

English dialogue list of “Facing Mirrors”

Sadegh: Would you pour me a tea?

Rana: With sugar?

Sadegh: With sugar.

Rana: In a tulip-shaped glass?

Sadegh: A tulip-shaped glass.

Rana: With sugar in a tulip-shaped glass?

Sadegh: With sugar in a tulip-shaped glass...

Rana: With the scent of cardamom?

Sadegh: Aha... with the scent of cardamom.

Rana: Why are your eyes red?

Sadegh: It's nothing... don't worry!

Rana: Answer me. Why are your eyes red?

Sadegh; I don't know. It's probably due to lack of sleep.

Rana: Aha!

Sadegh: Aha.

Rana: You share your pleasures with others and your sorrows are for me.

Sadegh: No! I share them with you.

Rana: Your tea will get cold.

Sadegh: Yeah it's getting cold.

Sadegh: I can't smell the cardamom! What should one do with a wife whose tea doesn't smell of cardamom?

Rana: Certainly hit her with the stem a basil leaf.

Sadegh: No. I should take a second wife. I should ask my Mom to think of what to do with you.

Rana: You're not cute!

Sadegh: But you are. How's Ali?

Rana: He's fine. He has a cold. He keeps asking for a remote controlled car from Dubai.

Sadegh: How do you pay the car payments?

Rana: I pay it every month. A relative of Akram drives it at night.

Sadegh: Who?

Rana: Akram's relative.

Sadegh: Aha.

Rana: He drives it at night. The income is not bad. We can pay the instalments and it helps with the expenses.

Sadegh: How's work?

Rana: It's good... we are very busy these days. Akram says I've brought along good luck.

Sadegh: Is it hard for you?

Rana: No, no, it's good. I'm really busy these days. They count on me. They might give us a loan any time now... you don't believe me, do you?

Sadegh: Why wouldn't I?

Rana: So why are you looking at me like this?

Sadegh: I'm just looking at you... I miss you terribly!

Rana: Sadegh?

Sadegh: I've got to go.

Rana: Sadegh!

Sadegh: Yes dear?

Rana: Take good care.

Sadegh: Yeah... you too.

Rana: Sadegh...

Rana: Hi.

Colleague: Hi. How's your son? It wasn't swine flu, was it?

Rana: Hi.

Colleague: Did you not take him to the doctor?

Rana: Thank God he's much better. Thanks.

Colleague: Thank God. Go and take a look at our bride!

Akram: Thanks. You're in time. Did you see our gorgeous bride?!

Rana: What a beautiful bride!

Bride: Thanks.

Rana: I wish you a happy life.

Bride: Thank you.

Akram: Come and have a cup of tea.

Rana: Thanks... I'm sorry that you have to lie for me all the time.

Akram: Forget it... how was he?

Rana: As he should be. What can I say?! Did you ask Ms. Sajjadi about the loan?

Akram: I did. She says you're a newcomer. She'll talk about it later. Don't worry! Hopefully things will be alright. Drink your tea before it gets cold!

Rana: I told Sadegh that a relative of yours is driving the car... what else could I have said. I had to. You know him, he's too proud.

Akram: What if someone sees you and reports to him?

Employee: Rana is this good or should I cut some more?

Rana: I'll be right there dear. Don't worry! I won't drive in places where I think I will see people I know.

Rana: What have you done? Well, sew the seam now!

Employee: I've cut out the pattern.

Rana: Well when you've checked it, cut the fabric. Sew it. Here sew this!

Akram: Rana come!

Rana: Congratulations...

Adineh: Move over!

Adineh: It didn't work.

Marjan: Why? They probably asked why it was torn!

Adineh: They said that it will be ready by next week and they will post it.

Marjan: So it's not as you said. You just have to wait a few more days.

Adineh: I gave your home address. Make sure you receive it yourself.

Marjan: Why our house?

Adineh: Whose house then? You want my father to grab hold of it and tear it up?

Adineh: Marjan just give me the key to your villa! I'll stay there until you send it to me.

Marjan: You want to go to Kojoor?!?! I mean, now that you have waited for so long, why not wait a little longer. Get your passport and then leave for good.

Adineh: You just don't get it, do you?

Marjan: What do you mean?

Adineh: You, Babak and I will all be screwed!

Marjan: I'm not telling you to stay and get married. I'm saying that it's dangerous to go up north. You might come up with an excuse to delay the wedding. Hah?

Adineh: Fantastic! What a great idea... why didn't I think of it myself?! Yeah. My dad will surely agree. Then Aunt Farideh will ask you to marry Babak... honestly!

Marjan: Don't tease me! Aunt Farideh will never approve of our marriage.

Adineh: She will... if my dad's money and I don't exist... Babak is so spoilt and all thumbs that he has to marry within the family circle. If not this cousin then another one will do... you just have to convince her... I believe that it will be easier if I'm not around.

Marjan: Be careful!

Adineh: Are you wearing your seat belt?

Marjan: What are you doing? Let them go!

Adineh: Let them go?! The cheek of him...

Marjan: For God's sake, Eddie! My car... I just got it back from the garage...Eddie slow down!
Eddie...

Adineh: I'll show you!

Police: Driver of Peugeot 206... pull over! Stop the car... pull over!

Marjan: Oh... God have mercy on us!

Adineh: We haven't done anything wrong... we were speeding; we'll get a ticket... I'll pay it myself.

Marjan: Oh you're not wearing your scarf! We're doomed.

Adineh: Yes?

Police Officer: Registration... driving license please!

Adineh: Give me the registration! Here you are!

Police Officer: Mr. Emad Tolouee?

Adineh: Yes.

Police Officer: This photo doesn't look like you!

Adineh: I used to have a beard then.

Police Officer: Please sit in the back.

Marjan: Why Officer? I haven't done anything.

Police Officer: It will be resolved at the police station.

Adineh: The police station? What for?

Police Officer: Please Madame.

Police Officer: To find out where you got this license from.

Adineh: Obviously, I got it from the Traffic Police Department!

Police Officer: There's no fluff above your lip and you say that you used to have a beard then! Follow the car!

Tolouee: Hello, yes this is he. Yes? I don't understand Sir. Yes Emad Tolouee is my son. He's at the police station? I'll be right there.

Tolouee: Wait here!

Girl 1: I'll choke her one of these days!

Girl 1: Ignore her. She is nobody... just a fatso!

Girl 1: I know. But you should see the way she flirts with Ahmad. I just want to pull her eyes out.

Girl 2: Forget it. She can't do a damn thing.

Girl 1: Give me one too!

Rana: Please don't smoke in the car!

Girl 2: Why?

Rana: Because the car will reek of cigarettes.

Girl 1: So what... that'll be good.

Rana: I'm serious. Please don't smoke in the car.

Girl 2: We always smoke in cars. I told you not to get in this car... if the driver were a man, he wouldn't mind, he would even enjoy it... women shouldn't be driving taxis!

Rana: 500 Tomans.

Girl 1: Why? We are not there yet?

Rana: You said boulevard and this is the boulevard.

Girl 2: We wanted to go to the other end.

Girl 1: Leave it! Don't bother talking to the likes of her. You had better go home and use your washing machine.

Rana: Oh God...

Tolouee: You stupid girl...I have always lived an honourable life and now...

Adineh: It's your own fault.

Tolouee: Shut up before I hit you again... why did you stop the car? Move... useless boy, can't look after his driving license. Turn it off. All I needed was to fetch my girl from the police station.

Emad: Hello... hi. She's fine. We're headed home. I'll tell her to call you.

Tolouee: You'll be in trouble if you go out with that girl again. You are not allowed to leave home until your wedding day. Pay attention, keep an eye on her... if she does this again I'll skin you alive... got it? Everyone has children, I have trouble!

Tolouee: Why didn't she come to have breakfast?

Emad: I think she is still sleeping. I think it's better to...

Tolouee: First of all no-one asked for your opinion. Secondly don't worry. Once she gets married she'll come to her senses. I want what's best for her.

Emad: Nothing will be solved this way.

Tolouee: How then? By letting her do whatever she wants?

Emad: You interrupt all the time. When you were sending her away you didn't allow me to talk.

Tolouee: What did you have to say? I believed that she would go abroad, do some sightseeing, see other girls and would change her mind. Your Aunt would call everyday and say: I'm keeping my eye on her". I didn't know that she would find better ways to embarrass us... I wish I hadn't sent her away... but I'm not going to let it happen again. Get up. I'm late.

Emad: Didn't you say that I should keep an eye on Eddie?

Tolouee: I'll lock up. Don't you ever call your sister Eddie again!

Adineh: What?

Marjan: I gave the key of the villa to Sara. She's waiting for you. You know her address?

Adineh: Yeah... I do.

Marjan: Do you really want to leave?

Adineh: I really don't but I really have to go. Do you know the difference?

Marjan: It's dangerous! Something might happen to you.

Adineh: Nothing will be worse than what they will do to me if I stay.

Khanoom joon: Ali has been messing with my radio again. There's no sound on it.

Rana: I'll fix it for you. Give it to me Khanoom joon.

Khanoom joon: Did you sleep with wet hair again?

Rana: The Devil is telling me to have a haircut to make myself feel good.

Khanoom joon: The Devil doesn't dare talk to you. You'll be ugly just like Fahimeh.

Rana: But Fahimeh is not ugly Khanoom joon.

Khanoom joon: She is. Her short hair makes her look like man! There should be a difference between men and women. I've never had a hair cut in my life. When I was your age I had long hair up to here and it was this thick. Whenever Maryam was teasing Sadegh he would hide under my hair. My poor son, where can he hide now?!

Rana: Things will be all right Khanoom joon.

Khanoom joon: Maryam called last night. She was asking why I wasn't going to Tabriz. She's right. She might go into labour any day... she wanted to talk to you, I told her that you were at work...she said what kind of working hours is this?

Rana: I should get going Khanoom joon. I'm going to be late.

Khanoom joon: Tell your boss that she should hire more help. When you come late at night, Ali keeps asking for you.

Rana: I know Khanoom joon... what can I do! I've bought a remote controlled car on behalf of Sadegh and left it by his side. When he wakes up tell him his dad has sent it from Dubai.

Khanoom joon: My poor son...

Rana: We have leftovers from last night. It's on the stove. You don't need to cook. This is Mr. Mozaffar's money. I'll leave it on the TV set. Give it to him if he comes. Get anything you need and ask him to put it on my tab.

Khanoom joon: Mr. Mozaffar was asking which bank you get your money from. The bank notes are small!

Pregnant woman: I never imagined him being unfaithful. He could be her father. My poor uncle trusted him and gave him the key to his villa. I have to see it with my own eyes. No don't worry. I'm in a cab. The driver is a woman. OK I'll call you dear. Go, go, bye for now. Lady, please turn right. Stop behind the silver Peugeot.

Rana: Lady... do you want me to wait for you? Are you sure that...

Adineh: Will you not let it go?

Marjan: Where are you?

Adineh: What?

Marjan: Where are you?

Adineh: What's up?

Marjan: Your family knows you're on the run. They are looking for you. They have given the details of you and Emad's car to the police.

Adineh: Oh...

Marjan: What do you want to do now?

Adineh: I don't know. I have to think...

Marjan: Keep me posted.

Adineh: All right, all right...

Adineh: Hi. I want you to wash this car thoroughly, inside, outside; the engine... is it possible?

Carwash staff: It will take around two hours.

Adineh: That's OK. I'm going to leave. A guy by the name of Emad Tolouee will come to collect the car.

Carwash staff: OK.

Adineh: Thank you.

Adineh: Sorry I didn't know you had a passenger, I'm sorry.

Driver: He's not a stranger. He wouldn't mind another passenger.

Man: Why the long face? He didn't say anything! Get in. We have everything, booze, and cards and dope...

Driver: We just need a hotty like you to have fun.

Adineh: Get lost before I break your jaw.

Man: Sorry I didn't see your moustache.

Man: Ouch.

Driver: Bitch.

Man: What the hell are you doing!

Driver: Bastard!

Rana: Oh...

Adineh: Stop...

Adineh: Thanks.

Rana: You're welcome. What was going on?

Adina: I'm glad you arrived.

Rana: Where are you headed?

Adineh: Just drop me off somewhere where I can find a taxi.

Rana: Where are you going?

Adineh: What difference does it make? Do you take passengers? You do?! Unbelievable!

Rana: You didn't say where your destination was?

Adineh: Kojoor.

Rana: where?

Adineh: Kojoor. Have you never heard of it?

Rana: Of course. It's near Chaloos... no I can't take you there. I thought you were going to Tehran.

Adineh: Tehran is the last place I would want to go. I want to go to Kojoor and I'm in a hurry. Whatever the cost is I'll pay triple.

Rana: Why do you want to take this road? Why not take Karaj Road? There are shuttle taxis from there.

Adineh: Don't you want to earn money? I don't want to go from there. I want to take this road and I don't want to be disturbed any longer. You saw what happened!

Rana: I can't take you. I really can't. I have to be home by the end of the night.

Adineh: Instead of haggling just drive and you'll be back by night time! Isn't it worth going home late just one night? 500 thousand Tomans! No 1 million cash! What do you say? Here. Let me show you so you wouldn't think that I'm lying? 1 million to Kojoor. OK? Say OK. Do the right thing and earn a decent amount of money. OK?

Rana: Do you have a mobile phone?

Adineh: Great! Here!

Rana: Hello...hi Akram. I'm fine. I'm hitting the road. I have a passenger...don't worry, it's a woman. Just go to Ali and Khanoom joon. I know but I can't ignore the money. Tell them that I have to work overtime and I'll be late... I'll come in the morning and take her to the bus terminal...

Adineh: Lady...

Rana: Hang on. Yes?

Adineh: Come!

Rana: Hold on a second.

Adineh: Give her my number and ask her to call whenever she wants.

Rana: Akram write down this number.

Adineh: You arranged everything without giving the OK.

Rana: I don't know about OK. I've never been there. I'll take half up front now.

Adineh: All right...

Adineh: You hate smoking?

Rana: Very much.

Adineh: If you don't like smoking then what do you do when you are nervous?

Rana: Nothing special. I sometimes bite my nails.

Adineh: Yeah...I didn't notice your fingernails. They're like mine. How long have you been working as a taxi driver?

Rana: Not long.

Adineh: Are you not scared? It must be somehow dangerous for a woman like you?

Rana: I only take female passengers.

Adineh: I see...

Rana: Oh...put on your scarf, we'll be both arrested... I said wear your scarf. I'll be forced to drop you off.

Adineh: Very well... you're the boss now... hello... what's up? Yeah I'm on my way. No I'm in a car. I've left the car in the carwash, you know the address? All right then somehow inform Emad to go and collect it. No, keep your mouth shut. You can't? Yeah not a word even to Babak... you have a flat tyre... what? I'm not talking to you. I'll let you go. Bye... you have a flat tyre. Pull over.

Rana: Oh...

Adineh: It's the back tyre on your side. The car was pulling that way... step aside, it's not for you to do.

Rana: If you are that good, put the car in gear and take out the bolts.

Adineh: When you get to the main road, there's a tea shop there. Stop there. We can eat and fix the flat tyre... I'll take the tyre. Go and order something.

Rana: What should I order?

Adineh: 10 skewers of liver, 6 of kebab ... hi.

Waiter: Hi.

Rana: Hi.

Waiter: What would you like to order?

Rana: 3 or 4 skewers of...

Adineh: Hi. No... bring us 10 skewers of liver, 6 of kebab... no not tea bags... bring us fresh brewed tea in mugs. Don't forget to bring yoghurt and olives. Thank you.

Rana: I don't want any food. Thanks. I just want tea. Thanks.

Adineh: I'll eat it all myself. Just bring everything I ordered.

Waiter: Yes.

Adineh: Thank you. Give it to me. What's your son's name?

Rana: What?!

Adineh: He's cute. What's his name? He doesn't have a name?

Rana: He does... but!

Adineh: But what?! How did I find out? I saw his picture. I said you aren't suitable for the job but you sure know how to change a flat tyre. Thank you. Are you sure you don't want to eat?

Rana: No thanks... I'm full.

Adineh: You're full or only pretending. Take this; it might whet your appetite.

Rana: Thanks.

Adineh: Rana is a nice name, it suits you. Is your husband alive? I thought he may be dead and that you have to earn a living like this. Are you always this talkative? Help yourself, I'll go to the loo...you were in the loo as well?

Rana: Why did you go to the men's room?

Adineh: The ladies' room wasn't vacant.

Rana: You could have waited.

Adineh: I couldn't. I have to explain myself for going to the bathroom?! Oh... Rana... Rana... pick me up 500 meters further up. Bring my backpack. If they ask you anything you don't know me. Otherwise you won't get the rest of your money.

Rana: Where are you going?

Police Officer: Excuse me Madame?

Rana: Yes?

Police Officer: is this your car?

Rana: Yes.

Police Officer: Can I see some ID?

Rana: Is something wrong?

Police Officer: Give me your ID.

Rana: Yes.

Police Officer: Where are you going?

Rana: I'm going to Kojoor.

Police Officer: Are you travelling alone?

Rana: Yes.

Tolooee's voice: Adineh, you stupid girl answer the phone. How long do you want to embarrass me? I'll find you wherever you are and I'll wring your neck.

Rana: Oh my God...

Adineh: I thought you weren't going to show up any more!

Rana: Why? You thought that I had taken your backpack and fled? Why are you running away from the police? Are you a thief?

Adineh: A thief?! Are you crazy Rana?

Rana: What's all this gold and jewellery?

Rana: You checked my backpack? Obviously you haven't seen a thief before. They belong to my mother. Can we go now?

Rana: You've run away from home?

Adineh: Run away! Nonsense!

Rana: Who's looking for you?

Adineh: Who?

Rana: Your name is Adineh, right? Who wants to wring your neck?

Adineh: You had no right to answer my phone!

Rana: I have a right to know who my passenger is and what I am getting into! No wonder you were willing to pay me 1 million Tomans!

Adineh: Wait... wait... slow down! You're no saint yourself. Something is fishy when a woman accepts 1 million Tomans to go to Kojoor and tells her family that she's working.

Rana: Really? You know what?! I don't want to take you anymore. I want to go back to Tehran. Here's your money. Now get out of my car!

Adineh: What happened to you?

Rana: I said get out!

Adineh: You can't go back on your word. We made a deal. Don't you need this money?

Rana: I don't need dubious money! Get out!

Adineh: Look I know you're scared but I need to go to Kojoor.

Rana: I don't care dear. Get out and find another car.

Adineh: Just hear me out. I said hear me out. Allow me to tell you why I have to go, if you are not convinced then I'll get out OK. Look I have to go into hiding for a week until I get my passport and leave Iran.

Rana: Why? Are you a spy? What were you doing in the men's room?

Adineh: Why is it so important for you?

Rana: Because you are lying all the time. You are acting weirdly. You used the men's room to do something!

Adineh: Like what?

Rana: I don't know, to use drugs perhaps.

Adineh: You think I can't do it in the ladies' room?

Rana: I don't know. I have no knowledge. That's why you chain smoke! You're an addict and that's why you ran away from home. Hurry up get out of my car.

Adineh: Look. I have to leave Iran because if I stay they will force me to marry my cousin.

Rana: So...marry him. Is he a bad guy?

Adineh: No, no, he's not the problem. I can't take a husband... I'm not a girl.

Rana: I'm doomed. What are you saying?

Adineh: I don't mean that. Do you know what transsexual means? Transsexual means people who want to change their gender... I'm a transsexual.

Rana: Get out of my car. Get out! You piece of shit!

Adineh: What are you doing Rana?!

Rana: You piece of shit. Don't touch me... don't touch me!

Adineh: I won't.

Rana: Get out of my car you scum!

Adineh: What's wrong with you Rana?!

Rana: Oh help me God... get out!

Adineh: Rana... be careful!

Nurse: So you're finally awake? You must really thank God for being alive.

Rana: Where am I?

Nurse: This is the amusement park and I'm Godzilla. We want to play a hospital game.

Rana: What time is it?

Nurse: 9.

Rana: 9? 9 in the morning or at night?

Nurse: 9 a.m. Monday 31 December 2009.

Rana: Monday?

Nurse: Aha.

Rana: Oh God... what am I doing here? Who brought me here?

Nurse: You were in an accident. Don't you remember? The driver of the other vehicle brought you here. Poor man! He was frightened to death. He almost died until he was sure that you were going to make it. I think he's still trembling out of fear... your friend was with him... what a woman. If she weren't there the police would have taken him. She paid your hospital bill. She wrote a letter it's in the drawer.

Rana: How long do I have to stay?

Nurse: Until they bring in the clean sheets... I'm kidding. You're fine. I think you can leave tomorrow. Now rest until I return.

Rana: Hello.

Repairman: Hello.

Rana: Will it take long?

Repairman: No. The lady who brought your car in is constantly on to us for the past two days. She wants us to finish the repairs sooner. She knows how hard we have been working on it.

Rana: Where is this lady that you're talking about?

Repairman: I think she's in the backyard, near the cote.

Adineh: Hi Rana.

Rana: Hi.

Adineh: Are you fine?

Rana: Weren't you scared of being caught?

Adineh: What would you have done had you been in my shoes? When I took you to the hospital I found out that I was scared in vain. My dad, the guy who wanted to wring my neck, had not informed the police out of honour.

Rana: You mean they're not looking for you now?

Adineh: They are... but not the police! They are probably on their way now.

Rana: How do you know these things?

Adineh: I have my own spies. I'm my father's child.

Rana: I'm thankful. Keep this. It's yours.

Adineh: Why? We had a deal. Have you forgotten?

Rana: No, but I didn't take you there.

Adineh: If you had I would have been taken to Tehran with my arms tied behind my back to my wedding. It was worth more than taking me.

Rana: What do you want to do now?

Adineh: I don't know about myself but once your car is fixed I'll drive you home.

Rana: No thank you. I can drive myself.

Adineh: It's not right to drive in your condition.

Rana: I'm fine. I can do it. I'm better off.

Adineh: All right, suit yourself... I go to check on your car.

Rana: Adineh... forgive me.

Adineh: Why? Because you slapped me or because you don't want me to drive you? Don't be shy... say that you don't want me to drive you because...

Rana: Don't say anything for God's sake... don't say anything! I didn't say anything.

Adineh: You didn't say anything?! What did that slap mean Rana? Why did you have an accident? Was it not because you wanted to get away from me as fast as you could? Was it not?

Rana: I slapped you because I was shocked. I didn't know what to do! I thought a man had deceived me and gotten into my car.

Adineh: Poor woman. I haven't been operated on yet. Don't you see my father is marrying me off?

Rana: How could I have thought about these things at that moment? I had never seen a person like you before, how could I have known...

Adineh: Rana, call Akram she's worried about you. She called when you were unconscious. She wanted to tell you that your mother-in-law has gone to Tabriz herself. Apparently your sister-in-law is in labour. They had contacted your place of work but you weren't there. She wanted to take your son but Akram didn't let her. He's with her now. Rana, don't worry. She told your mother-in-law that you were hit by a cyclist on your way back and that you were taken to hospital. Your appearance proves that you were not lying!

Rana: Adineh, I'm so ashamed of myself, are you still willing to take me back to Tehran?

Adineh: As long as I remember I was never like other girls. Even though there were many girls in our family but I always played with Emad and my cousin, Babak. We were a team of three that no-one could be a match for us... in the fights we had nor in the games we played...

Rana: But ever since I was a kid I loved two things, to become a bride and to drive myself. Sadegh gave me both. You should have seen the faces of the people around us when I drove for the first time. My mother-in-law said: Women should not drive when men are around! But Sadegh used to say: It's good for a rainy day! No-one knew that the rainy day would come so soon!

Adineh: I was five when I lost my mother. I had no female in my world. When I reached puberty my father became more sensitive. He would say: What's wrong with you girl? Why don't you have any female friends? Why don't you wear skirts? Why don't you behave like a woman? You are embarrassing me, acting like a thug. But I didn't understand what he was talking about? The male who lived inside of me grew stronger by the day... sometimes I was even scared of him myself.

Rana: Everything was fine until last year. Not that we didn't have any problems... we did but we were happy too. Until one night when Sadegh came home and said that he wants to establish a clothes manufacturing company with a friend of his. A loan from the bank and borrowing money enabled them set up their business. In the beginning everything was fine I mean we thought that it was fine, not knowing that his partner was not repaying the bank payments and had bought a piece of land for his wife with the customers' money. He disappeared. Sadegh was left on his own with nothing and a lot of lenders who had warrants for his arrest. The manufacturing company was auctioned off by the bank.

Adineh: When I was in Germany, my Aunt took me to a psychiatrist. To be honest, at first I was shy to tell him what my problem was but I finally said it to him. He sent me to another doctor because they had to run some tests... after that they found out that I was really a TS and not an illusionist.

Last year I finally made up my mind. I had just started hormone therapy before the operation when Emad called and said that my father was ill and I had to go back to Iran as soon as possible. When I got back I realized that I was taken in. My dad was not sick. He had fabricated it all, and thus the operation would be stopped and he could marry me off. Poor Marjan and Babak. They had a plan to get married on the quiet. They intended to inform their families after Arbaeen.

Rana: Thanks.

Adineh: You're welcome.

Rana: Do you have anywhere to stay?

Adineh: I'll find somewhere.

Rana: It's late now. Stay tonight, leave in the morning...

Adineh: Are you sure?

Akram: What are you doing here? Who are you? Get over here, what the hell are you doing here?

Adineh: Allow me to explain Madame.

Akram: Explain what? Rana? Call 110.

Adineh: Allow me, Madame.

Akram: Hold on.

Adineh: Allow me.

Rana: What are you doing?

Akram: Call 110. Thief!

Rana: Let go of her! What thief?! Let me talk... what happened to you?

Adineh: Get out...

Akram: How could I have known that she's a girl, look what happened... why was she shaving her beard then, does a woman shave her beard?!

Rana: Where are you going? I'm talking to you. I know you're hurt, it was my fault. I should have told Akram last night... don't leave like this.

Akram: Oh... what have I done... how could I have known that you are a girl? Forgive me. I meant no harm... forgive me. Please don't cry. Let me see your face... sit here dear... I'll bring you some tea... would you like some too?

Rana: No, sit down. I'll pour it myself.

Akram: I don't want any.

Rana: Why?

Akram: I have to go... come and clean your face. Rana told me what you have done for her. God bless you. People like you are hard to find. You'd put a man to shame. I don't know what would have happened to her if you went there.

Adineh: If I weren't there nothing would have happened to her.

Akram: But you scared me to death! My dear no girl shaves... you'll ruin your skin. I could have threaded your face... have you really forgiven me? I should get going.

Rana: Are you going to work?

Akram: No, it's closed today... I'm going home the plumber is supposed to come... good-bye.

Rana: Take care.

Adineh: Have you told her?

Rana: Of course not... how could I have told her? How can I tell people that you are neither a woman nor a man!

Adineh: What do you think?

Rana: I think... God forbid... you are fighting Divine will... it's a sin...

Adineh: A sin?

Rana: Yes it's a sin... God will not forgive you... you've been born a woman and you should stay as one... like me... like your late mother, like Marjan... look, I might help you but I don't understand what you are doing.

Adineh: You don't understand because you have never been in my shoes! You think that I slept one night and when I woke up the next day I decided to become a man?! Yeah... you're unfair, I had no choice, being in limbo as you had no say in being a woman...the difference is that you are not confused... you're not stigmatized, but I'm all of these things.

Ali: Hi.

Rana: Hello my dear.

Ali: What's wrong with your neck?

Rana: Nothing my dear. Oh I've missed you so much.

Ali: Who is this?

Rana: A friend.

Adineh: Hello.

Ali: Hello.

Adineh: I'm Eddie. Why is your handshake so weak? A man's handshake should be strong... well done.

Ali: You have a nice cap.

Adineh: Yeah? Your cap is so nice.

Ali: Thanks Uncle.

Rana: No, Aunt. Just because she's bald doesn't mean she's your uncle... go and wash up then I'll give you breakfast.

Adineh: Uncle... aunt...

Rana: You want to leave?

Adineh: Yeah... I better leave before Ali is more confused about uncles and aunts. Don't worry I won't take you with me this time.

Rana: Where do you want to go?

Adineh: I have no idea.

Rana: Do you want to stay here until your passport is ready?

Adineh: Here? Do you know what you want to do?

Rana: Isn't your family convinced that you have fled Tehran? So Tehran would be the last place for them to look for you.

Adineh: Harder... it wasn't a goal... why don't you score a goal? Come on kick the ball like a man... run...

Ali: I've scored a goal.

Adineh: What happened? Ali... what happened? What a deep cut! I think we have to amputate your wrist and replace it with a big fork... who's there? I'll answer the door... yes?

Mozaffar: Excuse me Sir... is Ms. Rana in?

Adineh: Rana.

Rana: Hello Mr. Mozaffar... how are you? How's Ms. Fahimeh.

Mozaffar: She says hello... how's Mr. Sadegh? Any news?

Rana: He's fine... he says hello.

Mozaffar: I was here 2 days ago for the settlement of last week's bills. You weren't home. Your mother-in-law wasn't in either.

Rana: Yes. She's gone to Tabriz for a few days. Please wait I'll ask Ali to bring your money. Ali go get my purse my dear.

Adineh: Wait, I have money on me... how much is it?

Mozaffar: The total is 67 thousand Tomans.

Adineh: There you go!

Mozaffar: Don't you have change?! Our customers and I need change. You don't seem to be from around this neighbourhood!

Adineh: Keep the change for the next bills.

Rana: He's my brother. He's come from out of town.

Mozaffar: Right... with your permission.

Adineh: Your brother made a fool out of himself, sis?

Ali: Hi.

Rana: What the hell?! Why have you dressed up like this? Are you not ashamed? What is this look? Oh God! Go inside... I don't want to see you like this ever again... understood? If your father finds out he'll never talk to you again.

Rana: My dear Ali... I was tired that's why I yelled at you.

Ali: I know.

Rana: Don't you cry! OK?

Ali: OK?

Rana: A man never cries... my dear... sweet heart...

Ali: It's Auntie's fault.

Rana: Let's play. Act like a duck... my baby.

Marjan: Eddie dear.

Adineh: Marjan.

Marjan: Hi.

Adineh: Any news?

Rana: Yes.

Adineh: Can I come in?

Rana: Something wrong?

Adineh: No, I can't sleep. I thought if you can't sleep either we could have a chat. Why did you upset your child over me? I never thought mothers could be cruel... don't worry, he won't turn into someone like me... your bedroom is as I had imagined... do you wear men's cologne or is this Sadegh's? You're madly in love with him, aren't you? What is it like to be in love with someone else?

Rana: Have you never been in love? Sadegh says being in love should be in your destiny. Suddenly you see a person who is different from others. You know his footstep, you know his scent... when you see him your heart beats so fast that you think everyone else can hear it... if he ignores you will die, you're good if he's there... if he's not... it doesn't matter whether you are on speaking terms or not... it matters for him to be there, to be by your side... when he's not there no-one else can replace him. He is everything to you... you'll forget yourself...

Adineh: Has he ever annoyed you? Have you ever regretted marrying him?

Rana: Annoyed, yes... regretted, no...

Adineh: Do you think if you were in his place, would he have waited for you?

Rana: I have no doubt.

Adineh: How long are you willing to wait for him?

Rana: As long as is necessary.

Adineh: How much is his debt?

Adineh: 18 million Tomans!

Adineh: Well... if you work with your car for another 20 years you'll never be able to come up with the money.

Rana: God is great.

Adineh: Would you believe me if I say that I wish I were in your shoes... I'm serious... I wish I could be in love with someone just like you and I could tell him... without being worried if he will be disgusted or scared if he hears the words, will be embarrassed... I wish I could stay here... in my own country... wish I could live with my love... even if there are bars in between us. But now I can't even count on my father and brother's love... if you are not forced to leave you'll never appreciate your homeland!

Rana: Why don't you stay? Can't you be operated on here?

Adineh: I could, it has been legal for some years now. You can even get a loan for it... Iran is among the few places where it is medically treated... but it's not just the operation; it's the life after it... with a family like mine. You know, I sometimes wish my mother were alive. It might have been different; she would have understood me more than my father.

Rana: Are you sure that if you leave and have the operation, your life will be any better?!

Adineh: No, I'm not. But I can't go on like this anymore either.

Ali: Mom... Mom... where are you?

Adineh: Rana pray for me... just like you pray for the freedom of Sadegh.

Akram: Rana.

Rana: Hi.

Akram: Hello.

Rana: Did you not go to work?

Akram: I did. I told them that you had had an accident and that you are alone. I'm here to take Ali so that you can go visit Sadegh.

Rana: Thanks but Eddie will look after him. Sorry I forgot to tell you.

Akram: You forgot to mention that she's staying here... look Rana you know that I want what's best for you... you're naïve, you have a big heart... won't she deceive you?

Rana: Deceive me? Why would she Akram? Do you think she wants to steal my money or take my husband? Like I said I owe her.

Rana: Yes? Yes.

Marjan: It's me Marjan. Eddie's friend. I'm sorry for bothering you. I can't reach Eddie on her mobile...I think she doesn't recognize my new number.

Rana: Would you like to talk to her? Please... goodbye.

Akram: Rana... you're putting yourself into trouble...

Rana: What trouble Akram?

Akram: I saw Fahimeh. She said that Mozaffar was here and a young lad answered the door... I said: No he's not a boy, she's a relative of her husband... she said: No, it's a boy...

Rana has said that he's her brother... why did you say she was your brother?

Rana: It was the first thing that came into my mind. I thought I better not say that she's a girl because of her appearance. I didn't know what to say then.

Akram: Have you ever asked her why she shaves her face?

Adineh: How are you Ms. Akram?

Akram: I'm fine.

Adineh: Is something wrong?

Rana: Call Marjan... I've written down her new number.

Akram: At least tell her not to answer the door like this! You want to live in this neighbourhood. When Khanoom joon returns you'll have to answer to her.

Marjan: Something has happened which we didn't think about.

Adineh: What?

Marjan: When the postman came he told my dad that he will only give the passport to you or to your next of kin. He said that you could go to the post office to collect your passport.

Adineh: You are useless.

Marjan: I Swear to God Eddie I wasn't home otherwise...

Adineh: Hi.

Post office clerk: Hi.

Adineh: I'm here to collect my passport.

Post office clerk: Your ID? Please sign here...lady your card.

Adineh: Thanks.

Adineh: Taxi.

Emad: Dad!

Tolouee: I told you I was going to wring your neck this time.

Emad: Dad!

Tolouee: Let go of me!

Emad: Dad!

Tolouee: Let go of me!

Akram: I said you shouldn't trust her.

Rana: Something must be wrong... stop making all that commotion!

Akram: It's OK dear... my sweetheart... I'm taking Ali with me.

Rana: Will you go with Aunt Akram? My baby...his jacket is on the hanger in the corridor.

Akram: All right.

Rana: Marjan?

Marjan: Yes?

Rana: Hi. I'm sorry, this is Rana. I'm worried about Adineh. I just wanted to know if you have any news? When she was leaving in the morning she said that she'd be back soon, but she hasn't returned yet! She's not answering her mobile phone...

Marjan: She's at her dad's.

Rana: What?

Marjan: My father told her father about the passport... I didn't know they caught her at the post office... she'll get married tomorrow...

Rana: Can you please give me her home address?

Emad: Yes?

Rana: Is this the Tolouee's house?

Emad: Yes. Who are you?

Rana: I'm Eddie's friend... I wanted to talk to you... Mr. Tolouee?

Rana: Hi. You must be Emad?

Emad: Yes... who are you?

Rana: Can I talk to your father please?

Tolouee: What about?

Rana: Hello...

Tolouee: What do you want to talk about?

Rana: It's about Eddie.

Tolouee: I don't know anyone by this name... you're at the wrong place.

Rana: Allow me... I mean Adineh.

Tolouee: Emad... show this lady out.

Rana: I'm not leaving until I've said what I came here to say.

Tolouee: It's to your own benefit to leave before I call the police...

Rana: Police? Why the police?!

Tolouee: Aren't you the one who had hidden Adineh?

Rana: I don't know much about law, may be you can really do so... it's not important... allow me to talk first.

Tolouee: Emad what are you waiting for? Take her out.

Rana: I now understand why you never understood her... you only talk, you never listen.

Tolouee: Our family matters have got nothing to do with you! Are you her girlfriend? Emad throw her out.

Rana: Watch your mouth... if my husband were here he would have an answer for you.

Tolouee: What the hell would he have done?

Emad: Dad!

Tolouee: Shut up... call 110 if you don't have the guts.

Rana: Mr. Tolouee swearing at me and handing me over to the police will not solve your child's problem...forcing her to get married will not help either.

Tolouee: Who do you think you are to talk to me like this?

Rana: I'm nobody but I understand that...

Tolouee: You mean you know better than me what's best for my daughter?

Rana: No I understand that I feel sorry for her... I know that deep in your heart you are not happy about how you are treating her.

Tolouee: Bravo... bravo... how come you are so sure? Are you a psychiatrist or a fortune teller?

Rana: Neither...I have a child myself, I know well that no parent can see their children in pain... she doesn't have a mother to feel for her... if you are her father you should listen to her and help her instead of trying to get rid of her and push her into a bigger problem.

Tolouee: Are you advising me?

Rana: Who am I to give you advice? Yeah... I'm giving you advice... who said that only grownups can give advice? I have only known your daughter for a few days but enough to understand that she is neither crazy, nor a pervert... she doesn't want to be obstinate... nor

embarrass you... she just can't be like others... it's not her fault, whether she's a girl or a boy... she's human... a good one... I'm sure God loves her. He is more kind to her... Eddie... Adineh, call her whatever you like... she's suffering... if you love her stop hurting her... if everyone is rejecting her, you don't reject her. Help her if you love her... you have to answer to his mother on the other side... Mr. Tolouee, I beg you, please.

Emad: Why do you insist on helping her?

Rana: When I was coming here I thought I wanted to help her because I owed her, but now I know I want to help her because she has no-one else... because she's my friend.

Emad: Can I ask you something? If your child grows up and you find out that he has the same problem what would you do?

Rana: It might break me but I will surely help him. I'm certain that such children are lonelier than other kids. Now I want to ask you something? What would you do if your father wanted to marry you off?

Tolouee: Is she gone? If she returns you shouldn't open the door. It's not necessary for you to say anything to your sister it she'll only relapse.

Emad: Dad do you understand what you are doing?

Tolouee: I'm being a parent... I know what's best for my child better than anyone else.

Emad: Best, good... what about love Dad... do you love her at all?

Tolouee: Sit... how can you be so unfair? I don't love her? Can a parent not love his child?

Emad: Eddie and I have always respected you Dad... yeah let me call her Eddie as she likes to be called that any way. I decided to talk to you about her so many times but I was always scared of you. You never knew how unhappy I got when I found out about her... do you know how worried Eddie is? We never allowed ourselves to say anything or contradict you. Dad, you must accept that the fact will change through your denial.

Tolouee: Your sister's issue is not a fact...it's an illusion! I'm sure that if her mother hadn't died so soon, if Adineh had been brought up by her mother, this wouldn't have happened. She would be living her life like other women and would be raising her children... yeah, it's my fault. It's my fault for not realizing what was happening to my child on time... but I won't allow her to play with her life and her honour... with our honour... to turn into a wanderer living abroad. God forgive me. I wish she was deaf, blind, crippled but not stigmatized and notorious.

Emad: You forgot one other wish... that she were dead and you wouldn't have been disgraced in front of others. Others who are not willing to trade their children for yours.

Tolouee: My daughter, your sister, will get married tomorrow. She must wear a white dress like other girls and keep the family's tongues from wagging... she must either live like others or she should think that I'm dead like her mother, then she can do any damn thing that she wants. You both better understand this...

Hairdresser: OK this is the hair, the tiara and the veil...look how much more beautiful you look with hair! I don't understand why you shave your head girl...

Tolouee: Yeah OK... hold on a second... when will she be ready?

Hairdresser: Soon.

Tolouee: Get it over with. Don't put so much make-up on her face; my sister is on her way to the public notary office... I'll prepare things until you arrive. OK bye. Emad, I'm going to the notary office. Bring her as soon as she's ready.

Emad: This time he hadn't torn it up. Don't ask why! Because I don't know, maybe deep down inside he's not happy about what he's doing. I don't know if I'm doing the right thing or not... God help me if I'm mistaken. Your friend is waiting for you... she's a good friend, appreciate her.

Adineh: You may get into trouble!

Adineh: I don't know, just leave before I regret it...take care of yourself... wipe that shit off your face... you look really ugly.

Rana: Emad, she left today, pray for her.

Doctor's secretary: Eddie Tolouee?

Adineh: Yes.

Doctor's secretary: The doctor is expecting you.

Saleswoman: You want to sell?

Adineh: Yes.

Saleswoman: One moment please.

Adineh: OK.

Salesman: Hello.

Adineh: Hello.

Salesman: Are you Iranian?

Adineh: Yes.

Salesman: I thought you might be Iranian, because the jewellery is Iranian. We are Iranians too.

Adineh: Salam.

Salesman: May I ask where you got these from?

Adineh: They belonged to my late mother.

Salesman: Now you want to sell them. All right, I'll have a look.

Adineh: Dear Rana, you must accept my gift. This was the least that I could have done for you. Is it difficult for you? Then accept it as a loan. Just accept it. The doctors have started the hormone therapy. I'll be operated on in 3 months... I'll let you know so that you can pray for me... be happy with Ali and Sadegh. They are so lucky to have you... lucky us. Maybe one day we see each other somewhere. This time pray for me as your son's Uncle Eddie... just like you pray for Ali, like a mother.

Rana: You don't know how happy I am that you are here, never leave me again. OK? Why don't you answer me? Are you sleep?

Sadegh: No.

Rana: Are you upset with me?

Sadegh: Shouldn't I be?

Rana: I told you everything. Shall I pour you some tea? With sugar... in a tulip-shaped class...with the scent of cardamom. Believe me, this time it smells of cardamom.

Rana: Sadegh?!!!