

Burned Ashes



ISBN: First Printing, 2019

ISBN: 978-9947-79-426-5

International Distribution: Egypte, Sudan, Irak, Lebanon, Jordan

The Title: Burned Ashes

The Author: Warda Saifi

Cover Design: Sif Eddine. L

General Director: Samira Mansouri.

Publisher/ Elmouthakaf Editions.

Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/elmouthakaf>

Web site: www.elmmothakef.com

Tel/ fax 0666-76-28-50 / 033 85 65 75



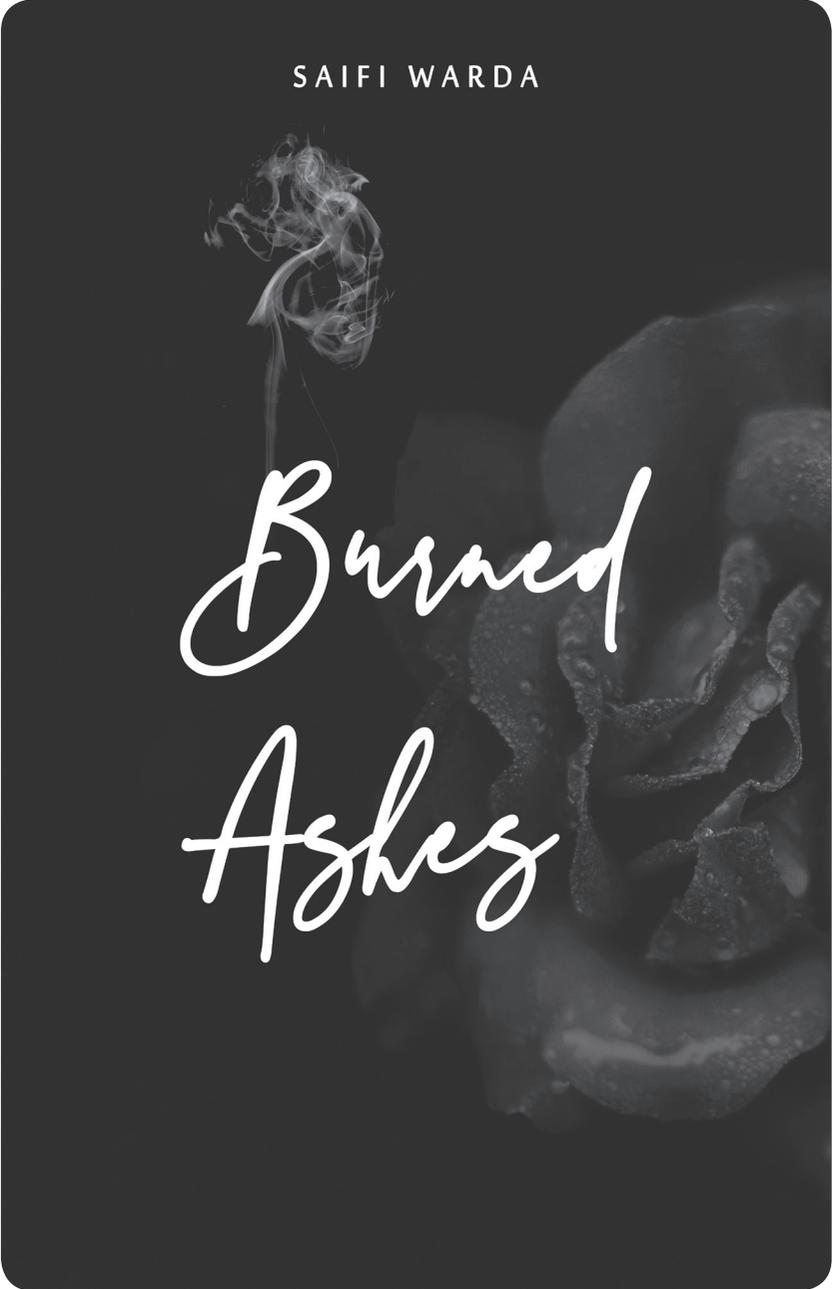
Elmouthakaf for Publishing and Distribution



Bibliomania for Publishing and Distribution

All rights are reserved and preserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by information storage and retrieval systems or other electronic or mechanical methods, without written permission of the author with the exceptions as to brief poems, references, articles, reviews and certain other non-commercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the publisher, addressed « Attentions: Permissions, » at the address mentioned above.

SAIFI WARDA



*Burned
Ashes*

Dedication



My endless thanks to Allah almighty who gave me strength and ability to accomplish this work.

I hereby dedicate this humble work to my parents “Saifi Abdelali” and “Bakhti oum elkhir” who raised me, educated me, and never deprived me, to my lovely husband “Tatai Mohamed Mossadek” who encouraged me all the way long and gave me the power to immensely write this work.

*To my precious diamonds, my daughters “Razane and Nourane”.
To all my family members, my sisters and my brothers.*

She was young, in her flowering age, sitting by the bus's window, carrying a bouquet of yellow tulip flowers, calm, in peace, and comfortable. She was a girl with fair colored eyes, dark straight hair, and angelic face of nearly 12 years old . It was raining heavily when she obviously decided to buy some flowers to be offered to her mother. She was removing the cold's fog by rubbing the bus's glass with her shirt sleeve, she wanted to see how the city gets beautiful by falling rain drops, she wanted to see how people are getting cheerful because the sky is smiling over them, but all she saw was a man about forty of his age kicking out his wife outside their house, pushing her, swearing her not to come back again. She kept staring at the woman's poorly face and deep tears, bare feet and rough dress, shaking from cold. Catalina looked at the bus driver, he turned on the gear, that rang a bell for her that it is time for the depart. She looked again to the woman sitting under the heavy rains, as if she was saying to her I am sorry, what would I do?. For a while, she remembered her father when he was alive, when he was bitterly tormenting her mother. Her father was called "Fred Benson "and he was a man of a noble birth, tycoon, spending much money on German beer and French wine, women and gambling. She remembered the times when her mother was hiding her every night in a closet when her father arrives completely drunk and starts singing, breaking things, and beating his lovely wife.

Chapter: 1

Ten years later, Catalina grew up as woman with strong personality and savage beauty; she was well- educated lady with a man-like thinking. The pain that was inside her since her childhood grew steadily and became a grief, wrath, and vengeance against men. She bore in mind that men can never be trusted just like a fox, gives peace at first then turns against you.

One day morning, she woke up early heading off to apply for a job. “Mum!! Am going to look for part- time job in restaurant, bar, whatever” Catalina said.

The mother: alright dear, just keep me posted.

Kisses her mother saying: I love you mum.

The mother: I love you too honey.

Catalina walked for miles away looking for job just to help her mother who was a maid in a rich man’s house her name was Cecelia and was an ideal mother for Catalina. She raised her with pure and true love .

After a hard day, The pretty lady got a part-time job in a Spanish restaurant and when she was going back home at 9:00 pm she passed by a flower store and this time she had chosen a red tulip flowers bouquet to her mother. Catalina arrived home, she opened

the door's house shouting excitedly "mum!! Am home " .

Catalina again: Mum!! You here !! The mother didn't answer, Catalina then walked around the house checking for her mother. Suddenly, when she went to the kitchen she found her mother lying down on the floor sinking in blood. She shouted in panic: "Aaaa mum please answer me " but in vain .She was crying bitterly and saying: Mum please this is me Catalina please don't leave me mum please.

Catalina's screams and cryings were heard in every house in the neighborhood, everybody was looking out of the window wondering what's wrong and the police were called immediately. Ten Minutes later the police arrived and Catalina's mother found obviously dead, they took Catalina away from her mother's corpses to start the investigation . Catalina could not let go of her mother, she was crying bitterly and hugging her mother forcibly. The police called for an ambulance because Catalina was in trauma . She was taken to The hospital and given some anodynes to keep her calm and tranquil. At Cecelia's crime scene, investigations were taking place in the hot spot and first insights shown that Catalina's mother was shot with a rifle from a high building straight to the heart by a skillful sniper. Meanwhile, after a sleeping of four hours Catalina wakes up staring around don't knowing where she

was, she totally forgot what happened to her after her mother's desperate murder. The syrom wires where attached to her wrist. She got up quickly with a bit of daziness. She walked along the hospital's corridor. Suddenly, she met one of the detectives whose in charge of her mother's case. She went directly to talk with him and he was obviously asking the nurse about her situation.

Catalina interrupted bitterly: Am fine. Did you find the killer ?

The detective said: uh am afraid to tell you

Catalina interrupts him: no of course. Then she walked away leaving him standing. He followed her calling her name: Miss. Benson where are going?

Catalina answers sarcasemly: To do what you couldn't do.

The detective: look miss I understand your sorrow but this is the police job. We are going to find him and punish him.

Catalina said : you understand nothing detective, nothing at all.

The detective: miss Benson allow me please to take you home. There will be some agents to guard your House in case you get attacked.

Catalina: thank you sir I can protect myself.

The detective: miss Benson you need to have a rest now then tomorrow I will ask you some questions about your mother. Let's go home miss Benson.

Catalina said and the tears coming down of her eyes: fine. Detective. Anderson drove her home and he opened the house door for her.

The detective: Here you go miss Benson.

Thank you detective, replied Catalina.

I will be outside if you need anything, just call me. said Anderson. She looked at him for a while then closed the door. Catalina was in trauma she couldn't believe what happened to her mother. She starts thinking why a sniper would kill her mother ? What for ? All she knows is that her mother was just a simple maid in a rich family house that's all what her mother told her. Besides, she never heard her mother complains about her job. She used to praise her boss and his wife. So, whose beyond the murder ? And who would benefit from her mother's death ? Catalina couldn't understand a thing. She was in great despair. She spent the night thinking about it, but in vain.

Chapter: 2

The next morning, she woke up and starts preparing the breakfast after she saw detective Anderson from the window sleeping in his car. She prepared a cup of coffee and went outside to give it to detective Anderson. She knocked in the car's glass and detective Anderson jumped at once frightened.

She said: I brought you a cup of coffee handing it to him.... .. ah by the way I thought u were watching over me. He felt embarrassed and couldn't reply, she continued: anyway I told you I can take care of myself and she went away returning to her house.

Chapter: 3

Rodian was a russian powerful man with a lot of money. He was about fifty, married to a very beautiful wife called Alexandra and they have two children a daughter named Maria and a son named Marmeladov. Rodian was the boss of Catalina's mother and he was a polite and kind to her mother as she remembered him when she sometimes passes by to see her mother at Rasklonikov's villa. Rodian was a man with a lot of business and affairs but he never told his wife or children about the nature of his work. After Catalina's mother was murdered, Rasklonikov 's family went to visit Catalina expressing their condolences and asking Catalina to accept their offer of taking care of her mother's body and giving her an appropriate burial and a decent funeral. Catalina cried bitterly on her mother's death and her sorrow was increasing each and every time she meets one of her mother's friends or people she knew. Rodian talked to Catalina and tried to make her feel relaxed and promised to take care of everything concerns the funeral as well as her future life.

A day after, Cecelia was buried and all the people she knew came to her funeral crying over her and praying God to bless her soul. Catalina was sinking in pain and she couldn't stop crying and

weeping on her mother's death. Everybody in the funeral was sad for Catalina's loss. The funeral comes to the end, Cecelia was buried and everyone starts putting flowers on her grave and leaving the cemetery by saying their last goodbyes to Cecelia and trying to keep Catalina calm. After half an hour, everybody left the cemetery but Catalina stayed weeping over her mother's grave. Catalina had no one to stay by her side in her sorrow no family members and no friends. Her father was an orphan and he was from Mexico and her mother was the only girl her parents ever had. Catalina's grandparents died two years ago and one year ago was her father's death and today her mother's. Now she is alone but she has a pen friend from Mexico called Rosalina in her age, she was her friend when they were living in Mexico years ago when her father was alive and before they move to Chicago. Three days later, someone was knocking on Catalina's door, she rushed to open the door then She found mister Rodian standing in her house door again. Rodian said: good morning miss Catalina. I hope I didn't wake you up or disturbed you.

Catalina replied hesitantly: good morning sir. eeh no at all you are welcome.

Rodian : well, I can't come in because am in hurry you know I am a busy man I think your mother obviously told you about me. I just came to inform you that your mother's salary will not cease and you will have it instead. Your mother was a great woman and she served us for years and this is the least thing I can do to repay her. She loved you so much Catalina and she was always thinking worriedly about you.

Catalina's tears came down painfully.

Rodian said with perturbation: I am deeply sorry if I said something brought back your mother's memories.

Catalina replied: it's ok sir. Mom was the love of my life and thank you so much for your help and support, my mother would be very happy if she was here. Thank you indeed.

Rodian: you are welcome miss Catalina. Goodbye.

Catalina: thank you again sir. Goodbye.

Rodian walked towards his Ferrari charming car then he remembered something so he returned back to Catalina rapidly, she was still standing in the front door watching him leaving. He approached and asked in a delirium.

By the way, Did the police start the investigation?

Catalina answered: yes, apparently.

Rodian: did they find some evidences?

“ not really “ - said Catalina in pain.

Rodian: I hope they catch the criminal and he takes the punishment that he deserves.

Catalina: hopefully mister Rodian and thank you for asking.

Rodian: welcome.

Then he left.

Chapter: 4

Three months later, Catalina decided to look for a job after spending a long time traumatized by her mother's death. She finally found a job at a restaurant owned by an old woman. Catalina was so content, she wanted not to rely on her mother's salary. She wanted to save that money for her future. Catalina started working that day as a waitress from 6 p.m till midnight. The old woman was so satisfied by Catalina's work and trusting her because Catalina treated the old woman as if she was her mother . One day, a Chinese guy about 26 years old came to the restaurant at night and asked for a beer. Catalina served him the drink noticing some weird tattoos around his neck and arms. She went back to her job wondering and asked her boss about him.

Catalina called out: Cristie !!

Cristie replied: yes, dear.

Catalina : do you know that man over there ? whispering and pointing at him with a sharp look full of curiosity.

Cristie replied : aaa you mean snake 5 ?

Catalina: what ?

Cristie: laughing . He calls himself snake 5 and everybody knows him by that name . He is trainer of martial arts and he is very

skilled and well trained. They said he was trained by his father since childhood in china to master the martial arts.

And why are you asking ? Cristie asked.

Catalina: nothing Cristie. I just saw some bizarre tattoos on him. So, I got wondered .

Cristie: I see .

The man was fixing his eyes and looking from the restaurant's window as if he cares about nothing and sees and hears nothing and no one.

He drunk his beer and put the money on the table and he left the restaurant.

Catalina was watching him doing so because she seemed interested about what Cristie said about him.

Catalina: Cristie I'll be back ok? I just need to take these rubbish outside.

Cristie: ok .

Catalina wasn't caring about the rubbish but about the trainer himself. She followed him saying: excuse me, sir.

Snake 5 didn't look at her and he didn't even turn to her.

Catalina again running after him: sir, please. I need to talk with you.

Snake 5 turned to her in wonder.

Catalina: you are snake 5 right ?

Snake 5 replied surprised: yes, what do you need ? and who are you ?

Catalina: well, it's a long story. But I knew that you are a trainer of martial arts and am quite interested and I want to join you.

Snake 5: laughed out loud . hahahaha . you? No, dear am sorry but girls are not allowed to fight . I train only men sweetie so, please I don't have time, and he continued walking.

Catalina in a rush stopped him by holding his arm: please, I can impress you.

Snake 5: and I said no.

Then he left immediately leaving Catalina in inexplicable state of mind sinking and diving from head to toes in her delirium .

Catalina went back to the restaurant finding the old woman waiting for her in a worry.

Cristie: where have you been ?, you actually took a lot of time. All of that because of the rubbish ?

Catalina hesitating: actually I found the one in the front door so full so, I went to fetch for the other one in the neighborhood .

Cristie: aah I thought you got lost or something like that .

Catalina: no, at all.

Both ladies spent the night in the restaurant working for late comers then the closure took place.

Chapter: 5

Catalina after two days of thinking hard about her mother's murder and snake 5's meeting decided to look for his place and talk to him again . Snake's work place was just two roads behind Catalina's new job which gave her the chance to find him easily . The park was so large and huge, full of young men fighting in a form of daily training and instructed by snake 5 as a coach . Catalina pushed the park's door and entered the wide space and started looking for snake 5 among the men . Everybody ceased and paused when they saw her for it is a place only for men and not for ladies . Snake 5 turned around him to see why everyone in the park stopped and suddenly he saw Catalina standing and searching for him, he groaned and went directly to talk to her and ask her to leave the park.

Snake 5: what you are doing here girl ?

Catalina: I told you before, I need to be here.

Snake 5 angrily: and I said no . Now, would you please leave ?

Catalina insisting: not till we make a deal .

Snake 5: look girl . I don't want problems so, please leave before I lose my temper.

Catalina: I can prove you . Just give me a chance please.

A man approached and said: he asked you to leave I think you 've heard him sweetie.

Catalina: am talking to snake 5, I guess.

The man: ohhh you look tough girl .

Catalina felt a chill of anger and hit the man hardly on his face.

Everyone in the park shouted in a shock “ ooooooh “

And the man raised his hand to slap Catalina but snake 5 hold his hand and said “ are you insane ? you want to hit a girl ? “

Snake 5 then, grabbed Catalina's hand and took her outside the park saying: “ come with me girl “

“ look girl I don't want problems right ? “ continuing “ if you want to train it's going to be on your own. deal ?

Catalina: I don't understand ...

Snake 5: am going to train you alone, not with the guys, when they finish training and once they go home you start your session with me here “

Catalina's facial expressions were so deep, full of joy and happiness, she was speechless for a while then she said: “ thank you so much, really I mean it “. Then, she left home feeling relaxed and calm.

Catalina's aim is to find the killer of her mother and take revenge and after meeting snake 5, her aim came closer.

Catalina's days were all the same, going to work and going for training with snake 5 after it . After six months of hard training, Catalina was strong enough to fight and she was completely ready .

Chapter: 6

One day, as she was passing by a group of reckless teenagers she unintentionally heard them talking about a black guy called “Lorenzo” someone who sold drugs and has a gang stuff so she thought that may be this guy will help her looking for the killer of her mother . Late in the night and after finishing her work and her training session she went to gangs streets at nearly midnight looking for Lorenzo, she was so confident that she will find a trace there for the killer.

The street was full of black people drinking, and smoking marijuana with loud music and a bench of whores. At first, she was afraid because she never been in such places before, then she hidden her deep fear and walked confidently.

Everybody in the street was looking at her wondering who's that girl. Then she stopped by a black guy who was standing with his fellas saying: hello, am asking for the boss here, please ?

The guy laughing: hahahaha, there is no boss here. All of us bosses baby . you need something ?

Catalina: yes, I need to buy a gun.

The guy: hahahaha, a gun ?

Catalina: please, am serious. I need a gun, and I want to talk to your boss “ Lorenzo “ now.

The guy: follow me.

The guy took Catalina to Lorenzo who was living in the street in a very old house with graphitized walls where a group of guards were making crystal to be sold . Catalina at first was afraid but she would never let that fear overcome her brave heart and personality so she behaved normally asking: “ Are you Lorenzo ? “

The guy looked awkwardly saying: and who are you ?

Catalina my name is Catalina Benson .

Lorenzo: ok babe how can I help you ?

Catalina: actually am looking for a gun “ colt defender 45 “ please.

Lorenzo: woow ... woow easy girl . First am not the guy you are looking for . I don't sell guns . Second how did you find me ?. Third, I don't trust people . Fourth, go home babe.

Catalina: please, Lorenzo . I know it's weird a little bit but, I 'll tell you everything just give me some of your time.

Lorenzo ordered his men saying: “ leave us alone fellas “

The guards left the room closing the door behind them .

Lorenzo: come on girl sit down .

Catalina: thank you .

Lorenzo: Okay miss Benson, can you tell me what the gun for ?

Catalina: am looking for someone killed my mother . The police said he was a sniper, a good one with a rifle M2000. Do you know someone who can help ?

Lorenzo: well, that kind of rifles so rare here in Mexico, because it is used mostly by Americans only. So, this sniper could be a hired one i.e. an American or a Mexican one with a smuggled rifle . It's not easy to find him girl. Actually it's a hard job.

Catalina: I know. Can you help me ?

Lorenzo: heh What for miss Benson ?

Catalina: for justice .

Lorenzo: hahahaha....Am not a judge girl and we are not in court yet.

Catalina with a sharp tone : what about one million dollars ?

Lorenzo: hahahayou own one million dollars ? hahaha I don't think so girl.

Catalina standing: am serious and I mean it .

Lorenzo: okay ... okay . deal. Lorenzo continued: I may help you finding the killer. I'll use my own sources and keep you in touch.

Catalina replied: ok.....deal ?

Lorenzo answered: yes, deal. Now, tell me? You still want the gun?

Catalina said: of course.

Catalina took the gun from Lorenzo and handed him the money. He showed her how it works and she learnt the procedures quickly. Catalina left the old building with a hope that Lorenzo would find the murderer.

Chapter: 7

Catalina spent her next days busy with training and working and barely meeting bunch of friends and attending some parties.

After a week, Catalina received a call from Lorenzo . The cell phone rung twice then Catalina picked it up.

Catalina: hello !

The caller: this is Lorenzo. We need to meet.

Catalina: tell me you found something .

Lorenzo: come and we will talk.

Catalina: I'll be there right now. Send me the address in a message.

Catalina wore her clothes and rushed to meet Lorenzo .

The weather that day was rainy and Catalina could not find a taxi easily so, she took the bus . Lorenzo asked Catalina to meet in the park instead of his old building. After 15 minutes, Catalina arrived at dream land park to meet Lorenzo . They finally met and shook hands and sat together to talk.

Lorenzo: am sorry to wake you up so early.

Catalina: never mind. Is there something new ?

Lorenzo: actually yes.

Catalina's face shone with happiness and eagerness to know what Lorenzo found about the killer.

Catalina: really ? come on tell me .

Lorenzo: we have a guy we know who works in the police station. We asked him to dig deeper in your mother's case hoping to find the bullet extracted from your mother's body in the room of proofs found in the cases.

Catalina: then ?

Lorenzo: the guy found the file of your mother's case with proofs. The bullet was shot from a gun or rather a rifle we tried to track all the rifles with the same bullet. We found a gangster who told us he sold one rifle with the same name and code in the previous 6 months to someone with an accent I mean someone who is not originally from Chicago, and I bet it's the one we are looking for.

Catalina: well, did he tell you any more information about the guy with an accent like: how does he look like or what accent does he speak or anything that may help us find him.

Lorenzo: actually he said he was a guy with a Russian accent, well built, and with tattoos around his neck that looks like a snake .

Catalina: awesome I think that could help for sure.

Lorenzo: how ? are you going to sweep the whole of the united states to find him ? you are looking for a needle in a haystack . Are

you truly aware about what you are doing ?

Catalina: I've never been aware like now in my entire life.

Lorenzo: oh please Catalina stop that and leave the police do their job. You are a girl and you can't just do it by yourself .

Catalina: and who told you that am going to do it myself .

Lorenzo: I don't understand .

Catalina: you going to help me .

Lorenzo with a shock: me ?

Catalina: yeah, you. I 'll give you all my money just help me

Lorenzo please. My pain is immense and I can't leave it just like this.

Lorenzo: am a drug dealer and not an investigator .

Catalina: I know. Just find him and the rest will be on me.

Chapter: 8

On a sunny day, Catalina decided to have a walk in a public garden to breath new air as well as to think about the whole thing: her deep vengeance, cruelty, and grudge.

As she was sitting alone as usual watching the beautiful kids playing here and there a gentleman approached and sat beside her. She didn't pay attention at first till he talked to her saying:

“ good morning miss “

Catalina got horrified because she thought she was alone on the wooden chair but it seems she wasn't. She responded:

“ do I know you sir ? “

The gentleman: am sorry I didn't mean to disturb you miss. I just saw you sitting alone and sinking in your own thoughts, I told myself maybe you need someone to speak with.

Catalina: am good. Thank you sir. Now, excuse me I got to go. The gentleman wondered and stood up watching her leaving .

Days after, Catalina went shopping in the centre town, she wanted to buy new clothes for her and suddenly and coincidentally she met the guy she saw before in the garden. He looked at her passionately and he said: hi !

Catalina: you again ?

The guy: yeah, what a coincidence.

Catalina: a bad one .

The guy: why ?

Catalina: would you leave me alone, please ?

The guy: sure. Have a nice day arrogant girl !!

Catalina looked at him angrily. Then, she bought some clothes and returned home immediately. But, when she was in the neighborhood she saw the guy again .

Catalina: are you following me ?

The guy: who ? me ?

Catalina: yes, you boy.

The guy: look arrogant girl am not following you and I have no intention to do that but I would like to inform your majesty that I obviously live here . Now, you tell me what are you doing here in my neighborhood ?.

Catalina: it's not your neighborhood alone freaky . It's mine too and she left him standing alone in the middle of the street .

The guy looked at her leaving awkwardly and run after her saying astonished : wait.. wait...wait . You mean that you do live here too ?

Catalina turned to him saying: yeah, clever boy .

The guy said whispering with himself: what the hell !!

Catalina: sorry, did you say something .

The guy: no at all. I just said what a surprise !!.

Catalina then left home without saying a word to him.

From that day, Catalina was seeing the guy daily in the neighborhood but, she never talked to him, rather she was always ignoring him and later she heard some of neighbors calling his name which was Harry .

Harry was a guy with a fortune. He was young and full of energy, he loved Catalina from the first sight so, he was thinking of her most of times and he was thinking what could he do to get closer to her and be at least friends.

The next morning, he saw her living her house to work. Harry was asking himself what if I talk to her now ? is she going to answer me ? I'll try my luck. Harry approached and said: good evening Catalina.

Catalina astonished: how do you know my name ?

Harry: we live in the same neighborhood, you remember ?

Catalina walking away: what do you want boy ?

Harry laughing out loud : Boy ??

Catalina turning to face him: yeah For me you still just a boy since you are behaving in a childish way .

Harry angrily: ok as you want your highness.

Catalina finished walking to her work and Harry left heart broken after what he had heard from Catalina.

Chapter: 9

Days after, Lorenzo called Catalina .

Mobile phone ringing, Catalina picked up saying: hello Catalina talking Who is it ? for the call was unidentified.

The caller: this is Lorenzo Catalina .

Catalina: yeah am listening sir.

Lorenzo: where are you ?

Catalina: as usual at work ... tell me please did you find something of interest ?

Lorenzo: we need to talk Catalina . Shall I come to you ?

Catalina: no here it's impossible . I don't want people to see us together .

Lorenzo: find a place then .

Catalina: deal. Call you back.

Minutes later, Catalina chose the cemetery to meet Lorenzo then she sent him a message writing: Lorenzo meet me at the cemetery after an hour.

Lorenzo was punctual and arrived at time with his men.

Catalina arrived just after him and they greet each other.

Catalina: yeah, Lorenzo any news ?

Lorenzo: not really but I think your mother was killed by someone

knew her very well since the murder happened using a hired sniper. Your mother's murder wasn't a coincidence or a mistake Catalina rather it was meant.

Catalina: I knew that, I was sure.

Lorenzo: the shot taken as well as the rifle used probably were belonging to a gang. But the bad news that I can't recognize what kind of gang is it, it takes time to dig deeper.

Catalina: no problem I can wait. Please, Lorenzo do the necessary and find it.

Lorenzo: pay and I'll try.

Catalina: I'll give you half of the money now and when you find the gang I'll give you the rest.

Lorenzo taking the money from Catalina's hands: how much is this?

Catalina: 1000 dollars.

Lorenzo smiling sarcastically: now you speak my language girl .

Catalina: keep me posted Lorenzo.

Lorenzo shaking his head: of course Catalina .

Catalina and Lorenzo left the cemetery immediately, each in his direction.

Chapter: 10

When Catalina went home after meeting Lorenzo, she found her neighbor Harry waiting in the front door. She got shocked when she saw him. She approached him holding the keys of her house in her hands saying: you ... again ?

Harry said: we need to talk.

Catalina: we don't have anything to talk about .

Harry: please. I just want to invite you for a dinner tonight .

Catalina surprised: me ?

Harry: yeah, we need to clarify things and get to know each other I mean like neighbors and I want to stop the conflicts we come across whenever we meet.

Catalina: actually, I have things to do tonight, sorry Harry.

Harry: please, Catalina just tonight. I promise .

Catalina sighes: okay, then .

Harry: I will pass by at 8: 00 pm, is it good ?

Catalina replied: yeah, sure.

Harry excited: see you then.

Catalina responded: see you.

Meanwhile, Lorenzo was taking steps forward to find any tiny trace for the gang. He was working hard and ordering his men not

to stop till they find some evidence that could help.

At 7:55 pm, Harry was getting ready for meeting Catalina. He looked well dressed and happy. He turned the gear of his Lamborghini's car towards Catalina's house.

Catalina was got dressed and was waiting Harry to come. She was looking stunning with a short red dress, curly hair, and a soft make up.

Harry knocked the door and Catalina opened .

Harry delighted: wow, you look great !!

Catalina shied: thank you .

Harry: okay, sorry I got distracted.... heh ... shall we go ?

Catalina: sure.

Harry reserved a table in a very expansive restaurant, most like the ones of VIP's . They arrived and they were directed to their table by the restaurant's waiter. Catalina and Harry sat on the table and he was looking at her with brilliant eyes full of love and happiness, and Catalina was sitting shied since she never got out in a date with a guy.

Harry seen her shyness and calmness so, he tried to break the ice saying: would you like to have something before dinner ?

Catalina: yes please, a cup of water .

Harry ordered the water for Catalina and asked her to check the menu to order for dinner.

Catalina to the waiter: I would like to have a grilled fish and potato please.

The waiter replies: of course. And you sir ? said the waiter addressing Harry.

Harry: I would like to have the same .

The waiter: right away sir.

The waiter went to order what the couple had ordered .Meanwhile, Harry was trying to get acquainted with Catalina more and more saying: “ I think it’s time to know at least a something about you “

Catalina smiling: yeah, certainly. My name is Catalina Benson, I am 22 years old, I am a daughter of a great mom who worked as a maid and a drunkard father who does nothing but drinking wine and beating his wife. My father is dead and my mother too, recently. After my father’s death, my mother was then obliged to look for a job to afford me the money and the food as well as the shelter that I need. She worked as a maid at somebody’s house. Catalina was narrating her life story with teary eyes .

Harry sadly: am so sorry to hear that. Catalina I did not mean to make you remember the whole tragedy.

Catalina wiping her tears: never mind Harry I got used to pain.

Catalina sighs saying ; Well, what about you now ?

Harry: yeah I think it's my turn now heh. Well, my name's Mermeladov Rasklonikov. Called " harry " . Catalina was sipping the water and suddenly she stopped when she heard what he said with wide opened eyes.

Catalina: really ? putting the water's glass away, she remembered Rodian's family but she didn't want to interrupt Harry while speaking, she left him continuing his story.

Harry: actually, I am a son of a tycoon Russian man who fears nothing with a dirty hands. I left my house to leave alone because I do not want to be a member from that family. It's a shame on me.

Catalina: why are you saying that ?

Harry: my father runs a mafia he sells drugs and smuggles cars, well that's what I certainly know about so, if he is doing another dirty things that stays hidden.

Catalina: I am deeply sorry Harry.

Harry: it's okay. It seems that we finally share something. " pain "

Catalina: yeaah. What about your mom ?

Harry: I love my mother but because of my father I cannot see her. She is tender, kind, and lovely mom. She fears my father a lot she obeys his orders and does everything he says.

Briefly, she is under pressure.

Catalina: you said your family name is ... Harry interrupted:
Rasklonikov

Catalina: I do remember the man who my mom worked at his house holding the same family name as yours “ Rasklonikov “ a man about fifty called “ Rodian “ .

Harry replies in despair: here we go. That’s him, that’s my father. Wait, wait, wait do not tell me that you are the daughter of aunt Cecilia ?

Catalina responded: heh, yeah that’s me.

Harry: you said she is dead ?

Catalina: yes, seven months ago. You did not know.

Harry: no, I swear. I left my house a year ago, she was great. My condolences.

Catalina: thank you.

Harry: I guess we are one family now heh ?.

Catalina: yeah, sure.

While Catalina was chatting with Harry and having their dinner, her cellphone rung. It’s Lorenzo.

Catalina: sorry, but I need to answer this . It’s important.

Harry: it’s okay. Take your time.

Catalina: Hello !.

Lorenzo: hi, Catalina. I need you to listen to me carefully.

Catalina answered: am all ears.

Lorenzo: I tried hard to trace the bullet's user and finally I got a name. a Russian sniper called " Vladimir " works for someone called " Rodian Rasklonikov " a mafia man.

Catalina's face turned red with anger and she was speechless. She was just looking at Harry's face raged.

Lorenzo waiting for an answer: hey, Catalina you there ?.

Catalina replied in a shock: yeah, yeah. Right here.

Lorenzo: okay. That's it. Mission accomplished.

Catalina: thank you so much.

And she ended the call.

Harry: is there a something ? it seems you received a bad news.

Catalina was sinking in her thoughts.

Harry: Catalina, please answer me . Is there something ?

Catalina: sorry Harry I really need to go home now.

Harry: please, tell me what happened your face got colored suddenly, you get worried, and now you want to leave. Please, tell me what happened.

Catalina yelled on Harry's face: nothing, I said nothing at all.

Good night .

And she went home leaving Harry in despair .

Chapter: 11

It was midnight, Catalina arrived home and spent the night thinking what she is going to do ? and how she is going to react since the crime was committed by Harry's father ?. She asked herself times and times what she is going to do concerning the wrath that she obviously hold and Harry. However, she took her decision. 8:00 AM Catalina woke up, dressed and had a breakfast . Then, she went to Harry's house in the neighborhood, she knocked the door and harry opened half awaken .

Catalina greeted: good morning Harry. I just want to apologize for last night, I received a call that made me lose my temper. I do really apologize.

Harry: no, it's okay. I got it.

Catalina: may I come in ?

Harry: yeah, sure. I am sorry. Make yourself home. Am going to dress and have a breakfast together .

Catalina: I have just breakfasted .

Harry: okay, then.

Catalina: I will prepare a one for you. Where is your kitchen?

Harry: it's just in front of the living room.

Catalina: yes, thank you.

Catalina prepared the breakfast for Harry: coffee, milk and a toast. She poured the coffee in the cup and added a hypnotic pill in it, and took the breakfast to the living room and called Harry. Catalina out loud: hARRY, your breakfast is ready.

Harry yelling from upstairs: am coming.

After that, hARRY descended.

Harry surprised: wow, what a breakfast. It looks yummy.

Catalina was waiting for hARRY to drink the coffee and lose his conscience to make the necessary . Ten minutes later, hARRY felt down and Catalina paralyzed for a while since she never committed such a gesture before. Then, she said to herself: Catalina ... it's not time to stand stoned, you have to do it now.

Catalina wrapped hARRY in the chair using a rope .She took his cellphone and researched for his father's phone number to make the call.

She found it and dialed the number. The phone rung twice then a voice answered: Hello! Rodian is talking.

Catalina listened to the voice with a rage and she kept silent for a moment.

Rodian repeated: Hello, Hellowho is it ?

Catalina: Mister Rodian, I know that you are the one who killed my mother so, listen to me carefully, you will do exactly what I say.

Rodian: wait ... wait who are you first ?

Catalina Benson, she answered.

Catalina: I need you to come to your son's house right now alone and be careful if you call the police your son is between my hands now and he will be easily slaughtered just like a sheep.

Rodian: what do you want ?

Catalina: I want you to come alone.

Rodian: okay ...okay just leave Harry he has nothing to do with this.

Catalina: come and we will see.

Rodian: am coming, am coming right away.

After fifteen minutes, Harry woke up dizzy looking around him to see Catalina sitting on the sofa and he was fully wrapped on the chair.

He said: Catalina ? who did that to me please help.

Catalina: I am sorry to tell you that the one who did that to you is me .

Harry choked: but why ?

Catalina responded in a delirium: because your decent father killed my mother .

Harry trying to understand: what ? how Why ?

Catalina: when your father arrive ask him .

Meanwhile, the door knocked . It was Rodian.

Catalina opened the door and she took a gun from her waist, she was obviously holding under her t-shirt, the one that she bought from Lorenzo.

Rodian as well as his son both where shocked from Catalina's sudden behavior . She directed the gun on Rodian's face saying: come on enter mister Rodian Rasklonikov .

Rodian hesitated raising his hands: okay, okay just put your gun down.

Catalina shouting: I said enter.

With a careful steps Rodian entred and saw his son fully wrapped as a kidnapped .Catalina ordred: sit there on the sofa. Rodian sat down. Catalina said: now I want you to narrate to your son the whole story of your crime because he is so eager to hear from you .

Rodian with a sharp tone: I did nothing to tell him about .

Catalina: look mister Rodian stop lying because everything is clear now. I found the source of your dirty bullet. No need to deny now. I said tell him the story immediately or I will blow his head in front of your eyes. She said it angrily directing the gun to Harry's head.

Rodian: yes, yesI will tell him just put your gun down please.

Harry was silent all the time and he did not said a word about what

is happening in front of him, he was fully shocked and speechless. After that, Rodian narrated the whole story to his son with tiny details. Catalina then asked Harry about what he was feeling at the moment.

Harry answered: I am sorry Catalina I did not know about it. Although, it's not my fault but please accept my deep apologies, I obviously told you about my father's dirty works.

Catalina interrupted: I am sorry too Harry because I have to take my revenge.

Rodian: what do you mean ? please.

She said: I'll take from you the most dearest thing on your heart mister Rodian " your son's soul ".

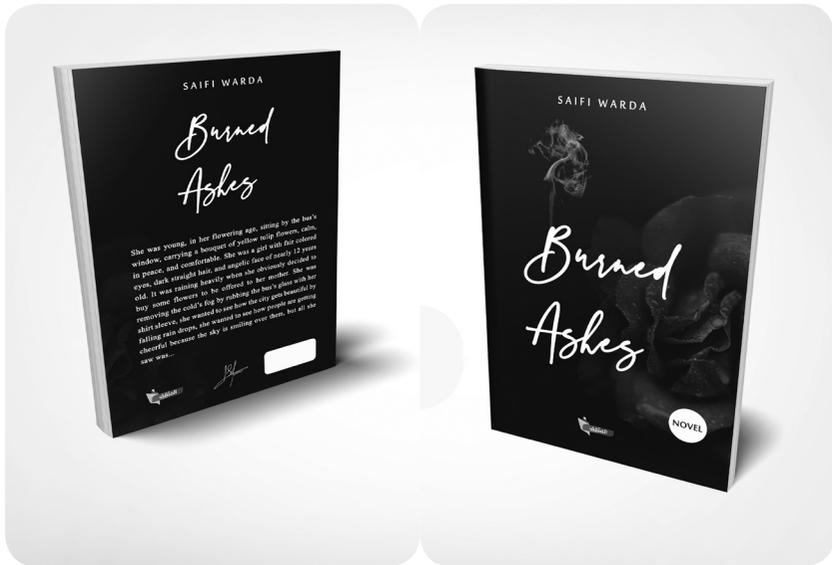
Rodian shouted: please don't But, his beggings were so late because Catalina already pressed the gun's trigger and the bullet penetrated Harry's head . Rodian shouted out loud but he could do nothing but watching because Catalina was crazy with anger and holding a gun.

She said then: am sorry to take your son's soul but I will not leave you put me in jail after all. She killed herself too in front of him.

The police arrived later and they took Rodian to investigation. They traced the fingerprints because Rodian was the first suspect. They found him innocent from the whole crime scene.

Months later, Rodian was caught by the police for committing Cecilia's crime, selling drugs, and dealing with different smugglers, he was put in the jail for the rest of his life, and his empire was burned into ashes.

The end



—•—
Warda Saifi
—•—