

HOW HIS BRIDE CAME TO ABRAHAM

by

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FADE IN:

INT. TUNNEL (SOUTH LEBANON 1992) - DUSK

Dark as night. Heavy footfalls on a rock floor.

Outline of ABE (19) carried on a smaller ENEMY'S back in a rocky passage. Abe's a superb soldier in shock: his slashed bare foot dangles, bleeding. His delirium produces a white-out bomb BLAST too close to be real-

ABE
(scream)

Benny!

His enemy, SABRA (16) stumbles under his weight; Sabra's dark eyes glint with hidden pain.

FLASH: Sabra runs in a field. A black & white checked *kaffiyeh* flies loose.

ON: Abe's IDF insignia (Israeli Defense Forces). His mutilated foot strikes the rock wall of the tunnel...

ABE
Ahhh!

...and he sees a vision-

EXT. ABE'S HOME (VISION) - DAY

Abe's GRAMMA beckons him home. A modest house with an orange grove behind. Soothing-

GRAMMA (VO)
The Lord is my shepherd I
shall not want.

INT. END TUNNEL: CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Abe's POV turns upside down: Streaks of light pierce the dark and swerve as Abe is dumped off Sabra's back onto hard ground.

Abe's roar as he feels his rifle yanked off his shoulder; then he loses consciousness, remembering-

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EXT. GRASS, ROAD, RAVINE (HALF-HOUR AGO) - DAY

Roadside grass. Deserted road extends into the distance. A bloody foot hidden in tall grass; Abe lies unconscious near a drop-off into a deep ravine. Insects buzz.

The field radio beside him emits static. Abe's eyes open, and when his blurred POV clears, he sees—

An Arab whose head is bound in a *kaffiyeh* (Sabra) stands close to Abe but unaware of him, drinks from a canteen.

The Arab gazes at the horizon: distant Israel.

Abe clutches his Galil automatic rifle, bites back his pain as he aims at the Arab—

ABE

Halt.

Arab (Sabra) freezes, listens without turning to look.

ABE (CONT'D)

Raise hands or I shoot.

Fight instinct clicks: the Arab dives at Abe before he can fire, but Abe swings his rifle barrel, tangling and tripping his enemy—

SABRA

(angry yell)

Aaahh!

Abe slings his rifle round his back, grabs the Arab, lurches onto his knees, grapples fiercely, rolls with his prey—

ABE

Son of a bitch!

Crushing with his full weight, Abe controls "the Arab," rips off the *kaffiyeh*, and...long dark hair tumbles around her breathtaking face—

ABE (CONT'D)

You're a girl?

Startled look of each, searching the other's face.

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INT. CAVE (BACK TO THE PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Sharp inhale as Abe comes-to blurry-eyed, but yanks his rifle back. He can't see Sabra, but won't admit fear-

ABE

Where are we!

It's a cave with a spring, furnished with a few crude crates; Sunset light streams through crevices. Abe hears-

GRAMMA (VO)

...though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...

Splatter of water on metal. Abe braces for an attack, but Sabra suddenly looms before him, lifts his wounded foot onto her knee and pours water on it-

ABE

AAAAAHH!

And Abe passes out again, hearing-

BEN (VO)

Hey, there's one!

[NOTE: Though English is used here to ease reading, some scenes will be in Hebrew or Arabic]

EXT. DIRT ROAD (AN HOUR AGO) - DAY

PATROL of six armed IDF SOLDIERS swing wand instruments ahead of them, mine-detecting: their eyes sweep the road bed and nearby brush.

ABE

(crisp)

Isn't one. Eyes on the road.

Abe - a born leader young for his job, his teasing spirit stifled by grueling duty - is at the rear; his reckless buddy BEN ahead of him; reliable DAVE in front.

BIRD flushed from brush suddenly flies-

BEN

It's a yellow bill. You owe me!

ABE
You don't see a yellow bill.

BEN
(grabs Abe)
Right there. I win!

ABE
Get back in place, Benny!
(pulled off
balance)
Watch out...!

ON: trigger BUTTON hidden in grass where Ben's foot lands.

Blinding explosion. In white FLASHES: Ben flies; his belly torn; his leg blown off. Scream.

Abe's ears ring as he drops, wounded—

ABE (CONT'D)
Help him!!

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Gasp, as Abe snaps awake and sees Sabra bathing his foot, a gentle ritual: Who is she? Is he dreaming? He grits his teeth to hold in his yelps as she works.

SABRA
Stepped on your own mine.

ABE
Fuck I did.

SABRA
You Israelis drop mines
around like sheep dung.

Sabra lifts dirt from the deep center of Abe's wound...

ABE
Aahhh!

...but probing his raw flesh makes her woozy: she HEARS the "thud" of a body dropping and remembers—

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FLASH: Mute YOUNG SABRA(6) sees HAMID(19), his eyes crushed and bloody, dumped beside her. Her mouth opens to scream, but no sound comes.

ABE(OS)

Why were you crossing the
Security Zone?

Sabra snaps back, stares dumbly at Abe, but remembers—

EXT. TRUCK, DITCH (LAST NIGHT) - NIGHT

Road sign: Israeli Security Zone 2.5 KM. Sabra slides off a moving truck and rolls into the ditch.

EXT. FIELD, WOODS - CONTINUED

Sabra, like a boy in a *kaffiyeh*, darts toward woods.

EXT. ROAD CROSSING - DAWN - CONTINUED

Sabra approaches a fence with warnings posted: "Danger: land mines. Security Zone. No Admittance."

She climbs the fence, gets snagged on barbed wire, fights to pull it loose, gets across the fence, moves on.

EXT. WOODS, FIELD, ROAD (EARLIER TODAY) - CONTINUED

Her eyes flashing, Sabra darts from cover to cover, runs into a field, becomes a blur.

Distant dust rises from something moving on the road.

Sabra sees it; drops, listens, then darts to trees.

The dust cloud takes form: it's Abe's patrol of six, but Abe's voice in the present snaps Sabra back—

ABE(VO)

You know this zone is
forbidden.

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Afraid, but not showing it, Sabra resumes wound-cleaning—

SABRA

Security for Jews on my land.

ABE

That's right!

(beat)

Why were you crossing it!

Sabra sucks a breath, calmly pauses her cleaning-

SABRA

For the apples.

ABE

Apples... ?

SABRA

You've left me no brothers
to do it.

Abe stares at her, uncertain-

ABE

Why should I believe you?

SABRA

You caught me.

ABE

I should believe you
because I caught you?

SABRA

You couldn't if I hadn't
felt safe.

(beat)

I'm at home.

Sabra lifts Abe's foot onto a crate. His sharp pain-

ABE

AaaaaaH!

SABRA

Keep it up there. Unless
you want it the size of
your head.

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And Sabra's gone from Abe's sight. Startled, he HEARS—

ELANIE (VO)

Where's Benny?!

FLASH VISION: Abe's sister ELANIE, on a swing in her wedding dress, faces blood-smearred IDF Corporal: Dave.

Abe gasps, but a dripping tin cup thrusts at him from Sabra's hand. He makes Sabra drink from it first, then downs the cup without taking his eyes off her, and, catching his breath—

ABE

Did my Gramma send you?

SABRA

Who?

ABE

I asked her to send me a
Shabbat angel.

Sabra stares at Abe an instant, then is gone. Abe's vision blurs, and he HEARS Sabra's first words to him...

SABRA (VO)

Do it. Shoot me.

...which pulls him back to her capture—

EXT. GRASS ROADSIDE (HALF HOUR AGO) - DAY

Abe aims his rifle at Sabra, but...she spoke English?!

ABE

Come here!

Like a trapped wild thing, Sabra gazes at Abe's IDF insignia. Despite his wound, Abe must control her—

ABE (CONT'D)

Give me your pack. Give it!
Slowly!

As Sabra lets her knapsack drop, Abe heaves onto his knees, grabs her arm and twists so she falls to her knees, pushes her down, his rifle at her back; dumps her pack.

ABE (CONT'D)

Where's your weapons?

No answer. Abe jabs his rifle; Sabra yelps, won't answer.

ABE (CONT'D)

Where are they!

Abe roughly frisks Sabra. ON: the knife he finds on her.

ABE (OS CONT'D)

What's this?

SABRA

For food.

Abe grabs Sabra, shaking with his pain and rage-

ABE

Benny's blood's all over
your booby-trapped road,
and you are going to pay!

Sabra spits at Abe; he grabs her throat-

ABE (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?!

Choked, Sabra just glares at him.

ABE (CONT'D)

Almost made it? Only one
more mile to the border.
Where's your pals?!

SABRA

Surrounding you.

Abe's sharp inhale blinks him awake...

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INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

...long enough to see Sabra pick a potato from a sack and toss it. He fights to stay conscious, but horror slams him back to-

EXT. ROADSIDE (MONTAGE) (AN HOUR AGO) - DAY

FLASHES: Explosion. Ben flies. Abe hits ground. Patrol gives Ben first-aid-

DAVE (OS)

Tourniquet!

ABE

(gasps)

Take him back! Two on the
stretcher; two to guard.
On the run! Now!!

DAVE (OS)

You're hit too, Abe!

ABE

Leave me! Move him fast! Go!

DAVE (OS)

Go, go, go!

Abe hidden in tall grass, fights searing pain, hears his patrol with the stretcher run away. In the quiet-

VO: Plunks and splash bring Abe back to the present-

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Abe sees potatoes plunking into the pan, tries to pretend he didn't pass out-

ABE

This isn't your home.
No one lives here.

Sabra seems not to hear him. Abe sucks breaths, fights his desire to sleep-

ABE (CONT'D)

You said...brothers. We'd
left you no brothers?

Sabra ferociously scrubs potatoes. Abe's eyes flutter—

GRAMMA (VO)

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

Abe jerks awake, like he whiffed ammonia, switches on his radio - his link to reality - but its static buzz invades the quiet and Sabra spins, scared.

ABE

I won't hurt you.

Sabra's ready to run: if he talks to them, soldiers will come get her! Distant BOMBARDMENT. Both hear it.

ABE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about...searching
you. We have orders not to
even touch you. I mean, if
you're a girl.

(beat)

Not that I wouldn't like...
I mean, I wouldn't have been
so rough, if...

FLASH: Benny with his leg blown off. Abe stifles his scream, fights to stay in this quiet place, even if it is a dream—

ABE (CONT'D)

I mean today nothing seems
real. Like who are you? What
are you doing.

(weak laugh)

Preparing a meal for Shabbat?

Bombardment. Abe's radio crackles; Sabra cringes—

SABRA

Someone's coming for you?

ANNOUNCER (VO-RADIO)

Command to all channels. Headquarters
are under attack
from unidentified Hezbollah
positions north and south...

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Sabra's alarm as she remembers—

EXT. REFUGEE CAMP (TEN YEARS AGO) - NIGHT

An attack on her camp. Artillery rounds hit. TANKS move to the camp's perimeter fence.

Young Sabra runs amid rifle shots toward a distant dark door cracked open; light pours through the crack, but...

ANNOUNCER (VO-RADIO)

Returning patrol squads proceed to base only under advisement.

...the radio in the present plays, and—

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Abe and Sabra are glued to the radio—

ABE

God, Benny!

SABRA

Someone's coming for you?

ABE

Probably.

Preoccupied by his fear, Abe doesn't notice Sabra's.

ABE (CONT'D)

Course they're coming.
Think they'd leave me alone
out here with a stream of
Jew-hating infiltrators?

Suddenly, Sabra runs for the door. Abe grabs his rifle: if she escapes, he's a sitting duck—

ABE (CONT'D)

Wait, you can't...!

Abe swings his foot down, shrieks, passes out hearing—

ABE (VO)

Where's your pals!

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EXT. GRASS, RAVINE (HALF HOUR AGO) - DAY

Abe holds Sabra by the throat near the ravine's edge.

SABRA

Everywhere.

Abe pulls her roughly close to him like a shield.

SABRA (CONT'D)

They'll shoot right through me.

Abe twists her arm; she shrieks. He waits for attack; then-

ABE

Maybe you are alone.

But Sabra kicks Abe's foot and flips loose as he screams-

ABE (CONT'D)

Don't jump!

Abe sees Sabra in strobe flashes as she jumps off the cliff's edge into the ravine.

Gramma's humming swells as Abe throws himself after Sabra over the edge, injured foot in air, rifle in hand; his yell rises like a siren into a white-out of dust and flushed birds, while in the present-

EXT. HILLSIDE (PRESENT) - TWILIGHT

Sabra bursts out of the cave running, but is stopped by an eerie golden light; it's magic hour intensified - where visions happen.

[NOTE: Ever since Sabra and Abe jumped down the ravine, the valley feels enchanted, as though being in nature heightens their senses, conjuring visions.]

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Abe is where he fell with his rifle, and Sabra's gone-

ABE

Shit!

Frightened, he imagines-

FLASH: Sabra signals armed INFILTRATORS who come running.

EXT. HILLSIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

When Sabra moves a powerful WIND hits her with a loud hum from trees; she pushes into wind to climb the cliff.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUED

In pain, Abe crawls, drags his rifle to perch by the door. He listens hard, but hears only soldiers from his past-

1ST SOLDIER (VO)

There's another.

2ND SOLDIER (VO)

Fire!

And Abe remembers where he heard them-

INT. APC (ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER) (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT

Abe steps into an APC where SOLDIERS are excited by the stick figures (of people moving) they see on a screen.

2ND SOLDIER (OS)

Fire three! Fire. Fire. Fire.

The 1st Soldier's thumb punches a "joy-stick" three times to kill these living targets.

Onscreen, the stick figures are hit, drop, fade out. Soldiers cheer.

ABE

You don't know who you're killing!

1ST SOLDIER

Trespassers.

EXT. CLIFF TOP (PRESENT, MAGIC HOUR) - TWILIGHT

Sabra stands atop the ravine in eerie light, sees a glow on the Israeli horizon she's headed for that brings a vision from her history-

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FLASH: A line of REFUGEES carrying CHILDREN and chased by SOLDIERS.

Sabra thinks her eyes are playing tricks on her, so she howls at the wind hitting her—

SABRA

What do you want?!

Loud crack of a branch broken by wind; a heavy object thuds through branches, grazing Sabra on its way down.

Sabra stares at it awestruck: it is Abe's bloody boot. She reaches for the boot, hugs it tight and sees—

FLASH: Explosion. Abe lying wounded.

FLASH: Sabra's foster mother, UMM ALI, cooks over a fire.

Sabra stifles her sob, hears a melody, and—

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - NIGHT

Sabra comes through the door, her arms full of kindling, and meets Abe's rifle barrel in her face.

Like the frantic parent whose lost child comes home, Abe's relief explodes in fury—

ABE

You want to get blown to bits? That's what happens out here. Don't you know anything?!

Sabra pushes in, dumps the kindling and his boot by the fireplace out of sight.

ABE (CONT'D)

You don't believe me?

Ignoring him, Sabra sets up a fire. Abe's fury builds—

ABE (CONT'D)

Every day is death here.
You can't be running loose!

Sabra seems not to hear him; he's got to reach her—

ABE (CONT'D)

Your side has no chance.
Not to win, to even fight.
I've seen it!

But Sabra stares, HEARING "her side" argue—

HAMID (VO)

It's no use, Ali!

INT. UMM ALI'S HUT (TEN YEARS AGO) - DAY

Mute Young Sabra pats each angry Ali brother.

HAMID

You'll get yourself killed!

Headstrong ALI in khakis and headband has a rifle, storms out yelling—

ALI

Are your books going to
free us, Hamid? Someone
has to fight!

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Sabra strikes a flint, is not listening to Abe, so—

ABE

Sure you know how to do
that?

Sabra strikes the flint harder. And again harder.

ABE (CONT'D)

I mean, my sister wouldn't
have the least idea.

The fire flares, well lit, amazing Abe. Sabra sets the pan over the fire.

ABE (CONT'D)

Yes. I have a sister.

Sabra moves to stand in front of Abe, silent.

ABE (CONT'D)

What?

SABRA

My knife.

ABE

Oh. Sure.

Abe gets out her knife, holds it, makes her wait.

ABE (CONT'D)

Your eyes are talking.
Mama told me, "if you want
something, use your mouth."
But your eyes...

Abe hands her the knife, but won't release his end of it.

ON: Sabra's eyes.

ABE (OS CONT'D)

They look a hundred years deep.

Sabra's eyes flash angrily. Abe, glad for a response, lets her have the knife. Sabra opens the knife slowly. She could stab Abe; he knows it and seems to dare her.

ABE (CONT'D)

(soft)

What happened to you?

Sabra swiftly moves away, slices potatoes into water.

ABE (OS CONT'D)

When you did talk, you lied.

Sabra's sharp glance at him.

ABE (CONT'D)

About what you're doing here.
Too much risk. Your life for
a few apples?

Sabra softens, seeing her childhood—

FLASH: Young Sabra skips in long grass; her MOTHER after with baby SISTER, toddler BROTHER, a basket of apples.

SABRA

So the land won't forget me.
(tender)
If I don't visit, maybe
I'm lost.

Abe's awe, looking at her. The radio crackles. Both jump.

For Sabra the radio is her stark fear of being caught by soldiers. For Abe it's the pain of Benny sweeping back.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)

Dog-star to Apex.

ABE

(tense)

Apex here. How's Benny?

VO: Artillery bombardment behind Dave's voice.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)

Shelling's heavy. We barely
got through.

EXT. IDF CAMP / INT. CAVE (TOGETHER) - NIGHT

Dave on his field radio watches firing and artillery hits. He's grief-stricken and wants to put off telling Abe.

ABE

I've got interference...

DAVE

I said the shelling...

ABE

How's Benny!

DAVE

He bled a lot, Apex, he...

Dave choked up, stops. / Abe is frantic at his hesitation-

ABE

What did the medics say!

DAVE

(best case)

They're gonna see if they
can sew him up.

ABE

(hopeless)

Sure.

DAVE

How you doing?

ABE

(in tears)

Great. Great.

DAVE

We're under attack, but
we'll find an APC and be
out after you soon as we...

ABE

(numb)

I'll be here. Out.

Radio clicks. Dave's gone. Abe's drained. Sabra has to leave
now. She picks up his boot, moves to him—

SABRA

They'll be coming.

ABE

They're under fire.

SABRA

But they'll be coming.

Sabra extends his exploded boot to Abe. In her mind,
she's discharging her final duty to his wounded-ness,
so she can leave, but seeing his bloody boot slams Abe
back to the horror he's been holding at bay and he
screams, reliving the land mine explosion in a FLASH—

ABE

Benny!

Sabra alarmed, backs away; Abe fights to recover his
calm, focusing on Sabra, who tries to bargain—

SABRA

Then I'll go.

ABE

Go? You can't go.

SABRA

You'll let me.

ABE

You're free. You could run.

SABRA

You could shoot.

ABE

Yeah.

Sabra looks: will he fire? She gathers her pack, faces him, edges to the door, but as she steps into it, Abe aims his rifle at her and flips off its safety. Sabra stops—

SABRA

You said I was free!

ABE

But I'm not.

Sabra swears. She's ready to run; Abe's ready to fire. Distant bombardment.

ABE (CONT'D)

Are your potatoes boiling?

Sabra glances at the pot, still poised to run; Abe keeps his rifle on her. Bombardment louder.

ABE (CONT'D)

Why'd you do all this?

Sabra's look: "do what?"

ABE (CONT'D)

Take care of me.

She doesn't know why she did it, but shrugs—

SABRA
Hospitality.

ABE
For a Jew?

SABRA
Anyone.

ABE
An invader? An occupier?!

Sabra pressured, explodes—

SABRA
I was lulling you! Till
you fall asleep.

ABE
To see that you'll have
to stay.

Abe grins. Sabra's furious, flings her pack, moves back
to the fire. Abe lowers his rifle and sees—

FLASH: Instead of Sabra cooking, Abe's Gramma is in Sabra's
place; then Sabra is cooking again...

Abe needs a joke, bad, so—

ABE
I spose there's no chance
you're making schnitzel?

Sabra's got no idea what he means.

ABE (CONT'D)
But there is bully beef...
in my pack.

Sabra looks at Abe's pack, swallows hungrily, looks
to Abe, runs to search his pack, finds a tin of beef.

Abe puts out his hand for the tin. When Sabra hands it
to him, he grabs her arm, pleading—

ABE (CONT'D)

My silent Arab angel...we're
only here because of the Palestinians.

(beat)

To keep them away from our
border. The infiltrators.
They're violating your
country too.

Abe opens the tin, sniffs it...

ABE (CONT'D)

Mmmmm. Smell that.

...and hands it to Sabra. She takes the tin, but-

SABRA

Just let me go.

ABE

You're afraid to face my
buddies?

SABRA

You know what they'll do?!

Frightened, Sabra remembers-

INT. UMM ALI'S HUT (TEN YEARS AGO) - DAY

Mute Young Sabra's fingers make signs on Hamid's English
medical book: The Heart & Circulation System.

HAMID (OS)

"Heart" That's the English:
"heart." You know it. Say it.

Behind them a warm, smiling Umm Ali kneads her dough.

HAMID (OS CONT'D)

You're going to talk, Sabra.
Say "heart" for Hamid. I know
you can speak.

But Young Sabra plays peek-a-boo, making hand signs.

HAMID (CONT'D)

No, I can't play with you now.

Hamid curls her hair round his finger. Bang on the door.

IDF SOLDIER(OS)
Ali here?! Ali!

Hamid calms terrified Young Sabra, opens the door to two SOLDIERS. Young Sabra stares at their IDF insignias.

HAMID
Ali's my brother. He left
here three months ago.

The soldiers look at each other.

HAMID (CONT'D)
If you find him, tell him
we miss him - come home.

IDF SOLDIER
He's caused too much trouble
for that.

Soldiers seize Hamid. Umm Ali screams, clings to Hamid. Young Sabra gestures frantically.

UMM ALI(OS)
No! Hamid hates the fighting!
No one knows where Ali is!

Young Sabra's fingers talk wildly; her face screams, but no sound comes.

Instead, Abe's voice breaks into Sabra's memory-

ABE (VO)
My buddies'll love your
potato stew!

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Terrified Sabra clutches the tin of beef-

SABRA
They'll put me in prison;
they'll destroy this place; they'll...

ABE
(like a slap)
How much could you get for
me?! Live. From Hezbollah?

Sabra hisses angrily, dumps the beef into her potato pot.
Radio buzzes and she gasps. Abe and Sabra stare - standoff.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)
Dog-star to Apex.

Abe picks up his radio, breathes deep to prepare-

ABE
How's Benny.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)
We're pinned here.

Sabra's relief, but Abe's frantic-

ABE
Answer me about Benny!

Unbearable pause before, with firing behind him-

DAVE (VO-RADIO)
Out of surgery but we can't
see him. Doesn't look good.

Abe's head hangs, bent over the radio. Sabra watches like
a cornered animal.

DAVE (VO-RADIO CONT'D)
Don't make me sorry I told
you! Now you have to hole up;
you may be over-run. Let's
talk this through.
(beat)
Do you read me, Apex?

ABE
(dully)
Stay behind lines.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)
But with your foot...

ON: Abe's torn-up foot.

DAVE (VO-RADIO CONT'D)

Apex?

ABE

I washed it. Ok? Got food
for an army and I'm sick
of carrying it. Out.

Abe clicks off. Exhausted by pain and sorrow, he picks up the destroyed boot - is this his blood or Benny's? - his breath catches, he embraces his boot and weeps hard.

Sabra shyly watches, goes to her stewpot. Abe's deep sigh, then, desperate to feel better, he sees metal poking from his boot's lining, yanks it out: it's DOG-TAGS he shakes-

ABE

Extra dog-tags?

Sabra barely glances.

ABE (CONT'D)

In case you blow my head off.
In case you want to know who
my feet used to belong to.

(reads dogtag)

"Abraham Arik Mannheim. 9665379"

(adds)

2nd Lieutenant.

Sabra looks at him.

ABE (CONT'D)

I'm Abe. You have a name?

Sabra silent, fills two bowls.

ABE (CONT'D)

No name?

SABRA

You've taken it.

ABE

I've taken your name?

SABRA

Everything.

ABE

So you are my nameless
captive. Or I'm yours.
I mean, you could kill me...
(snaps fingers)
...like that. Being female
and clever and all.

Sabra hands Abe his bowl; he smells it.

ABE (CONT'D)

Uumm. Delectable poison.
Come. Sit by me. Eat.

Sabra still stands there.

SABRA

You didn't tell them.

ABE

Tell them what?

SABRA

About me. This dangerous
infiltrator.

ABE

They might not sleep well,
knowing.

SABRA

And you will?

Stand-off, looking at each other.

ABE

Is that a warning?

Now for the first time, Sabra smiles.

INT. FIRESIDE - NIGHT

Abe with his bowl of stew; Sabra nearby with hers. Abe
says a blessing. Sabra quickly crosses herself.

ABE
What's that?

SABRA
What.

ABE
You're not Muslim.

SABRA
So?

ABE
You're Christian.

SABRA
What difference?

ABE
You crossed yourself.

SABRA
I'm Arab.

Abe looks at her, puzzled. She eats hungrily while a blissful memory sweeps over Abe—

INT. SYNAGOGUE (TEN YEARS AGO) - DAY

BOY ABE before CONGREGATION recites a prayer from the Torah. He's in a beautiful sanctuary.

INT. FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - NIGHT

As Abe gazes at Sabra his imagination goes wild—

FLASH: Abe and Sabra strolling like lovers.

SABRA (OS)
Benny's your friend?

Sabra's eating. Abe's surprised she mentioned Benny—

ABE
Does it make a difference?

SABRA
Difference?

ABE

In whether you hope he dies?

Sabra stops eating, looks at him—

SABRA

Have you seen someone die.

Abe's sharp breath, then his story pours out—

ABE

We joined up together. He
and my sister are...

VO: sounds of Shiva. Abe remembers—

INT./EXT. ABE'S HOME (YESTERDAY) - DAY

Shiva. Narrow view of MOURNERS through a door, as Abe in his dress uniform comes out into the foyer, gazes at Gramma's portrait: his deceased best-pal. To escape, he pushes open a bedroom door...

ABE

You here Ben? Let's get...

...and sees Ben with Abe's mischievous sister, Elanie, having sex atop the bed piled with mourners' coats. Abe slams the door shut. Ben and Elanie hastily disengage—

ELANIE

Abe, don't...! Shit.

Straightening her dress, Elanie runs after Abe.

EXT. ABE'S HOME - CONTINUED

Abe rushes angrily past the porch swing to his SCOOTER with Elanie chasing him. Ben's after them, buttoning up.

ELANIE

Know the last thing Gramma
said to me? "Elanie, what
you waiting for? Get it on
with that boy."

ABE

Like hell.

Abe takes off on his scooter, loud and fast.

INT./EXT. BISTRO - DAY

Music; packed room. ON: Marriage License Ben shows Abe. Elanie sits between them at a tiny table.

BEN(OS)

We couldn't announce it at
your Gramma's Shiva...

ABE

So you make the most of a
day's leave?

ELANIE

(to Ben)

You only got a day?

Abe sees an ARAB with a knapsack who pushes into the crowd; Abe stands, moves toward the Arab-

ABE

Haret! (*Arabic "stop"*)

The Arab, insulted, shouts at Abe, who tries to control him; a WOMAN sees them, calls to the Arab...

WOMAN

Muhammad?

...and rushes to embrace him. Abe, flustered at his wrong move, heads back to his table-

ABE

We're out of here. Too
crowded.

As Abe, Elanie and Ben exit the bistro, an EXPLOSION and screams from the market a block away. They're all shocked. Huge smoke cloud; PEOPLE run away.

ELANIE

Run!!

Ben runs after Elanie, but Abe stops him with-

ABE

Ben! They need help.

Abe and Ben run toward the explosion; Elanie stares after.

INT. FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Knowing Abe's upset, Sabra is soft, neutral-

SABRA

Death is easy.

Urged by her calm, Abe spills his worst memory-

ABE

Ben was just goofing...

FLASH: Ben sees the bird and pulls Abe to look at it.

ABE (CONT'D)

We have this bet: whoever spots a yellow bill... It's a bird we like.

FLASH: Ben's boot steps on bomb's trigger; explosion.

ABE (CONT'D)

Just...a ringing, like my eardrum burst.

FLASH: Ben with his leg gone.

Abe doubles over, gasps like a sob.

SABRA

It could've been worse.

Abe stares at her, wild-eyed.

SABRA (CONT'D)

If you hadn't taken part of the force of it.

Abe moved, takes hold of Sabra's hand. She startled, withdraws it. Abe's angry at himself-

ABE

Sorry.

Sabra glances toward the door; should she run?

ABE (CONT'D)

What can I do?

(weak joke)

I can't run after you.

Rifle shots outside. Both alarmed, imagine—

FLASH: Ominous SHADOWS moving through peaceful woods.

ABE

Can they see we're in here?

Sabra doesn't understand.

ABE (CONT'D)

Where's our smoke come out?

ON: fireplace smoke rising toward a crevice above them.

SABRA (OS)

Up top. Past the road.

VO: close rifle shots, distant scream. Abe grabs Sabra's arm to keep her still.

SABRA (CONT'D)

Someone's hurt out there.

ABE

Your friends?

SABRA

People!

Abe grabs his rifle, drags Sabra with him, inching toward a corner he can defend from, readying for a fight—

ABE

"People" out to kill. But we Jews are out here too. They don't get through alive.

FLASH: FIGURES climb over a fence and run. Shots.

Abe pulls Sabra tight against the cave wall.

ABE

You'd like to run out
there, smack into a human
bomb? Kids with glassy
eyes looking to get to
heaven?

Bombardment. Both frightened, but Sabra's angry-

SABRA

It's not heaven they want.
You took their land.

ABE

You ready to join them?!

Close bombardment. Sabra impassioned-

SABRA

Why do they have no chance?!

ABE

Because of a little screen.

Sabra sees what Abe describes-

INT. APC SURVEILLANCE UNIT (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT

Screen and keyboard. Stick FIGURE (of live human) moves onto
the screen. More FIGURES appear. Soldier's orders-

SOLDIER(OS)

Fire three. Fire. Fire. Fire.

With each "Fire," a finger punches a key; A small flash
bursts on each stick creature.

ABE (VO)

It's a game we play: every
shot seeks warmth...then
bursts itself in flesh.

The stick figures falter, then fade off the screen.

INT. CAVE, DOOR (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Sabra stares at Abe, horrified.

ABE

No warning; no screams.

FIRING close. Sabra jerks loose, runs to the door.

ABE (CONT'D)

You can't save them!

Sabra opens the door. Their fears exaggerate reality:

Blinding light from blasts; zing of bullets; wind hits Sabra like a gale. Abe flings himself at her, yells from pain, but holds tight to her. Sabra collapses weeping.

INT. FIRESIDE - LATER

Abe exhausted, gazes at Sabra curled up in a blanket asleep. He sets his radio near to keep him awake, then shuts his eyes...but he dreams of-

EXT. CLIFF, RAVINE, HILLSIDE (DREAM) - DAY

Wounded Abe at the cliff's edge sees a black and white BIRD fly out over the ravine, and wants to stop it, so he throws himself after the bird, but he falls down, down... and crashes at the cliff's bottom. Then Abe watches the bird TRANSFORM itself into a sleek Sabra in a flowing *kaffiyeh-cloth* robe, who teases him-

SABRA

Hurt your foot?

Abe dazzled, covers Sabra-bird with his rifle-

ABE

Fly. Go on!

Sabra cocks her head at the hillside vines, chirps gaily-

SABRA

So you can shoot me?

ABE

Why don't you fly?!

SABRA

(seductive)

I'm home.

And Sabra sweeps the vines aside to reveal a wooden door with an iron lock in the hillside. Astonished—

ABE

Come here!

Sabra swoops fast at Abe—

SABRA

Scared?

Abe grabs her, pulls himself onto his knees as he clings to her, trains his rifle on the door, and shouts—

ABE

Who's in there?

Sabra arches to smile seductively back, but Abe's angry—

ABE (CONT'D)

What is this? Where are we!

SABRA

Want the key?

Sabra opens her robe to reveal an iron key that dangles on a cord round her neck, and coos—

SABRA (CONT'D)

Or you want to blast it open?
Purify it? Kill everybody in
there; then you're safe.

Abe's unsure what to do; she taunts—

SABRA (CONT'D)

If it's ammunition in there,
it explodes and you lose it.

Exhausted from pain, Abe snaps—

ABE

Go! Slowly! To the door.

Sabra glides away from Abe to the door.

ABE (CONT'D)

Open it!

Sabra swiftly unlocks the door, grins at Abe, swings the door open... Abe's braced for the worst; nothing happens-

ABE (CONT'D)

Move in front of it!

Sabra hops into the black opening, and mocks him by preening herself. Abe's still unsure, but-

ABE (CONT'D)

Come back here!

As Sabra swoops close, Abe grabs her, falls across her back; she staggers under him, but stays on her feet.

ABE (CONT'D)

Now move!

VO: overhead explosions smash into Abe's dream-

EXT. HILLTOP/ROAD/FIELD (PRESENT) - NIGHT

Barrage of artillery fire; bombs landing light up the whole area, while below, in the cave-

INT. FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Abe jerks awake, scared that he slept, relieved to see Sabra asleep nearby, but bombs landing above them bring up a deep memory of 1973 - VO: Air Raid sirens-

EXT./INT. STREET, SHELTER, STAIR (1973) - DAY

Siren blares. WOMEN and CHILDREN hurry down stairs to an underground shelter. Among them Gramma with BABY ABE.

Amid settling-in women and noisy children, Gramma lays crying baby Abe on a mat spread in a concrete room-

GRAMMA

Hush, Abraham. Gramma's here;
you're all right. Shh shhh...

Bombs burst over the shelter, mimicking the present-

ABRAHAM-Sunde

EXT./INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Huge explosion directly above the cave. Large rocks fall from the cave ceiling. Sabra wakes in terror. Abe pulls himself to shield her; they lie breathless as the barrage goes on. Sabra gasps—

SABRA

Israel's bombing us?!

ABE

Hezbollah's bombing Israel.

SABRA

This isn't Israel!

ABE

Hezbollah's missing.

Another explosion above them; Abe shields Sabra with his body as more giant rocks narrowly miss them.

When the bombs stop, a huge gap has opened above them, letting in sky. They stare at the sky and each other, stunned by their fragility and their luck.

Sabra hugs herself into a ball and covers her head, but doesn't move away from Abe, who keeps watch.

EXT. HILLTOP - DAWN

Rim of dawn on the horizon. Eerie stillness over fields and burned-out bomb craters.

INT./EXT. IDF BARRACKS - DAWN

Patrol asleep. Dave sits on his bunk with his radio—

DAVE

Dogstar to Apex. Dogstar...

Dave gets only static, walks outside, tries to call Abe. All quiet. Bomb damage everywhere.

Early bird calls from woods—

INT. CAVE - DAY

Sabra's eyes open and see sunlight pouring through the

ABRAHAM-Sunde

hole in the cave's roof. She's astonished, then alarmed for Abe, but finds him asleep near her, his fragile foot exposed. Her wounded enemy protected her. She has a powerful urge to stay to care for him, but picks up her pack to be on her way, remembering—

EXT./INT. UMM ALI'S HUT (TWO DAYS AGO) - DAY

Umm Ali dozes on her stoop. Inside, shrines: Martyr-poster shows Ali in a headband. Hamid smiles from his graduation photo, but candles are a sign that Hamid, too, is dead.

Hamid's photo lifts and is kissed by Sabra, who tells him—

SABRA

I'm going home.

Outside, Umm Ali wakes startled: could that voice be—

UMM ALI

Sabra?

Umm Ali, too excited to breathe, turns to Sabra—

UMM ALI (CONT'D)

Did you speak?!

Sabra smiles at Umm Ali, then speaks again—

SABRA

I'm going to Jerusalem.

Tears of joy roll on Umm Ali's face: the mute child has found her voice! Umm Ali opens her arms; the two embrace.

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - DAY

On her way out, Sabra notices a CACHE that was hidden until rocks falling shattered its cover.

Sabra glances at sleeping Abe, then at the door, anxious not to miss her chance to get away, but she digs into the cache, finds a revolver and ammunition and drops them into her pack, then digs again and lifts a belt with packets and wires attached to it. Stunned, she remembers—

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INT. REFUGEE CAMP HUT (TWO DAYS AGO) - NIGHT

A map of Lebanon with the Israel border and Security Zone marked. Sabra's finger moves to an "X" inside the Security Zone, and she looks up at the lean FIGHTER instructing YOUNG MEN who answers her-

FIGHTER

Yes, there's water and food there. Use anything you find.

The Lean Fighter hands Sabra an old iron key-

FIGHTER (CONT'D)

But Sabra...it's a long way.

Sabra folds the map. Nearby, several belts with packets hang - exactly like the one hidden in the cave cache.

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Sabra is shocked to realize she holds a suicide belt, and drops it back into the cache, covers it, lifts her pack and is moving out when...a sparkle of sunlight on metal stops her, and she follows the shaft of sun streaming from the hole in the cave's roof straight down to Abe's radio crushed under rocks.

Sabra's thrill - the radio is silenced! She glances at Abe and her pack slides to the ground.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Gorgeous peaceful morning: Abe wakes, looks to the spot where Sabra lay - she's gone! But as he lurches up, he discovers...what? Three apples next to his head? Mystified, he wants to laugh.

EXT. TREE BRANCHES - DAY

Sabra lounged in a tree with her antique photo of a house, a young orchard, a small BOY with his dove. From her pocket she pulls a blood-streaked photo of Ben, Abe and Elanie and remembers how she found it-

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EXT. TREE, DISTANT ROAD (YESTERDAY) - DAY

Sabra hiding in a tree, watches the soldier patrol come. Sudden explosion! She almost falls out of the tree.

EXT. ROAD, BOMB SITE (YESTERDAY) - DAY

Sabra's fingers touch blood spill on the road. ON: photo in roadside grass. Sabra picks up the photo of Ben, Abe, and Elanie, and wipes blood off of it.

INT. CAVE (PRESENT) - DAY

Abe reaches for an apple...

ABE

So Abraham...what do you
make of the Garden of Eden?

...but his foot, as he moves it, makes him yelp-

EXT. TREE BRANCHES - CONTINUED

Sabra hears Abe's distant yelp.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUED

Abe drags himself, teeth clenched; pain jabbing, to get his rifle, tries to stand, yells, collapses and sees-

Sabra stands watching him, a light-halo behind her.

Abe blinks, awestruck: Is she a dream after all?
There's no point trying to control her with his rifle.

ABE

Have you seen my radi...?

Sabra looks at the radio. Abe follows her look and sees his radio crushed under rocks-

They're cut off from his world. Abe's alarmed; Sabra's wary. He tries to reach his radio, but pain stops him. Sabra digs the radio out from under rocks and brings it to Abe. It appears to be a total loss. He looks at Sabra.

SABRA

They'll be coming.

ABE (CONT'D)

'Course if I refuse to eat
this apple...we might get
to stay here forever.

Sabra doesn't understand.

ABE (CONT'D)

You could have run.

Sabra avoids his eyes.

ABE (CONT'D)

Maybe you did, then decided
I'm safer than the woods?
(dead serious)
I'll never tell. That we
were here together. All
night. I promise.

Sabra gazes at Abe like an animal waiting to learn-

SABRA

What would happen to you if...

ABE

If what.

SABRA

What would your Captain say?

ABE

If he found me with you?
Dumb luck.

Sabra's shocked, doesn't get his joke.

ABE (CONT'D)

I'd be in trouble for even
talking, let alone...touching.

Embarrassed, Sabra moves to the door-

SABRA

Come.

Abe's surprise - come how?

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EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE/STREAM (MONTAGE) - DAY

Abe's arm draped across Sabra's shoulders as she lugs him, leaning, hopping, out into sunlight.

Abe sits as Sabra puts his mangled foot into the sun-warmed pan of water.

Abe dozes in sun as Sabra plants a seedling tree like a child playing "house."

SABRA(OS)

Have you got an undershirt?

Abe open his eyes, looks for Sabra, sees her dipping water from the stream. She looks back at him; he nods yes.

SABRA(CONT'D)

Take it off.

Abe is embarrassed. Sabra returns with a full pan, pats the seedling roots; pours water on them: she's nesting. It's irrational, but she's in bliss. Watching her, Abe removes his shirt-

ABE

You gonna stay here till that's grown?

Sabra shakes her head sadly "no."

ABE(CONT'D)

Then why...?

He falls silent seeing Sabra's open hand extend toward him. He pulls off his undershirt and meets her gaze. With him so bare, an intimate tension grows between them.

Sabra's hands take Abe's undershirt and with quick jerks, tear it into strips. Without asking, she searches Abe's kit and finds ointment.

EXT. STREAM BANK (MONTAGE) - DAY

Abe seated at the edge of the stream; Sabra crouched, her bare feet in the water, washing his foot.

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Abe's foot lifted from the water onto Sabra's knee; her fingers smear ointment lightly on his wound.

Sabra gently wraps strips of undershirt around Abe's foot. His teeth clench against the pain as he watches her—

ABE

You're very...effective.
You've done this before?

Sabra glances away and sees her frightening past...

FLASH: Young Sabra wraps Hamid's crushed eyes. He's blind.
...but she keeps on wrapping Abe's foot.

ABE

Tell me about it.

Sabra's eyes meet Abe's. She wants to tell him, but can't.

ABE (CONT'D)

Then tell me who you are.

Abe waits. Sabra's still, so he teases—

ABE (CONT'D)

It's easy: "Abe, my name is
Nadia. I come from..." Wrong?
Is your name not Nadia?

Sabra's direct look, tiny smile. She sucks a breath—

SABRA

Sabra.

ABE

That's not a name. Is it?

And Sabra leaves, taking the pan and ointment.

ABE (CONT'D)

All right, all right, it's
a start: you're Sabra. And
you can't live here now, so
you live...where? Beirut?

Sabra stops, sees a FLASH: the dark alley with the distant door cracked open. She looks back at Abe, can't speak.

ABE (CONT'D)

That's it? You've come all
the way from Beirut?

Sabra stands, skittish as a tethered horse, and SEES the dark door closer; light spills through its crack.

ABE (OS CONT'D)

Why won't you tell me?

SABRA

I don't exist.

Sabra looks at Abe for an instant, then runs across the clearing into the woods as he calls after her—

ABE

You're some spirit of the
woods? I'm imagining you...?

She's disappeared. For the first time, he's not alarmed.

EXT. FOOT OF HILL NEAR CAVE - TWILIGHT

Abe sits with his radio in pieces; the case is crushed, but the circuit board is intact; other parts seem functional: speaker, microphone, LED display. He re-wires the speaker to the board, but...the battery is broken. Abe hears distant bombardment.

Night is coming, and danger: Abe sees Sabra, who trips across the clearing, her pan full of figs, bananas, greens. Suddenly, shots fire. Abe shouts—

ABE

Get down!

Sabra drops; Abe rolls flat to the ground.

ABE (CONT'D)

Stay there!

EXT. CLEARING - MINUTES LATER

Abe reaches Sabra, dragging himself along the ground on his forearms, his rifle on his back. Shots fire.

ABE

Can't be us they're after.
Unless you know something
I don't?

Sabra lies flat, can't speak.

ABE (CONT'D)

Move only when I do. Stay
with me.

Silent Sabra follows Abe move for move, both on their bellies, toward the cave.

INT. FIRESIDE - NIGHT

Warm light. Sabra gazes into the fire at peace. Abe gives up on fixing his radio, also gazes into fire.

SABRA

It's broken?

ABE

Makes you happy? Me too,
except...for Benny.

Sabra looks at him.

ABE (CONT'D)

It's the battery. For one
stroke of power, the kingdom
was lost. C'est la vie.

Easy silence - they might be any two companions. Sudden bombardment. Abe tenses. When it stops, whimsically-

ABE (CONT'D)

I believe you don't exist.
You conjured this place to
trip my reflex: "Let go.
You're safe."

He gazes into the fire, remembering his unsafe patrol-

EXT. DUSTY ROAD (FLASHBACK) - DAY

Abe's face dirty, tired, in sun.

ABE (VO)

I'm out there forty days
at a time.

Abe's eyes sense danger; his head swivels to find it.

ABE (VO CONT'D)

Don't blink. Don't let down.
Catch anything that moves.
Could you do that?

INT. FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Sabra intent, watches Abe.

ABE

Could you? On a warm
summer night...it's
impossible.

Abe lies back, sees star-fires beyond the hole in their
roof, and remembers-

FLASH: Abe lying in ambush, rifle aimed, suddenly rolls
over to gaze at the sky: burst of stars - bright, close.

ABE

(softly)

How could I keep death
alive inside me?

Sabra's moved by his words. Abe sees she is, and-

ABE (CONT'D)

What do your parents say
about you?

Sabra avoids his gaze, but SEES the dark door in the alley
begin to open.

ABE (OS CONT'D)

Is this proper behavior
for a young Arab of good...

Abe stops, seeing Sabra is frightened, listening to-

YOUNG SABRA (VO)

Mama, bar this tight!

FLASH: a door on row of huts is cracked open; narrow light spills into the dark alley. Distant firing.

Now Sabra looks gently at Abe—

SABRA

I don't have any.

ABE (OS)

Parents?

Sabra can't bear to tell her story, so she lies—

SABRA

It was a bomb. In a car.

But she remembers the truth—

INT. SABRA'S FAMILY HUT (TEN YEARS AGO) - NIGHT

Door opens. Umm Ali and her sons see horror, a massacre—

ALI

Israeli devils!

HAMID

Wasn't them. Not this.

INT. FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Abe searches Sabra's troubled face, gently—

ABE

A car bomb? That's why
you don't exist?

SABRA

I never existed.

Sabra in pain, hears—

UMM ALI (VO)

Sabra's alive! But the rest...

FLASH: Young Sabra's eyes stare at Umm Ali from amid her massacred family.

Abe confused; Sabra seems so far away.

ABE

But your brothers; you said...

SABRA

Not my real brothers.
They were Umm Ali's sons.

She remembers it all-

INT. SABRA'S FAMILY HUT (TEN YEARS AGO) - CONTINUED

Young Sabra clings to her dead Mother. From debris Ali rescues an old photo: young orchard, little boy with his dove. Umm Ali reaches Sabra-

UMM ALI (OS)

Talk to me, darling.
Ali, Hamid: lift her.

Gentle Hamid lifts Young Sabra from her dead mother's lap. Her brother and baby sister lie dead in pools of their blood.

HAMID

Don't be afraid, Sabra.
I'm Hamid. Say you know me?

But Young Sabra only stares at Hamid; she's now MUTE.

INT. FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Sabra limp from her memory that Abe hasn't seen.

ABE

Umm Ali. Mother of Ali?
She raised you?

Sabra looks at Abe with tender eyes.

ABE (CONT'D)

That's someone.

Sabra gazes at Abe, quiet-

SABRA

How many Arabs have you
killed?

ABE

None. None!

(beat)

I asked to be transferred here out of Israel, so I wouldn't wind up killing children. You think I want to kill someone? I don't hate Arabs. I only want to live in peace. But they keep on coming to kill us.

Upset, Sabra moves away. Abe, determined to reach her, answers the question she asked him last night—

ABE (CONT'D)

I've never seen anyone die.

SABRA (OS)

Lucky.

Struck hard, Abe explodes—

ABE

I'm protecting our border, farmers two kilometers from here! Am I allowed to defend my home?!

Sabra scared, looks into the night HEARS VO: pounding, from her father's boyhood—

INT./EXT. BEDROOM (VISION OF PAST) - NIGHT

Blurred: PARENTS wake to pounding on the door, shots outside; CHILDREN scramble to the parents in darkness. The BOY(6) chases his flapping dove. Shouts outside—

SOLDIERS (OS)

Get out! Get out!

Family run outside; the boy hides his dove under his shirt; his eyes widen when he sees the SOLDIERS.

FATHER

We can't leave our home, our orchard...

SOLDIER

Move!

INT. HOLE IN ROOF/ FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

With stars above, Sabra looks at Abe like a child-

SABRA

Your home. What's it like?

ABE

It's... What do you mean?

SABRA

A house. A farm?

ABE

Just a house. A...

FLASH: Boy Abe in the porch swing with salty, wise Gramma, looking at their family photo album.

SABRA

On a hill?

ABE

Yes, a hill.

Abe sees his boyhood and home-

EXT. ABE'S HOME (FLASHBACK) - DAY

Gramma and Boy Abe in the swing. ON: old photo of YOUNG GRAMMA and a BABY wave from their young orchard.

GRAMMA (OS)

That baby's your mama, Abraham,
when we got out of hell to paradise.

SABRA (VO)

Is there a tree?

Boy Abe points to the orchard in the photo-

BOY ABE

Oranges?

FLASH: lush grown orchard behind Abe's home now.

GRAMMA (OS)
When the trees grew.

INT. HOLE IN ROOF/FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Under starlight, Sabra imagines—

SABRA
You're at home. You see
your mother, your father...

FLASH: Rug; table; childhood photo of Abe and Elanie.

SABRA (OS CONT'D)
A rug by the door. A
picture of your sister
and you, but younger.

ABE
Yes...

SABRA
Are you afraid?

ABE
At home? No.

SABRA
No one is?

But now Abe hears his Gramma scream—

GRAMMA (VO)
I'll keep her quiet!

INT. GRAMMA'S BEDROOM (FLASHBACK) - CONTINUED

Boy Abe runs in to his dreaming, terrified Gramma—

GRAMMA
I promise she'll be quiet!

Boy Abe shakes Gramma; she wakes, holds him close.

INT. HOLE IN ROOF/FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Sabra watches Abe - upset by his memory...

SABRA

Your Gramma's afraid?

...which leads him to envision Gramma's past-

INT./EXT. CONCENTRATION CAMP BARRACKS (VISION) - NIGHT

Dark. Many inmates asleep. Muffled baby cry.

ABE (VO)

My mother was born in a
camp, in Germany.

SABRA (VO)

A camp? With no sewer.

Outside is a dark yard, puddles of water.

ABE (VO)

No, they had a sewer.

INT./EXT. CAVE/UNDER STARS (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

On Abe and Sabra under stars.

SABRA (VO)

So in the camp with
her baby, your grandma
had no home.

ABE

No, then she didn't.

SABRA

Did someone take it?
Did she fight?

FLASH: family runs for its life through its orchard.

ABE (OS)

It wasn't exactly...

SABRA

You have to fight. It's
your home!

Sabra is frantic. Abe alarmed, reaches for her.

SABRA (CONT'D)

If they come in the night.
Where it's safe. Where
your mother holds you.
Where you go to sleep...

Sabra stops abruptly, hurting.

ABE

What happened.
(no answer)
How old were you?

Sabra looks at him.

ABE (CONT'D)

When your parents were killed.

SABRA

Plenty old.

ABE

How many years?

SABRA

Six.

Abe holds back his tears with whimsy-

ABE

And here you are...apple
hunting - a spirit in the
woods who's snatched this unsuspecting
soldier...

Sabra looks at him. Abe tries to comfort her-

ABE (CONT'D)

...a spirit who doesn't
even exist.

Both quiet, look at stars.

ABE (OS CONT'D)

Does Umm Ali tell stories?

SABRA

Not now.

ABE

Before.

SABRA

Sometimes. About a bird.

ABE

Tell me.

Sabra looks far away.

ABE (CONT'D)

Don't go.

SABRA

I'm not.

ABE

You raised your wings.

SABRA

No.

ABE

You left. You tried.

Sabra looks at Abe. He props himself up, teasing-

ABE (CONT'D)

You're my captive here; you
have to stay in my good graces.
I want to see this hand.

Abe takes her hand, turns it to look at her palm. Stars
spin behind them. Sabra's startled, but doesn't resist.

ABE (CONT'D)

Aha! You know what I see?
In this line here. This
life line...

SABRA

I don't have any.

ABE

Ah-ah, let me look: I see
a good hand, a strong one.

(MORE)

ABE (CONT'D)

It dreams. It feels...
many things. It needs to
build a strong life. I
have hold of it here you
see? It does exist.

Sabra looks at Abe; astonished gratefulness sweeps over her. Her mouth opens but no sound comes. Suddenly she weeps, hard, bends over weeping. Abe, alarmed, puts his arm around her. She sobs, clings to his arm.

ABE (CONT'D)

Don't, Sabra. Don't...

Abe kisses Sabra's hair as she cries. Startled, Sabra raises her head to look at him, questioning.

ABE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I...

Abe stops, embarrassed. But suddenly Sabra leans forward and kisses his cheek, light as a petal falls, then pulls back to look at him.

ABE (CONT'D)

Well. Thank you. That...
did happen.

And IT has happened. Nothing will ever be the same; they love. Sabra looks at Abe shyly, but... Boom: huge crash above them. They look up scared and suddenly they are back in the cave looking up through the "skylight."

INT./EXT. CAVE - CONTINUED

Abe rolls away from the skylight, pulls Sabra with him. Flash lightning, boom: it's thunder; then a downpour of rain through the skylight, spatters the cave floor.

Laughing, Sabra runs straight into this waterfall, and lets it wash her upturned face.

EXT. HILLSIDE, WOODS - NIGHT

Storm. Trees crack. Lightning strikes; the sky is lit and flashing like a great battle.

ABRAHAM-Sunde

INT. CAVE/WATERFALL - CONTINUED

Abe enthralled with Sabra in the "waterfall," laughing-

SABRA

I'm your enemy.

Abe runs to her laughing; both giddy.

INT. FIRESIDE - LATER

Lying close with dying fire between them, Sabra and Abe are wrapped separately in blankets. Rain falls.

ABE

This is not fair. I don't even know your name.

Sabra looks at Abe, smiles softly.

ABE (CONT'D)

Sabra is not your name.

SABRA

Abraham.

ABE

That's mine.

SABRA

Abraham.

Her eyes shut to sleep; he gazes at her.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT TO DAY

Peaceful night woods, lighten into...

Birdsong. Gleam of metal in bushes.

Sabra picks berries, sees gleam, moves toward it, gasps:

A BODY dead for weeks. Sabra turns to run, but sees that the gleaming metal is a radio.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Hearing birds, Abe wakes smiling, breathes deep, rolls up,

ABRAHAM-Sunde

checks his foot: well bandaged; he tests: not as much pain;
tries to stand: not fun, but possible.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUED

Sabra lifts a battery out of the radio. It may work.
Sabra's happy, then torn: she doesn't want Abe's radio to
work, so she drops the battery and leaves without it.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Sabra hurries toward the cave with the berries she's
gathered, then stops; she's changed her mind.

SAME - LATER

Sabra running with her berries; she has the battery too.

EXT. NEAR CAVE / CLEARING - DAY

When Abe sees Sabra coming, he stands to show her he can,
but...what is she bringing?

Sabra stops, both happy and afraid to see Abe on his feet.
She holds out the battery she's brought him.

Abe smiles, but is uneasy: a battery will change things.

SAME - MOMENTS LATER

Abe installs the battery in his radio. Sabra can't watch;
she digs a garden bed.

ABE

One dead guy?

SABRA

Exploded.

Abe looks at her, wondering how she took that. Sabra digs
harder, her face grim. He fits the battery into place.

Sabra's palm raised with seeds on it. A bird flaps down
to her. Sabra's delight. But then: static from the radio.
Sabra hears it and her smile fades.

Abe gets a signal, tunes it and hears...

ANNOUNCER (VO)
All channels bulletin...

...and quickly shuts it off; he sits there miserable.

SABRA (OS)
It works?

Abe shakes his head "no."

SABRA (CONT'D)
But I heard...

Abe looks up at her and admits—

ABE
I'm not ready.

Sabra brightens; they think alike.

EXT. PATH IN WOODS - DAY

Abe leans on Sabra, hobbles along a path.

EXT. POND - DAY

Abe's legs dangle into a pond from its dock. Sabra stands in water, examines Abe's wound as she bathes his foot. He kicks playfully and she falls back into the water laughing, then comes back to hang on the dock. Too happy to speak, they wish today could last forever.

SABRA
We have this little time,
Abraham. Then...

ABE
Yes...?

SABRA
You must not be afraid to go.

Abe moved to tears. He never wants to leave her.

SABRA (CONT'D)
I thank you for coming to me.

With a happy splash, Sabra swims out. Abe calls to her—

ABE

Then tell me...

SABRA

(happily spins)

What?

ABE

Your life.

Sabra disturbed, swims farther away.

ABE (CONT'D)

Your brother then? Umm Ali's
first born?

Instead of answering, Sabra dives underwater and sees-

FLASH: Arab FIGHTER with Umm Ali, unrolling a poster of
martyred Ali.

Abe watches as Sabra pops up and floats on her back-

SABRA (VO)

She wanted him to lawyer,
but he went to the fight.

ABE

What fight? Against
Israelis? He's with one
of the factions?

SABRA

Shot through the throat.

Sabra wants to be happy, gazes at the sky-

SABRA (CONT'D)

She says she gives them;
it's all she can do.
She gives sons.

Sabra spins in the water. Abe stunned, but determined-

ABE

And the other?

Sabra gets a soft smile, remembering-

SABRA

Hamid.

FLASH: Hamid's laugh as he curls Young Sabra's hair with his finger.

SABRA (CONT'D)

He studied to doctor; he
hated the fighting...

(no emotion)

...but your soldiers took
him anyway.

She rolls face down in water, but can't escape seeing-

INT. TORTURE ROOM (MONTAGE VISION) - DAY

Blurred flash of Hamid being beaten by SOLDIERS. He
crawls, barks; hangs by his wrists; electric prods are
applied to his testicles.

EXT. POND AND EDGE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Sabra rolls face-up, limp-

SABRA

They thought he'd tell
about his brother.

Abe is upset. Sabra speaks softly without emotion-

SABRA (CONT'D)

He said they were so
strong, they must be right.
He wished he were a Jew.

Abe revolted, struggles to stand...

ABE

I can't believe it,
Sabra. When was this.

SABRA

He came home blind, then
he died. That I saw.

...instead of standing, Abe slides into the water, and
moves to Sabra-

ABE

Did you have real
brothers or sisters?

Sabra, terrified to think of them, tries to escape, but Abe catches her, holds her tight. In the water they weep.

ABE (CONT'D)

I'll stop asking; I'll stop.

EXT. HILLSIDE - SUNSET

Glorious colored sky. Abe's face glows, leaned against the hill while Sabra wraps his foot. She kneels at his feet, smiles up at him as though she's making a vow-

SABRA

Your name shall be Abraham...
for a father of many nations
have I made thee.

ABE

That's what they say. And
I try to understand it.

SABRA

And the angel of the Lord
called unto him out of
heaven, saying "Abraham.
Abraham." And he said
"Here I am."

Abe gazes at her.

INT. FIRESIDE - NIGHT

Firelight. Abe at the radio, anxious. Sabra watches.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)

Have you got water?!

ABE

How's Benny?

EXT. APC - NIGHT

Two SOLDIERS wait near an APC while Dave studies a map-

DAVE

We have you at 33.16 north,
35.32.5 east. About eleven
kilometers from Beaufort
Castle.

ABE (VO-RADIO)

Tell me about Benny!

DAVE

We almost lost him...
they think he'll make it.

INT. FIRESIDE - CONTINUED

Abe holds Sabra, excited-

ABE

Benny's alive!

DAVE (VO-RADIO)

Verify your coordinates.
We got an APC; we're going
to crash on through.

Abe falters, looks at Sabra, has to decide.

DAVE (VO-RADIO CONT'D)

Do you read me? We're
coming after you.

ABE

Don't risk it.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)

What?

ABE

I found shelter.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)

What shelter?

ABE

Start in the morning.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)

What about your foot?

ABE
(defensive)
I can walk. OK?

DAVE (VO-RADIO)
Apex, I don't think...

Abe yells what Sabra told him...

ABE
I just need to keep it
elevated! Out.

...and clicks off the radio. He looks at Sabra.

EXT. CLEARING - NIGHT

ON: Infinite star sky. Abe and Sabra star-gaze.

ABE
We could be anywhere.

SABRA
Where do you come from,
Abraham?

ABE
Jerusalem.

Sabra startled by her joy-

SABRA
No...!

ABE
(delighted)
Have you seen it?

Sabra shakes her head "no."

ABE (CONT'D)
But everyone knows...

SABRA
Everyone knows Jerusalem.

ABE
You have to come. You have
to see it.

EXT. JERUSALEM (VISON) - DAY

Abe and Sabra spin happily among ravishing images of Jerusalem.

ABE (VO)

The great mosque is
breathtaking, cut out
of the blue sky.

SABRA (VO)

And the air rings?

ABE (VO)

It's so clear!

EXT. CLEARING - CONTINUED

Their excitement soars, breathless Abe faces Sabra.

SABRA

Everyone comes from Jerusalem.

ABE

All of Abraham's children.
You'll know when you're there.

Abe reaches for her, but Sabra has to tell him-

SABRA

This night is like no other.

ABE

(laugh)

That's for sure.

SABRA

You don't understand, but
you will. Tomorrow...

ABE

There's no tomorrow.

Sabra startled: what does Abe know?

ABE (CONT'D)

Tell me.

Sabra can't answer. She stares into the fire. Curling flames flicker. ON: the mystery of it.

ABE (CONT'D)

Then the story?

SABRA

What story?

ABE

About the bird.

Sabra thinks of the story and smiles.

FLASH: Umm Ali rocks on her stoop in the camp.

SABRA

It just learns to fly.

ABE

That's all?

Sabra pulls a blanket around her, like a child-

SABRA

"The bird is born in a
terrible desert...

UMM ALI (VO)

"...ugly and full of screams."

And Sabra remembers-

EXT. UMM ALI'S STOOP (TEN YEARS AGO) - CONTINUED

Young Sabra cradled by Umm Ali, hears the story, with-

FLASH fantasies: A field devastated by war, only one bird.

UMM ALI

"But the bird has a dream
of an olive tree...

FLASH: War field transforms to fluffy sunset-colored cloud.

UMM ALI (VO)

"...and awakes thinking she's
lost, because the dream - an
old stone wall..."

FLASH: Cloud shelters an old wall with an olive tree...

UMM ALI (CONT'D)

"...with eggplants growing,
and strawberries along its
foot, and at its end..."

FLASH: Sunlit branches of the olive tree.

UMM ALI (CONT'D)

"...a silver, rustling, olive
tree is filling her mind, until
she believes that it's real..."

Young Sabra sits in Umm Ali's lap making hand signs.

UMM ALI (CONT'D)

"...and the ugly iron
desert full of screams
is the dream."

INT. FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Sabra happily tells her story; Abe gazes at her.

SABRA

"So she tells herself- 'If
you could only fly, you'd
lift out of this dream and
find the sweet, warm, real
world.' And she begins to try."

EXT. REFUGEE CAMP (FANTASY) - DAY

Young Sabra sneaks up on a bird, pretending she is one.

MONTAGE: The bird runs; Young Sabra runs toward a barbed
wire fence; the bird runs.

UMM ALI (VO)

"First she just runs. Runs
and runs along the sharp edge,
flapping her flimsy wings,
until she feels a bit of
strength seeping across her
back and out to the pinions."

Running Young Sabra and the bird become a floating blur,
like Sabra's run through the field in her *kaffiyeh*.

UMM ALI (CONT'D)

"Then one day when she runs
and flaps till she's dizzy,
she forgets to stop...and keeps
on flapping out past the edge..."

INT. FIRESIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Abe riveted to Sabra's story-

SABRA

"...and into the sky."

Sabra silent, happy.

ABE

Does she find it?

SABRA

What.

ABE

The dream.

SABRA

Which dream?

ABE

The one with the olive tree.

SABRA

No, it's real.

ABE

But does she find it?

SABRA

I don't know.

ABE

You don't?

SABRA

I always fall asleep in
the clouds.

ABRAHAM-Sunde

Sabra smiles suddenly, like sun breaking through clouds.

INT. CAVE/MOONLIGHT - NIGHT

Broad shaft of moonlight streams down from the hole in the roof. Sabra stands like she's bathing in it, looking up.

SABRA

Are you married, Abraham?

Abe at the fireside is surprised-

ABE

Me? No.

SABRA

Good.

ABE

Yes. That's lucky.

SABRA

But you are...a man.

ABE

Am I a man?

Then Abe realizes she means sexually.

ABE (CONT'D)

Well yes. Yes.

SABRA

Good. Because I'm going to love you.

Sabra spreads out a blanket for them to lie on. Abe can't believe he heard right, stares at her.

ABE

Sabra...

SABRA

Come.

ABE

You don't mean...

SABRA

But will you be happy?

ABE

Happy?

SABRA

When I love you.

ABE

Yes! But Sabra...

SABRA

Then come.

Sabra lowers Abe gently onto the blanket.

ABE

You're teasing me. You
aren't serious.

SABRA

Very. This night is
important to me.

ABE

(ironic)

I know how important
this is. That's why I...

SABRA

Don't you want me, Abraham?

The helpless longing in Abe's face makes her laugh.

ABE

But have you...loved
someone before?

Sabra laughs warmly, as though she's taking a vow—

SABRA

No, Abraham.

ABE

(absolute)

Then we can't.

Sabra kneels beside Abe, and with a shy intake of breath, unbuttons her shirt.

ABE (CONT'D)

Stop!

SABRA

Don't be afraid, Abraham.
You came to me from Jerusalem.

ABE

But your father, your
brothers...you have uncles?

Sabra kisses Abe, goes on preparing.

ABE (CONT'D)

They'll kill you.

Sabra straddles Abe. And suddenly, it's as though they're floating in the night sky near the moon.

SABRA

Shhh. It won't hurt your
foot.

Abe helpless to stop, embraces her; she unbuttons him.

ABE

A woman who shames her
family...

SABRA

No shame, no shame. You
lie, Abraham. You're ready.
You want to come into me.

ABE

Oh God.

Abe pulls Sabra to him.

SABRA

If I promise you no one
will know. Show me how.

They kiss hungrily until he catches a breath-

ABE

What makes you think I
know how?

SABRA

(surprise)

Abraham!

ABE

(defensive)

What.

SABRA

You've never loved someone?

ABE

That's not what matters
here.

SABRA

It does. It's perfect!

ABE

Please, Sabra, we have
to stop.

But they go on, neither wanting nor trying to stop.

SABRA

You can't hurt me; it's
life. Just once I want life.

EXT. HILLSIDE/WOODS - NIGHT

Clear night sky dense with stars. Hum of Gramma's song comes
from inside the cave—

INT. CAVE (DREAM) - NIGHT

Dark. Sabra and Abe lie together, asleep. Abe hears
Gramma's song and wakes groggy—

ABE

Gramma? Are you here?

Warm glow in the dark, teasing voice—

GRAMMA (OS)

Never mind, Abraham, I know
what you want to tell me.

Abe is embarrassed to be caught sleeping with Sabra.

ABE

Yes, but not now.

Abe turns: there sits Gramma cradling sleeping Sabra.
Abe is astonished. Gramma, as though answering him—

GRAMMA

It's the boxcar slamming
shut. Always wakes me.

Boxcar door slams.

GRAMMA (CONT'D)

The dark. I'll never forget.

INT. BOXCAR (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT

Dark. The only light is caught by eyes of Young Gramma -
heavily pregnant, crouched in a corner.

GRAMMA (VO)

With your grandfather still
outside, and your mother kicking
me from inside. Oh Abraham...

INT. CAVE (PRESENT-DREAM) - CONTINUED

Gramma strokes sleeping Sabra.

GRAMMA

...the hell that was coming
I didn't imagine, but I knew
that slam was the end of life.
Then after all...it wasn't.

Abe nods, sinks back to sleep, his arm round Sabra.

EXT. HILLSIDE/CLEARING - NIGHT

Bird sounds change. A rim of gray lights the horizon.

ABRAHAM-Sunde

INT. CAVE - PRE-DAWN

Sabra's eyes open and realize night is gone; but she shuts them again and holds Abe tight.

EXT. IDF CAMP, APC - DAWN

Dave and two SOLDIERS, all armed, get into the APC.

INT. CAVE - DAWN

Bird calls; Sabra must wake. She and Abe are entwined. Abe half-wakes, holds her tight, but she's anxious now, and murmurs to him-

SABRA

I have to go behind a bush.
Sleep, my Abraham.

Abe lets Sabra slide away from him.

SAME. (MONTAGE) - CONTINUED

Sabra opens the door, looks back at sleeping Abe.

Sabra withdraws the belt with wires from the cache beneath fallen rocks and takes it.

Abe stirs; Sabra waits.

Sabra checks the revolver and takes Abe's rifle.

Abe stirs, sees Sabra leave.

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE (MONTAGE) - DAWN

Packet explosives and electric unit with wires are attached to the belt Sabra straps on.

Sabra buttons her shirt over the explosives belt.

Sabra's ready to leave but sad; she re-enters the cave, with the revolver in hand, the rifle slung on her back.

INT./EXT. CAVE - CONTINUED

Sabra looks down at Abe who appears to be sleeping.

She pulls the photo of Ben, Abe and Elanie from her

ABE

(realizing)

Because you've got a bigger
plan. You planted a bomb.
I saw you with it! Where?

Sabra won't answer. Abe pulls up on her arm.

SABRA

Ahaa!

Dragging Sabra out of the cave with him, Abe hobbles in
extreme pain, but starkly awake—

ABE

Where is it?

Abe bites his pain, drags her. Sabra's limp, mute.

ABE (CONT'D)

Thought you'd get us
all at once? Where did
you put it!

Abe yanks Sabra's arm. She yells.

ABE (CONT'D)

You think I won't break it?

SABRA

(gasp)

You think I'll tell?

Abe lurches near the cave entrance, pulls Sabra with
her arm locked. She screams—

SABRA (CONT'D)

Abraham, I told you...

ABE

...lies! Here? By the door?
So when it shuts we get it
in the face? Kaboom! Oh baby,
you should have blown me
away when you had the chance.

Abe enraged, jerks Sabra with him, searches for tell-tale
sign of a mine—

ABE (CONT'D)

When I find it you go
with me, baby, all the way!
(anguish)
Why the hell did you have
to hit on me? Answer me!!

Abe yanks Sabra brutally.

SABRA

Ahhahhh!

Sabra slides to the ground, her strength gone. Abe collapses from pain, but braces himself off the ground, suddenly horrified-

ABE

It was you! You planted
the shit that hit Benny.

FLASH: the button Ben fell on. Sabra catches her breath-

SABRA

Believe what you want.
I told you...

ABE

Lies!

SABRA

...everything I could.
You'll understand after...

ABE

After what?!

Sabra struggles to her feet.

SABRA

There's nothing to find.
You have to let me go.

Abe lurching at Sabra, FEELS the bulk of her belt just as she kicks his injured foot. He howls and falls. She grabs his rifle, while he just stares at her, astonished.

ABE

It's on you. I felt it!

SABRA

Go back inside.

ABE

You're the bomb!

(beat)

Why?

SABRA

I don't want to hurt you.

ABE

Hah! You're just going
to blow yourself up?

Abe struggles to his feet.

SABRA

Maybe.

ABE

When do you decide?

SABRA

I don't.

ABE

You just hop on down to
the border and wait for
somebody to shoot you? Or
watch for a school bus to
ram yourself into? Or what!

SABRA

Go in. Standing out here
isn't good for you.

But Abe plops down, won't move: standoff. Sabra slings
his rifle around her back, checks the pistol.

ABE

You lied to me.

SABRA

Some.

ABE

You're Palestinian.

SABRA

I come from Jerusalem.

ABE

My god. Palestinian.

SABRA

I'm going home.

ABE

Dressed like that?

Sabra picks up Abe's radio.

ABE (CONT'D)

That's what was wrong
with your story of Hamid.

SABRA

(swift)

It makes sense what you
did to him now you know
he was Palestinian?

ABE

(icy)

When were you ever in
Jerusalem.

Sabra can't answer.

ABE (CONT'D)

When?!

SABRA

(hoarse)

Never.

ABE

Never!

Sabra leans close to Abe, whispers—

SABRA

Never.

ABE
(sorry)
Sabra...

DAVE (VO-RADIO)
Dogstar to Apex.

Sabra startled, almost drops radio. She aims rifle at Abe, but tears roll down her face.

SABRA
I know there were oranges
there. My father was six.

EXT. ORCHARD (VISION OF PAST) - NIGHT

Shots fire. The mother fights as the father carries the boy past an old stone wall. A soldier drags the mother by her hair.

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Abe stares at Sabra. Radio blares-

DAVE (VO-RADIO)
Apex come in. Are you there?

Sabra hands his radio to Abe, but aims his rifle at him and clicks off its safety. With his eyes on Sabra, Abe speaks into the radio-

ABE
You're up early.

EXT. WHEELS OF APC - DAY

The APC's wheels speed on a dirt road. Inside on radio-

DAVE (OS)
Benny hung on. He is going
to make it.

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE - CONTINUED

Abe jubilant and Sabra is desperate to make Abe hear-

SABRA
Hundreds were running!
Babies clinging to sleeves...

DAVE (VO-RADIO)
Apex? You all right?

SABRA
...till my grandmother
stumbled...

EXT. ROAD (VISION OF PAST) - NIGHT

As family hurries along the road; the mother falls, is
caught and cradled by the father; the boy pats her.

EXT. ROAD SIDE (VISION OF PAST) - DAY

Father and boy dig a hole to bury the dead mother.

EXT. WHEELS OF APC - CONTINUED

Speeding wheels; inside APC, Dave's alarmed-

DAVE (OS)
Apex!

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Abe glares at Sabra, but is hearing her tale, and answers
Dave on the radio-

ABE
Great shape. About to
hop in there.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)
Stay where you...

Sabra has snatched the radio, switches it off.

ABE
That's a "war story,"
Sabra; they're passed
down and down...

SABRA
But you should know...

ABE
...and changed.

SABRA

...if your grandmother
lost her...

ABE

My grandmother has nothing
to do with you!

SABRA

(frantic)

When they tried to go home...

ABE

...the border was shut!

SABRA

Soldiers took his father!
He never retur...

ABE

Just get out of here!

SABRA

I was born in Sabra.

Abe is struck hard, suddenly uneasy—

ABE

The camp?

FLASH: Dark door; sliver of light where it's cracked open.

Sabra breathes hard from her fear of the door.

SABRA

The camp.

FLASH: the dark door closer. Sabra's mesmerized.

SABRA (CONT'D)

When I was six; Israelis
came to Sabra. They surrounded
the camp with their tanks.
They sent in soldiers...

ABE

Not Israeli soldiers!

Sabra stares at him, stunned.

ABE (CONT'D)

Arabs! Not Jews. Just kill me,
why don't you. Or do you only
kill people with children?

SABRA

And oranges. People with
homes. But who? The Jews
who stole my grandfather's
orchard, the ones who made
Hamid blind, the ones who
stood outside the fence
while my mother was...

ABE

I'm a Jew. And they aren't
me!

SABRA

You're the only one I know!

Abe grabs the rifle barrel Sabra holds, and pulls it to
his chest.

ABE

Kill me! You can't.

SABRA

I can. I kept thinking
of ways.

Abe shoves the rifle barrel aside, contemptuous-

ABE

Does your God enjoy killing?

SABRA

Like yours?

ABE

(bitter laugh)

Oh, you'll be welcome in
Jerusalem. Center of the
world, city of God, the
first God to say "You
must not kill."

EXT. HEIGHTS OUTSIDE JERUSALEM (FANTASY) - DAY

Abe and Sabra climb the hill. Breathtaking view of Jerusalem's old city; the Dome of the Rock sparkles against a bright blue sky. Sabra gasps with joy.

ABE (OS)

They all say they come
here to worship, but what
they do here is hate.
Jerusalem stinks of blood.

SABRA

Oh, but the light!

Sabra turns into Abe's embrace, ecstatic to be there.

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Bitterness exhausts Abe-

ABE

Jews aren't as sure as
you think, Sabra. We fear
it's only you who belong.

Sabra stares at him.

ABE (CONT'D)

So tell me! About Sabra.

EXT. WHEELS OF APC - DAY

Wheels moving fast over a rugged road.

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE - CONTINUED

Both Abe and Sabra are terrified to face this...

SABRA

You don't want to know.

ABE

True. But I have no choice.

...so they speak fast, tumbling over each other-

SABRA

It wasn't Israelis.

ABE

It was Christians, Sabra...

SABRA

Your hands are clean. You
only opened the gates.

ABE

...It was Christians
who went into Sabra!

Distant children cry as Sabra begins, without emotion-

SABRA

The babies were hungry...

FLASH: Sabra's mother calms Timur(3), nurses baby Somaya.

SABRA (CONT'D)

...so I ran for bread.

EXT. CAMP ALLEYS (MONTAGE) (TEN YEARS AGO) - NIGHT

Young Sabra scuttles from shadow to shadow.

An Israeli tank outside the camp fence. Young Sabra sees it.
Rifle shots. Young Sabra scuttles away.

A loaf of bread is handed through a cracked door into
Young Sabra's hands.

Young Sabra runs past ARAB SOLDIERS banging on a door-

ARAB SOLDIER(OS)

Open up!

Muffled screams; distant shots. A MAN runs past Young Sabra.
Shots ring; the man falls. Young Sabra runs...
until the dark door and its sliver of light looms ahead.
She runs faster, until she reaches to push the door open-

YOUNG SABRA

Mama, bar this tight!

INT. SABRA'S FAMILY HUT (TEN YEARS AGO) - CONTINUED

A terrible moan. Young Sabra stands in the open door,
drops the bread. She sees between the soldier's legs

ABRAHAM-Sunde

the body of little Timur, bloody, sliced open on the floor, and hears her mother-

MOTHER (OS)

I swear this one's a girl.

A silhouetted soldier, his hatchet dangling, tears the baby from her mother and throws her against the wall-

ARAB SOLDIER (OS)

Girls become mothers. Mothers breed sons.

Soldier stomps the baby's head with his boot. Young Sabra screams and leaps for his boot in the air-

YOUNG SABRA

Mama!

Soldier whacks Young Sabra with the side of his hatchet. She hits the wall. The soldier slows, tired, and swings his hatchet, slicing her mother's belly.

Sabra crawls to her mother, who sits with her head bowed.

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Abe silenced by horror-

ABE

No...

FLASH: Young Sabra curled in her dead mother's lap.

SABRA

Her lap was warm a long time.

Abe wants to help, but all that comes out is-

ABE

The Lord is my shepherd...

SABRA

...I shall not want.

ABE

(hoarse)

When I asked how Gramma
survived, that's all she
said.

SABRA

I couldn't speak any more.

Abe stares at Sabra, numb, finally murmurs—

ABE

Umm Ali...?

Sabra's face clears; gentle, as though she's released—

SABRA

She can't remember this
dead life. She rocks on her
(MORE)

SABRA (CONT'D)

stoop and talks about olives.
She only dreams of home.

ABE

Sabra...

SABRA

A lost home drains your soul.

ABE

Stay with me.

Sabra gets up, beginning to feel life—

SABRA

I promised her I'd find
it. If I get to Jerusalem,
the others can come.

ABE

You'll die, Sabra.

SABRA

The land will know me.
When I touch it, the joy...

ABE

You're going to kill people.

SABRA

I won't if they let me pass.
I'll warn them.

ABE

If you warn them, they'll
shoot you.

SABRA

But they'll know it's my
home.

(beat)

Why else would I die just
to get there?

ABE

(stares)

You're insane.

SABRA

Am I? Think!

(beat)

If you were me what
would you do?

Abe can't answer. Sabra takes his radio, begins to leave.

ABE

If you take my rifle...

SABRA

If I leave it you'll
shoot me.

Abe turns away sharply; Sabra's sorry-

SABRA (CONT'D)

You'd have to shoot me.

ABE

I'll be naked out here.

SABRA

I'll leave it a hundred
yards out.

ABRAHAM-Sunde

EXT. WHEELS OF APC - DAY

At a fork in the road the APC barely slows. It angles right and races on.

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE - DAY

Sabra clings to Abe's radio. They race time-

ABE

If they call me...

SABRA

You'll tell them.

ABE

No. You'll be safer if...

SABRA

You'll call and tell them.

ABE

If they can't reach me, they know something's wrong.

SABRA

They'll come just as fast either way.

ABE

But they'll bring more men.

SABRA

Shut up! You can't stop me!

ABE

That's right!

Sabra moves fast away. Abe throws himself after to stop her, but his foot buckles and he falls-

ABE (CONT'D)

Wait. I'll think of something. Please!

SABRA

Abraham...

ABE

I'll take you to Jerusalem.

Sabra stares at Abe an instant, then shouts-

SABRA

Don't say that!

Sabra sobs; Abe lurches to grab her, pulls her to her knees with him. He embraces her despite the weapons and radio she holds.

ABE

That's what we'll do.
I'll take you there.
We'll go together.

SABRA

You can't! You know you can't.

ABE

If I love you, I can do anything.

SABRA

You're speaking like a child.

ABE

So that's what I'll be.
We'll find the tree, the old wall, the eggplants...

SABRA

Don't!

EXT. HEIGHTS OUTSIDE JERUSALEM (FANTASY) - DAY

Abe runs, excited, with Sabra.

ABE (VO)

That's how we should be. I know the way. The air is so light there; it chimes. We could sing; we could make a child...

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE (PRESENT) - CONTINUED

Sabra refuses to listen-

SABRA

You're talking magic! It's not fair!

ABE

Magic does happen. Do you believe I love you?

SABRA

(aching breath)

In this moment, yes.

ABE

Then in this moment I can do whatever it takes.

Sabra gazes, wanting to believe; Abe embraces her tight-

ABE (CONT'D)

Oh my love.

(laugh)

The first thing is...we have to unhook you. I can't hold a fully-armed bomb.

SABRA

(backs away)

The connection isn't live. I didn't hook it yet.

ABE

Let me see at least.

Staying away, Sabra lifts her shirt, reveals the belt. ON: packs in place, ignition pack in the center of her belly. Abe inhales sharply-

ABE (CONT'D)

Let's take it off.

SABRA

Not yet.

ABE

You don't believe me.

SABRA

I don't know if you can do...

ABE

But you want me to.

SABRA

How could we go there?

ABE

We'll say you're Lebanese,
and I met you before I...

SABRA

No. They can't see me!
They'll lock me up.

ABE

Why? Did you do something?

SABRA

No, I didn't do something!
Hamid didn't do something!

Radio crackles in her hand.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)

Dogstar to Apex.

Their alarmed look at each other. Suddenly Sabra runs,
but Abe grabs her, won't let go—

ABE

I'm going to marry you.

Stunned, Sabra stares, hands Abe his radio, backs away.

Abe watches Sabra as she, uncertain how far to trust him,
hooks up the wires on her belt. Controlling his alarm,
Abe speaks into his radio—

ABE (CONT'D)

What's for breakfast?

ABRAHAM-Sunde

INT. WHEELS OF APC - DAY

Soldiers, hearing Abe, cheer.

DAVE (OS)
We're five clicks and
counting. Gear up, Soldier.

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE - CONTINUED

Abe hears Dave and-

ABE
Roger. Out.

Abe clicks the radio off, opens his arms-

ABE (CONT'D)
Better kill me now.

Sabra runs to embrace Abe.

ABE (CONT'D)
Careful with you. I won't
let anyone hurt you.

Now they race time, hurry back to the cave for his pack.

ABE (CONT'D)
Can you get to Tyre?

SABRA
Anywhere.

ABE
I don't like it. There's
too much chance to lose you.

SABRA
Yes.

ABE
I'll get you papers.
A passport.

SABRA
(gasps)
A passport?! A real pas...

ABE

You know it...

SABRA

...couldn't say Palestinian.

ABE

It would have to say...

SABRA

It's no good, Abraham.
You'd ruin your life.
You'd be a traitor. Any
Israeli would do anything
to stop you; and they'd
never let me live.

ABE

(laughs)

Israelis are not as bad
as you think.

SABRA

Just let me hide.

ABE

I can't!

Sabra stunned: that's it! Controlling her is Abe's duty.
She thrusts his rifle and her revolver at him—

SABRA (CONT'D)

If I give you these? Will
you still be afraid I'll
hurt someone?

Abe grabs his rifle.

ABE

Besides you, you mean?

SABRA

Then it's your duty to
shoot me.

Sabra flattens against the cave door, waiting to be shot.

SABRA (CONT'D)

You better not tell them
about us. They'll think
you went mad.

Sabra starts away. Abe lunges, grabs her—

ABE

Stop it!

SABRA

Be careful, I'm live!

ABE

Stop wasting the time!
I'm taking you to Jerusalem
even if we have to cross the
border under machine guns!

SABRA (OS)

There is no way, Abraham.

ABE

There is! Your life is
all nightmares. My only
nightmare is your fear.

Sabra stunned; they're both shaken.

ABE (CONT'D)

You have to believe in me.
Now. Believe we have hope.

Sabra's still. Abe holds her, makes a radio call—

ABE

Where are you?

DAVE (VO-RADIO)

Afraid we'll sneak up on
you?

EXT./INT. APC - DAY

Speeding wheels, then— Dave's finger on the map moves to
an "X" that marks the explosion location.

DAVE (OS)
Just passed Beaufort Castle.

EXT. CAVE/HILLSIDE - CONTINUED

Abe and Sabra are like deer in headlights.

DAVE (VO-RADIO)
You'll hear us any minute.
All clear?
(beat)
Apex? All clear?

ABE
Clear.

Abe clicks off radio, speaks quickly, carefully-

ABE (CONT'D)
Get me a sealed message.
Bring it to IDF Central in
Tyre. Give it to my friend,
Eli. He's at the gate every
day from 8 to 4.

Sabra excited. Abe shouts-

ABE (CONT'D)
My boot! Extra dogtags.

Abe pulls out the extra dogtags.

ABE (CONT'D)
Here's who you want to find.
But I keep half of it.

Abe breaks his dogtag in two and hands Sabra one half-

ABE (CONT'D)
Half stays with the body,
half goes...elsewhere.

Sabra holds him.

SABRA
Abraham.

ABE

In the message, tell me
where you'll be next
Saturday. I'll get leave
and a ride there. Anywhere
you say. Do you believe me?

She looks into his eyes, nods solemnly.

ABE (CONT'D)

Unhook this now.

Sabra looks at Abe, uncertain.

ABE (CONT'D)

Please. I won't ask you to
take it off. Only...to take
care of my love.

Sabra unhooks the ignition pack.

ABE (CONT'D)

Now answer me one thing.

SABRA

What can I answer you?

ABE

If you hadn't planned to
die today...would you have
made love to me last night?

SABRA

Of course not!

ABE

(laughs)

I don't even know how to
feel about that. Sabra...

SABRA

How will you take me to
Jerusalem?

ABE

As my wife. You can be
anyone.

FLASH VISION: Abe and Sabra's wedding.

SABRA
Even an Israeli wife.

ABE
Even that.

SABRA
But not Palestinian.

ABE
Sabra, no one can make you
anyone but who you are.

SABRA
But if I pretend, I can
be happy.

(but)
What about Umm Ali?

(pause)
It's no good, is it. If
I don't touch the land on
my own, I've abandoned
them all.

ABE
Not if you're happy.

SABRA
That's your love speaking.

ABE
Yes!

SABRA
You're so strong. My
invincible enemy. And
you'll always protect me...
because you love me.

ABE
Yes.

SABRA
Then you'll understand.

Sabra gently pulls away. Abe's reflex is to hang on—

ABE

Don't go...

VO: distant APC approaching.

SABRA

I have to, Abraham.
Please forgive me.

Sabra moves to the hill; Abe stumbles after her.

ABE

You have to stay here.

EXT./INT. APC - DAY

Wheels slow. Soldiers alert, lean in.

DAVE

Right up here. Watch
for him.

EXT. HILLSIDE - CONTINUED

Sabra climbs, gets farther from Abe, calls back-

SABRA

Umm Ali needs her joy back.
If I live and get there,
she'll know she exists.

ABE

It's too late to go!

But Sabra is climbing the hill.

SABRA

I'll go quickly; I'll make
it, don't worry.

ABE

You can't!

Sabra stands at the cliff top, clear and strong-

SABRA

I won't forget you, Abraham.
I married you here.

ABRAHAM-Sunde

Then Sabra runs, as Abe climbs after—

ABE

You can't go. It's too late.
Sabra! Come back!

EXT. FIELD/ROAD/HILLSIDE - CONTINUED

Sabra runs like the wind, flying.

From the road, distant—

DAVE (OS)

Abe, are you there?

Abe is focused on Sabra, can't hear Dave—

ABE

I'll keep you safe. I'll
take you to Jerusalem!

INTERCUT FLASHES of Sabra running, floating...

DAVE (OS)

Advise, Abe! What's going on?

ABE

Don't leave me here!

Dave and soldiers, alarmed, run toward Abe's voice—

DAVE

Abe, where are you?

Dave sees Sabra running across the field.

Below, Abe hears—

DAVE (OS CONT'D)

Halt!

ABE

No!!

FLASH: Sabra hears Dave's shout.

Soldiers aim their rifles at her.

DAVE

Halt, or I'll shoot!

FLASH: Sabra runs harder. Abe screams—

ABE

Don't shoot, don't shoot!!

Soldiers shoot - barrage of automatic rifle fire.

Abe horrified.

Shots zing past Sabra. Her explosives belt flops loose, slides off her body into her hand. Abe screams—

ABE (OS CONT'D)

Noooo!!

Soldiers shoot - barrage of fire.

Sabra flings explosives belt high - it lifts like a crazy ball spinning by itself above her as she runs.

Soldiers shoot - third barrage of fire.

Gigantic explosion from the direction Sabra ran.

ABE (CONT'D)

Sabra...!!!

Glow of explosion against Abe's face; his cry echoes while the explosion fills the morning sky, billowing smoke chokes the field, which is now afire.

Abe collapses to his knees as Soldiers run toward him.

EXT. EDGE OF FIELD - CONTINUED

At the distant edge of the smoke and burning field, something moves.

GRAMMA (VO)

Surely goodness and love...

Through flames, only the camera sees Sabra, blackened, rise to keep running, while birds shoot skyward in a long arc, and Gramma's quiet words are over-laid with the same verse echoing in Hebrew and Arabic...

GRAMMA (VO)
...will follow me all the
days of my life...

...until all three languages overlap and blend in music.

EXT. FIELD - SUNSET

Weary soot-covered soldiers approach Abe, who stands in
despair on the scorched field they have been searching.

DAVE
I'm sorry, Abe. No remains.

Abe's face: from wild grief, a small hope begins until
he gazes at a path Sabra could have run... Did he see
a FLASH of a *kaffiyeh* fly along?

Then Abe dares to let joy in.

GRAMMA (VO)
...and I will dwell in the
house of the Lord forever.

Sky. Many birds fly.

FADE OUT.