM

What a surprise! What a surprise!

Fagret follows Sirak behind.

Selem hugs Fagret, though she has no clue of who she is.

SELEM (CONT'D)

Who is she?

Sirak embraces Fagret with his two hands, looking side way his Aunt, as he smiles.

SIRAK

My sister Fagret.

At the mentions of the name Fagret, Selem rolls her eyes and shakes her head astounded, tears coming out down her cheeks.

SELEM

Really! God be blessed.

Fagret hugs and kisses her Aunt.

Wipes her eyes and steps towards her father's bed.

Geshmerit hears the name Fagret.

One more time he opens his eyes, as his breathing slows down.

Geshmerit halts in shock and says out, in a weak voice, as his eyes are fixed, to his son Sirak.

GESHMERIT

Am I hearing, the name Fagret?

A brief pause.

Geshmerit contemplating about the surprise visit, of his daughter Fagret, he slowly stretches his hand to his daughter.

GESHMERIT (CONT'D)

My Angel, my daughter, forgive me
and let me rest in peace.

On her part Fagret converts her cry into a wide smile, holding his hands, kisses her father's forehead.

FAGRET

I am lucky, to see you alive! Bless me to maintain your presence. What a fabulous gift, God has given me today.

Pauses again for few seconds and smiles.

GESHMERIT

The treasure I lost, on this earth for 30 years, I might get it in paradise.

Fagret stands on the right side of her father's bed and Sirak on the left, both kneeling hold his hands, as her heart beats faster.

FAGRET

Daddy! Daddy! Are you leaving me for good?

As he notices his daughter's concern, he gives her a nod.

She pauses as if she is to admire her father.

Fagret and Sirak look at their father, as he is breathing the last breath before his death.

Fagret raises up from her kneeling position and moves towards his forehead. She plants a deep kiss, on his forehead.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

I love you Daddy! Let me face the reality though it is unpleasant.

Geshmerit opens his eyes one more time. He points with his finger towards the little drawer, without saying a word.

Sirak opens the drawer and finds an envelope addressed to Fagret.

He hands the envelope to her, as a look of sadness crosses her face.

Few minutes later, before he is to pass away, looks one time at Fagret and one time to Sirak.

GESHMERIT

Now that you are together, take care of each other" and convey my thanks to your adoptive parents.

Both attentively listen to the last word of their father, hugging and kissing each other, with tears of joy.

After a brief silence, Fagret cries and weeps.

FAGRET

Daddy, no one chooses to be born afflicted, if ever it was my choice, I would rather renegotiate my life, to do it again, all the way, by just being near to you.

Leans near her standing and facing her, encouraging her to lift her spirit up.

SIRAK

My sister, don't ever regret about yesterday, since now you are kissing it alive today. No one lives forever, life is short.

FAGRET

Though yesterday slapped my face, I'm lucky enough to appreciate it today. Good timing to see my daddy, before he is to pass away.

Holds the right hand of her father lightly, crying silently. Geshmerit, raises his head, one more time opening his eyes. In seconds his head falls down and passes away.

CUT TO:

Fagret and Sirak step out from the room and sit on a bench, inside the corridor.

Fagret cries and weeps, none stop.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

I was hoping where there was no hope, though I struggled to support my spirit, humanly I feel weak.

SIRAK

All those years I could not help, to maintain a serenity as you left to the land of prosperity.

Tears flow down her cheeks.

Sirak continues to console her.

SIRAK (CONT'D)

Please my beloved sister, allow me to tell you, the true facts of your life.

FAGRET
Go ahead my brother.

SIRAK
Your name Fagret means a female survivor and Daddy gave you that name, after the massacre of OWNA-village.

She cups her hands around her mouth.

FAGRET
What's the name of my Mom?

SIRAK
Hiria.

FAGRET
What does it mean?

SIRAK
Freedom.

Pauses for seconds.

FAGRET
When did all that happen.

SIRAK
When you were only a breastfed baby.

Beat.

Unfortunately, our mother, our three brothers and three sisters, became the victim of the massacre.

Again weeps and cries loudly.

FAGRET
It's very saddening I can't handle that.

SIRAK
Sorry, if am on your way, telling you the sad story.

SIRAK (CONT'D)
This is what happened that black Wednesday, December 30, 1970.
(MORE)

SIRAK (CONT'D)

The enemy soldiers, surrounded, the village of OWNA and by gathering the whole villagers, in one place, indiscriminately, in a cold-blooded kill them all.

FAGRET

How did you survive?

SIRAK

At that time, I was out, at the farm with my Daddy.

Her tears, fall down to the ground.

SIRAK (CONT'D)

Except you survived, since the bullet, that killed your mom, missed you.

Beat.

You were found, under your mom's arm, sucking blood, of your dead mother, crying.

Fagret, picks the last word and cries loud like a crazy, again and again only to hear her echo.

FAGRET

"I, was found under my mother's arm, sucking the blood, of my dead mother".

FADE OUT.

Sirak and Fagret holding hand in hand walk outside.

Fagret cries and whips her tears, with a handkerchief.

White pigeons fly over the area.

Sirak exchange hug and kisses with Fagret.

A picture of a destroyed village, turned into an ash and stones, rambles into her mind.

Fagret, stretches up her long white handkerchief, towards the sky.

FAGRET (CONT'D)

The glass of wine is **shaken**, but never to **spill**. My life is **shaken**, never to **lose** its **will**.

(MORE)

FAGRET (CONT'D)

I feel **stronger** despite **losing**, my
life **treasure**, never to see **my**
father again.