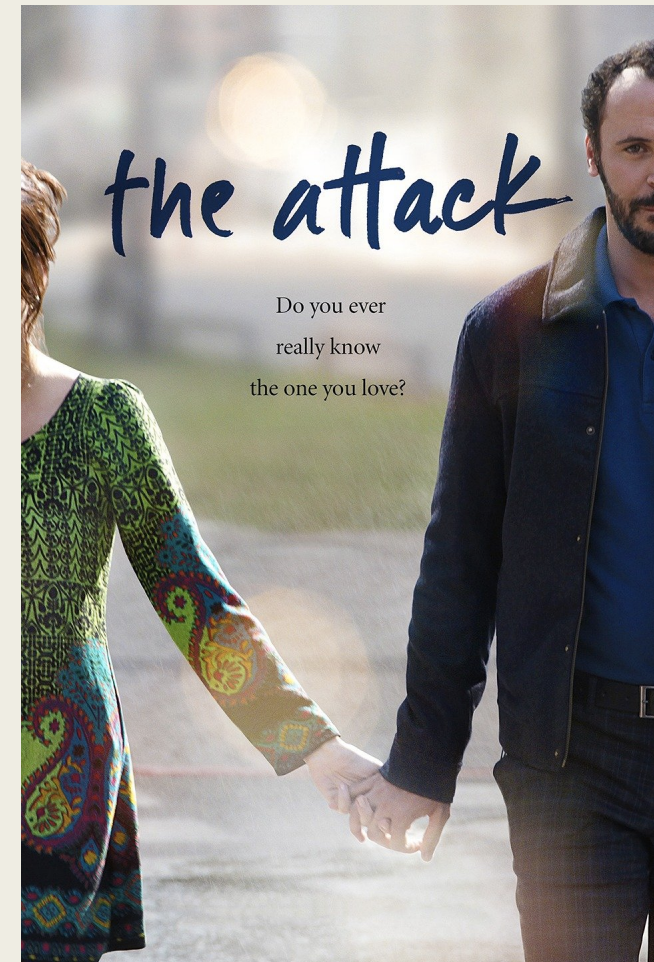


THE ATTACK

(2012)

Risks & Strangeness at Home



Outline

- Review: Arab-Israeli Conflicts
- Introduction: The Attack
- Discussion Questions

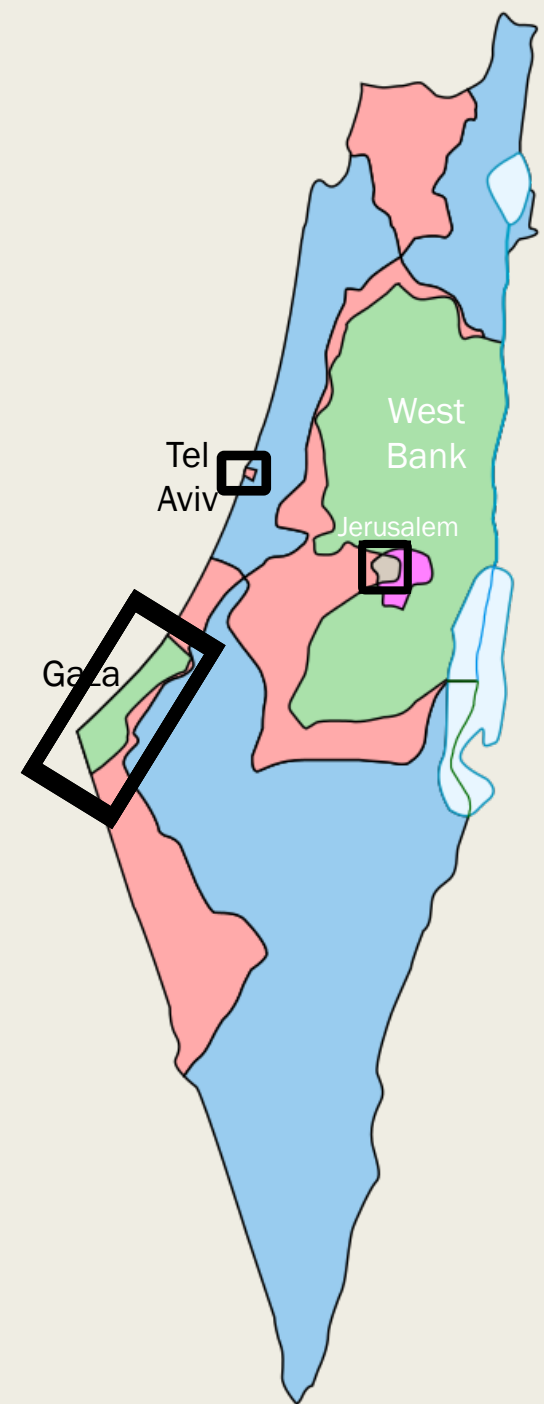
Palestinian Identity: History

Armistice Demarcation Lines of 1949 (Green Line):

--Blue, Grey and Red: Israeli controlled territory from 1949

-- Green & Pink: Egyptian and Jordanian controlled territory from 1948 until 1967 ([image source](#))

- ([Wikipedia](#)) 2015:
- **136 countries recognize Palestine** as a state.
- However, **Palestinian sovereignty over the areas** claimed as part of the Palestinian state (**part of West Bank and Gaza**) remains limited, and the boundaries of the state remain a point of contestation between Palestinians and Israelis.
- **Palestinians living in Lebanon** are deprived of basic civil rights. They cannot own homes or land, and are barred from becoming lawyers, engineers and doctors.

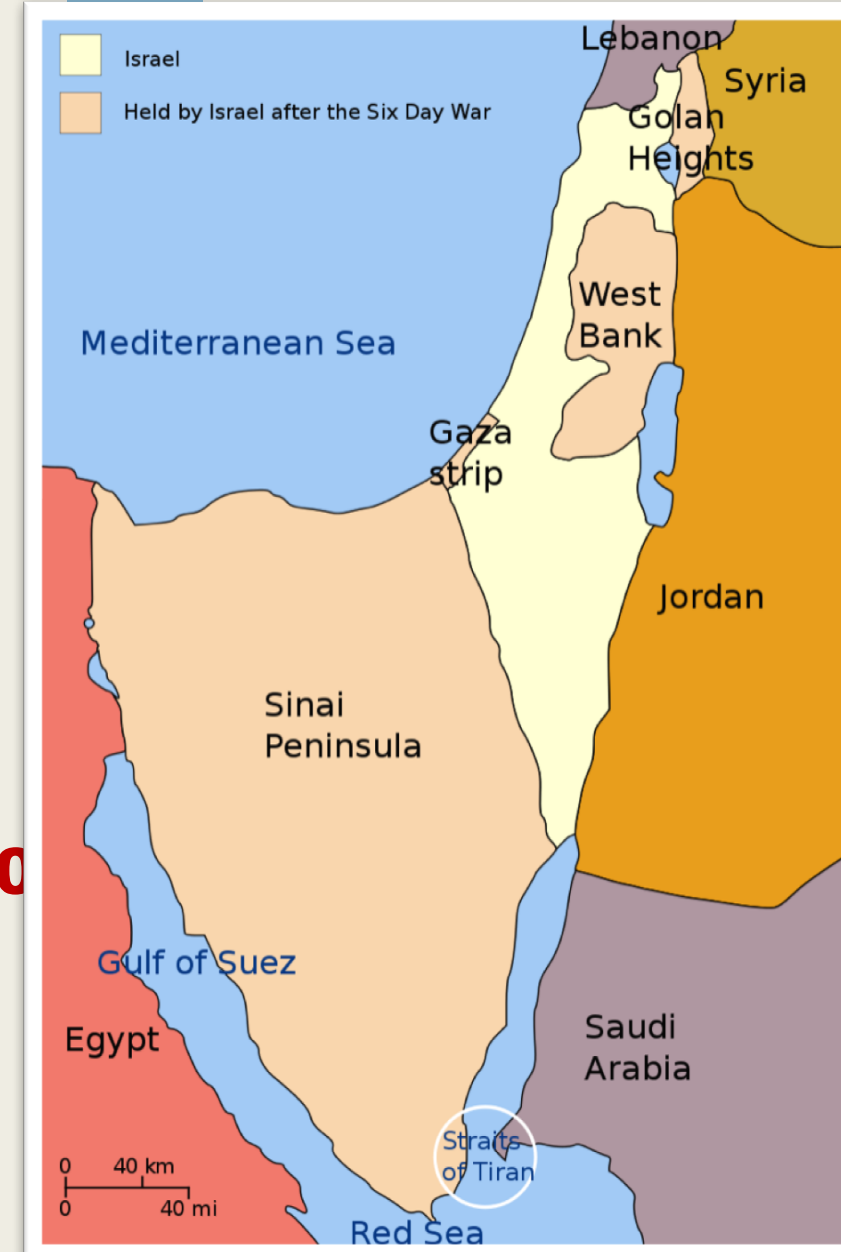


Review:

Palestians: Where are they?

Israel and the territories Israel occupied in the Six day war
([source](#))

1. **The war in 1948** resulted in the disappearance of 350 villages, whose **725,000** occupants became refugees. *These refugees*
 - *traveled to neighboring countries, such as **Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, & Iraq***
 - *500,000 internally displaced Palestinians were moved to refugee camps in **West Bank** and about 200,000 in the **Gaza Strip**.*
 - *Only 160,000 Palestinians stayed in Israel.*
2. **The war in 1967** produced another wave of **355,000** refugees, who moved mainly from the West Bank to Jordan ([source](#))
3. **Black September 1971 in Jordan**
→ Moved to **Lebanon (setting of *The Insult*)**

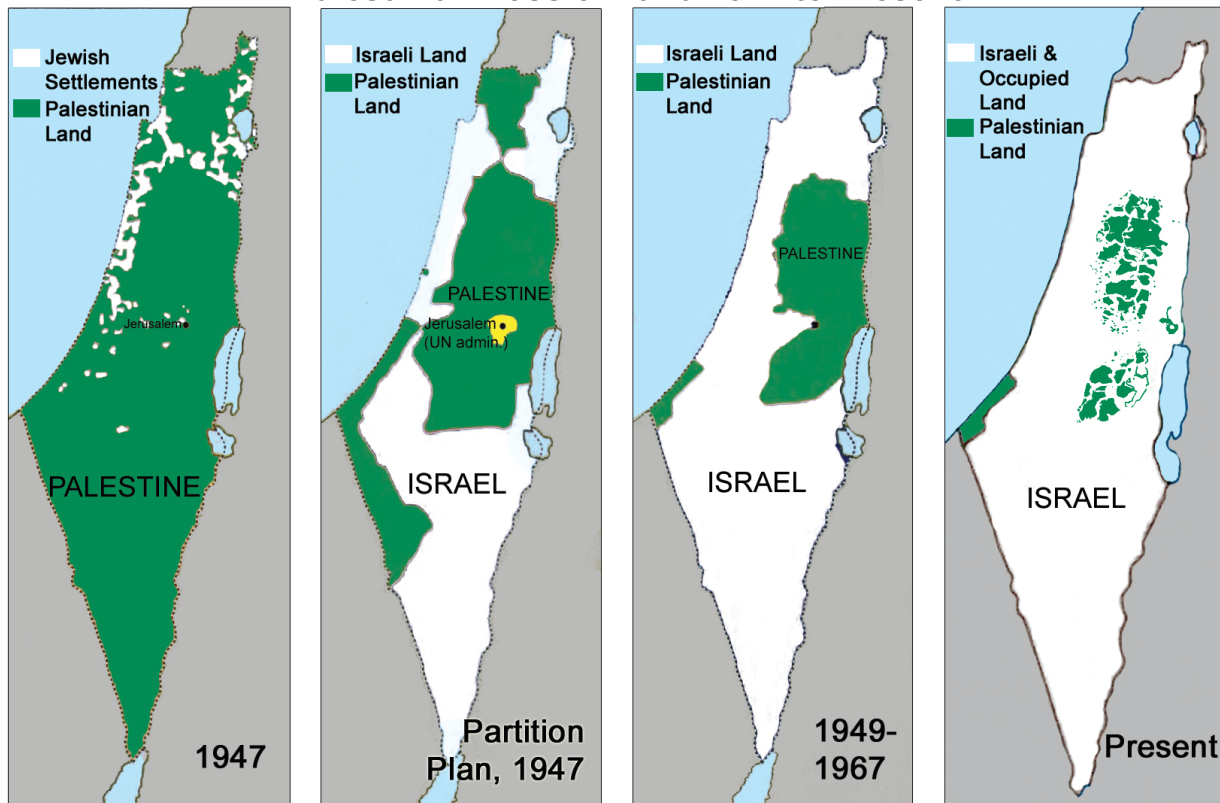


Review:

Palestinians, Refugee Camp, Check Points & “Laissez Passer”

After the war in 1967, **Jerusalem** was reunited and the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem became part of Israel. As a result of the unresolved status of Jerusalem, though, Palestinian residents have no official nationality. They all have **Jerusalem residency cards**, which are distributed by Israel and totally conditional. They also have a special traveling document called the **laissez-passer**, which restricts their movement.

Palestinian Loss of Land 1947 to Present



Palestinian Nationalist Movements

- Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO 1964-) – **Hamas (religious) vs. Fatah (secularist)** parties ([source](#))
- **First Intifada 1987-1993** 第一次巴勒斯坦大起義
- **Oslo Accord** – first peace agreement between Palestine and Israel
- 2nd Intifada (2000/09/28-2005): 也被稱為「**第二次巴勒斯坦大起義**」 (**Second Intifada**) 。許多巴勒斯坦人將它看作是反抗外族占領的解放戰爭，而以色列則認為它是一個**恐怖**運動。
- **Al Jazeera:** “The Intifada was – and still is - an expression of a deep disappointment and frustration over the ongoing disrespect and denial of basic rights for Palestinians caused by the occupation - including the right to free access to Jerusalem, security and development, and the refugees' right to return.” ([source](#))
 - **Jenin Massacre (?)**

Ziad Doueiri

- Ziad Doueiri (born 1963): a French-Lebanese cinematographer, film director and writer.
- Left Lebanon during the Lebanese Civil War period,
- Studied in the US, left not too long after 911, and lives in Paris now.



Films:

West Beirut (1998)

The Attack (2012) – banned in Lebanon in 2013 because Doueiri partly filmed it in Israel and used some Israeli actors—seen as “normalizing” the Israeli-Palestinian relationship.

The Insult (2017; nominated at the 90th Academy Awards representing Lebanon) – detained because he shot *The Attack* in Israel. ([source](#))

Attack

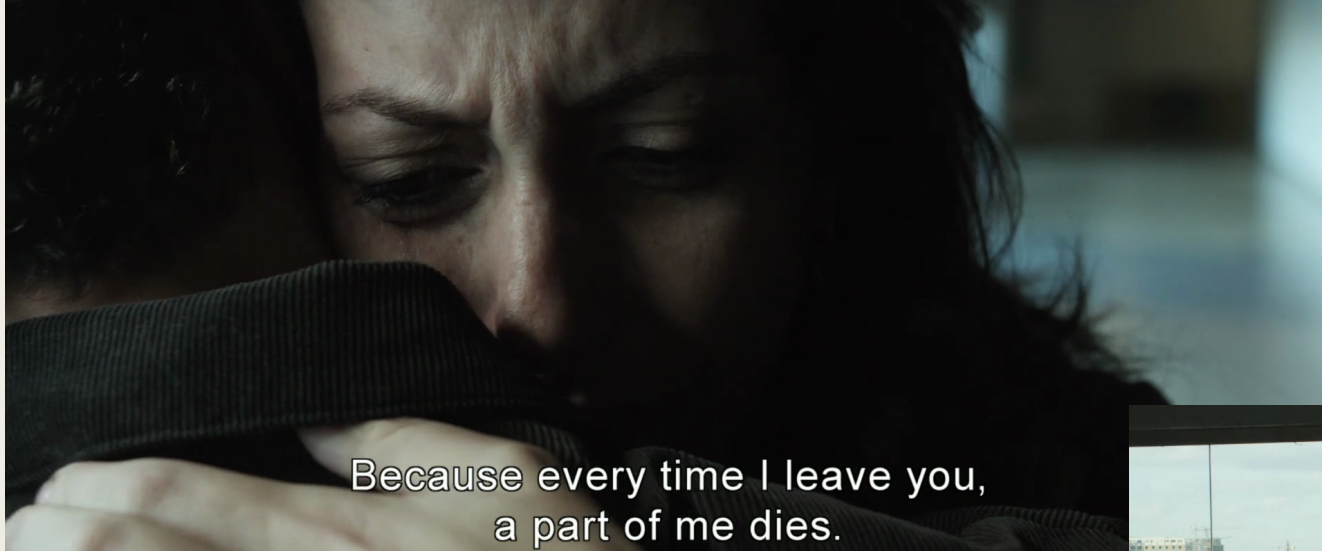
Novel

- Yasmina Khadra, pen name of the Algerian author Mohammed Moulessehoul, an army officer when he started to write (雅斯米納·卡黛哈)
- Writes in French
- 《喀布爾之燕》、《攻擊》、《巴格達警報》

Film's Major Differences

Novel	Film
begins and ends with a bloody Israeli attack in the middle of Jenin.	Separation of husband & wife
Kim: desires Amin	-Kim's final disapproval
Siham: Muslim	Siham: a Christian in the film
Setting: Bethlehem	Setting: Nablus
Revelation: a priest & Adel	Revelation: a priest & Adel
Ending: Amin dies	

The Film: Opening & Ending



Because every time I leave you,
a part of me dies.

Amin: Why are you crying, my love?



*Because every time you leave,
a part of me dies.*

Siham: Why are you crying, my love?

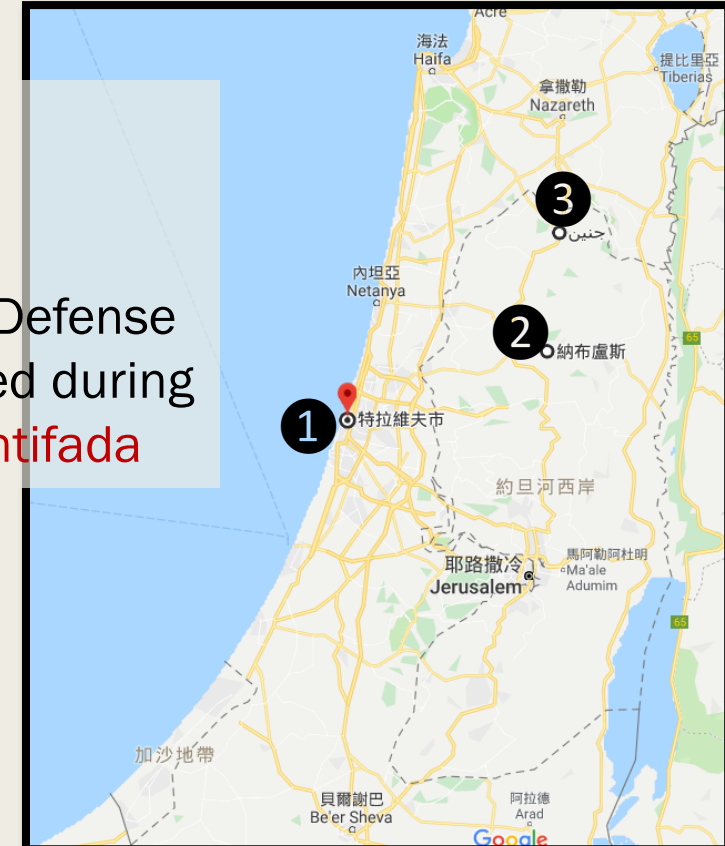
Characters & Setting

Characters

- Amin Jaafari
- Siham jaafari
- Friends: Kim & Raveed
- Yasser, his son: Adel
- Niece: Faten
- Religious Leaders in Nablus
 - Sheik Marwan (an imam)
 - a priest

Settings

- 1 Tel Aviv
- 2 Nablus
- 3 Jenin* --
where Israel Defense
Forces entered during
the **Second Intifada**



Characters & Setting

Relatives

Yasser, Adel
Faten

Colleagues

Kim & Raveed



Discussion Questions

1. **G5 Suicide Bombing:** Why does Siham become a suicide bomber? Why do the people in Nablus support her?
2. **G6 Israeli Perspectives:** How about his colleagues (e.g. Raveed, Kim and the others) take it? And the police captain?
3. **G4 Amin's Process of Discovery:** How does her husband Amin take it? What does he go through to face the truth?
4. **G2 Theme:** Is this a film about betrayal? If not, what is it about?
5. **G3 Ending:** What do you think about the film's ending, considering its difference from the novel?
6. **G1 Between Kim and Amin** (over the issues of letter and videotape), who do you agree with more?
7. **The film's controversies:** What do you think about the use of a Christian priest in revealing part of the Palestinian thinking and an Israeli actress in playing Siham?

Amin

Rejection

- Suspected
- Rejecting others

Discovery

- Finds Marriage Deceptive
- Rejected by ppl in Nablus
- Talks to a priest,
- to Adel

Emotional Connection

- The wife's attempt
- His understanding

Before the Event

- A surgeon in Tel Avi, receiving an award (like “medical Oscar”)
- “every Jew is a bit of an Arab and no Arab can deny he's a bit Jewish.”

After

- Suspected and grilled by the police
- Stays in disbelief for a while before **he finds the letter**
- **Isolates himself** “I don't need anyone's sympathy. The nice Jew defending the poor little Arab.”
- **Refuses to give the letter or the tape to the police.**
- Goes to Nablus to find out why, rejected by some relatives there, too.
- The priest: show sympathy, says “there's nothing for you here.”

Siham

- “So, how could she strap on a load of explosives and blow herself up in a restaurant?”
- Raveed: “I don't think terrorists fully understand what happens to them. Something snaps in their brain, and they are off.”
- Adel: “The day she got to Jenin. Something snapped in her head. The massacre she saw was indescribable. She never saw anything like it. I think that's what pushed her over the edge.”



Siham: “I wanted to be a Navajo warrior, but all I did was circle in a merry-go-round with a bunch of spoiled kids.”

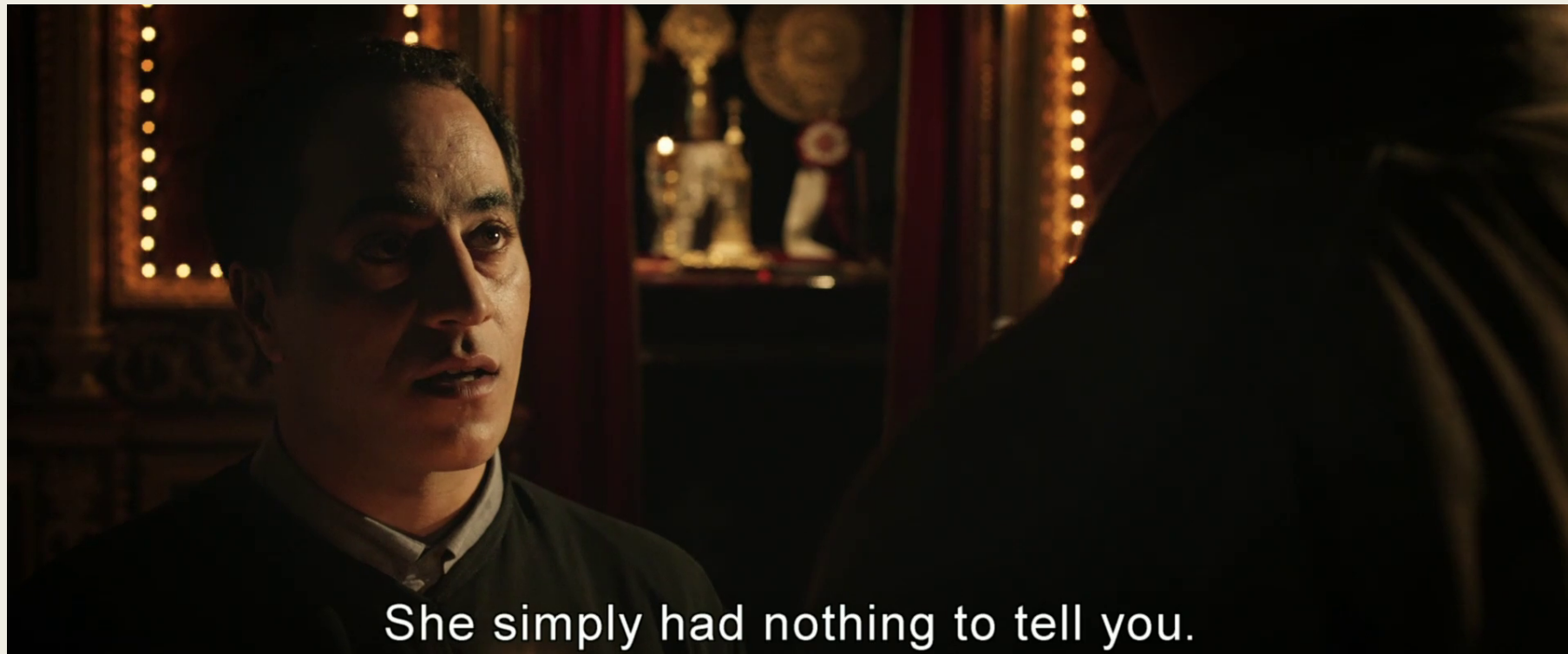
Amin: “What are your dreams?”

Siham: “**Simple things. A street address, a stamp, an ID card, a passport.** I believe we'll live to see it.”

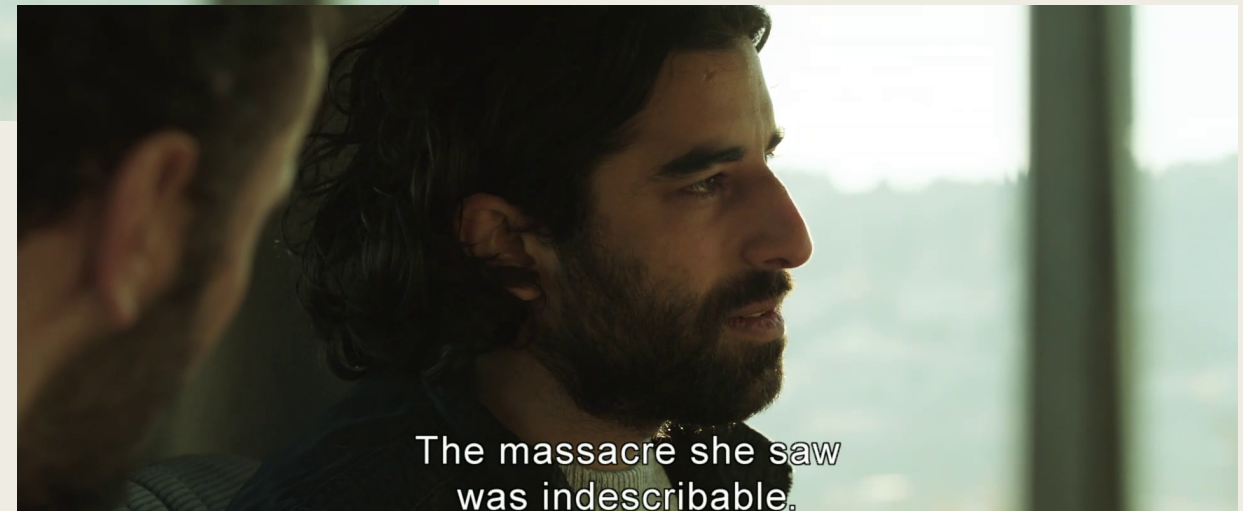
From the Novel

- One terrorist member: "There's no worse cataclysm than **humiliation**. It's an evil beyond measure, Doctor. It takes away your taste for life. And until you die, you have only one idea in your head: How can I come to a worthy end after having lived miserable, and blind, and naked?" (p. 219).
- Adel: "It was as if you **made a barbecue on scorched land**. You only noticed the barbecue; she saw the rest, the desolation that made your joy false." (p. 222)

Betrayal?



Turning Point



Kim vs. Amin



Amin: “Because I refuse to contribute to more repressive measures. This is bigger than us.”

Kim: “I don't think you can live in a place, enjoy the best of what it has to offer, and then refuse to defend it.”



Endings

