

X.

Written by

Leefie

INT. CAR - EVENING

The windows are covered with snow, filling the car with pale light. ANNE, a teenage girl, lies back in the seat. She has a silk scarf tied around her wrists. Her hoodie is unzipped and her t-shirt pulled up to her neck.

AN UNIDENTIFIED MALE pulls his own t-shirt over his head.

He kisses and caresses her skin, the arousal leading to a messy tryst.

CUT TO:

EXT. LEAFY DUBLIN SUBURB - DAY

TITLE: June, 1990.

On a sunny suburban road families are out in gardens, celebrating the surprise progress of the Irish football team in the Italia '90 World Cup. TV's have been dragged outside and an almost carnival atmosphere fills the air.

EXT. LANEWAY - CONTINUOUS

ANNE - a 12 year old child in a summer dress, and her best friend RACHEL - 13, play hide-and-seek with other local children.

From the back gate SEAN - mid 30's, fit and healthy, the neighbourhood Alpha Dad, calls for the girls.

SEAN
Rachael! Anne!

The girls bolt from their hiding place. Sean catches them.

SEAN
Come on. You're wanted.

EXT. GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

The BBQ is in full swing.

MARK - late 30's and dressed for the summer, mans the busy grill.

Mark has a system, sausages and burgers are perfectly cooked.
Burgers with sizzling cheese, sausages bursting with juice.

MARK
(singing)
This is the captain of your
grill... calling!

KATHLEEN - mid 30's and soul of the party, circulates the
with a tray of made-up burgers, hot-dogs, and corn-on-the-
cob.

KATHLEEN
(over her shoulder)
I think that's enough, love!

Mark has a comically large amount of food prepared.

Sean leads Anne and Rachael to YVONNE, his young wife, who is
in conversation with an Iraqi couple.

YVONNE
There you girls are!

SEAN
Hiding in the alley, as usual.

YVONNE
A couple of street rats. Look at
the state of you!

Yvonne dusts down her daughter Rachel.

RACHEL
(squirming)
Get off!

Anne dusts her summer dress off instinctively.

YVONNE
Girls, this is Mr Bahar.

TARIQ - a business man in his 40's, introduces himself with a
bow.

TARIQ
Please, Tariq. Ma al-salamah. It's
a pleasure to meet you. This is my
wife Nadia...

NADIA, a beautiful women in quasi-traditional dress, greets
the girls with a kiss on each cheek.

TARIQ
And our son... Adnan.

ADNAN - a handsome and shy 15 year old steps out from behind his parents.

ADNAN
Ma al-salamah. Hello.

His gaze locks with Anne's.

ANNE
(carefully)
Ma al-salamah. Hi. I'm Anne.

RACHEL
(unprompted)
Hi. I'm Rachel.

Rachel kisses both Adnan's cheeks to everyone's surprise.

Kathleen and Mark join the group with her depleted tray of food.

YVONNE
And this is Kathleen, Anne's mum.

Tariq appraises the party.

TARIQ
Ah, well our compliments to the hostess.

MARK
With the mostest.

KATHLEEN
You'll have to excuse my husband, he believes he is charming.

MARK
(pinching Anne's cheek)
As long as one of us does.

The banter is friendly.

Tariq turns to Nadia.

TARIQ
If we may, we have a tradition in Iraq...

Nadia produces a collection of elaborately gilded scarves.

NADIA
For the women.

She wraps a scarf around each woman's neck. One for Kathleen, Yvonne, Rachel, and Anne. Each scarf is unique.

EXT. LANEWAY - NIGHT

The party is winding down. Anne and Rachel are back in the alley, scarfs tied over their eyes, arms out stretched, playing Marco Polo with Adnan. The girls find each other and quickly gossip.

RACHEL
(feigns melting)
He's fit.

ANNE
He seems nice. They all did.

RACHEL
Dad says you can't really trust them.

ANNE
Who?

RACHEL
(matter of fact)
Foreigners.

YVONNE (O.C.)
(calling from somewhere)
Rachel! Where are you?!

RACHEL
(quickly)
Got to go!

The girls each run home through their back gates.

INT. ANNE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anne plays with the scarf, running it across her skin, her face, her eyes.

INT. SWIMMING POOL - MORNING

Sean, looking fit in athletic wear, walks the poolside, a stopwatch around his neck, as Anne and Rachel swim lengths.

SEAN
(using a loud hailer)
Stroke. Stroke. Push. Push. Pain is
just an idea. Mind over matter.
Stroke. Stroke.

INT. GYM - CONTINUOUS

Adnan arrives to work out in the gym overlooking the pool.

From an exercise bike he watches Sean train Anne and Rachael.

Rachel quits laps with an apparent stitch. She catches Adnan's eye as she climbs from the pool. She is the more developed girl, her costume slick to her body. She wraps a towel around herself, open and closing and adjusting it repeatedly, under Adnan's gaze. Eventually she disappears into the changing rooms.

CUT TO:

INT. SWIMMING POOL - LATER

Sean walks the poolside calling to Anne swimming lengths.

Rachel, changed into her clothes, watches from the stands, her arms wrapped across her stomach.

She looks to the gym window, but Adnan is gone.

Sean congratulates Anne as she climbs from the pool. They high five, then he wraps a towel round her, rubbing her upper body vigorously. Anne is happy with the attention.

SEAN
Come on, pizza!

Rachel is unimpressed.

RACHEL
Dad, can't we just go home?

SEAN
And cook?

RACHEL
Mum will cook.

SEAN
It's my night to take care of
dinner. So it's pizza.

Rachel gives a big moan.

RACHEL
Yeah but do we all have to go get
it?

SEAN
Fine, I'll drop you home first and
go with Anne.

RACHEL
Whatever.

Sean shoulder hugs Anne.

SEAN
It'll be fun.

INT. PIZZA SHOP - NIGHT

Anne places the order at the counter.

ANNE
And a bottle of coke.

TELLER
Ok. That'll be ten minutes.

As she turns to leave Adnan arrives.

ADNAN
Oh hi.

ANNE
Hi. Ma al-salamah.

Adnan is impressed.

ADNAN
Ma al-salamah. You remembered?

ANNE
Of course.

The teller is unimpressed.

TELLER
Can I help you, kid?

ADNAN
Pick up for Bahar.

TELLER
(spits it)
Right. The *special* order.

He wheels away to get the order.

ADNAN
So you're getting pizza too?

ANNE
(gestures outside)
Yeah. Sean is.

The teller returns with Adnan's order.

TELLER
That's ten pounds.

Adnan drops a ten pound in note on the counter. He fishes a handful of coppers from his pocket and dumps it on the counter.

ADNAN
Keep the change, dick.

Anne watches Adnan leave. He gives her a wink.

TELLER
(casually to Anne)
Fucking Arabs.

He turns nonchalantly to serve the next customer who is equally unmoved by the racism.

Anne leaves, disguised.

INT. SEAN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Sean is keeping warm in the car with the heat and radio on. Autumn has arrived, falling leaves and rain.

Anne gets back into the passenger seat in a huff. They listen to the hit song on the radio for a moment.

SEAN
So, how's school?

ANNE
Boring. The boys are so slow. And smell.

SEAN
(sniffs himself)
B.O. Like me. They can't help it.

ANNE
Oh no. You smell lovely. Strong and
fresh. I like it.

Anne flushes during the ensuing pregnant pause.

ANNE
(rolling down the window)
Is it hot in here?

Sean shifts in his seat and reaches an arm across Anne's
body. He is so close she can smell his scent. The closeness
is snapped by...

SEAN
Pizza's ready.

He takes the pizza being passed through the open passenger
window by the teller.

SEAN
Cheers. Keep the change.

Anne and the Teller exchange a look as Sean passes the pizza
over her head to the back seat. She pays for the pizza and
rolls up her window, keeping the tip as the teller objects.

TELLER
Hey!

Sean suddenly puts a hand on Anne's bare knee and breathes
into her ear.

SEAN
You smell good to me, Anne.

Anne flushes, she is frozen. Pupils dilated.

Sean slides his hand up her skirt.

Anne is shocked. No one has ever touched her there, and it is
a confused mix of fear/pleasure.

CUT TO:

INT. SEAN'S CAR - LATER

Time has slipped by for Anne. The car is moving, Sean is driving, new music is playing, and everything seems normal.

But inside her mind is scrambled with what just happened.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - LATER

Sean and Anne arrive back just as Adnan is entering home too.

Anne and Adnan exchange a wave. Sean hustles Anne through the door and shuts it.

INT. ANNE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anne lies awake in a moonlit bed. She is thinking about...

MONTAGE**INT. PIZZA SHOP - NIGHT**

Anne and Adnan sit together waiting for their orders. The window is dressed for christmas.

They chat comfortably, making each other smile, then laugh.

Sean watches, sitting in his car outside the window.

INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Anne watches Adnan workout through the gym window. His physic is developing, as is hers. They smile to each other.

Sean trains Rachael in the background. Through the exterior windows spring has sprung.

EXT. LANEWAY - NIGHT

Anne and Adnan kiss, tentatively then passionately, in the alley.

Adnan has the beginnings of a light beard and moustache. Anne fills out a summer dress. She is no longer a child, but a blossoming teen.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Adnan receives the gift of a SMALL CAR for his 16th birthday. Everyone is on the street to see - Mark, Kathleen, Sean, Yvonne, Anne, Rachael, Tariq and Nadia.

There is a undercurrent of tension, between Anne and a jealous Rachael, and Adnan and a hostile Sean.

SEAN
(under his breath)
I bet it's not even insured.

YVONNE
(whispered)
Sean! Leave it.

SEAN
(in disgust)
I mean look at those two.

He gestures to Adnan and Anne who have gravitated to each other and are positively radiant together.

SEAN
It's disgusting. Everything smells of curry.

Vyonne laughs.

YVONNE
What is it Brendan calls them?

SEAN
(chuckling)
Sand nigger camel jockeys.

Anne overhears but Adnan appears not to, or is unmoved by it.

INT. ADNAN'S CAR - EVENING

Anne and Adnan are heavy petting. He pulls the scarf from her hair and playfully ties it around her head, over her eyes. At first Anne is enjoying the play, but she becomes distressed.

She pulls the scarf from her face and suddenly, for a second, it's Sean's face she sees.

TITLE: January, 1991.

INT. ANNE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Anne wakes with a jolt, then after a moment to get her bearings, she bolts for the door, hands held to her mouth.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Anne races to the toilet bowl and vomits.

INT. ANNE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Anne crawls back into bed, clutching her stomach.

Kathleen enters the room.

KATHLEEN
Come on lazy bones. Holiday's are
over. Back to school

ANNE
I can't. I'm sick.

KATHLEEN
If you're sick we go to the doctor.

ANNE
I'm serious. I don't...

Anne leaps from the bed and runs for the door again.

INT. DOCTORS SURGERY - LATER

Kathleen waits as DOCTOR LISTON - 60's, kind, gentle, and soft, examines Anne on the table. Anne is drawn and tired.

DOCTOR LISTON
(checking glands)
Okay.

He gives Anne a sample cup.

DOCTOR LISTON
I'm going to do a urine test to
rule out bacterial but I'm sure
it's a virus that is going round.

Anne heads out to the toilet.

Doctor Liston opens Anne's file.

DOCTOR LISTON
Is she sexually active?

Kathleen is blindsided.

KATHLEEN
No. No.

A flicker of doubt crosses Kathleen's face.

Doctor Liston moves to the next question on his paperwork.

DOCTOR LISTON
Are you certain she has not been
sexually active since her last
period?

KATHLEEN
Yes, she hasn't been out of the
house since St Stephens Day.
Luckily we'd the New Year's party
in our house this year so she could
still see everyone.

Doctor Liston finishes his notes and turns in his chair.

DOCTOR LISTON
Anne doesn't seem herself to me.

KATHLEEN
Really?

DOCTOR LISTON
She seems quieter. Less energetic.
More melancholy. And she has lost
weight. Is she sleeping?

KATHLEEN
If anything too much. I just put it
down to normal teen stuff.

Anne returns with her sample in a paper bag. Doctor Liston takes it and writes a couple of prescriptions, handing them to Kathleen.

DOCTOR LISTON
Pick these up. Back to bed. You'll
be fine. If you're not better in
five days come back to me, OK Anne?

ANNE
OK. Thanks.

She is shepherded from the room by Kathleen.

KATHLEEN
Thank you, Dr. Liston.

INT. PHARMACY - LATER

Anne browses the aisles as Kathleen collects the prescription. Behind the counter are pregnancy tests.

The pharmacist returns.

PHARMICIST
Anything else?

CUT TO:

INT. ANNE'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Kathleen sits at the kitchen breakfast island, the bag from the pharmacy on the counter before her.

YVONNE (O.S)
Hi ya.

Yvonne lets herself in through the back door and helps herself to the makings of a cuppa before noticing Kathleen's silent fixation on the bag on the table.

YVONNE
What's that?

Kathleen pulls a pregnancy test from the paper bag.

YVONNE
(trailing off)
You think you're...

KATHLEEN
No. Not me.

It takes a moment for what that means to register with Yvonne.

YVONNE
No. She couldn't be.

KATHLEEN
Right? Jesus. What do I do?

YVONNE
(calling out)
Anne!?

Upstairs a door opens.

ANNE
Yes?

KATHLEEN
(to Yvonne)
What are you doing?

YVONNE
(to Kathleen)
You want her to take it, right?
Well you've got to ask.

Anne comes in from the hall.

YVONNE
Will you take this test for your
mum?

ANNE
What's it for?

YVONNE
It's a ...

KATHLEEN
(cutting in before Yvonne)
It's an iron test. Just in case.

Anne takes the tester and traipses away.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS TOILET - MOMENTS LATER

Anne pees on the test.

At the sink she watches it turn positive.

INT. ANNE'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Anne returns with the test in her fist. She hands it over to her mum.

Kathleen turns pale as she looks at her hand.

KATHLEEN
(stunned)
Positive.

ANNE
(oblivious)
Of course it's positive. Dr Liston
said my iron was fine. Positive for
iron.

YVONNE
Mother of God.

KATHLEEN
Positive.

ANNE
(something dawning)
What's going on?

Kathleen is so stunned she is matter of fact.

KATHLEEN
You're pregnant.

The front door opens as Mark and Sean arrive home from golf,
clubs in hand and still wearing spikes.

Expecting the house to be empty the two men are surprised by
the three women in the kitchen. They back up wiping their
feet in the mats and kicking off shoes.

MARK
Sorry love. Wasn't expecting you to
be home.

Mark sees the test in Kathleen's palm.

Yvonne intercepts Sean.

YVONNE
(quickly)
Come on. We're going.

SEAN
(oblivious)
We just got here?

Mark looks to Anne who is devastated and frozen.

ANNE
I can't be pregnant?!

SEAN
Jesus!

EXT. ANNE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Sean and Yvonne hustle down the street.

SEAN
She's pregnant?

Yvonne stops in the street outside Adnan's house where his car is parked.

YVONNE
You were right. They can't be trusted.

She gestures to the house.

YVONNE
That could be Rachel pregnant.

INT. ANNE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Anne lies sobbing in the bed. Kathleen sits by her pillow, stroking her hair. Mark is sitting stunned in the chair.

MARK
How could this happen? How could you be so stupid?

KATHLEEN
Mark! It's not her fault.

MARK
(to Anne)
I'm sorry love. It's just such a... surprise.

ANNE
I am stupid. So stupid. I just let him. I feel so dirty.

KATHLEEN
It's ok, it's ok. You made a mistake. You're still young.

MARK
(to Kathleen)
You know who it is?

KATHLEEN
Well it's Adnan. Of course.

Anne breaks into hysterical tears.

ANNE
He promised it was safe. He
promised he wouldn't hurt me. He
said they'd take me away if I told
anyone.

This catches Kathleen's attention, but not yet Mark's.

KATHLEEN
Adnan said that?

ANNE
No, Sean.

MARK
Sean knew about this?!

KATHLEEN
I don't understand.

Anne's upset erupts.

ANNE
Sean did it. Sean did.

KATHLEEN
Sean did it.

MARK
What are you talking about? Sean
did what?

Beat.

MARK
No. He couldn't. He wouldn't.

Kathleen searches Anne's eyes.

KATHLEEN
Yes. Yes he did.

Kathleen braces Anne by the shoulders.

KATHLEEN
No one is going to hurt you again.

MARK
Sean?

INT. SEAN'S FRONT HALL

Yvonne strides through the front door, closely followed by
Sean.

YVONNE
Rachel? Get down here.

Rachel comes down the stairs.

RACHEL
What's going on?

A phone starts ringing in the house.

YVONNE
You're not to hang around with
Adnan or Anne anymore. Understand?

RACHEL
No. Whats going on?

YVONNE
That boy was stupid enough to get
Anne pregnant and she was stupid
enough to let him.

RACHEL
What? Anne is pregnant? Anne and
Adnan?

She is devastated, jealous even.

SEAN
Just stay away from them. All of
them.

Sean turns to Yvonne.

SEAN
You know who's fault this is? Those
sand niggers.

The racism rolls off Yvonne without concern. It is ingrained
in them both, just below the surface.

SEAN
Imagine having a half caste baby?

Sean shudders with disgust.

INT. PRIVATE HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Mark and Kathleen stand holding hands with Anne, who is lying
in the bed, very upset. The windows from the room to the rest
of the ward are curtained.

There is a knock at the door. A DOCTOR enters. Beyond him in the corridor stands the relatively young DETECTIVE VAUGHN and her older moustached partner DETECTIVE BURNS, and a couple of uniformed Gardai.

A nurse loiters on the periphery of the room.

HOSPITAL DOCTOR
If I could have a word?

MARK
I'll go, you stay.

HOSPITAL DOCTOR
With both of you.

MARK
Both of us? Is that necessary?

HOSPITAL DOCTOR
I insist.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Mark and Kathleen are channelled into separate rooms.

HOSPITAL DOCTOR
(to Mark)
These officers want to talk to you.

INT. HOSPITAL STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mark, the hard edge DETECTIVE BURNS, and one of the uniformed GARDA squeeze in with the cleaning supplies.

DETECTIVE BURNS
Mark, I'm going to be very direct.
This is a very serious situation.
I'm going to move as quickly as I
can.

MARK
Ok. But I want to be with Anne.

DETECTIVE BURNS
Did you hurt Anne?

MARK
What?

The mood shifts markedly in the small room.

DETECTIVE BURNS
Are we going to find out you hurt
your daughter?

MARK
You think I...

Mark is revolted. He vomits into a mop and bucket at his feet.

INT. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Kathleen sits on one side of the desk facing the young DETECTIVE VAUGHN, a female officer whose exterior reveals nothing about her thoughts, she is cool as ice. A uniform BAN GARDA stands by the door.

DETECTIVE VAUGHN
(straight to the point)
Do you have any reason to suspect
your husband has hurt your
daughter?

KATHLEEN
What?

DETECTIVE VAUGHN
Could Mark have ... abused Anne?

KATHLEEN
Are you serious?

DETECTIVE VAUGHN
We have to ask you each,
separately. It's often a close
family member who has offended. If
there is something to know we'll
find it out. It's what we do.

KATHLEEN
Sean O'Brien raped my daughter.

INT. HOSPITAL STORAGE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

There is a knock on the door. Detective Vaughn cracks it open. She whispers in Detective Burns's ear. They look at Mark sat before them in a daze.

MARK
What's happening? This is a dream,
a nightmare.