

A NEW LIFE?

Characters: Hudi Oman, Serena (his wife), Cartwright (his handler), Ms. Fellows (Cartwright's boss).

Scene One *A small, poor flat, in the south of France.*
HUDI: Are they asleep?
SERENA: I don't dare to look. Hudi, I'm worried.
HUDI: It's OK. We're safe now.
SERENA: But if they find out where you are, they'll kill you. Maybe all of us.
HUDI: They won't find out. I told you. We're safe now.
SERENA: All this spying. You can't trust these people.
HUDI: Serena, we have to. Look, if I hadn't been spying for them we would never have got out of Algeria. They looked after us. That's what they do.
SERENA: And now?
HUDI: Now we have a new life. We start again. Our children go to school.
SERENA: And you?
HUDI: I look for work.
SERENA: But you won't be spying again?
HUDI: I don't know. I hope not.
SERENA: Please, Hudi. Say you won't. I want to be safe.
HUDI: And you think I don't? I don't do this is a game. I have to look after you, and the children. That's what I do. If I can do that with a dull job and no excitement, that's fine. I never wanted trouble.
SERENA: So how did it find you?
HUDI: They look for people all the time. People who know things, people who speak the language. Right now, they're scared of Muslims, so they look for Muslims they can use.
SERENA: And will that be the same here in France?
HUDI: I don't know, Serena. All I want is for us to have a new life. But I'll be careful, I promise.

Scene Two *A French café.*
CARTWRIGHT: (signals to waiter) Another coffee, please.
HUDI: Hudi Oman, isn't it?
HUDI: I'm sorry. Do I know you?
CARTWRIGHT: No, but you should. The name's Cartwright.
HUDI: I'm on a visit from England. Making contacts for trade, business. You know the sort of thing.
HUDI: No, I don't think I do.
CARTWRIGHT: I'm sure you do. Our people in Algeria thought a lot of you.
HUDI: Algeria? (Looks round, anxiously).
CARTWRIGHT: It's all right. You have nothing to worry about. It's not in our interests to give you away. We're on your side.
HUDI: And what side is that?
CARTWRIGHT: Well, if you don't know...Let's just say, I think we could help each other.
HUDI: Really?
CARTWRIGHT: Oh yes. I know you're with the French at the moment. That's fine. But if you ever get bored, or things get sticky, give us a ring. (Hands over card).
HUDI: I'm sorry, I must be going.
CARTWRIGHT: Quite alright. We'll be in touch, then. (HUDI puzzled, leaves the café, and goes home.)

Scene Three *Back at home, in the flat.*
SERENA: There were these men in the market, asking questions.
HUDI: There's always men asking questions.
SERENA: Maybe, but they're not always Algerian, and they're not always asking about you.
HUDI: You're sure?
SERENA: You think I would make this up?
HUDI: No. I know it's true. Everything fits.
SERENA: Fits with what?
HUDI: Pierre. He said they were getting impatient. They always want more.
SERENA: Is that why they've turned us down?
HUDI: What do you mean?
SERENA: This letter came today. Something about a residence permit.
HUDI: Let's see. (Taking it, reads it quickly). He's a swine.
SERENA: You're doing it again, aren't you? You've been informing.
HUDI: Yes, I've been informing. The Algerians tell the French, and the French come looking for me, and they only let us stay if I give them information. How much choice do you think I have?
SERENA: So, what do we do?
HUDI: We go to England.
SERENA: England?
HUDI: Yes. We get a new life, and our children go to school, and settle down. But this time it's for good.
SERENA: How can you be sure?
HUDI: This man Cartwright. He gave me his number. He can get us in.
SERENA: But what will he want in return?
HUDI: What they always want. Information. But I'll make a deal with him. I give him what he wants, and we get passports. Full passports, for life.
SERENA: Will he do that? Will he keep his word?
HUDI: I'll make him. If he wants to use me, he has to pay the price. That's the deal.
SERENA: And you think that will work? It will be different this time?
HUDI: Yes, Serena, it will be different this time. I promise.

Scene Four *Cartwright's office, in London.*
CARTWRIGHT: ...so our main interest is in the mosque on Faraday road. There's a large group of Muslims, and some of them are very angry.
HUDI: They've got good reasons. If you went to the countries they've come from -
CARTWRIGHT: Oh, I'm sure. With terrorists, there's always a cause.
HUDI: You think they don't mean it?
CARTWRIGHT: I'm sure they mean it. But they also mean trouble. And my job is preventing trouble. In a way, I'm keeping them out of danger as well. If we can stop people being hurt, we'll keep them out of jail as well.
HUDI: So they won't be arrested?
CARTWRIGHT: I didn't say that. But we'll be as discreet as possible. There's a preacher, Ali Vaja, we're interested in. He's out for revenge, tells his