

WORKING TITLE:

MAKTOUB
IT'S BEEN WRITTEN

Written by
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STAND ALONE SCENE FROM A PILOT

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REVISIONS:
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INT. MOOSE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT/DAWN

1-CAMERA from behind a dinner table, explores an empty apartment, we see picture frames of MOOSE (20's) An Egyptian Immigrant who seem to be an actor, and NOUR (20's) A young beautiful Egyptian American woman, who seems to be his wife and a UN women's rights activist.

(Photo Frames may be: -NOUR at a UN Women's Activist conf, - MOOSE on stage, and -MOOSE & NOUR Hugging Happy in an event)

2-CAMERA from same spot racks focus to MOOSE, who opens the apartment door in the far background with his keys. Behind him, We see NOUR taking her HIJAB off, NOUR walks in towards the dinner table and sits, both dressed up from a dinner night out. There is tension in the air, MOOSE shuts the door behind him. He hangs his keys up on (*the wall or on a table*) and stands looking at NOUR for a while

Nour after sitting on the table, noticing MOOSE gaze at her, settles in her seat and takes off one of her RED HEELS and holds it. She stares away for a moment. (Thinking to herself "Is that it?")

3-CAMERA AT SAME SPOT ACCENTUATES THE SILENCE (DP call)...
Moose walks up to her and sits looking at her.

MOOSE

So now what?

NOUR (WITH DETERMINATION)

YOU have to make a decision.

MOOSE (WITH LOVE)

You know, I can't do that.
(CALMER) You walked in this marriage knowing what I do for living. You can't just... out of no where give me an ultimatum like that.

NOUR

(Sighs and after a MOMENT)
...Feelings change
I didn't know I was going feel this way after moving to LA and living together.

MOOSE

What changed?

NOUR

I'm not happy ya Moose.

She stares at Moose, anger starts to grow in their eyes. Suddenly, she throws THE RED HEEL on the ground and moves to sit on the couch taking off her second RED HEEL in her hand.

4-CAMERA STAYS SAME SPOT WITH Moose who sits alone on the table, Then MOOSE follows her and sits next to her on the couch looking at her back, She's looking away to the opposite side.

Moose not knowing what to say, slowly tries to see her face, he sees instead the red shoe in her hand!

MOOSE (SADLY UNDER HIS BREATH)
Unbelievable!

5-CAMERA SHIFTS TO A NEW SPOT 2 FRAMING THE COUCH

Moose starts making a move felt in the couch by NOUR, he is taking off his blazer, NOUR tuns around thinking he was leaving..

NOUR
Where you going? (Arabic) I'm not done talking. Ana lessa makhalstesh kalamy

MOOSE (TURNING TO HER)
I'm not going anywhere.

He finishes taking off his jacket. Now both facing each other.

MOOSE (CALMLY) (CONT'D)
What do you want from me exactly?

We've known each other for 2 years, married for 9 months now, you've been around me in almost ALL my acting gigs... And now you're unhappy?

NOUR
Yeah, Now you know, Something is missing...

MOOSE
What?... We wake up every morning, I make you breakfast. We spend good time together... I'm giving you everything a husband should provide..

NOUR

I'm not BESSA!, A pet that needs
food and shelter from you

BESSA (V.O.)

MEOW!

**(HOMAGE TO Cheng-Chui Kuo in
Clément, Alex et tous les autres)**

MOOSE

**Oh, Is Bessa back? Did you find
her?**

NOUR

**Yes, She was at our new Chinese
neighbors next door, they didn't
eat her I'm glad, but understood
nothing of what they said!**

MOOSE

**Thank God, if they were Egyptians,
they might have mummified her! Haha**

NOUR

**Are you kidding... Bessa!, No one
can touch that cat! You should've
seen them bringing her in a box
HISSING at everyone OMG**

...MOOSE

Nour... What's missing?

...NOUR

**A Future!, Financial Stability! To
buy a home together. Travel
together.**

MOOSE (AFTER A PAUSE)

A Future? huh ... You need be
patient **habibti**. It takes time,
Besides I pay for everything here.

**5B-CAMERA INSERT And Moose notices the frames on the wall
behind her. A FRAME OF THEM HAPPY, AND ANOTHER FRAME OF MOOSE
HOLDING AN ACTING AWARD (OR ON STAGE).**

MOOSE (IN AN INTERNAL MAZE) (CONT'D)

Look, You can't just stop me from
pursuing acting. You know It's what
I love doing. It's the **career** I
dreamt of since I was a little
kid... (EUPORIC ALMOST)

5C-CAMERA INSERT And Nour notices him looking at his frames.

NOUR (FACING TRUTH, PAUSE)
 Moose You're Acting,
 You don't have a CAREER Acting!

MOOSE
 When I met you, I told you how much
 acting changed me. IT IT IT SAVED
ME, pulled me out of my social
 awkwardness...
(he STARTS TO stutter, his old
awkwardness COMES BACK)
 just... Just... Just... Being here
 in LA... Playing the part is.is.Is
 You knew all that from the
 beginning.

NOUR
 So you'd rather be acting other's
 live's than live your own? Kissing
OTHERS!, making out with others if
required!?

6-CAMERA STAYS IN SAME FRAME yet aware of MOOSE movement in
the background, OR 6B CAMERA SWITCH OPPOSITE TO EXACT FRAME
 Moose gets up ANGRY LIKE A CHILD. Their argument gets louder.
 Hysteria starts.

MOOSE (SITS ON FLOOR WHILE EXPLAINING)
 What! NOOOOO!(to Himself)...
 (To her) I'd be living a life that
 has a purpose. Telling stories that
 has an impact and can change
 people's lives.
 (Pause)
 I can't just quit.

NOUR
 Didn't I quit my job to move to LA
 with you?... So You love "THIS
CAREER" more than me, us!

MOOSE (STUTTERS...MORE)
 What are you talking about? You
 can't compare th-- (Breath) uhhh...

This is crazy. I don't understand.
 What's the big deal about my
 career? (REALIZATION MOMENT)...
 ...wait Are you jealous of my
career Nour?

NOUR (EVADING TO ANSWER)
 It's NOT A CAREER, will NEVER bBE,
YOU & I can KNOW that clearly
 now...

Mousse.. It's not a stable job, I'd
 rather you have a 9 to 5, like
 normal people ... stop hiding from
the reality like everyone here in
 Hollywood.

MOOSE
 I'm not hiding. (ARABIC) (Eh el
 kalam el enty bet2oly da?)

NOUR (DROPS A BOMB)
ACTING IS A SIN (ARABIC) BASS HUH

BESSA (V.O. REACTING TO BASS)
MEOW!

They don't react to BESSA, look at each other for a few
 seconds. Then...another

BESSA (V.O.)CLOSER TO SCREEN (CONT'D)
 MEWO!

2nd Mewo triggers a POV of the CAT:
7-CAMERA MOVE TO A NEW FRAME (DP Call) LOOKING UP AT BOTH OF
THEM AS POV of the CAT

NOUR (DROPS THE BOMB AGAIN)
WHAT YOU LOVE IS "H A R A M", You
 should be a good Muslim man who
 knows how to take care of his wife.

MOOSE
 WHAT!... You See it as A SIN! ...
 Now you're the good muslim... Do
 you even fucking pray?

NOUR
 Don't use "Fucking" next to
 pray...And yes I do... ..
 sometimes.

MOOSE (TRYING TO GRAB A QURAN)
 Show me where is says ART is a sin
 in the Quran? (Arabic) Feen? Feen
 fe el Quran el kalam el enty
 bet2oly da? Not everything your
FANATIC crazy father says, is true!

NOUR (GASPS)
 My father is always right
 (ARABIC) *We ew3a tegeeb seeret*
abooya tany 3ala lesanak!

MOOSE
 ARGHHHH.... You need to REALLY see
 your brainwashed fanatic father
 opinions as the UGLY HATEFUL CULT
 as they are!

LONG PAUSE while...

8a-CAMERA FROM SAME POV FOLLOWS MOOSE WALKING AROUND, PICKS
UP A BOOK AND REPEATS A GESTURE PLAYING WITH THE BOOK, THEN
 8b-CAMERA REACHES NOUR DIVING INSIDE HER THOUGHTS

9-CAMERA SHIFTS TO A NEW SPOT WITH A CLOSE OR MEDIUM FRAME OF
BOTH ACTORS, THIS SPOT CAN TRACK BACK THE FURTHEST LATER

MOOSE(QUITER AND CLOSER) (CONT'D)
Consider me one of your women's
victims who is oppressed and not
allowed to follow her dreams...
Apply your activism to help me
realize myself"

NOUR (FACING TRUTH, LONG PAUSE)
 Mousse... I don't need anything
 from you anymore. (while giving him
the red heels)
 I wanted a man who loves me and can
 take care of me. But maybe I was
 wrong.

Make the decision right now. I need
 to know. It's either me or your
 stupid acting career?

MOOSE (QUITER)
 How is this fair?

NOUR
 It's not about being fair...It's
 about being on the same page and
 making each other happy.

MOOSE (GESTURES WITH SHOE POINT)
 Making yourself or your father
 happy?

NOUR
 I'm not trying to change you Moose.
 One of us has to sacrifice...It's
 as simple as that.

MOOSE (LONG PAUSE)
You're right!

NOUR (SURPRISED)
That's the first time I hear that
tone from you

MOOSE (REPEATING GESTURE WITH BOOK)
You're right...We can never be on
the same page. I want my freedom to
pursue whatever I want.
We might be in the same chapter...
words laid down next to each
other...
But... they make no sense being
together

10-CAMERA TRACKS SLOWLY OR CUTS TO A FURTHER BACK IN THIS
SEQUENCE TO A FAR AND LOW CAT POV

Nour sees why she LOVES HIM, goes closer & kiss him on his
back of his neck. Moose slowly turns and kiss her back on the
side. It erupts into a very intense emotional crying in their
arms in awkward body positions, letting all the tension out.

BESSA (V.O.) RESPONDING TO THEIR CRYING
MEOWW!

MOOSE(LOOK AT CAT FROM BEHIND COUCH)
Why?

NOUR(LOOK AT CAT FROM BEHIND COUCH)
Why what?

MOOSE
Why do you have to make it a
choice for me?

NOUR
If you really love something, you'd
never let it go.

MOOSE
If you really love someone. You'd
set them free.

BESSA (WE MIGHT SEE CAT'S BACK IN
SILHOUETTE NEAR IN FRAME LOOKING AT
THEM)

THE END