

PART OF
ACT II

SCENE 1

REESE ANNE

Why do you let him do that to you?

SHELL

Do what?

REESE ANNE

He pisses and moans until he gets his way. Why do you always have to give into him?

SHELL

The man is broke, Reese Anne, that's why he moans.

REESE ANNE

Bollocks.

SHELL

He seems to be rubbing off on you. (Beat) Daud my friend I would love some of your sage tea if you please.

DAUD

It would be my honor to share with those who have shared with me.

Shell sets up a makeshift camping stove and places a teapot on it. Removes a bottle of water from his jacket and fills the pot. The three of them sit around the stove as Shell lights it.

REESE ANNE

Daud, just how did you get to the UK?

Daud fills three dirty teacups full of the dry tea leaf's.

DAUD

Aha, my young one, I have learned that sometimes life takes you on a journey you never expected. The trick is to keep going and not get lost on that journey. (Beat) There I was loading myself onto an already crowded boat. I was still in a daze from my trip to the sea. Our bodies were pressing against each other. It was the first time in a long time that I had felt the warmth of another entity. Then, I started to panic. I can't swim. What was I doing here? I kept thinking of that now famous photo of the refugee boy dead on the beach. Would I drown? Would anyone care if they saw my body dead on the beach? I was about to climb out of the boat when it pulled away from the shoreline. I was once again trapped. That was a very long boat ride.

The tea water has boiled, and he pours it into three dirty cups.

DAUD

When we reached the next shore, we took us to a camp. The men Including myself were used as labor to build tents for the other refugees. There was always working to be done, for they kept coming every day. I would search their faces for someone I knew who could bring me the news. But I found no one. I started to think of my neighbors I left behind. Were they okay? I should go back and show them how to get here. Yes, that is the right thing to do, they are your friends. No, Daud that is foolish you were lucky to get this far.

Shell and Reese Anne sip their tea as they listen.

DAUD

I stayed and worked that the camp for three months. Then finally it was my turn to be screened and vetted. The red cross-agency had found a distant Uncle of my late wife. He was in the UK in London. I had to wait another two months for them to make the arrangements for me to come to England. Then when I landed in the UK, as my luck would have it, I arrived only to find that her uncle had passed away. So once again I thought about going back. Back to the refugee camp, back to my homeland, back to my neighborhood. I should go back they need me. However, I decided to stay and see where this journey will bring me. So, my friends, it has brought me here with you.

SHELL

What a remarkable story.

REESE ANNE

So, you were married?

Daud, nods and takes a sip of tea to clear his throat.

DAUD

Things were terrible in my neighborhood. Very little food and no water. I went to an area of the city where I knew I could get water. They knew too. Snipers, shooting from nowhere. Sometimes you did not even hear the shots until the bullets were flying past you. I had two massive plastic jugs. I dropped one pitcher, as sniper fire struck it. I just ran with the other and hid by a wall until it was dark, then I slipped away.

He takes another sip of tea.

I saw the white helmets as I approached what was left of my apartment building. I dropped the second jug of water and ran as fast as I could to the pile of rubble. I dig, I dig, and I dig.

Tears fill Daud's eyes.

For twenty-four hours, I dig by hand. Lifting rocks and dirt of what use to be my shelter from this terrible war. In the twenty-third hour, I found one of my son's favorite toys, a plastic dinosaur. Then in the next thirty minutes, I saw him in my loving wife Aanisah arms. He died as he was born with his mother.

He pulls out a small plastic toy dinosaur.

How fitting for they are both now extinct.

Reese Anne, reaches over and gives Daud her hand in comfort.

DAUD

You have a lovely girl Mr. Shell.

SHELL

Yes, she is a special one. (Beat) Now, why don't you two runs along to the square and save our spot and I will be dragging my old bones along soon.

DAUD

Yes, the day is wasting away. Let's go, my friend.

The scene continues