

INT. NYC. SEPIDEH'S BEDROOM - MORNING

In bed. We are close up on the peacefully sleeping face of SEPIDEH (30's) A hand strokes her hair, face. She coo's awake and eventually looks at her phone, it's 7:03. She rolls over. REBECCA (50's) is already awake, sleepily gazing at her. It's a serene and sensual moment. They kiss, and eventually Rebecca goes down on her.

INT. FT. WORTH LALEH'S LIVING ROOM - LATE MORNING

In a quiet sunlit living room, stylishly decorated, LALEH (30's) is standing at her living room window, looking out, clamping her mouth on a piece of dried mango, spaced out, staring, as JAMIE (30's) pulls into the driveway in a truck. He gets a lock-box out of the backseat and comes inside. She remains staring out the window even as he comes in.

JAMIE

Hey

LALEH

Hey! How was it?

JAMIE

Crazy busy! How's it goin'?

LALEH

Good. Yeah, busy me too. Actually.
Working on a buncha. Like, whatever.
Different stuff, ya know.

JAMIE

You gonna come with me next weekend?

LALEH

I think so probably, yeah.

JAMIE

I missed you.

Jamie sets his stuff down on the counter, kisses her on the back of the head lovingly. She pushes her butt into him.

EXT. NYC. AMSTERDAM AVE - LATE MORNING

Sepdieh is hurriedly walk/jogging on Amsterdam towards Lincoln Center, phone in hand. Everyone seems to be in her way, which she finds to be stupid.

INT. LINCOLN CENTER REHEARSAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sepideh bursts into the rehearsal room where 7 other artistic-looking young men and women are sitting around, some with instruments, a couple warming up their bodies. JASON is a young man with a saxophone

JASON

Don't worry Sep. The director's not even here yet! You can relax.

Sepideh breathes deeply. She joins MONTE, APRIL, JAMIE and LENNY in a cluster of chairs in the center of room.

APRIL

Hey Sepy. What were you up to last night? You seem like you've been ... had.

SEPIDEH

What! Ha! I had, a great night, thank you so much for asking.

MONTE

Dag. She is almost 20 minutes late. That's out of character ...

APRIL

I hope it doesn't put her in a mood ... She's gonna crack that whip. She's a genius for sure, but shit's too intense sometimes.

LENNY

Yoooooo. I didn't even tell y'all what I seen the other day ... I mean, words can't really describe it, to be honest, but ... I'mmuh try, alright? So I come around the room for rehearsal, right, but I'm mad early and the rooms dark dark, so I figure it's closed but I'm not sure if it's closed so I check to see if it's open, and, it is! So ... I come in but I quickly realize that the room ain't empty. Someone's in here. And it's Rebecca. And she is sitting in the dark in the center of the room, with her legs spread wide open, like out, like, and bent like she was giving birth. And the bitch was growling. I

mean no disrespect, but this bitch was growling. Like, straight up like, an animal. And it scared me. I didn't know what to do. So I just said 'I'm sorry' like, real softly. And she heard me but she didn't skip a beat yo, like she just carried on growling, like she didn't even register me, even though we was making eye contact and everything. She was completely unfazed. The shit was wild. I can't get that image out of my mind.

MONTE

Unreal.

APRIL

I heard she used to date John Lurie.

This thought is cut off by a noisy entrance. It's REBECCA from Sepideh's bedroom.

REBECCA

What can I say, what I can I say. I got fucked. MTA! Sometimes you lose. And sometimes you lose again. Okay folks, apologies for the tardiness, let's get right into it please. Let's begin at the 3rd section please, Alright? Thank you. Looking good guys. Everyone awake?

As they get into their positions, Rebecca makes eye contact with Sepideh. Sepideh meets it, then looks down demurely, smirking. When she looks back up, and Rebecca is no longer focused on her, we see a note of anxiety flash over Sepideh's face. They begin the 3rd section of a new music composition which is a full-bodied harmonic frenzy. At a moment of crescendo we cut.

INT. REHEARSAL ROOM - LATER

The company is returning chairs to their stacks and getting their bags.

REBECCA

Good work today. Enjoy your day off and if you've got to smoke, for God's sake use a water bong.

MONTE

Hey Rebecca! I'm sorry to bother you I just wondered if I could pass this melody by you. It's got this Vapassana vibe, super out there I'd love to get your thoughts.

Sepideh takes the opportunity to exit.

EXT. NYC. 65TH STREET - CONTINUOUS

Sepideh walks at a quick pace. Rebecca runs after her.

REBECCA

Sepideh!

SEPIDEH

Oh hey!

REBECCA

You scurried off. What are you doin? I was gonna see if you wanted to get a bite or something. You know, Landmarc has the best mussels in the city.

SEPIDEH

Oh, my gosh! That sounds so delicious. Mm. Unfortunately I am going to, therapy! I have to go downtown. My appointment was, had to be canceled this week, and so it was actually rescheduled for today. I actually forgot, which is why I was, like, scurrying. But yeah. Oh my God, sorry about that, that sucks. Rehearsal was fun. Your music is just, it's unbelievable how it just gets so much deeper every time we touch it. It just keeps growing. It's remarkable.

REBECCA

well, so are you.

SEPIDEH

Thanks.

REBECCA

I enjoyed last night.

SEPIDEH

Me too.

REBECCA
And this morning

SEPIDEH
Me too.

REBECCA
Yeah?

SEPIDEH
Oh my God, yeah!

REBECCA
Ok. Well, maybe we can revisit that
... space. Anyway have a good session,
okay? Be productive.

SEPIDEH
Thanks. You too. I mean. Ha! I mean.
I'll see you soon.

REBECCA
You will.

SEPIDEH
Bye for now!

REBECCA
Be careful.

Sepideh turns away from Rebecca, guilty, annoyed.

INT. FT WORTH. LALEH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

The TV is on in the living room. Laleh is spacing out looking into the mirror above her chest of drawers. Then looking at the bridal magazine, spread out on it. Back at herself. She goes to peek out into the living room.

INT. FT WORTH. LALEH'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jamie is watching Tiny Houses. Laleh lurks in the hallway.

LALEH
Jammie? Jam-bone? Ja'mie ... Jamie.

Jamie pauses the TV.

JAMIE
Yeah?

LALEH
What you doing?

JAMIE
Nothing. What are you doing?

LALEH
Nothing... I think I'm gonna do some research for music ideas for the reception. Want me to let you know when I have, like, a short list?

JAMIE
Yeah, sure, sounds good. You want help?

LALEH
No! I kinda wanna surprise you.

Laleh returns to room.

INT. LALEH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Laleh closes the door and puts a towel across the base of it, goes into her closet and brings down a box from a high shelf and pulls out a bong and a plastic canister of weed. She sits on the floor, leaning against the wall, underneath a rack of clothes. Loads it up, takes a big hit.

EXT. NYC - WEST VILLAGE - LATE AFTERNOON

Sepideh is walking down w. 4th street looking at her phone. Nothing. She gives up on the phone, taking her gaze out to the busy street and storefronts. She smiles at a cute older lady, who does not return it. She mutters to herself

SEPIDEH
Mussels actually sound good.

Another listless glance at her phone, then she looks up to see a sign for Palm and Tarot readings, which she lingers at.

INT. AUSTIN. LALEH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Laleh is wearing cordless headphones and trying on various clothing items and wearing them in front of the mirror. The song is interrupted by the phone ringing. She looks at her phone. It's her mom, Mahi.

(Italics indicate Farsi.)

LALEH

Hey mommy.

MAHI

What are you doing?

LALEH

Nothing, just Kondo-ing.

MAHI

WHAT-ING?

LALEH

I'm organizing my clothes.

MAHI

You're not looking for a dress?

LALEH

I was earlier, I'm just taking a break. Trying to get inspired.

MAHI

Did you call the planner?

LALEH

No, not yet.

MAHI

Did you get the date yet?

LALEH

Yes! I told you we're gonna do it next spring.

MAHI

Next Spring?

LALEH

Yeah.

MAHI

When, next spring?

LALEH

I don't know, I don't know. How about on Nowruz?

MAHI

You don't wanna go to Bitas? We go every year for New Year!

LALEH

Okay, how about after Nowruz? The Saturday following Nowruz.

MAHI

Mommy joon, you have to pick a date so we can pick a venue. You grandma is asking Laleh-joon.

In the middle of this line, Laleh, pulls the phone away from her mouth.

LALEH

We can just do it at my house I don't fucking care.

MAHI

What did you say?? Hello?? Alo?

LALEH

Nothing sorry nevermind. Sorry, you know what, actually we'll get married the Saturday before Nowruz, how 'bout that, that way we can celebrate it as a married couple.

Laleh goes to get the bong out again.

MAHI

Okay. Good! So where do you want to do it. Did you think any more about The Dallas Center. Bahar's wedding was really nice. And her dad told me they were great people, very nice.

LALEH

(exhaling smoke away from phone) You know what that's fine mom, yeah. That sounds great.

MAHI

Yeah? Really? Are you sure?

Laleh flops onto the bed.

LALEH

Yep. Yes. I'm sure, sure.

MAHI

Do you want me to book it for you?

LALEH

Yes! (clears throat) Please, that'd be great.

INT. PSYCHIC'S HOME - LATE AFTERNOON

Sepideh enters an apartment with half of the living room curtained off; she sits at a table with the PSYCHIC, a young woman with very clear eyes.

SEPIDEH

Hi. So, I have exactly 10 dollars.

PSYCHIC

Okay, for 10 dollars I can read your palm? If you pay a little bit more I can do a reading of cards as well, and they work in conjunction with each other to understand what's really going on with you.

SEPIDEH

Okay, we can just do the hand because I literally only have 10 dollars to spend. Like, my wallet's empty. Except for that 10 dollars. It's all I have. Like, really

The psychic puts out her hands.

PSYCHIC

Hand.

Sepideh puts her palm in her hands.

PSYCHIC

Hm. I'm looking at your love line here ... and there's splintering. You have Not had an easy time with love? But it is smoother later in the line, so there is something waiting for you. Some clarity. It looks like things simplify and you are able to find the fulfillment you've been looking for. It looks like there is a person from Your Past, whom you have some unfinished business with? There is a Spiritual Contract that has not been fulfilled. There is some unfinished business. Is this speaking to you?

SEPIDEH

Yes.

PSYCHIC

Yeah. Mmm. I'm seeing that there's a lot of energy still around this person.

SEPIDEH

Woah.

PSYCHIC

This is your life line, and it stops early, but, there it takes on Another track. See. It splits and continues on a different plane. There will be changes in your life. Big Changes.

SEPIDEH

Hm.

PSYCHIC

Yes. Your health is strong. You have a lot of Fire, wow. I can see this, but in order to get more deep into it, I would need to bring out my deck.

SEPIDEH

Mmm. No. No. that's okay. I have to go, but thank you. I'll come back. Here's ten. And ... Here! Here's an extra dollar.

The psychic quickly slides it into a pocket.

INT. SEPI'S HOME - BROOKLYN - EARLY EVENING

Sepideh enters her eclectically styled apartment and gets on the computer. She looks up someone named Cesar Lewis. Scrolls through his pictures. Mostly show flyers, one of his exotic Mexican cowboy face, and one with a petite woman, arm in arm. She goes back and forth (masochistically) between the last two. Then twerks in front of her mirror.

INT. LALEH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING

Laleh has clothes everywhere. there's a knock on the door. from outside we hear Jamie.

JAMIE

Why is it locked? Lal?

LALEH
Hold on. Coming!

Laleh almost does something with the clothes, then doesn't. She cracks a window, and fans the air vigorously with a clothing piece.

LALEH
Hey booboo

JAMIE
Hey....

LALEH
Sorry I was just doing like a sacred ritual thing. Trying to get into the zone so I could tap into the music thing, ya know because it's a lot of pressure booby. Isn't it. I mean it's a lot of pressure to decide what music is gonna be there, at our wedding!

She wraps her arms around his neck and nuzzles her forehead into his chin.

JAMIE
So have you come up with any music yet?

LALEH
No.

JAMIE
Lal!

LALEH
I'm sorryyyyy. It's just so haarrdd.

JAMIE
Oh my God.

LALEH
I'm sorry! Don't hate me you know I'm so bad at life.

JAMIE
But you're really cute.

LALEH
I'm really *really* cute!

They kiss. Hands find their way places. Genitals become involved. They prepare for sex. She lays on the bed, and he goes down on her. Laleh starts clapping lightly.

LALEH

Yay!!!!

JAMIE

Oh my god.

He goes down on her and she feels great, nuzzling with herself. He comes up to insert himself.

LALEH

Okay okay, careful. MM! Yes! Nice!

She kisses him up. He is in ecstasy and she is pleased as well.

INT. SEPI'S HOME - BROOKLYN - EARLY EVENING

Sepi is Facetiming with her friend Emilie.

EMILIE

So wait, so you guys fucked.

SEPIDEH

Yeah...

EMILIE

Wow.

SEPIDEH

Oh my God. It was insane. She's probably the most talented person I've like ever slept with ...

EMILIE

So do you think you'll start dating?

SEPIDEH

No! Oh my God, no. I don't think so. I mean, fuck, maybe? I don't know.

EMILIE

Wow.

SEPIDEH

Yeah ... What are you doing?

EMILIE

I am about to eat a really delicious fennel salad that I made. Freshy fresh. You wanna come over and eat it with me?

SEPIDEH

No, I'll probably eat here, are you doing anything after?

EMILIE

Temple's band is playing at Elsewhere Space. I was thinking of going to around 11, but I'm not sure. Do you wanna go?

SEPIDEH

What kind of music is it?

EMILIE

It's like Christal pop?

SEPIDEH

Christal pop?

EMILIE

It's like Christian pop but like cool somehow. I think it's like minimal and echo-ey.

SEPIDEH

Hmm.

EMILIE

I know. I have to go, 'cuz Temple's mad connected and I really wanna play there. But no pressure, just lemme know.

SEPIDEH

Ok. Hey ...

EMILIE

Huh.

SEPIDEH

Nothing.

EMLIE

what?

SEPIDEH

Do you think culture should be free?

EMILIE

Do I think. Culture, should be?

SEPIDEH

Yeah, nevermind though.

EMILIE

No what?

SEPIDEH

I don't know it's like. Like no one I know is coming to this show I'm doing, right? And I so rarely get to sing now, and I would love to share this with people, but like I don't wanna ask anyone to pay two-hundred-and-forty dollars for tickets. A lot of my friends don't have that, and some of them do, but I ... don't really like those friends as much ya know.

EMILIE

Well, yeah

SEPIDEH

I don't know, I guess for the last while, I've felt like, this pressure to like jump up to another wring of the like, proverbial ladder, or whatever, so capitalistic I know but, whatever. Anyway, sorry, I just mean, like there's this pressure to level up, but then the place you're going. Like, the place you're going ... is maybe not the most, *soulful*, place. Is that idiotic?

EMILIE

Well, I'm a little confused, what does that have to do with the show?

SEPIDEH

I don't know. It's just like, who's it for? You know, if it's that expensive ...

EMILIE

Well how do your colleagues feel?

SEPIDEH

I don't know, they're so much more experienced than me, I don't really feel comfortable- I feel kinda stupid bringing it up.

EMILIE

Hm. Well, a lot of work goes into it, ya know. And the talent that you all bring to it is valuable, ya know. It's like, really valuable.

SEPIDEH

Yeah! Yeah. I guess it just feels like.

EMILIE

What babe?

SEPIDEH

Impersonal. (I don't know).

EMILIE

Oh. Well you took care of that this morning. No just kidding. But look you'll know this for next time you work on something, and you'll try to suss out whether there's an opportunity to put a personal touch on it.

SEPIDEH

Yeah. That's actually good.

EMILIE

Yeah? Did I do a good job?

SEPIDEH

Yeah, I liked it. It was simple but constructive.

EMILIE

Oh good.

SEPIDEH

Yeah, do you have anything you need super awesome constructive advice about?

EMILIE

Well I saw a picture of Gracie online

today. And Bobby had liked it.

SEPIDEH

Ew gross.

EMILIE

Well, actually there's a longer story 'cause before she made this really weird post, where I think she kind of alluded to me? Can I just tell you the whole scenario? Do you have time?

SEPIDEH

Ummm. Yeah go for it.

EMILIE

Are you sure

SEPIDEH

Go!

Sepideh puts the phone on speaker and pours wine. She takes a seat in front of the mirror, staring into her own image as she listens.

EMILIE

Okay because before all this I kinda have to tell you what *Kylie* did when I ran into her at Havana Outpost. You know *Kylie* right?

SEPIDEH

The one with the cute mullet?

EMILIE

Yeah. I mean ew, but yes.

INT. LALEH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING

Laleh and Jamie are finished having sex. They're laying there. They start to look at Twitter. Dog Videos. Tony Baker Comedy. They laugh.

JAMIE

I think I'm gonna open that bottle of wine.

LALEH

Oh damn. Party. You probably drank all weekend at the ranch too.

JAMIE

No! It was crazy busy I just worked the whole time.

LALEH

So you made a lot of money!?

JAMIE

I made a fair amount, ya gold-digging whore-bag.

LALEH

New mink coat! New mink coat! When is that place gonna officially become yours so we can just be millionaires already.

JAMIE

It basically already is.

LALEH

Yeah, but I don't trust your dad 'cause he's a crazy drunken Republican, like You!

JAMIE

Shut it ass. I'm getting some wine. You want some?

LALEH

I think I should get some of these clothes put away.

JAMIE

We can drink while we do it

LALEH

Fuck that's true. Okay. Should we shower?

JAMIE

I don't need to.

Laleh touches his hair.

LALEH

That's not true. But. Okay

JAMIE

Are you gonna shower?

LALEH

I 'unno.

JAMIE

I don't think you need to.

LALEH

I love you. Okay, well I haven't done my yoga today though.

JAMIE

So what?

LALEH

So okay, I'll do 15 minutes of Yoga and then we can drink and do clothes.

JAMIE

(Ugh).

LALEH

Okay 10 minutes.

JAMIE

7.

LALEH

Oh my god, you do not want me to live.

JAMIE

7!

LALEH

Fine. What are you gonna do.

JAMIE

Watch 7 minutes of Family Fued.

LALEH

Oh my God, you're such a loser.

JAMIE

Okay, you're doing Yoga.

LALEH

Exactly Yoga is healthy, constructive. Helpful to the flow of life. Unlike Family Fued which is lard for the brain.

JAMIE

Whatever. It's learning, Lal. You're just jealous.

LALEH

Yeah I'm jealous, I'm so jealous.

He leaves. Laleh stays in bed. The phone rings: Mahi.

LALEH

Hey mom, I'm gonna call you back I'm doing Yoga.

MAHI

Laleh jan ...

LALEH

What's up? Mom?

MASOUD

Hi Laleh jan.

LALEH

Dad? What's up guys??

MAHI

Where are you?

LALEH

I'm at home! Guys, what's going on?

MASOUD

It's your grandma.

LALEH

Oh my God. Is she dead?

MASOUD

No, but she fell down and broke her hip.

LALEH

Oh fuck.

MASOUD

And when they took her to the hospital she fell into a coma.

LALEH

Oh no. Oh my God. Okay, well are you at the hospital.

MAHI

We're going right now. Ali just called us.

LALEH

Oh. Okay, well which hospital is it, we'll meet you there.

MAHI

Which hospital is it Masoud?

MASOUD

It's Baylor Hospital. You know how to get there Babajan? You gonna wanna take 30 because 75 is a mess right now.

LALEH

I can google it.

MASOUD

Huh?

LALEH

I can just put it into Maps, it's easier for me that way.

MAHI

She's saying she can just do it with Maps, it's easier she says.

MASOUD

Okay, whatever.

MAHI

Okay let me see which room it is and all that.

LALEH

Mommy, can you just text it to me?

MAHI

Huh?

LALEH

Can you text the information to me?

MAHI

Ok. Okay I text it

LALEH

Okay, thank you. Love you. I'll see you soon.

MAHI

Okay love you bye.

MASOUD

Bye.

LALEH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Jamie is standing up watching Family Fued on the TV in the kitchen drinking a glass of wine.

LALEH

My Grandma's in the hospital

JAMIE

Shit!

LALEH

We have to go to the hospital.

JAMIE

Which one?

LALEH

Baylor.

JAMIE

Okay.

LALEH

Yeah.

JAMIE

Do you wanna smoke first.

LALEH

Jamie, I told you I don't smoke anymore. Jesus don't you listen?

JAMIE

Okay okay I was just asking.

Laleh grumpily goes to place her body right in front of his. He holds her, similar to before.

JAMIE

Okay, well I'm gonna smoke.

She doesn't move.

JAMIE

Okay, I'm gonna load a bowl.

LALEH

Ugh GOD.

JAMIE

What!?

LALEH

Fuck it.

INT. SEPI'S HOME - BROOKLYN - EVENING

Sepideh is reading, listening to music, eating and masturbating. She stops everything, rolls over miserably. And looks at her phone. Just then it rings.

SEPIDEH

Woah ... Hey!

LALEH

Hey.

SEPIDEH

What up?

LALEH

Did you hear from mom and dad?

SEPIDEH

No, what?

LALEH

Maman Effat is in the hospital.

SEPIDEH

What? What happened?

LALEH

She fell and now she's in a coma.

SEPIDEH

Fuck. They didn't call me.

LALEH

They probably didn't wanna worry you.
You know how they are.

SEPIDEH

Okay. So ...

LALEH

You have to come.

SEPIDEH

Dude. But-

LALEH

... I think you have to.

SEPIDEH

Lal. I'm in the middle of rehearsals
for a major concert.

LALEH

Okay, but Grandma could be dying.

SEPIDEH

Oh my God. So you think I should quit?

LALEH

I mean. I think she might die.

SEPIDEH

Fuck. Okay. Okay. I'll look into
tickets. But ..

LALEH

What?

SEPIDEH

Ali

LALEH

I mean, yeah he's her son he'll
probably be there.

SEPIDEH

Well ... Laleh!

LALEH

Sepi, you don't have to see him.

SEPIDEH

Really? I'm pretty sure I'll have to
see him Laleh. How can you- can you
guarantee that I won't see him?

LALEH

I mean, no.

SEPIDEH

Well that's a fucking problem for me
Laleh!!

LALEH

Okay okay okay, I'll guarantee that
you don't.

SEPIDEH

How?

LALEH

I don't know yet!! But I promise I'll
come up with something. Okay?

SEPIDEH

OKay.

LALEH

Get a ticket right now!!

SEPIDEH

Okay!! Okay, bye.

LALEH

Bye.

Sepideh hangs up, takes a huge bite of whatever. Stressed.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - BAYLOR HOSPITAL - NIGHT

EFFAT, is in a hospital bed comatose. Jamie and Laleh enter to greet Mahi and Masoud and ALI (40s). Jamie and Ali seem close, but there is awkward tension between Ali and Laleh.

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

Closeup on Sepideh's face as she stares out the window at the men moving cones in white jumpsuits. We hear audio of the hospital room:

MAHI

Did you tell Jamie about the date?

LALEH

What date?

MAHI

The date of the wedding! Eh.

LALEH

No not yet mom I haven't had a chance.

MAHI

When are you gonna tell him?

LALEH

Soon. It's fine.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - BAYLOR HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Audio continues as we close in on Laleh's face as she stares at Ali who is talking chummily with Jamie across the room.

MAHI

Are you hungry

LALEH

No.

MAHI

What did you eat?

LALEH

Stuff, mom. I don't know.

MAHI

Is James hungry?

Mahi starts sniffing.

LALEH

Jamie. No. I mean, I don't know, ask him.

MAHI

What's that smell?

She follows her nose to Laleh's armpits.

MAHI

You didn't take a shower? No shower today?

Extreme closeup of Laleh's numb face. She's staring at her grandma. We hear the sound of the plane taking off, and a slight hint of a smile appearing on Grandma's face. Is it in Laleh's mind? Fade to black.

