

# ***Human Spectrum***

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# **Human spectrum**

**Educational novel**

**Lamyaa ahmed osman**



# Introduction

A simple word is able to ignite flames that have been put out from a time ago which lead you to think twice, before you say a single word once again.

Raising our bairns in a perfect way is a hope that we all trying to reach, but once reality hits us we try to change our plan's directions, and we start to forget about being idealistic in order to cope with reality, because there is no a third choice; whether we lose our bairns and watch them fall, or we can haul them into safehold.

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# Chapter One

**W**here am I heading to?

I'm going to lay it on the line ...I have no clue, I became a soulless person which all of his dreams went with the wind ...I'm such a flimsy, valueless...that's all what I know.

No one cares about me...

I'm drained from what I personally did to myself, suicidal tendencies are setting my mind on fire, parting is surrounding me...I have let everything and everyone go ...I have no doubts that even my own body will let me behind if I don't bring my wrong deeds to an end.

I went through the mill, I became a fainthearted, and my mind was about to explode, I have never received the attention that I was seeking for, they just spoiled me ...All of them. My wishes were orders for them, I enjoyed living that way, but I have never thought about the consequences.

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I had a happy childhood, I was the youngest and, I had a life that many dreamed about. But my Parent's special treatment set fire between my siblings and I, so they decided to shatter my personality.

"We found you in a mosque, you are not one of us", this is what my siblings said all the time. What about an infant who lives in uncertainties? An infant who keeps squeezing his brain, so he can remember his infancy? Am I able to hark back to the day I was born? I will never get there; you think it is something stupid? I can see your point, but for me ...it is a tragedy... whenever a man treats me well, the idea of him being my father pops into my head. I started to think about each person that I look like in the family. First, I thought about my uncle, and the possibility of him being my biological father.

I visited him at home, I sat beside him then he handed me some candy with a look that was able to warm up the whole universe.

While uncle was playing with my hair, he said, "Do you have any idea that I love you more than anyone in this family ...You look like me"

I looked at the mirror that was in wall and; yes! I do look like him. It's the same hazel eyes, fair skin, and that sandy-hair. I look like a mini version of him.

When I went home, I looked at my mother's White skin and brown eyes. I kept thinking...you are not my mother, but you are treating me well, because you are a kind woman. "Hannen" is my mother's name and each letter in it witnesses how much I adore her. She handed me a cup of milk, but I refused to drink it, then she sat beside me, and kindly asked: "what's wrong Hamouzi?"

"Nothing... I don't want to drink anything", I murmured.

She carried on preparing my favorite dish; stuffed Grape Leaves "Malfouf Warak Enab" with green soup "Moulokhiah" and grilled chicken. When my father came home, it was the first time that I don't give him a warm welcome.

"where is my lovely Hamza?" my father asked.

He found me sitting beside the dilapidated white window while my feet were shoved in my clothes, because it was so cold, then he gently kissed my hand and asked: "What's wrong sweet heart?"

"Nothing father...nothing" I crossed my arms, and replied

"Lunch is ready," my mother shouted, in a rhythmic voice.

"I'm not hungry" I replied, while kicking my feet to the floor.

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Father and I entered the room, he patted on my shoulders then he told me about the old horse's story that my grand -father gave it to him, and how my father sell it to buy some books so he can continue his studies.... then he talked about how much he loves life and how he was such a warrior ...but all of this was pointless, because he didn't even get close to know the reason behind my anger...then mother entered the room

"come over Hannen" father said

"My sweet heart is going to eat, so I don't get mad of him" my mother insisted.

After a long debate I said "Yes" and I went to eat...

I kept visiting my Uncle every day. We enjoyed watching foreign movies together, then once, he came to our house for lunch, and I sat on his lap while my eyes were looking at everybody, doubt covered me and questions were easy to notice on my face. My brother looks like my mother, and my sister and my father looks alike, why I don't look like anyone of them? Is Uncle "Adhem" my biological father? why he abandoned me? what about my mother? is she my real mother? or she is just treating me as a son of her? what's the secret behind their unconditional love and why they have always treated

me in such a special way? all of those questions settled in my brain until the day we went back to school, and I have noticed that even though my uncle is married but he has no children, at that moment I started to forget about the doubts I had before...if he were my biological father he would have other children ...after a short period of time my doubts headed to my teacher. I really look like him. Once I was talking to him then he kindly said:

- "Hamza" you are a very polite boy, and I respect you

"I like you too, and I want to ask you a question, sir " I replied while raising an eyebrow.

"go ahead sweet heart "the teacher said.

I ran and I evaded him ...then I decided to do my best to gather both of my father and my teacher "Imad" in one place. I couldn't know if I will able to know which one of them is my biological father, only from seeing them together or no? I decided that I will keep an eye on my mother's reaction to see if she is going to be afraid of losing me when she sees him, so I went to teacher's lounge to talk to my teacher, but I didn't find him...I waited on the dirty woody bench for hours, until my white and brown school uniform became dirty. As

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soon as I saw him, I ran toward him as fast as I can while my heart pounds were racing, then I said:

Sir, my grades are below average this month, I want to take tuition classes.

" I have no problem... here is my number tell your father to call me so we can select a day " The teacher said Indifferently.

I went back home super happy, and for the first time I felt like I'm a savvy person. While I was downstairs I smelled lentil soup ...My mother knows that I despite it, but who cares! -yes, I'm happy-

I waited until my father went back home, then "Tallia" and I swept to the kitchen; and I ate lentil soup with scallions and bread like I have never did before.

Everyone was staring at me in a weird way, "Tallia" and "Moumen" were malignantly laughing until I finished my food and I asked my father to follow me to my room... when I put my hand in my coat's pocket, and I asked my father to close the door...everyone was laughing, but they didn't bother me.

"Dad...my degrees are lower than my classmates" I said, in a soft tone.

"Do you need any tuition classes?" my father raised an eyebrow, and asked.

"Yes, Father...I know this is against your principles, but I really need it." I Yelped

"I will ask your mother to go to your school, and talk to your teacher about this" said my father while nodding his head.

"No, I have the teacher's number, you can just call him" I replied, fearfully.

"your wishes are my orders sweet heart "said my father.

The day I was supposed to take my first tuition...everything went in a horrible way...I wish that I had never asked the teacher to come to my house...I got really shocked.

At that morning, My mother cleaned and organized the house, then I went to meet my teacher, because he doesn't know my home address.

When we arrived, I opened the door, and I let my teacher pass then; I said "Welcome, Sir"

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the moment my mother saw him, she dropped the glass of water that was in her hand, and her mouth and eyes were wide open, then my father came

and; the three of them formed an astonishment triangle.

My teacher ran...yes, he ran far away.

"Tallia" was coming from the other room and singing " I love you I swear that I do, I love you I swear that I do, I swear, I swear, I swear I lo..." she didn't finish her sentence. She kept staring at us then, aksed:

"what's wrong with you guys? Where is the teacher? Hamza...sweet heart what's wrong?"

I pushed her away...but she kept waiting for an answer....that was pointless, because the room was as silent as the dead.

I went back to my room, wishing the ground would swallow me up, it was the first time "Tallia" shows that she cares about me...when the door knocked I stopped crying ...I checked the mirror, my eyes were misty ...I grabbed a napkin to cover my red nose and I softly asked: who is there?

" It's me, Tallia" she replied, kindly

She took me into her arms and said:

"There is a secret behind their rage ...I have no doubt...I will help you to know the hidden truth"

"How? It looks like everyone is shocked "I replied.

"I will sneak out of my classes, and I will go to school with you, and I will talk to your teacher Imad" said "Tallia"

We made a great plan to set the teacher up, and get answers from him. I felt overjoyed and pleased to the point that I climbed the wardrobe then I jumped on "Tallia"...she screamed and we laughed, after that we get out of my room while she is holding me, my hands where on her shoulder, and we looked as if we have the same length.

"Tallia" and I entered the kitchen together, and backed three different types of pizza, then we went to my parent's room we knocked the door and, when my father opened the door, I saw sadness on his face.. for the first time in my life, he was crying ...what would make someone cry, more than the feeling of losing a son that he raised? he is overly attached to me, and now my biological father will take me away from him, or he is going to leave me here ?

Is he my biological father? or I'm an orphan? who has no identity, no home, no life ?

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I don't even own the name "Hamza" ...I'm a stranger ...Is "Hamza" my real name? or they just gave it to me ?

"From earth to Hamza!" mischievously said "Tallia" while hitting my back.

My parents smiled...I grabbed my father's leg as if I'm helping him

To get up.

" we made this pizza, join us please" I said

"I will eat, but first! we need to go to your room and talk like men do, Okay?" my father replied

We gave each other a high five " we will be friends forever" we said... then I looked at "Moumen" and I stuck my tongue out

I know I act evil sometimes, but he is always making me mad.

" I'm I a stranger now ...Tallia is your best friend, Mom and Dad are your heroes, but I'm nobody" said "Moumen"

I ran, and I jumped into his legs and I said: "you are my beloved brother, you protect me...do you remember when "Ibrahim"and I had a fight? I had no one except you, you hit him back in the middle of the neighborhood"

"You are my sweet heart" said "Moumen"

I ran after him, and we started to giggle, then we arrived to his room and he closed the door, so I don't hit him

I felt like Saturday lasted forever...I got bored to the point that I was about to break the clock and make the clockwise move ...

The alarm rang At seven O'clock, I woke up and I woke "Tallia" up, I put on the School uniform, and "Tallia" wore a blue dress, with some pink roses on it and a blue veil then she wore a pink lipstick and a "Kohl" as blue as the sea. We had breakfast then she brushed my hair. After that we went out with "Moumen"

I winked at " Tallia" then we laughed.

" Two crazy people in heaven " said "Moumen" while doing the cuckoo sign.

At two o'clock "Tallia" came to my school, I was at the bathroom, but when I saw her I decided to watch her from distance, so she can't hide anything from me. I saw her asking the supervisor about Teacher "Imad" and she told her that he is in the teacher's lounge. She entered and every one kept looking at her, then she set in front of my teacher. He stared at her and it was obvious that he was happy to see her.

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" my brother Chihab wants to take tuition classes with Hamza " she said, fearfully. My sister has some personality disorders...she kept fixing her veil...and touching her dress as if she is sitting on lava

" but, I didn't give Hamza any tuition classes" he said.

"So, why my brother would lie to me ?", replied "Tallia"

A look of puzzlement crossed his face and he replied: "I would never give Hamza tuition classes...do you hear me? never ..."

When her eyes welled up, he lowered his voice and said:

"His family and I have some problems, and I can't even enter their house."

I interrupted them and said: "why? is it because of me? are you afraid of... I couldn't say a word"

" Hamza, what are you doing here?" "Tallia" shouted

" don't talk to him, sister" I replied.

"Sister!" he said, astonishingly.

"Tallia" got confused; she held my hand, then we went out of the room, but I saw something falling from her purse...so, what is it?

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## Chapter Two

**H**orrible fear...excessive suspicion...I lost my will to live...

I cannot make up my mind, should I ask my father about the reason behind his dispute with Mr "Imad" or should I wait and see what is going to happen?

On the other hand, "Tallia" was burning with curiosity; she entered my room in a sudden.

"Help me, Help me Hamza", yelled "Tallia"

I gave her a glass of water, then she sat beside me and narrated what happened...how life could be that much strange ...it hits you with a coincidence, that you dont even have a clue where it came from, but it helps you to know things...and those are just God's plan to cheer you up and remove the burdens of your heart.

The things "Tallia" told me about, made me think of a way, that may give an answer to what is going on inside my head.

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It is holiday, my family and I are going to "Ain-sokhnah" to spend a special day at the beach, we booked a beautiful room, I was happy... since I was an infant, I used to adore the beach...my father went to take a nap, while my mother and my sister changed their clothes and unpacked. "Moumen" and I changed our clothes, he wore a pair of pants as blue as the sea with starfish prints, with sunglasses on, then he fixed my hair.

We couldn't wait for the beach anymore, so we woke my father up, he changed his clothes then we went to the hotel's restaurant for breakfast, and it contained mouth-watering food such as: eggs, different varieties of cheese, dark and light honey, "falafel", and broad bean...soda were everywhere, and my father cannot say no here.

After we finished we headed to the beach...my brother and I were smiling at each other and walking on the hot sand...but it seems like coincidence is about to put an end to my temporary happiness; Mr "Fouad", our old neighbor came...Yes, He is the man, that my siblings told me I'm his child.

While Mr "Fouad" and my father were talking, I was beside them, playing on the sand. When my siblings went out of the beach I heard them murmuring while pointing at me.

"what is going on stupid ?" I said.

" your father is here is it a coincidence? Is he watching you? how does he know that we are in this hotel?"

They laughed and gave each other a high five.

I went to the bathroom, and I cried my heart out. When I was leaving the bathroom I met Aunt " Gillan' she is Mr "Fouad" s wife

I felt good when I saw how much calm, and normal she was, when she saw me.

If she were my biological mother she would at least take me a picture, not a single mother is able to abandon her own child, without asking about him again.

Then they left, so we can have some privacy.

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After "Tallia" and I discussed what we have to do next, we started the plan, by taking "Tallia" an appointment with Mr "Imad". Now she is able to bring back what she dropped at my school. I was hidden behind a tree, and it was as thin as me, then I noticed that my teacher's eye light up whenever he talks to my sister.

" I read few pages, Im sorry! curiosity got the better of me" said Mr "Imad" while smiling from ear to ear.

The blood drained from my sister's face, as if she dropped something really special.

" why Hamza is all what you write about? is he really the closest person to you ?" asked Mr "Imad"

Fear throbbled inside her...then she shouted: "what did you read?

"Do you really regret the thing you have done to Hamza ?" he asked her back.

I was not able to handle the situation anymore...

" what are you regretting about? And what are you hiding from me ?" I shouted as strong as I can.

she hushed me by gently putting her hand over my mouth, and whispered: " calm up Hamza...calm up"

"I will know what I want without any help, I'm going back home alone, and don't you dare and talk to me again" I replied

On our way home...I got hit by a car, and when my sister tried to call my father...it turned that his phone is switched off, so she called uncle "Adhem", and he showed up as fast as he could ... it was not something really serious, I got only few bruises, but it was a horrifying situation for a child of my age.

My uncle entered the emergency room in a hurry, then he suddenly stopped and broke down in tears.

" Why? Why you brought Hamza into our mess? You can play with the whole family, but my son, Hamza is a red line"he whispered.

I couldn't believe what I heard, I looked at my uncle and I asked " you are not my uncle? are you my biological father ?"

At that moment my sister bursted into laughter, and my uncle pulled me to his chest and said " I wish you were my child...if I had a child I would treat you both the same...you own my heart...and I don't even know why"

When Mr "Imad" was about to leave the hospital, uncle "Adhem" stopped him ,and warned him to not come near us again, but he had been struck by seeing him putting Tallia's diary on her hands.

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"It is bigger than you could imagine, your father will kill you, if you and Mr Imad are hiding anything" my uncle in a warning voice.

She didn't say a word...only tears were rolling down her face while she was bagging him to not tell my father about what happened.

"Each one of you were going to his school...how you met at the same place?" said my father.

Tallia looked like she is paralyzed by fear, so I wanted to act brave for the very first time in my life. I told my father about each detail, and to be honest, I was hoping to receive a kiss, however he slapped Tallia on the face, then looked at me and said "we will have a serious talk when we go back home"

My uncle asked my mother to come inside the hospital room, then my father went out and, grabbed "Moumen" by his arm, he pulled a long face and said: "I'm speaking to all of you, if any one of you tried to figure out the secret between "Mr Imad" and I, I will kill him... I swear to God... that I will kill him...that was the darkest phase of my life... it is a red line... and everyone is included in this warning.."

" what are you talking about? who is Imad? and who is trying to know things about you father? "Moumen" said, sarcastically.

"I will tell you about everything later. It seems like you live in your own little bubble" replied my Uncle.

At night I was allowed to go back home.

Time passed by, and I still the same lost person ...my father, Mr Imad, and my uncle...each time my heart beats for one of them...making me believe that he is my biological father, but mom... I have never had any doubt about her... Im certainly sure that she is my biological mother, she is the one who made me feel real love...I was about to make myself forget about the whole story...until, my father decided to invite my uncle and his wife for dinner...my mother made a very delicious food, and it's savory aroma was everywhere, while I was sneaking to the kitchen to grab some food, I saw something that really played on my nerves... I saw my mother and my uncle whispering...and laughing ... this thing really teased me, I started to have doubts ...and I wanted to kill him with my bear hands, so I can forget about what I felt that moment, I went to call his wife, I wanted her to see him, revenge took all over me...all what I wanted is to hurt them, but I couldn't find her

I checked her room, I knocked the door for a while, and when she opened the door her eyes looked misty and red, she looks like she

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was crying for hours..."why are you here? Why you are not with the rest of them?" she asked, curiously.

" Mom said food is ready, and she told me to call you" I replied

I saw tears coursing down her cheeks, I sat beside her, and I asked "what's wrong?"

'I have always wished for a child" she replied.

I tried to sound like an adult and I said " accepting God's plans is a big blessing, have faith on God and you have my uncle's love...he really loves you"

"NOOOO!" she shouted, unconsciously, and angrily."

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## Chapter Three

I tried to change the subject, she asked me to wait for her until she washes her face, so we go upstairs together -a cockroach she saw in the bathroom frightened her- we went upstairs, but my mind couldn't forget the scene that happened in her room, I couldn't get that "No" out of my head...am I his son?

Suddenly I remembered that I left my mother and my uncle together, I took my uncle's wife to the kitchen, so she can see what was happening, but unfortunately he was grabbing dishes from Tallia...the scene ended as if God, made me see it only to hear what "Safaa" told me about.

Many Days passed by...I grow up and I become a young man, and I'm always searching for the path that will lead me to know Mr Imad's secret.

Once I was hanging out with my friends, we took some pretty photos, and I wanted to print it, but the photographer was close, so I asked Tallia to give me her laptop.

She refused...but I kept asking while doing rhythmic knocks on her door.

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" come on ...give me the laptop...come on" I shouted, screamed then she throw it on my face, smiled and said "don't forget to give it to me back, you are such a cold blooded person"

I laughed, and I pulled her hair and said "am I a cold blooded person?"

When " Moumen", saw us, he laughed and said: "what's wrong the dump and the dumper?"

" Hamza took my laptop, and he hit me" yelled "Tallia"

He pulled my shirt and shouted "Since you were an infant, you liked to go to the barbershop, what now? you want to be a hairdresser?"

The three of us laughed, then I headed to my room with the laptop.

Mother of coincidence! Tallia forgot to turn off her Wifi, I found a message.

" as soon as I finish correcting the exams papers, we will talk"

At that moment I remembered the Almighty God's words

"O you who believe! eschew much suspicion, for suspicion in some cases is a sin. And do not spy into the secrets of one another"

While I was uploading my photos, I had to fight back the demon inside me, but this is who I am ...I used to be a sinner since I was a child...I made it for minutes...hours...then I opened her laptop, and I read her messages while repeating " Oh mighty God forgive me"

I tried to convince myself that I'm doing this for the sake of protecting my sister ...but, I'm such a liar.

I found her conversation with Mr Imad, and I remembered that time when he read her diary. I read the whole conversation, and I found many things...at first, he told her that he has feelings for her, and they talked about all what she wrote, while I was reading, I felt I'm about to get out of my skin...it happens... That you die to know something then, when you have that chance ...fear makes you wish that you could run away. No one of us will be ever satisfied about himself, because each one of us can only have few minutes...not even hours of satisfaction...and those minutes are able to shape our personalities...and completely change us forever.

" my heart is shattered on Hamza, I feel like I'm the responsible of a deep wound in his personality, Moumen and I mocked on him, and now I'm able to see revenge on his eyes" wrote "Tallia"

This is what she and Imad were talking about ...she regrets what she did to me...it took her that much time, to feel me? I do have feelings as them...and she knows how much words can be harmful...why she is doing this to me?

" He is just a child, he can't feel what you are saying" laughed Imad and said.

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She sent him an Angry Emoji and said: "do you remember the day of the accident, when Hamza and I met you? At that day he asked my uncle whether he is his biological father, or not and why he gave him to his brother"

Im not exaggerating, but those words have killed me.

"I feel as if Moumen and I are responsible of a disaster. And when I told Moumen what I think of, he bursted into laughter and said: 'he deserves this, he such a crazy... I wish if I could be treated like him"

I was just an infant at that time...but, this really broke my heart...I was lost.



While I was reading my sister's conversation with Mr Imad I found out the truth about my uncle...when my sister Tallia used to go downstairs to call my uncle's wife, he used to touch her body in an inappropriate way. He traumatized her, and she can't go downstairs now. I was shocked...he was my idol... he did this to take revenge from my father; because he took me away from him? Or what ?

I grieved for my sister...she is such a poor

How hard for a girl to go through such thing, especially from the one she trusted... he is her uncle... she considers him as a father. She also said that, Safaa, my uncle's wife saw him harassing my sister, then my sister's

bones turned to water when she heard Safaa's screaming, so she ran to our floor, and she had a feeling that Safaa is going to tell my father about what she saw

Sister... you are the victim...you are not the one who is supposed to be scared.

I didn't want to read more, that was enough for me...but I looked for a specific thing ... which is

When Tallia asked Mr Imad why he ran away when he saw my father...he didn't say a single word, even though I read many conversations about their huge love story, but he didn't tell her about what's going on between him and my father.

\*\*\*\*\*

After one and a half hours, my sister knocked my door...but I was absent minded ... I was sinking in all of what I read.

" Hamza are you done? I need my laptop" she said.

I was angry because of what she said about me, and mad because of her and Imad's relation...he is 15 years older than her...I grabbed her hand and kissed it, then I hugged her unconsciously. I wanted to make her feel better, after what my uncle did, I felt guilty ...if I were a real man, I would never send my sister to his apartment.

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Tallia couldn't handle my sudden kindness, and she got out of the room as an infant.

" He kissed my hand..Mom..dad...Hamza lost his mind...he is being kind with me ...for the first time" said Tallia in a childish tone.

" There is no one as kind as my dear Hamza, but he tries to full us with his prestigious appearance, and his height... he looks like a wrestler with a brain of a bird." Said my dad.

Everyone bursted into laughter, then a phone call turned all of this into grieves...

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An anonymous phone call ...Moumen got injured in a tragic incident...everyone is shocked ...Tallia screamed so loud, I always felt that she loves him more than I do, until things become more clear to me...

After we received the location of the incident, we headed there as fast as we could. Horror on my mother and my sister's face...my father called an ambulance, then we took him to a private hospital... he had a deep wound on his head, and bruises were all over his body.

He didn't say a single word, doctors were worried, until Tallia came and something weird happened...they looked at each other with some looks full of blame...as if she is the responsible of what happened...she set

on the chair, hold his hand, " I wish I were in your place...May Allah heal you" deeply sad, she said.

I wanted to know the reason behind their weird actions...as always.

The next day we went back home...each one of us headed to his room...I felt thirsty, and on my way to the kitchen, I saw my Brother's door open...I sneaked there...I heard everything, and I got hitting by another truth...Im such a fool

I act like I'm able to understand everything around me, while I'm just a weak kid who is acting like a smart and a powerful man.

\*\*\*\*\*

Someone knocked on the door... it is too late outside, who is there?

Is there another disaster? I asked my self

It was my uncle, he came to visit Moumen, he asked me about my father.

I gave him a disgusted look and I said. " welcome, all of them are sleeping"

He was just checking on my brother...he immediately went back downstairs.

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I really wanted to do something unusual to get everybody's attention...they are all taking care of him, while no one cares about me, suddenly, Moumen become the most important one.

It is such a horrible thing when a human being get used to attention and care, he gets broken ...each time he tries to get that feeling back.

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While I was on the rooftop, I saw an ambulance followed by a police car...and a bunch of people were gathering in front of the house...what they are looking for? No one knows about this mystery...I went to downstairs as quick as I can, and I found a dead body lying in a pool of blood...and a handcuffed man is getting out of the building ...I couldn't see his face...I felt so scared...who is the killer...and who is the victim? No one has a clue ...I wanted to know what is going on, but nobody were in the house. I saw Moumen...he looked grumpy, unlike the usual...I asked him: 'what is happening?'

He pushed me away while he was buttoning his shirt...Tallia is not even here.

I shouted: Mom! Dad! Tallia!

No one is answering ...I felt like my heart is about to get out of my body...I sat on the floor ...he killed my parents? Is it possible?

I stopped myself from thinking for a while and I asked myself: how?

Moumen is quiet calm.

I went out from the house... thousands of possibilities were inside my head...I have never expected that one of the people that I know may be a killer.

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I was frightened; I quickly went to my friend's house, he took me behind his arms and I told him what happened... everybody is busy, no one cared of me. Unusually... he seemed broke inside, he breathed heavily from the psychological pain that he is getting from his father...he used to handcuff him then let him eat on the floor like a dog, as a punishment.

Bruises were all over his body...

" Mouadh, what you have done, to be punished that way" I asked.

" my parents think that this is the correct way to raise me...they crush my body...daily... I wish that they were not my parents" he replied while his eyes were full of tears.

He throw a bottle of water on the wooden table, he looked at me, then curiously asked:

-does your father hit you?

I laid on the couch, I put my hands behind my head and said:

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- No one ever punished me...I scream, and I kick the floor with my feet, and I get all what I want...I have never felt physical pain...except at school.

He raised an eyebrow and said: Hamza! You are lucky.

I shaked my head, No! Mouadh, im not lucky...Im not lucky...no one liked the way he is living ...I wished that they punished me when I was an infant, so I don't grow up to be an irresponsible, heartless, and a trivial person. Mouadh and I are victims...our families failed in raising us...one family spoil, and the other torture...what do we do?

\*\*\*\*\*

I went back home, ready for a trauma...I was expecting the death of each one of my family except Moumen, because I saw him...the sound of the holy Quran was everywhere...and a large condolence tent was under the house...I saw my brother...and I started to think...he killed my father? my mother? or maybe my sister?

I kept walking until I found my father...I put my hand on my chest and I said, Oh God thank you! And I hugged him as a three years old little boy, but the thing he said to me made me push him and ask: who have been killed???

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## Chapter Four

I wished to turn as deaf as a stone...my heart can't handle separation...Time frizzed as if I'm waiting for death to come...there is no escape from such thing.... but, fear clawed up my throat, and...I'm mentally exhausted.

" I know how much you used to love her" sadly said my father.

I was so scared, but I asked" who did we lost dad? who?

He patted on my hand, and pointed to the both of them. They were standing together. All my family members are safe...I took a deep breath and I felt as if my soul is finally entering my body again...I madly love them, but I don't show that, to not give them a chance to think I'm weak.

Nothing is more worthy than family!

We may grieve...when we hear about the death of somebody, but when a family member passes away...a tragic pain will shatter the whole family member's hearts... family is like a house, which the absence of one of its walls will lead to a collapse.

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## ■ Human Spectrum

The day is over...I stayed with my father until some men came and took the condolence tent. we went home together, Moumen helped my father to walk ...he was under shock, and his mind got twisted.

Why that person was here? Is there any relation between him and the victim? a murderer?

We all asked ourselves those questions, but my father was thinking about one single thing, which is why that person was there? And each time he hears about him he gets angry.

Tallia kept silent, she didn't talk with anyone, she took her phone and headed to her room. She received a text from Imad saying: I did nothing sweet heart ...I swear to God...and time will prove that I'm innocent.

Each one of us has something to be sad about, and we are just pretending that we are sad because of each other. No one of us really felt what the other is going through even if he cried his heart out...you have to accept the fact that he may just be lost in one of his sad memories, while for him, you are just someone who found himself sinking in an ocean of sadness, so you wept.

\*\*\*\*\*

Moumen was in his own world with his friends...he doesn't care if his father is dying inside, because he is about to lose the last member of his entire family.

When dinner was ready, my mother called us...no one was able to eat, and we all kept staring at my father.

Looks of fear appeared on our faces, we were all afraid of losing my father...he is irritable, and he has a high blood pressure.

He misunderstood us. He threw his spoon on the rice plate, "not a single question", he shouted.

I can't really understand what is happening, and Mr Imad is the one behind all of this mess... God is sufficient for me! "Hasbi Aallah" I will never forgive him.

Tallia never thought about my father's reaction when he knows about her and Mr Imad's relationship

That long relationship between her and Mr Imad, she barley knows him and she gave him her heart. Even though she knows that their marriage is near to impossible.

The room was as silent as the grave, my mother stroked my father's shoulders while tears were running down her face, and she said: No one is going to ask questions sweet heart ...please! eat some food, so you can have energy for tomorrow.

## ■ Human Spectrum

"Imad...sooner or later, I will kill you I swear to God that I will kill you" repeated my father, while his mouth was full of food.

Tallia got stressed, she kept biting her nails, and moving her feet even Her ears turned red, then she stood up straight, and lashed out:

why you abhor him, what's his fault? and no one of us is allowed to ask questions??

my father stood up from his chair, and said, while strangling her:

" If he didn't went to your uncle's apartment, Safaa wouldn't be killed...he wanted to kill your uncle, not his wife...but she stood in his way"

Not a single man will be able to see his wife with a stranger, without killing them both immediately ...but, they did nothing wrong, they were together and the door was open..

Everyone has the same question inside their minds, which is, " why he came here at that time?"

he knows that my uncle will be at work at that time, if didn't he suddenly remember about some papers that he forgot at home... that crime would never happen.

My mother was trying to remove my father's hands from Tallia's mouth, then she ran to her room while crying out loud...Moumen followed her as if he is her shadow, and he was trying to make her feel better, even though he knows how much his father is sad about going his

brother to jail...Mr Imad should share the same prison cell with him, but he is such a cower... he chose to run.

Despite his sadness, he smiled and asked while he was comforting her "You are such a crazy girl, what have you said to your father?"

" You have no clue Moumen...shut up" she replied

He took her into his arms and said " Am I not your childhood friend? Why don't you just tell me what's wrong?"

she begged him to listen to her until the end, while she was wiping her tears. She started by making him remember the day she heard them talking.

"Do you remember the day of the incident? the day I asked you to go to Alexandria and try to break into an old house, and I told you that it belongs to my friend's brother who stole her inheritance, and she gave you many keys." Said Tallia

" what this has to do with my father and Mr Imad?" Moumen said.

She asked him to let her finish, and said " I was such a liar, there is a dangerous secret in that house, and it concerns our father and uncle. If we can know it we will find a way to know the story that Imad and my father tried to hide from us, years ago"

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"that day the incident happened...and you didn't tell me anything, you waited until this moment? I will never go back to that place, unless you tell me everything" said Moumen.

She kept wiping her tears...

He asked her how she knew about those papers, she didn't answer and he didn't pay attention to this and directly changed the subject. He asked her why she lied to him, because he never excepted such thing from Tallia...she is an angel in his eyes, but what will happen if he knows about her relationship with Mr Imad?

Moumen's reaction surprised Tallia and I, he wasn't even curious to know the secret, while Tallia wanted to use it as an evidence to prove that her boyfriend is not guilty, but does he really deserves all this love and pity or my father is right about him?

She doesn't think about anything except him...love can be misleading.

They had that stereotyped conversation while he was making her feel better, after what my my father said.

Few minutes later...Moumen asked her something ...and my mind got twisted again!

He scratched his chin then asked " why you didn't send Hamza to look for that secret? you both are able to do anything to feed your curiosity"

She said under her breath " That secret is about him, that's what I know until now"

Then she get closer to his ear and whispered something...his opened his eyes...he put his hand on his mouth, then he said despite all what happened how could you talk to our father in such tone?

All what you have told me will never make him forgive you, my uncle is facing a real problem now, and the only thing you are thinking about is yourself?

She broke down in tears and said:

"I wish if my uncle had killed himself, I don't like him. I don't like to see him at all"

He is not going to say anything, because it's not the perfect timing for this. He directly took her to their father's room, she knocked the door,

When my mother opened, Moumen in a sarcastic way said: "Im leaving! you are annoying, guys"

I felt sad, and doubts killed me, the secret is related to me. The thing that Tallia told Moumen about, made him surprised! Oh My God it was a real hard situation for me, I felt like I'm a child who got lost and was unable

## ■ Human Spectrum

to find his way again, an infant who cried his heart out until his tears dried... and his looks became sad and empty.

I entered the room, but my mother asked me to go out...I refused and I kicked the floor.

Am I a stranger? I'm not young, why you are treating me as a 4 years old child? what are you hiding from me? I need to know everything ...in a sudden

I became a stranger who doesn't have the right to neither ask, nor, understand nor talk !

" Calm down sweet heart...calm down" she hushed me by gently putting her hand over my mouth.

Tallia was lost in her thoughts then, my mother woke her up by asking:

" why you said this to your dad?"

" He is a dictator, he wants us to hate Mr Imad without even knowing what is going on, he may be a good person, why we don't search for the truth first, then we can decide about who to love, and who to hate" replied Tallia."

" You better let that doubt go away...Mr Imad really hates us, and I'm sure if he has the opportunity to set us on fire, he would do it without having second thoughts about it. He is trying to harm each one of us, even

when Hamza was younger, he used to lower his grades to make him look like a loser in front of his classmates, he showed no mercy towards him even though he was just an infant who has nothing to do with our conflicts" Mom breathed heavily and said.

I couldn't keep my words inside my throat anymore and I said: one day I will know everything...I swear to God.

I asked my mother about my father, and she said that he went to the prosecution to give my uncle some support. I asked her to give me the keys of my uncle's department without telling my father, she refused...but I convinced her that I'm trying to do this for the sake of proving my uncle's innocence. I begged her for an hour then she gave me the keys, and when we went to the apartment, Tallia was scared and she couldn't even come inside, so my mother held her hand and said while tears were running down her face

" May God have mercy on you Safaa...May God have mercy on you sweet heart"

The first thing I did is to search in Mme Safaa bedroom, I emptied her wardrobe, but I found nothing...mom did the same thing with her drawers and she found nothing as well. When we searched in the kitchen we found a small cell phone with a dead battery, I gave it to my mother so I can check it later, who knows maybe I can find something in that phone. suddenly I felt some pain in my stomach, I ran to the bathroom, and I stayed there for

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a while...when I looked in the roof I saw a plastic box, and the moment I finished, I wore my clothes and I immediately opened it.

I found some hair in bags, razors, small bottles of oil ,rose's water, perfumes, and an empty bottle with an USB inside. I grabbed it and I went out of the bathroom. I told mom and Tallia about what I found, then we headed to our apartment ...the laptop was on, so I made a copy of the files that are in the USB and I hide it quickly without letting anyone of them know. When my mother and my sister came from the kitchen we all set in front of the laptop...quickly...without thinking twice...Tallia clicked on the delete button...she deleted all the files and as if she became free from all the burden that she was holding on her shoulders said:

" the USB is completely empty"

I asked her to let me search, maybe I can find something in the hidden files...minutes after...we were all shocked from what we saw.

" Oh My God!" said my mother while her hand is covering her mouth.

" No! No! this could not be possible !" with a tone full of disappointment said Tallia.

I stepped back..i will never reach what I'm looking for!!.

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## Chapter five

In the public prosecution office, the Attorney General was sitting, and both of Adhem and his lawyer were sitting in front of him...Adhem was really out of his depth.

The Attorney General said:

"In March 06,2002 Adhem Dahchour killed his wife Safaa Aloui, and when the police came they found her in a pool of blood."

Then asked again

"Did you killed your wife Safaa Aloui?"

" I really love her ...I swear to God it was just an accident" replied Adhem in a subdued tone.

"why you killed her?"

" we had a small quarrel, because she is infertile...I have a son from another woman, but she doesn't want me to get him back, she already made me live far from him...and now when I insisted to have him near to me again...she asked for a divorce" he answered in a tone that sounded full of fear.

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" After living with her for several years...you remembered that you have a son and you want to take him between your arms, in a sudden !", The Attorney General asked in a tricky way.

" My son is a teenager now, and he really needs me...also I can no longer handle the feeling of him being far away from me, I want to take him between my arms and tell the whole world that he is my biological son" while wiping tears, said Adhem.

" How old is he, and where is his mother?"

" he is sixteen, and she is in jail" answered while rubbing his chin.

" why killing your wife instead of divorcing her?"

" I will never be able to live without her, she has a heart of gold" Honestly replied Adhem.

" But you killed her, and you will never see her again!" said The Attorney General.

" My parenting instinct got over my love for Saffaa...I just wanted to get my son back" said Adhem while tears were gushing down his eyes.

" Do you consider this as a reason to murder her?" asked The Attorney General.

" Your Honor, may I talk to my client?", the lawyer interrupted them saying.

The Attorney General slammed his hand to the table and said: " you have to keep silent now, when I finish talking to him, you may talk to him as much as you want"

"You were at work...why you came earlier?" he asked Adhem.

" I forgot some papers" answered Adhem while wiping his eyes.

At that day...you was thinking about the problems that you have with your wife, or is it about something else? ...there was a strange man with her in the house, or did you caught her looking through your papers?

Adhem didn't say a single word.

" Adhem, please Im begging you... tell the court everything you know"

He remained silent, as if he turned deaf.

Then The Attorney General said: "So, you want to be executed? You are misleading the court, and you can be charged for this!"

" Who called for help, and who reported the crime?" he asked him after taking a deep breath

I have no clue, I wanted to save her...I didn't even expect that she died, I called for an imbalance, but in a sudden I found myself surrounded by the police...I was really shocked.

they closed the judicial recored, and Adhem's lawyer was angry, he asked to meet his client alone.

## ■ Human Spectrum

Why didn't he tell the court all what he knows? My father told him that Mr Imad was there.

" Listen if you want to live, you will forget about all of this ...I murdered once, and Im ready to do it over and over again...you better hold your tongue" he lowered his voice and said ,while pulling the lawyer's suit.

The lawyer fixed his clothes, then went out of the room, he was burning with anger. He sat with my father and told him what happened...my father was about to get crazy because of his brother's actions, that will lead him to jail, if not to an execution!

My father was angry, and all what he thought about is to find a way, to find Imad. He felt like he must find the missing piece of the puzzle, he headed to the school that Imad works in, he wanted to know Imad's address from the administration. He acted calm, and gently asked the headmaster about Mr Imad's address, after making him believe that he is one of his relatives who wants to send him some things. The headmaster told him that he have been in a vacation since month and a half, and he gave him the address that is shown in the CV, and it was the address of his home in Alexandria. my father wrote it then quickly left the school as a kid who finally found his toy back... after days of being missing. Before he turns his car's key...his phone rang...and all of his plans collapsed in a sudden.

How things can change in a blink of an eye, when life makes you go through the mill, and only in few minutes you stop from being happy and you scream your heart out...my uncle's life have turned into a nightmare...he lost his wife, and home in a sudden.

My mother is the one who is calling...my father answered the phone and in an aggressive tone he said: don't call me again, I will not come back home!!, and before he hangs up the phone she shouted

" I didn't call you for that reason ...there is a huge disaster, you have to come as soon as possible"

" Hannen !! What happened ! I swear to God if you don't tell me what is happening right now I will divorce you!" he shouted back while slamming his head to the steering wheel.

" I will not take your words in consideration right now, you totally lost your mind"

She murmured.

" What are you saying !!!" he yelled

" Nothing ! Nothing" she answered in a weak tone.

" Talk !!!" he putted his hands behind his head ,breathed heavily and said

## ■ Human Spectrum

" Tallia, Hamza, and I went downstairs to search for an evidence to help Adhem to get out of jail, but Hamza found an USB, and when he opened it, he found disasters...Imad was the one behind Safaa and Adhem's marriage...she told him about all of what was happening with us for years!" she said

"Stoop telling lies! I know you are just lying so I come back home, right ??" my father in an angry tone."

" Sallah! Im not lying, and you have to hear me ! I have the photos of the piece of land that only you, Safaa, Adhem, and I know about, and it says that it belongs to Aloui Safaa... also your brother has confessed to Safaa that he stole his step mother's jewelries ...how could he tell her all of this? then she couldn't explain well, so she said " Hamza will tell you about all what we found"

" Don't let him get close to this USB, I don't want him to know anything...quickly and don't say a word!!!" He hissed, before she putted the phone on my ears

She hang up...pulled the laptop from me... I didn't want her to take it ...I tried to keep it in a very aggressive way...she never saw me acting like this....she closed everything.

She left me there battling my own demons, I will never be able to get over what I experienced ...Im trying to escape from my own thoughts...I sleep...I spend time with my friend. It's been a while since I felt normal, but

I can't handle this anymore...Im about to lose my last brain cell ...I wish I can yell at them and let them know about all of my doubts, but no one will listen ...everything is already not fine, and everyone is going through a hard time.

Moumen was with his friends at the cafeteria, his phone rang many times, until he gave up.

" Yes! My loquacious sister! yes!" he said while joking.

She kept silent for few moments, then she said in a shaky voice: " Moumen I'm scared. Please I need you here! Beside me ..."

He left his friends behind, and he didn't even excuse from them, he just waved then said to Tallia:

" Sister what have you done? and why you are very scared ?"

She told him about what we found.

" then why are you scared, you are such a stupid girl !" he laughed and said.

" my father is going to kill me, please Moumen don't let him do it...I'm your beloved sister" she bursted into tears.

" Tallia !!! What have you done!" he shouted

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"I will tell you everything later, all I want you to do now is to take that USB from mom please Moumen!! Im sure that I will die, and no one will forgive me" said Tallia.

He couldn't understand why she was so scared, but he kept silent. Until he heard her saying...

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## Chapter Six

He wondered about the reason behind all of this fear! Why she is scared to that point from dad!

He wasn't able to say a word when she said:

"Imad and I are in a relationship!"

His heart rate started to accelerate... he was afraid that Tallia has already gave her body to Imad while he is only using her.

"What kind of relations?" he murmured

"A love relationship!" she answered

He kept silent for few minutes, then he repeated "A love relationship....A love relationship?"

"Im on the stairs open the door.." he added

She opened the door, and he didn't notice that my mother and I were there...he directly took her to her room, and slammed the door. He asked her to tell him about all the details, and why she is afraid? She told him that Imad and her are in a relationship since years...and he is going to marry her.

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" this is why you were refusing all the men who proposed to you right?" he asked.

" Yes! Moumen I love him, and I want nobody, except him" she looked down then, replied in hesitation.

He changed his tone, then they started to imagine their father's reaction if he knows about this relation...it's he going to kill her, or he is going to die out of grief.

He stared at Tallia...then aske, curiously:

" Did you gave him yourself?"

She bursted into tears, then threw her phone on the mirror and shouted" even you !!! even youn, Moumen? How could you to accuse me of that horrible thing?"

she really loves Imad, but she never commited such sin...

I knocked the door, then I entered ... I stared at them...waiting for an explanation, then Moumen looked at me and said:

" Hamza you are an adult now! And we have to figure a solution together"

" Did you know? your sister has a relationship with Imad"

He closed the door, and said in a tone of disappointment.

I put one leg on the other, I said, carelessly.

" It's been a while since I knew...everyone is free"

" Why didn't you stop her, or inform me at least!" he pulled my shirt and yelled at me.

Then he said: you are not worried about our father if he hears about this? Or if he kills her?

I didn't answer him...I looked at her and I said:

"If she tells us, why she is scared or why she deleted everything from the USB, I may help you!"

Moumen kept silent for few seconds and he said that he is not able to understand a single thing, then he asked Tallia " Hamza, is saying that you deleted everything from that USB, while you are saying that you are scared if someone sees what it is inside it...how is this even possible?

She kept silent...so I answered:

"I made a copy of the files that I found, and I saved it on the laptop..."

At that moment, Tallia become so anxious...she kept biting her lips...but Moumen couldn't believe what I did.

" What is the point from doing this ?" he asked me.

" Im searching for something personal..." in an arrogant tone I answered

" What are you searching for ??" he said angrily.

## ■ Human Spectrum

" Personal stuff" I answered carelessly

" You are such a selfish! Why you care only about yourself? why you didn't think about neither your father, nor, sister, or your mom. Yeah your mom because, everyone is going to blame and say that she didn't raise her daughter in a good way" he shouted while punching me.

" But mom raised me in a perfect way!!!" yelled Tallia and interrupted him

" Shut your mouth! you are such a slut...I swear to god that I will never be able to look at you the same as before...why you did all of this ????" Moumen pointed at her and yelled.

Moumen's actions made me feel furious...so I broke my silence and said:

Well...well...well...look who is talking about me being selfish! Moumen...the one who doesn't know a thing about us except our names...we are not a tight-knit family as we pretend...we are a bunch of strangers who shares one roof... we have to stop with all those lies ...enough is enough!

\*\*\*\*\*

I went to Mouadh's house and I called him

Then his father threw a dirty bottle of water on me and shouted:

" Go away silly!!...my son is not going to have any friends"

I felt so embarrassed, so I giggled; then I called Mouadh and I told him about what happened... only few minutes until he showed up in their backyard then his father threw a bag full of his son's clothes while calling him names...

I patted him on the shoulder...we were both heartbroken...we went to the cafeteria, talked a bit, then I took him to my home. In the backyard I met my dad...but he was grumpy, he didn't even greet me as he used to to.

He touched my shoulder, then the three of us went to my home. I left Mouadh in my room to take some rest, while I quickly went out of my room to take a look on what is about to happen in the house. Sometimes life sounds like a movie...so many unexpected events...as if we are watching a series and passionately waiting for each episode....but each time a piece of us dies...without being someone there to notice!

" Is it the right timing to invite Mouadh ?" asked, my mom.

" His dad doesn't want him home again mom ! it's already eleven. should I let him sleep in the street ?" I answered her

" Oh sweet heart!" she putted her hand on her chest and murmured

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She entered my room and asked him to join us dinner

"It's eleven, aunt!" he smiled and said

"What to do? I can't take a bite unless everyone arrives home" she replied while laughing.

A tear was forming, but he didn't let it fall. He smiled and thanked my mom for the invite...an apathetic...Mouadh turned into... after what he heard from his father in front of me.

after few minutes he accepted to come, we sat on the dinner table...each one of us was looking at the other in a weird way...Moumen gave me a horrible look then he turned to Mouadh and asked:

"How are you Mouadh?"

"I'm fine, thank you... I know this is not the perfect timing for me to come, so excuse me, I'm leaving." He said in a timid tone.

"I'm considering you as Hamza and Moumen, and this is your house!" my father stood up and replied to Mouadh.

"But...you don't really know me!" he said surprisingly.

"You are Hamza's only friend, and you don't have any idea how much I love him, and I trust his choices...that is why I like you." Answered my dad, while he was trying to draw a fake smile on his tired...sad face"

Tallia got lost in her thoughts...does my father trust her as he trusts me? or he has a feeling that she is not trustworthy...when she let herself

fall in love with her father's enemy. My father finished his food quickly then he looked at my mother, and she got what he is hinting for...she followed him to the room.

When I finished my dinner I went to the bathroom to wash my hands, then Moumen showed up.

" Why don't you ask from Mouadh to go and sleep in another place, because we are about to witness a disaster...You little man" said Moumen.

I looked at him in a sad way...

Then I asked Mouadh to go to the cafeteria, before me to check if everything is well settled, to watch our national football team playing ... he didn't ask questions...then when I entered my room, my father wanted us all gathered...then he started to look in the USB, but he found nothing...

" Moumen...Moumen come here" he yelled

When Moumen entered the room, Tallia was shaking while standing there eating all what she finds in front of her...she felt so anxious.

" Do you know how to show me the files that were in this USB?" asked my father.

" No, but Hamza does " he said.

" No! No! I don't want him to see anything ...please son...try to fix it by your own" replied my father.

## ■ ■ Human Spectrum

He tried many times...but he couldn't find anything...then Moumen suggested if I try to find them the files then I directly go out from the room...he didn't want this, but he had to.

I entered the room, and my father started to talk to me in a kind tone...he was trying to cover his stress

" Sweet heart...do you know how to make the files that they were here appear again? I know that you are a genius." Said my father.

I said yes...I opened the laptop and I found all the files...my father thanked me, then he kissed my forehead and gave me some fees, so I can enjoy my time with Mouadh...something didn't feel right....why he wanted me to go out of the house so bad?

I headed to the street, without seeing anything, but Moumen was able to see everything...Tallia didn't move away from the table dinner...she was just staring at the dishes...lost in the nowhere.

I watched the football game, and I really enjoyed it...but my mind was thinking about my father...then Moumen called me before the end of the game and he said:

"Hurry up Hamza..."

I directly headed to our house, I didn't even excuse from my friend, and he kept following me...he had no idea about what was happening in my house.

When Moumen heard my footsteps, he opened the door... I saw nothing, but her fainting on the floor. she is not moving...I couldn't do anything, I stood there like a statue...then Moumen said:

" Help me! Let's take her to the nearest hospital"

My father asked from Mouadh to bring us a Taxi to go to the hospital.

The hospital was crowded, and everyone was asking about what happened to that poor girl.

People murmuring, "There is no power nor might except with God "La Hawla Wala Quwwata Illa Billah" what happened to the poor girl?" killed me.

Doctors took her to the emergency room, my father had no idea about what is happening ...while both Moumen and I, know the real reason behind her breakdown.

Fear! Yes fear...is the mirror that shows our anxieties... the things that are going inside our heads in front of everybody... fear is the alarm, that rang few minutes before the breakdown, and here, it is up to us....whether we get back on the track, or it's all over for once and all.

This is what my sister have been facing...downhearted...and scared from the unknown, which is the worst feeling in the world...you will feel as if you are walking in the woods, with each passing minute...you are

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expecting a wild animal's attack...but you will never know from where the punch that will make you weak in the knees will come from.

Did he saw anything related to my sister and it was suspicious? Or he found out about what happened, so he tried to poison her...I have been given this a lot of thought.

The moment I woke up from all of those imaginations...the doctor opened the door...we surrounded him to ask about my sister.

" Your daughter couldn't fight back her anxiety, and all what she needs is a rest...that's why I recommend to keep her out of any kind of family issues, it is as simple as this, and tomorrow morning you can take her home" he said calmly.

I felt relived after we checked on my sister...then I heard my father saying:

" Thank You God"

Then my father and Moumen entered the hospital room.

Moumen was crying his heart out and saying:

" Forgive me sister...Please don't get mad of me...I care about you, and I really love you...let's get back home together"

while my father didn't say a word. he was jsut touching her forehead gently, while my mother was waiting behind, with her hand on her chest thanking God.

We went back home, and my father kept calm...he really surprised me...how could he forget that his brother is in jail?

Mouadh's sister called, and asked him to spend two days with her, until things get better with his father, and because of the gloomy atmosphere we had in our house, he accepted immediately.

In the next day, we went all to bring Tallia, and mom back from the hospital, and when we arrived home, my father sat with us for one hour then he headed to the court with the new evidence that is going to tip the balance.

While telling us about my uncle's case...my father was direct and clear...we were listening to him, until he started justifying what my uncle did to Safaa, and that was a bitter pill to swallow!...at least, for me.

And how come that he said that he has a son who is as old as me?...and how my father didn't get surprised when he heard about all of this?

My mind was about to explode...then I suddenly remembered aunt Safaa telling me " No! No! he doesn't want a child!"

Then the name " Imad" popped into my head, and it was surrounded with many question marks... I will never be able to find any explanation.

Moumen asked my father about what he found in the USB

## ■ Human Spectrum

" Safaa made a recorded confession to Adhem, and she told him that Imad has threatened her with death if anyone knows about their relation, and she regrets all what she did" said my father.

"So, dad...why you didn't want Hamza to see what is in that USB, there was something related to him? Or it's just you being scared from Hamza and his big mouth...he would tell everybody about what he saw." Smiled Moumen, looked to Tallia and said.

My father wanted to draw a fake smile on his face, but he couldn't make it...so he asked me to sit on his lap.

" Hamza is taller than you; now, and you are treating him as a child!" laughed my mother and said.

Minutes later...my father headed to the lawyer, and he showed him the evidence that will put Imad behind jailbreak.

Tallia kept silent... she looked scared, but we didn't know the reason.

Moumen invites Mom, Tallia, and I for dinner, for some reasons that we don't know, my mom refused, so it was only the three of us....we ordered a lot of delicious food.

Moumen took the food that was in front of me and said:

"Mmmm. Yours is more delicious!"

Then, he cleared his throat and asked Tallia:

" what made you scared to that point, you little bunny!"

We bursted into laughter on that nickname, then Tallia said:

I will tell you the whole truth, and we should do our best to prove that uncle Adhem is innocent, despite the fact that I really hate him...but I will never let him go to jail if he is not guilty.

"" we need to get some Ice cream, so we can enjoy what little bunny is about to tell us" I laughed and said.

"I this an invitation sweet heart?" asked Tallia with a large smile on her face.

I said yes!

" do you feel okay brother?" she caressed my forehead and said.

" let's go...you crazy girl!" I replied

We sat together at the ice cream store. Then Moumen smiled at Tallia and asked her to tell us what she knows.

She scratched her nose, then tears started to well up in her eyes. Then she said:

I saw him doing it!

"Minutes ago, you said that he is not guilty, right? " I asked, astonishingly.

" Ima..Imad is the killer" she covered her mouth with her hand, and she tried to say his name.

## ■ | Human Spectrum

" Sister!! what did you saw? And how you knew that my uncle is innocent...also why would he confess, if he really didn't kill her?" asked Moumen.

Then Tallia started to tell us about the whole story.

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## Chapter Seven

Three days before the crime, aunt Safaa was complaining about the dust in her apartment, also she said that she wants to change her home decoration, but she said that she needs some help, and Uncle Imad is totally against the idea of coming a stranger to help her whether it is a male or a female...he used to really get jealous on her. So my mother asked her if we could help her, and we did.

When she went to bring us coffee, she asked me to stop cleaning, to save some energy...I sat for a moment then I stood up, and I started to throw the clothes gently on the floor, so I can organize them in a better way. When I touched the roves, and I found an album, I thought it belongs to my uncle and her...then suddenly she came back and grabbed the album from me and said:

" Didn't I, said you have to take some rest"

" No...I didn't forget, but my uncle is not coming home early tonight, so we can continue " I answered.

## ■ Human Spectrum

She kept silent then she started to act in a different way...she seemed scared, even though I saw only one picture, but I can tell that he is with her in the rest of the photos.

I tried to regain my composure, but I failed...he is my lover after all.... how can I see him holding hands with another one ...

"What is going on between you and Imad?" I asked, bravely.

she ran out of words, then she said that she will offer me anything I want, then she said that I have to promise her that I don't tell neither my uncle, nor Imad about the photos, because that will cost her, her life.

I went crazy then I said

"How am I going to contact Imad anyways?!"

she wiped her tears...pulled herself together ...changed her tone and said:

"listen sweet heart...if imad will ever know about anything you have seen today...your father will receive photos from your meetings...and you will have no one to blame, but yourself!"

"If you think that you can scare me, then, you are wrong! I'm the one who is going to tell my uncle everything about you...he has a very

wrong idea about who you are...I will make sure that you get out of that house with a huge scandal " I yelled at her face.

Then I opened the door and I headed to our apartment...the things she said and that face she showed, really threatened me...but I will never let her feel my weakness.

" what's wrong?" my mom asked me

When she followed me to my room, I told her nothing, so she decided to go to Safaa to understand what happened, but she fooled her by saying that everything is fine, and I'm upset because I broke her vase.

I stayed in my room...crying ...thinking...should I tell him about what I saw, or I have to keep my mouth shut, and spend my whole life under safaa's mercy...she has something that will make my father hate me forever...I called Imad and I felt the hate rise up in me, then he answered the phone while singing a love song to me.

At that moment I cried, then I stupidly said:

"Imad! Do you really love me? Or Am I just the weapon that you are going to destroy my family with?"

## ■ Human Spectrum

He swore to God that he sincerely loves me, and he told me that when we are together, he forgets that he has problems with my family.

I raised an eyebrow and I said again

" Someone knows about our relationship...you didn't make sure to keep my reputation clean, as you promised!"

" Oh my crazy girl! Can you tell me who is that person?"

He cleaned his throat and replied.

I felt my heart beats racing...I was thinking and looking around me then I said: "Safaa"

He went crazy when he heard her name then he asked curiously

" who told you that she knows about us ?"

I went out of my room to make sure that I'm home alone, so I can shout as loud as I want.

" you are such a moron! Why you are asking me this? What's going on between you and Safaa? Why you are playing with fire? How could you to be in a relationship with my uncle's wife and me at the same time? is finding a way to get your revenge is all what you

care about? How could have an affair with a married woman? If you are the half of the man you think you are...answer those questions!!!

He said , " I'm asking you for the last time! Who told you all of this? Tallia, I'm not going to ask you again...I swear to God if you don't answer I will come to your house...take you by force...and I will kill them all". In an unusual serious tone.

The things he said, scared me...so I told him about what happened, then he hung up on me.

In a less than an hour, Safaa called in the landline phone, and she asked my mother if I was there.

" Safaa wants to talk to you" she entered my room and said.

" Mom...I don't want to talk to her" carelessly I replied.

" But...she is not mad at you, and I will buy her a new vase" said mom

I didn't know what to say, so I asked:

What vase?

I put my hand on my forehead...I took the phone to see what that traitor wants.

## ■ Human Spectrum

She asked me to come to her house, and when I arrived she told me that Imad is going to kill her...she kept crying, to make me believe that I will be blamed if he kills her, she asked me to beg Imad to not harm her. She told me about how much he loves me and that he can't live without me. So I called him to fix the situation...I called him and I said in a childish, and a lovely tone:

Darling! Can you do me a favor?

"Are you schizophrenic?!"

He said angrily.

So I told him how much crazy I'm about him, and that I love him to death, and that all of my deeds were because of my jealousy.

Me...Hamza...couldn't handle what I was hearing from her.

"How could you not feel ashamed while saying this in front of your brothers?" I yelled at my sister.

Moumen asked me to stop talking, then he told her to continue.

So she said in a tone full of fear

"I told him if he really loves me, he will not hurt Safaa, Also I told him that if he doesn't explain to me what's between the both of them

we will not be together anymore... even though she begged me to not say this, but doubts were killing me"

Then she added

" He hung up the phone...he was trying to avoid talking to me. So, I stayed with Safaa...not only because I felt ashamed of my deeds, or because I didn't want her to tell my father about my relation...but also, I didn't want Imad to do anything harmful to her ...then the thing that I was afraid of... really happened!

When my uncle went downstairs, she called me ...and before I reach to her door, I heard a low screaming, so I hid behind the door...I saw Imad telling her that he will kill her, and she was begging him and kissing his hands to not do that, but he said cruelly:

-How many times I told you that not a single soul should know about us!

" Many...many times, but I'm begging you... don't kill me please!"

She replied while the color drained from her face.

So many questions have been raised...should I enter her apartment and find out what is between them, and that way I will save my family and I from them? or should I let them kill each other?

## ■ Human Spectrum

and before I take the first step...I heard someone in the stairs...its uncle Adhem!!!

The moment he saw them, his bursted into tears and said:

why!! Why!! Sweet heart! why you did this to me? and with who? Imad?

She run into his arms, but he pushed her away.

" Say something please! Please...say something"

She begged Imad.

Then she turned to my uncle and said:

Adhem...I swear to God that I love you...I will even let your son move with us...I will treat him as my own child...please! Imad is the one who have to be blamed he came here to kill me...I'm Safaa...your sweet heart...your life partner.

Few minutes later...my uncle pulled out a pistol and aimed it at Imad...as fast as the wind Safa covered Imad and took the bullet for him.

I was about to get crazy...how could she put an end to her life to protect Imad...what they had together?

When she finished the story...Tallia cried her heart out, because she had to remember all what happened again.

" All of this happened while you are hiding behind the door? and you didn't even help her? Why you didn't beg him to leave her alone...you didn't even worry about your uncle? What if imad killed him? Sister!...you are such a slut! I said.

She replied:

"When he ran out of the apartment I followed him and I didn't let him pass...we were in the elevator, and I asked him about Safaa again, but he was crying his heart out as if he recently lost his mother"

Moumen couldn't believe what he heard, and said:

" There is no way for you to be Tallia...you are such a selfish human being...you are the real murderer"

She cried a river, then we spent the whole way home trying to convince her to tell all what she saw to the court, Because she is the only witness that will prove that uncle Adhem didn't have any intent to kill his wife, and that will make him get the lowest possible penalty.

She refused...is she unable to hurt Imad? Or she is seeking revenge from the one who killed her innocence by touching her body

## ■ Human Spectrum

whenever he had a chance...but this kind of revenge is unfair, so I decided to find Imad by my own.

\*\*\*\*\*

My father and the lawyer headed to the court, they asked to meet uncle Adhem to show him the new evidence ...when the lawyer played the video, aunt Safaa was sitting on a chair.

"When you watch this video...I will be in my grave...sweet heart, I deeply love you...I wish that I had the chance to tell you everything...many times...I was about to lose myself between your arms and tell you all what I know, but it looks like life have never offered me that chance, and Imad will kill me."

She said confidently.

Then she moved her head up and said again:

It's Imad yes! He is the one who threatened to kill me yesterday...and if anything happens to me, be sure that he did it ... in this USB you will find each thing that I did against you...I was helping him...yes...but I swear to God that I really love you, and if you want to make sure that I have never cheated on you, you can go to the old house, the one near to the train station in Alexandria...there you will

find a wooden box under the house's ground. When you open the apartment's door move ten steps forward, then dig in the ground, and you will find the documents that are going to explain everything, going between imad and I... Good bye to the one who deserves nothing but respect and love ...I love you Adhem.

After the court saw that video, they made an order to arrest Imad as soon as possible, and they left uncle Adhem in jail for four days to do more investigations.

Sallah went crazy...he totally forgot about his brother who is drowning in tears, and he headed to Alexandria...he wished to find something against Imad, and to show that he and aunt Safaa had something...he sees her as a slut now...because she agreed to help another man to harm her husband...why she married my uncle at first? Each time I think about that subject it gets more complicated... all what I want to know is who my father? And who is my cousin that we knew nothing about him before!

\*\*\*\*\*

## ■ Human Spectrum

As usual ....My father called my mother to tell us about the latest changes in the case...the moment he said they are going to arrest Imad...Tallia headed to her room...she was angry, because aunt Safaa made the court point fingers on her " Romeo "

Moumen and I followed her to stop her from warning Imad, but we were sure that the moment we get out from her room she will call him, that if she didn't already told him about everything...she is truly, madly, and deeply in love with him...she loves a man who was about to kill someone in front of her eyes...Im wondering how she didn't take him out of her heart at that exact moment.

As usual...I come up with smart ideas...in the past days I borrowed a wire from Mouadh,then I fixed it on one of her room's walls then I told them that I have to go to the bathroom, and Moumen went outside to meet his friends.

I entered my room, and I heard everything she said.

" Oh God! I don't know what to do, I'm in a huge problem...if I don't warn him, they will arrest him, and he is going to tell them about everything and...dad will kill me" she said while speaking to herself.

The room was as silent as a grave...then I heard her, breathing heavily while repeating:

Please! Answer the phone...please!!

When he finally answered the phone she said in tone full of fear.

"There is an order to arrest you, because Safaa recorded a video saying that if anything bad happens to her...it should be you."

I couldn't hear what he said, but I heard her saying

-No...No I can't.

She was refusing to do or say something

Then she pulled herself together and said

"How could you be that much arrogant!!! You know that I have the evidence that will put you in jail, right?"

Then added;

"It looks like you have never thought that I'm able to give the court a video of you trying to choke aunt Safa...Mr Imad...I know everything, I went to Alexandria and I have all the documents that will put you all in jail...you...Adhem...and my father".

Then she hung up and said:

## ■ Human Spectrum

"If you really thought that I can be a weak girl for the sake of love...what a pity! you are a stupid man...myself is the only thing that I cherish...you was just a weapon to take revenge from the father who is always insulting me, but never listens to me...it's just a matter of time...and I will tell my father about our relation...he will kill me, as you all killed her before me...I will tell her that even if she is dead, but her problems are hunting you all...what's wrong with you? Do you fall in love with each girl in this family? See you Imad."

For the first time in my whole life...I decided to face people!

I entered her room, and I told her that I heard every single word she said.

I saw devilish twinkle in her eyes, then she hugged me and said:

Don't worry Hamza! I will tell you about everything...you are such a poor man, you may be the victim of that barbaric family.

" Sister! What do you mean ?"

I said while My eyes were wide open, and I was barely breathing.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Chapter Eight

" I know what is going on inside that head... I'm playing the fool...but I know that you are having doubts about who your biological father is, I know that you are searching for a slight hope, so you can finally take some rest" she said in a serious tone.

" Tallia...this is not true! I have never thought about this... I know how much my parents loves me " I said while smiling, to reduce stress.

" And that's what made you think about this at first place!" she answered

" That's not true !!" I said, and my facial expressions have changed so, I forced myself to smile, but I couldn't look normal.

" As you wish sweet heart... I will leave you to your demons now"

\*\*\*\*\*

I spent hours thinking, and blaming myself for being a stubborn ... why didn't I ask her about the truth? Why I always act tough, while I know that deep inside me... that my paper heart can't handle anything!

When my father arrived home, he was very happy, because he is going to Alexandria. My mother insisted to go with him, so he will not be alone when he meets Imad... but she was wrong, because according to my

## ■ Human Spectrum

father's actions, he is such a selfish person, all what he is looking for is to know what was between Imad and Safaa...and helping his brother to go out from jail... was not one of his concerns.

On Wednesday, my father had a strong belief that he will either find the truth, or he will find Imad in that house...then when he arrived, and before he made his first step in the house; an old lady stood in front of him.

" Time passed by, but I still can see evil in your eyes, Sallah! ... is your heart as dark as the night as before ?" she moved her crutch while looking at his face, and she said.

Despite her harsh words, he wept, and jumped into her arms.

"Aunt Halima...I really missed you" he said

" really?! Where have you been all this time, Sallah?" she pushed him away, and said.

He apologized to her, then he asked for her permission to enter her house... but she raised her jilbeb with the tip of her finger and stopped him.

She said," Do you really think that I will allow you to go into my son's house, while he is not here?" in a serious tone.

" My brother is in jail, and if I enter that house, maybe I will have a chance to help him...please aunt...please!" he kissed her hand and begged.

" Imad didn't kill Safaa, my son is not a murderer as the rest of you... her husband is the one who killed her!! When your brother found them both in the apartment he wanted to kill Imad, but she protected him, and took the built for him" she said in a confident tone, and he got surprised when he knew that she knows the whole story.

Then she added:

"Son, I'm an old lady, and I will give you a golden advice... evil will not win, no matter how long it takes, and God does not approve breaking other's hearts"

" Aunt Halima... do you think God is okay with me being broken and weak? does God approve the way people looked at us, after what happened?

We are the victims here!!! until this moment I thought that you are defending him, only because he was alone! But now you are aware of the amount of problems he created... he was the reason we left our people, and our town...is this the justice that you are talking about? he raised his eyebrows, and asked.

" Hannen, How could you forget about it, and be Happy in your life after all what happened."

Said Halima while looking at my mother with misty eyes.

My mother didn't move her eyes from the ground, then Halima added

## ■ Human Spectrum

" I swear to God that the documents are not here!"

" I'm sure it's here...and I know where I can find it" my father answered.

We brought some tools to break into the house, but she peacefully opened the door, and pointed to the door as a sign for my dad to go to the house. after He walked ten steps, he found a box...and when he passionately opened it...he found out that it's empty.

He went crazy, he started putting dirt on his head.

"Who took the documents Halima? And how you knew that I will be here?"

He angrily said this while choking her...but my mother stopped him, then the old lady said in a very calm tone

" Kill me if you want to, I know that you can do it, because it's not your first time"

" Who!!! Safaa?"

He asked while biting his lower lip.

" Ask your heart, and you will get the answer without any help"

She answered.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sallah went back from Alexandria full of anger, and he was thinking of Safaa, and the reason why the old lady told him to ask his heart.

Imad arrived home, and he found his mother crying, so he asked her about the reason.

she answered:

" I met Sallah, and his wife... and my heart couldn't handle what I saw... he looked very thin, and he could barely breathe"

" Mother !! why don't you cry over me !!! I'm searching for my own son, and I don't even know whether they killed him, or he is living among them" he shouted

Then he tried to control himself, and added

" when I entered their house, I wished that I can face them all... but I lost words, and It felt like I lost my voice as well... for few moments everything was in front of my eyes...i looked at Hamza, while I'm asking myself if he is my own son for real, or I'm just imagining things? If my son is not dead...he would be as old as hamza...but mom...if he was my son...I would feel it right?"

" Oh! sweet heart... please, don't make me feel sad about you"

She patted his back and said.

## ■ | Human Spectrum

" I need you to feel sad about me mom. At least I will feel that you love me as you love Sallah!"

He carelessly answered.

"Son, it was out of my hands...for real!"

She whispered.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tallia's words really irritated me...she shocked me with the fact that she knows about what is going on inside my head. I went outside, and as usual I headed to Mouadh's, but it turned that he didn't come back from his sister's house since the last time he left his own house. I called him, we met in a cafeteria and I told him about every single doubt that I have, but he was surprised...how come to a spoiled child to feel this way.

" I'm the one who feels this all the time, if my mother didn't deliver me in the house I would have doubts... I would think that they just found me in the street, but unfortunately, I belong to this horrible family"

He said

Then he told me about his twin sister, and how she is not allowed to go to school, and that she never went outside alone. I asked about her name, and he told me that it's "Doua"

I really wanted to see her... I felt pity for her.

Giving care more than it's needed or spoiling your kids may make you end up with losing your own children...you will create a selfish and an ungrateful monster. and, when you are an extremely strict parent... you will create a weak, and a broken soul. In both cases, you misused what God gave you!

"I wish I knew about this earlier"

I sighed and said.

\*\*\*\*\*

Back to what I was telling you about!

My father went to the lawyer, and they decided to write a request letter for prison visit, so they can meet Adhem and prepare for what they are going to say in the trial day.

It is visit day...the lawyer, and my father waited for Adhem, and the moment he opened the door, my father couldn't control himself...he stood up and started to stare at his brother...how a person could change that much in three days! His whole world has turned upside down ...He lost a lot of weight, and his eyes turned puffy; from crying his heart out every night;. He sat in front of them totally mind absent.

" I can't see you suffer that way...please! Listen to me"

My father begged him.

## ■ Human Spectrum

" Why would I get out from here? everything has gone"

He sighed and said.

"You have no interest in meeting your own son?"

Said my Dad in a confident tone.

"will he ever forgive me, after knowing that I'm a murderer?"

He threw a miserable smile and said.

"Honestly, I can't understand why you are denying that Imad was in your apartment, and the documents that disappeared from the house shows that they were in touch. In view of the fact that she confessed to you, I'm sure that they were just friends." Said the lawyer.

Adhem looked at him while his eyes glow red with anger and shouted:

" I can't say this...she used to be my wife!!! She was not my mistress!!! I can't just say that were both inside the house."

The lawyer raised an eyebrow and said:

" well, in this case you will be executed"

'I'm dead anyway... with each breath that I take I can feel regret eating me; for being my heart beating...while hers has stopped...and, I'm the one who stopped it"

He moved his head and carelessly said.

"So, just tell them what you know in the court hearing. And maybe you will get a lighter sentence, but if you keep doing this you are going to be charged with misleading the court, and hiding information."

Said my father, in a serious tone

" I will tell them about everything, only if ..."

Replied Adhem.

" if what ??" Sallah curiously asked.

" if I have something that explains to me what was between my wife and Imad, if I don't get this, then I will put an end to my life, or I will be executed"

He nodded and said.

\*\*\*\*\*

Imad called Tallia, and he told her that my parents went to Alexandria to search for the heading secret.

" what happened!!!! Did they met the old lady?" she gasped, and asked.

" Yes! They met my mother." He answered

" Your Mother?!!!" she shouted

" yes! My mother, and if you don't stop threatening me, I will kill you and bury all the secrets that you know" he said.

## ■ Human Spectrum

" So, kill me!!! because I don't really care. You have never loved me...no one ever loved me except My brother Moumen." she answered, Carelessly.

He shouted: " Tallia stop it!!! Or I will tell your father about our relationship!"

She remained silent for few minutes then said: "why don't you tell him? I will do it myself"

She hung up the phone, then she went out of her room and she looked as if she is brainwashed. She was opening the doors and shouting:

Dad...Dad!!

" what's wrong Tallia" my mother stopped her and asked.

" where is my father?" Tallia asked passionately.

" he went out, why are you asking about him" answered the mother

" I will tell him that I'm in a relationship with Imad" Tallia carelessly said.

The Moment Moumen heard what she said, he dropped the glass of water, and my mouth was wide open while checking if she lost her mind yet!

My mother had a different reaction...she went down on her knees, and she started to slap herself in the face while saying:

"What are you talking about??? My daughter is in a relation with who?!!

"Imad...I love him, and we have been dating" Tallia again.

"So, aren't you willing to talk about what you saw that day? Or does your heart has something else to say?" angrily shouted Moumen.

She scratched her haid, looked at them, and said:

"Adhem deserves to be in prison, as well as Imad...he played with my emotions!!"

I tried to control myself, but I couldn't so I blowed in her face and said:

"You are as guilty as them both! What happened to you??... I really can't believe this is you!"

"You want to know what happened? I was dead inside...I was in a need for care, love, and a warm family. I needed someone to ask me how I feel from time to time, a Mother who advise, and a husband...a sister to fill the gap in my life Which the unknown, for me, she is going to fight...we fight over clothes and who's turn in the kitchen today is. I'm dying to have someone who sticks besides me when everything seems dark. I have always felt the need for a caring father, who treats me like he treats Hamza" she sadly said.

My mother clapped her hands as if she is congratulating Tallia for the end of her tragedy, and said.

## ■ Human Spectrum

"What a great actress you are! You are such a fool! You forgot all what we did for you? After you grow up to be an adult woman, you are blaming us as if we never did something good to you? I regret bringing you to life...I wish you weren't my daughter. Wait until your father come...that heartless, who was about to die when you went to hospital...The one who did everything to make all of you happy."

At that moment, my father entered the apartment and asked:

" what is happening! I heard your voices from the end of the street"

" I'm about to tell you something...something dangerous dad... can you guess it?"

Said Tallia, while laughing and bursting in tears at the same time.

He looked at her, and everyone 's heart in the room was about to stoop.

" Your beloved daughter is in love with Imad" said Tallia

He putted his hand on his chest, then he sat on a chair and said:

"don't you ever make jokes about those subjects"

" No dad! I'm not joking...and I'm going to prove it" Tallia in the same hysterical tone.

She ran to her room, and grabbed some documents and put it in front of our father's hands. When he saw the papers he looked at everyone, then he started to beat Tallia as he never did before.

## Chapter Nine

**B**lood was covering all of Tallia's body, he did all of this and he doesn't even know yet that Safaa was killed in front of her eyes, and that she is the responsible of all what happened...Even Moumen didn't show sympathy this time.

Moumen in a serious tone:

"Dad, Tallia is the only witness in Uncle Adhem's case...she saw everything"

She glanced at him, then she broke out into tears...she didn't care about all what have happened, but when she lost her brother's love and care her whole world fall apart...he was her light at the end of the tunnel, and the one who is going to save her from drowning...but he let her down in a blink of an eye.

Tallia nodded, and starred into nowhere then she crashed to the ground in agony while shouting:

"No!!! Nooo!!!"

## ■ Human Spectrum

My father pinned my sister's ear back, while saying:

" You are going to tell me all what you know, or I'm going to end up your life."

" This is not the first time that you kill me...you killed me each time you made me swallow my opinion because I was too scared of you...each time I needed you the most, but you wasn't there. When I had a breakdown, and I went to hospital...you didn't even ask about what led me to this situation...at that moment you took my soul away." Said Tallia, and Her eyes were filled with tears.

He shrugged his shoulders and said:

" My brother was arrested, and I couldn't find time to ask you about what happened...I thought your mother will do it."

" I never thought that a brother is more important than your own children, Dad! and mom...she cares only about our clothes and food, since when she cares about how we feel or about our needs as Human beings?...And Moumen is such a selfish who cares only about his friends, he spends his whole day outside, he is using the house as a hotel, he only remember it when it's time to sleep. I was lost...for love and care searching, and when I thought that I found it...it was with the wrong person who loved me just, because I...

She kept silent for few moments then said:

"Because I look like his ex wife."

My mother couldn't believe what she heard, and she was just sitting there waiting for my father's reaction. While my father, as usual... he pulled Tallia's hair and dragged her across the floor to her room.

I went to my room, so I can eavesdrop on what they are talking about.

He threatened, "If you are willing to live an extra day in your life, you tell me when did you went to Alexandria? And who told you that you look like Imad's Ex wife?"

Scaredly, she asked, "How do you guarantee me that you will not kill me?"

He sighed deeply, "Speak up you little devil, how did you know about that hidden secret?"

He asked her to wash her face, then she sat in front of him...she was totally petrified.

" Imad disappeared all of a sudden...and while I was doing the laundry with Mom I found in your coat a home address and Imad's

## ■ | Human Spectrum

name written in a piece of paper. I asked from Moumen to bring me the documents, but I swear to God that I told him nothing. I lied...I told him that one of my friends needed the documents, but it ended up in a wrong way...he had an accident, and I heard mom warning you about going Hamza and his friends to Alexandria. When I gathered all the missing pieces, I became sure that Hamza has a relation with the documents, or Imad and the conflicts that are happening. When my uncle murdered his wife everybody was busy, so I woke up early and I took a train to Alexandria. When I arrived, a short white old lady stopped me...she looked like that kind of women who went through a lot, she had a blue tattoo on her forehead, and she was wearing a black jilbab, and a black veil with a blue clog.

She kept starring at me while replying:

"In the name of Allah The Entirely Merciful, The Especially Merciful, Ward, Is that you?"

"I'm sure there is a mistake here, my name is not Ward" I took her hands off me, and said.

She kept walking and saying, "Glory to Aallah, you really look like her"

I headed to the house and thanks to imad who told me before about his home in Alexandria, I found it easily because it was special from the other houses. After I checked that no one is there, I tried to use a thin knife to open the door, but I suddenly felt a hand covering my mouth, and it was like I can't enough air into my lungs.

"You don't want to talk to me, Ward! I knew you at the very first sight"

I felt confused, so I swore that I'm not ward, and I have never met someone with that name.

"So, we are going to the police office, and there you will tell them why you were trying to break into my house" angrily, shouted.

I kept silent for few moments, then I asked in a low tone.

"Who are you?"

"I'm an old woman who didn't get married, I searched for love, but my lover refused to marry me, because I was a poor girl, while he is a wealthy man. Life thought me well, and I became tough, also it looks like I'm filling the gap by giving love to everyone. You know everything about me now, and I didn't ask a single question, but I can tell that you came here because of love...only love is able to make us go into the unknown" confidently said, then she added, " but it's not

## ■ Human Spectrum

a reason to break into people's houses, and now you are going to tell me everything or we will head to the police office"

I cried and told her:

"my father will kill me, please...I will tell you all what I know"

Then I told her all what happened, without changing a single word. She hugged me while swearing that Safaa never had an affair with Imad, and she was only trying to help Imad, because they were like sibling. When he was six years old, his parents died, so Safaa's family raised him and helped him to get through life. But Things went to lose, and tears when he fall in love.

We digged, and we found the documents, and Safaa' photos with Imad and her parents, plus a birth certificate that belongs to ..."

"Shut up! Listen to me, now...you go and bring me the documents" my father, yelled, and stopped me from completing my sentence.

" No dad! I'm not giving you the documents" she shouted.

Then Tallia went out of the room, and headed to hers, at that moment Moumen, mom, and I tried to take her out from my father's hands, and when we did this, she said angrily " I wish I have never met you dad...I wish I never see you again"

My mom spit in her face, Moumen left the room because he couldn't believe what she said, while I...I, hit her in the face.

" You know? The things that have been inside your head are true...you are not my brother! Don't spend much time thinking about it, because I have some strong evidence, and I will never give it to you. you will regret every single bad thing you have done to me." She said in a serious tone.

All of us felt a sudden coldness that hits at the core, then my dad said:

"Tallia, You can't have a strong evidence...Hamza is my biological son, and nothing can change this"

My mother took me between her arms and said:

"Eighteen years, eighteen years...and I'm not ready for that moment, I'm not taking a DNA test. Hamza is my son, I can feel my blood running in his veins, I love him deeply."

My eyes were wide open, and I was starring at them...I couldn't believe what happened.

I wish I were in a dream, I asked Tallia to hit me,so I make sure that I'm fully awake.

## ■ Human Spectrum

My father's reaction was very strange, he just left the house.

It's been days now, and I'm just going around in circles. The house was as dead as a grave, they were all waiting for my reaction, but I was waiting for the perfect moment.

it's the trial day, no one could find Imad, Adhem confessed that he killed aunt Safaa, and the court sentenced him to three years, taking in consideration that he saw his wife with a stranger in the house.

the case was closed.

I went to Alexandria looking for the old woman that they all have been talking about, but I found myself standing face to face with Imad. The blood froze in my veins while looking at him in the eyes, he did the same, that meeting was the first step into digging out all the buried secrets.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Final Chapter

**H**e took me into his arms, and asked me to sit with him, so we can talk. "Okay", I said, after he insisted. We went to an old cafeteria, and before he say any word

He asked me passionately, "when you was an infant, you wanted to ask me about something very important, why you ran away?"

I felt nervous, and I couldn't say a word, so he bravely said, "I'm going to answer you Hamza, do you think that I'm your dad?"

I didn't want to answer him, so he added "I feel something towards you, I know this is not a strong evidence, to claim that I'm your dad, but I'm lost, and I don't know what to do"

He covered his face, to hide his tears. I tried to use his moment of weakness, and I asked him to tell me the whole truth. He got confused then he said, " fine, but I have one condition"

At that moment I was ready to give it all up, for the sake of knowing the truth.

While my heart was racing, I asked, " what is in it for you?"

## ■ Human Spectrum

"You convince Tallia, that I really love her. It's true, that I wanted to get my revenge on those who have wronged me, but I swear to God that I truly love her as much as I loved Ward, I'm not only into her because she looks like her, but also into her soul, and heart as well! It seems like I'm meant to be falling in love with the same features for my whole life...with a slight difference in personality.

First love hits different...it leaves a deep scar in the heart. none of us can afford to forgot the feeling of the Goosebumps that we catch when the eyes meet, or the way we feel when we fall in love for the first time.

We all know how having those emotions feels like, also we all know that relationships may not work, or it will just end up being a toxic experience. Especially the relations we go through during our teenage years...the age when we were all reckless...many hearts get broken, but at least we learned something."

When I said yes, he said, " we do get worried when we see a toddler holding a gun, unlike when we see an adult holding it. Because a kid is seeing it as a toy, and he would shoot anyone just for fun, but when an adult man pulls the trigger he knows well what he is about to do."

"I can't see the relation between this, and what we were talking about!", I, said.

"This is exactly what you did...you pointed with that gun at everybody who comes by, and you set the revenge fire between us. We

used to live in the same village and share the same neighborhood, but look at us now!. She started it all...Ward made us reach this point." He replied.

I raised my left eyebrow and asked, "You mentioned that woman twice, who is she?"

" She might be your biological mother" carefully, he answered

I was your age, when we both fall in love. I did nothing wrong...I just loved a pretty girl, we met several times until Halima caught us together. she is the old woman who raised your father, Adhem, and I. she never got married, so she took the three of us into her arms, and gave us all the love and care.

She took me to your father's house, to ask for Ward's hand, but your father got angry. I was just a student who has neither a family nor money, he refused my proposal.

When he refused my wedding proposal, she came out of her room and shouted,

" If you don't agree on this, we will run away, and get married...and no one will be able to stop us."

Your father tried many times to post pone our wedding, but Ward had other plans for this...she disappeared for three days in a row, everyone was looking for her, and praying to know whether she is alive or not

## ■ Human Spectrum

"Why you are caring about her now? Didn't you all break her heart with your cruel words? What was her sin? Or have you considered her guilty, just because she fall in love? Lovers has no choice...because love is a disease that doctors can never heal." Said Halima.

" I wish I can see her for a moment...and I will do all what she wants" Sallah said, regretfully.

"really!! Are you going to let me marry him? I am going to wear the white dress and look like a princess?" Ward entered the room, hugged Sallah, and said kindly.

He slapped her in the face, but he felt happy inside, when she told him that she was at Halima's house. then he said in a sharp tone, " if you marry Imad, I will never come to your house"

" For the first time in my whole life, I know what being an orphan feels like", she said, with eyes full of tears.

Said Iamd: "Then my ex best friend Adhem said..."

I stopped him, and said: "Your best friend!!!!"

He nodded his head sadly, and said: " Yes! My best friend, we went through everything together...but it doesn't matter now."

Then Adhem added: " Sallah! Can you stop being cruel for a moment! you promised our father that you will take care of her"

He said disgustedly: " And I failed! how she is going to marry a child who is not even able to take care of himself...we have no idea about whose parents are!

Halima pushed him away and yelled: " how dare you to blame him for being an orphan, he never asked for this! Family is the warm home, which embraces each one of us... makes us feel safe. when parents disappear,the human being feel like if he is drowning in an ocean of wounds, as if he is standing bare naked in the middle of a blizzard.Other people's looks hurt... no matter what happens, he will never feel warm again, after he became alone, he will find himself sinking in fake emotions, also suffers from the pity that others showed. He has no one...to whom he will complain? he became lonely, he has no solid wall to lean on...a small stone will be able to ruin his life...and mess up with all of his plans...without being someone there, to help him to get his life back again.

I felt bad for him, so I tried to comfort him.

He smiled through the pain, and said: "Halima is such a pretty woman, with a golden heart"

He sighed and continued: "at first, Sallah refused to come to our wedding ceremony, but when the whole family insisted, he came...but he broke my wife's little heart on her special day. He didn't even bother himself to shake hands with her, or to take her into his arms...his little sister was about to move to another man's house"

## ■ ■ Human Spectrum

"why my aunt got that much mad, even though he made it clear from the beginning, and his actions were predictable" I asked while drinking my coffee.

"females spends their whole life collecting ideas from other weddings, so they can make their own special day a magical one. At the wedding day a woman feels that it's her coronation ceremony, and if a small thing goes wrong she loses her mind. Hamza, Females aren't like us...it's something in their nature...they feel excited about the white dress more than about the new chapter in their lives. I felt that Ward found herself all alone in that day when she said: "all the girls that I knew, were surrounded by their beloved ones at their weddings, they all laugh and have good times together. Imad, why I'm that much alone? Why I have no friends, or a sister so I can cry my heart out between her arms. I went alone to the beauty salon...even Hannen couldn't be there because Sallah prevented her from coming. I didn't eat a single morsel of food for the whole day, brides usually have a lot of fun during their ceremony, they eat and laugh along with their siblings, and cousins. No one was there to help me to wear my wedding dress. There was a girl at the beauty salon, she was helping her sister then she noticed that I'm trying to hold my tears back, so she came and offered me help. She kept talking about how much beautiful I'm, and how much my dress is breathtaking. At that moment it was the second time that I feel I'm an orphan."

"Hamza, Her words shattered my heart," said Mr Imad, then he continued;

Years passed by, and your mother gave birth to Tallia, but Ward, and I didn't get lucky enough to get pregnant. There was nothing wrong with us, it was just God's will. After I got graduated from college, I immediately got a contract job in Cairo. Ward was so supportive and happy for me. One day, when I came home from work, I got astonished!! There was a large table, decorated with petals and candles, and it was full of delicious food. While I was starring at the masterpiece my wife made. I felt her hands surrounding my waist.

She told me that she is pregnant! I was so happy! We chose everything together, and we picked the name Hamza if it's a boy, and Waeed if it's a girl. Each time I came home, we go to the doctor to check on our little treasure and listen to his heart beats, and I used to feel his kicks in Ward's belly.

Once, when I came home, I didn't find neither my wife, or the table that she used to prepare me when I come home, so I headed to Halima's house, and I didn't find her either. One of the neighbors stopped me and tapped my shoulder, while saying: "Don't worry, she will be fine! She is going to give birth and come back to you."

"where is Ward??" I eagerly asked.

## ■ Human Spectrum

"The place where she is supposed to be! Her family's house! Hannen and Ward are both having labour pains. May God be with them, and give them power."

She replied.

I ran there as fast as i could, and when I arrived I kicked the door with my foot. The moment your father saw my face, he wanted to get me out of the house. here when Halima yelled: " Please! Stop! We need to take ward to the hospital as soon as possible"

For few moments, the room was as silent as the grave.

I pushed your father away, and I ran to the room, and before I open the door, we heard Hannen shouting...why she is screaming? She is not giving birth yet!

After few minutes, Halima went out of the room, holding between her arms my beloved wife as a child, and she was covered with blood! Then we heard a newborn baby crying...it was Hannen's.

I wanted to get out of the house, but your father stopped me! I saw the love of my life suffering in front of my eyes. We kept fighting until, something happened! We heard a loud and sharp breath...yes! It was my wife's last breath. Shortly after, our baby took his first breath.

Everyone was shouting, and the house turned into a mess. Then Halima came, and she was holding two male babies. When I asked her, which one is mine, she swore to God that she doesn't know.

I turned to the midwife, to get an answer, but she said that she can't help me...she had no idea which baby is mine.

Months passed by, and I spent each minute grieving the loss of my beloved wife. Until one day, Adhem came and said that one of the babies passed away.

I couldn't believe what I heard, and shouted, "Maybe my son is the one who is alive!"

"It's over now! And if you talk about that subject again, I swear to God that I will take your soul out of your body! You are not going to be missed... you have no body" he said, in a serious tone.

I didn't even receive the dead body of the baby that they claimed it's mine... I have no idea whether you are my son or not.

\*\*\*\*\*

I searched for the midwife to ask her again, but I never found her. Maybe she died... I found myself sinking in weakness, and loneliness. Getting revenge was the last hope I had to make your father, and Adhem have a taste from what they have made me go through. I thought Safaa was my trump card, but she wasn't that much useful. All what she could

## ■ Human Spectrum

offer, is some property papers, and I had the chance to take all what they have in a blink of an eye, but this is not who i am! Safaa was my best friend's wife, and I know how it feels when the closest people to your heart hurt you. But I realized that I was not Adhem's best friend after all, because he didn't lift a finger while my wife was dying in front of his eyes. Until the day Safaa died, I was afraid that Adhem knows that Im the one who sent Safaa to his life. And I know that he will never handle that.

The last time we met, he said that I'm the devil himself. He blamed me for Ward's death, he said that she was too young to handle the labor pains.

I can never forget how Safaa, and her family helped me to pull myself together the day I buried both, Ward and my soul under the ground. She promised me that she will be one of them, so she can know whether my son is alive or not. And that is what really happened; she became my eyes and ears when she got married to Adhem.

Safaa's family never told a person that I live with them, because Safaa and I were both adults, and people will spread rumors.

Safaa, and I secretly met for years, when she got married. We followed every evidence, and took every direction to know whether you are my son or not.

She used always to tell me about how much Adhem loves you, and that you are always between his arms. She told me how much they all

loved, carried, and spoiled you, which made me have doubts about you. I started to believe that they were trying to make up for being the ones who took your mother away from you.

When I entered your house for the first time, I couldn't say a word, I was just that person who lost everything, and doesn't care about anything anymore. I wanted to strangle Sallah and shout, " why you moved from Alexandria ?, is Hamza my son??"

Then Imad asked me, "I wonder why they all care so much about you? it's not only about Sallah or Adhem, they all loved you until they..."

He couldn't say it, so I asked him, until what Mr.Imad?

"Until they ruined your personality, and turned you into a monster" he answered.

"How did you that?" I raised an eyebrow and asked.

He surprised me when he answered, "even though I feel that you are not my son, but I really wish the opposite, I have always kept an eye on you"

I looked at him and laughed, then he asked, "when was the last time you took drugs?"

I tried to deny, but he said, " if you keep denying, we will go to the laboratory for both, a drug, and a DNA test!"

## ■ Human Spectrum

I didn't expect this from him, especially after knowing there is only slight hope that I'm his son. I felt bad, because he knew about the drugs, but knowing that he will be there for me, even though he is not my biological father, made me feel better.

Imad and I went to a blood draw lab, and after they took some blood samples from me, we headed to a cheap hotel to wait for the test results. I didn't tell my family where am I, but I called my friend Mouadh, I wanted him to come, because he had no one, and his father was such a dictator.

A gloomy atmosphere surrounded Sallah's house, everyone was sad, and worried about me. And they looked for me everywhere.

Tallia's life turned into a nightmare, she felt empty, and dead inside. She wasn't even allowed to use neither her smart phone, nor her laptop...my father made sure that she doesn't communicate with anyone.

And Moumen looked for me everywhere; it looks like he finally noticed that he had a family...

While, My mother cried her eyes out for me, until she had a stroke.

Sallah was very sad, and he had flashes of regret for being cruel with his little sister. And no one thought that I could be with Imad, even though if I were in their place, he will be the first one to come to my mind.

\*\*\*\*\*

Even at Mouadh's house things were not going well; his father divorced his mom, and claimed that she is not raising her son in a good way. Then his father left the house...and now Doua, and her mom all alone, everything has gone! Cruelty, and inhumanity will lead us to nothing, but to destroy all what we have.

We will sit there watching our life falling apart.

\*\*\*\*\*

When Imad, Mouadh, and I went to get my blood test results, we were shocked! We didn't expect such results!

After that, Mouadh used Imad's phone to check on his family, and his sister Doua was delighted to hear his voice.

"Oh! my beloved Brother are you okay?" she asked.

Mouadh wept and said, "I'm doing well sister, what about you?"

"My father divorced mom, and he left the house...I feel scared whenever I hear a noise outside the door. It's true that my father was brutal, but at least he was here to protect us. I'm afraid if mom get sick, and I can't help her...Moaudh, I'm afraid if we die here alone.", she said, in a tone full of sadness.

## ■ Human Spectrum

At that moment, Moaoudh forget about everything that happened in the past and yelled, "Don't worry sister! I will be home, and I will fix everything!"

Then Doua handed the phone to her mom. She gasped in agony, and said, "Are you happy now?!"

"No! mom I'm not happy! But I will come back to you" he answered.

When Imad heard about what happened to his family, he decided to go with mouadh to his father's work place. He wanted to revive, what brutality has killed.

Then Mouadh, and I promised Iamd that we will go to rehab. Luckily, We didn't become addicts, because none of us had enough money to spend on drugs.

Have we really reached that point? Now we have to fix what others ruined in us, and what we caused to ourselves.

\*\*\*\*\*

My father, Imad, and I finally met in a closed room.

At first, my father refused to sit with Imad, but when he saw the blood test results, he forgot about everything, and he apologized for all what he did in the past, also he said that he never expected from his little sister to do something against his will, after he spent his whole life taking care of her.

He just wanted to see her graduate, and have a happy life, but he got mad when she insisted on marrying Imad. And his actions, cost him her life.

My father kissed Imad's forehead, and apologized to him. And here Imad took the chance to ask my father for Tallia's hand, and he told him that it's the only way to get over Ward, and his son's death.

My father said that there is a large age gap between them, but he will let Tallia chose, and he said that he will never separate two lovers again.

For the first time in my life, my father and I will have an honest conversation.

I asked from him to listen to me first, and then he can tell me what he wants.

Dad! I know how much you love me, but this love caused me nothing, but pain.

One word! It took my siblings one word to ruin my life for twenty years! You never cared about how I feel, all what you worried about is how to own me, as if I'm a piece of furniture. God knows how much I love you! I wished from the bottom of my heart, for you to be my biological father... and God gave me what I wished for. But dad! why you keep repeating the same mistakes? You have always treated me better than Moumen, and you made from Tallia a weak, and a fragile creature. You have never asked

## ■ Human Spectrum

us about what we really need! Life is not only about food, and clothes. It's bigger than this dad...it's bigger.

We needed a warm hug, to make us forget about our worst nightmares. But I cannot deny that you succeeded in making us love each other, even though Moumen and Tallia has a special relation, she loves him more than she loves me...and that's because you treat me better than them.

"Have you finished Hamza?", said my father.

Yes dad! I replied

He gasped, and said "you are right! But I was trying to make up for what I did...I thought that you are Ward's son. I did all of this just to make her forgive me, each time you hug me I feel her soul surrounding me. Even Adhem was sure that you are her son...we all believed that, except your mother! She was more than sure that you are her baby boy. That day, the midwife couldn't tell which one of the babies is ours, and Halima made a big mistake when she mixed between both of your clothes."

He apologized to me, took me between his arms, then he called my mother and shouted with joy, "Hamza is my son!, he is my son!"

Aunt Safaa was Imad's escapegoat, he was too afraid to lose Adhem's respect if he knows about their secret... the secret that cost her everything...her husband, and, her life...and it's Imad's fault.

Imad arranged to meet Mouadh's father in a cafeteria, to teach him the right and healthy way to deal with children, and it worked!

They are a happy family now, his father is trying to be more caring, and my father is trying to not over spoil me again.

Imad took me, and Mouadh to rehab for two months, and then we got fully recovered.

Adhem went out of jail, but he wanted to get his son back, so he traveled abroad.

Tallia and Imad got married, it was a simple ceremony with family, and Halima.

And, Moumen is preparing for his wedding, after he got a job. While, me? I keep thinking about my doubts from time to time...I think I will never forget about it. Im in love with Mouadh's sister; Doua! But I'm pretty sure that her father will disapprove of our wedding.

Each time I find myself plunging into despair, I lighten up a cigarette. Now, I got convinced that I'm cursed, and my suffer will never come to an end.

I spent my whole life trying to know to whom I belong, but at what cost?

Here I Am! I turned into a Human spectrum!

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