

PILOT

Written by

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1 EXT. AUBERVILLIERS- A BUSY STREET - NOON**1**

A fence

A girl with L'Étranger by Albert Camus holding against her face a wind moves past her and she looks along with a frustrated face.

A sound of HEAVY BREATHING and feet stomping on the pavement.

The camera follows the feet of HASSAN, who is wearing bright blue sneakers. Slowly THE CAMERA moves higher until we are close, like really close up onto HASSAN's face. Perhaps we can even see his snot.

In the background plays Haifa in a Tesla by Saint Levant. HASSAN runs down La place Henri-Rol-Tanguy, a busy street in the off beat suburb.

There's a montage of streets, statues, and skylines in Aubervilliers. It's not pretty, but it's something.

HASSAN

My name is Hassan I'm 19 years old
and I'm on the run.

A beat.

HASSAN (V.O)

Okay no i'm kidding. I'm Hassan, a
French- Palestinian fuck up. I flip
burgers at the Five Guys on the
Champs-Elysee where all the
foreigners who don't make enough
money for Guy Savoy walk down from
the Arc de Triomphe

We see Hassan flipping burgers on the grill while a women screams about the wait time in English.

HASSAN (CONT'D)

I live in the suburbs of Paris,
what you see now. Not so flashy,
huh?

A homeless guys jiggles a cup for change.

HASSAN

Bless up fam.

As HASSAN continues his run, he attempts to run across the street, but there is a car, and it is not slowing down.

HASSAN crosses the street, unaware of the speeding vehicle. The driver stops at the last moment, just barely missing HASSAN.

HASSAN

PUTAIN!

He kicks the bumper of the car. The driver gets out and HASSAN makes a run for it. He turns the corner of his street.

Cut to:

2 INT. HASSAN'S ROOM. MIDDAY

2

HASSAN

(looks at the camera, then)

It's a hard life being me, but I make it work. I'm a gentleman, a hard working man of the lower class, I even help old ladies with their bags.

3 EXT. OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT COMPLEX. MORNING

3

HASSAN goes inside the apartment complex and as he heads up the stairs toward his apartment building. he sees an elderly woman, very French, struggling to carry her groceries.

HASSAN

Madame, let me help you

He grabs the woman's groceries, she does not oblige.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Thanks Saif, tell your mother I said hello.

HASSAN

Saif is my brother, I'm Hassan. But thanks Madame.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Well, you all look the same. Bonne Journee.

4 INT. HASSAN'S ROOM. MIDDAY

4

HASSAN

(looks at the camera)

Racist bitch.

5 INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY- AFTERNOON

5

HASSAN climbs the stairs. There's a small elevator to his left, but it is out of order. He climbs three flights of stairs and sees AWA YADE, his next door neighbor.

HASSAN catches her eye and immediately starts dry heaving.

AWA

Dick.

HASSAN

Did I hear something? Was that a noise? An insect? Did the rats start learning French?

AWA

Can you not come inside when I'm trying to take a breather from studying? You're like a roach I can't fucking kill.

HASSAN

Go to hell, Awa.

AWA

See you there.

CUT TO:

HASSAN

(Looking at the camera)

Awa and I are next door neighbors. We went to middle school together, and now high school. Our moms are friends and everything. But I wish her nothing but the worse for her.

CUT TO:

6 INT. AWA'S ROOM. MIDDAY.

6

AWA

(Looks at the camera)

Hi my name is Awa Yade. Im 17 years old and I'm from Aubervilliers.

She smiles. She stops. A moment of confusion.

AWA (CONT'D)

Is that all I'm supposed to say?

A beat.

AWA

What do you means why do I hate
Has- that boy?

She sighs.

AWA (CONT.)

It's a long story. In fact, it's an
academy award winning tragicomedy
that could tear the The Titanic to
fucking shreds.

CUT BACK TO:

7 INT. INSIDE THE HALLWAY- MORNING

7

AWA

Hassan?

HASSAN

What?

AWA

I wish you would grow up.

Hassan pauses for a second.

He looks back at AWA and flicks her off before entering the house.

Awa sits on the stairs and closes her eyes. Perhaps she's meditating.

She's almost asleep when AMINATA, her older sister. She's quite tall and wears a traditional Senegalese Moussor on her head with colorful waist beads.

AMINATA

Did Anta come in yet?

AWA

No she said she's not too far.

AMINATA

Make sure she's not smoking
outside. Mom says it smells like
cigarettes in the house and we
can't keep lying and saying its the
neighbors

CUT TO:

- 8 EXT. OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT- AFTERNOON 8**
- ANTA, surrounded by her friends, smokes a cigarette and laughs about something with her friends.
- Cut Back to:
- 9 INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY- AFTERNOON 9**
- AWA
- True. I'll go check outside
- AMINATA slams the door. AWA prepares to leave. HASSAN looks as if he wanted to say something. He doesn't. AWA speedily descends the stairs.
- 10 INT. THE SHAHEEN APARTMENT-- ALMOST NOON 10**
- Hassan walks into the house. He is alone. He goes to his bed, which he apparently shares with another sibling who has a strong interest in the American Hip Hop. Half the posters are covered in Tupac, LL Cool J, and Bow Wow posters. Hassan lies down. Perhaps he begins to close his eyes until
- Camera slowly pans to the window, we zoom into the window as the camera points downward onto the street.
- 11 EXT. OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT COMPLEX- ALMOST NOON 11**
- We see SEIF walking towards the apartment building.
- SEIF wears a black hoodie and pants, with a large, FAKE, gold chain.
- He walks toward ANTA, 16 and ISABELLA, 16. They dress in a similar style with ripped jeans and a Zara pullover.
- The girls are smoking on left side of the building, next to an abandoned children's park.

Sneaking onto the side of the building, SEIF creeps up onto the girls and yells

SEIF
Salut les filles.

The two girls are startled.

SEIF
You know you aren't supposed to be smoking. Do your moms know you're here?

ISABELLA
Get lost Seif, you're not bumming a cig off of us.

SEIF
One clope and my mouth is sealed.

ANTA
Just give it.

Isabella hesitates, but hands him a cigarette from her box that is half empty.

ANTA
How does it feel to be broke and intimidating two of your young impressionable peers?

SEIF
Delightful, and you can learn something from me you know.

ANTA
Like what?

SEIF
Capitalism. If you don't steal from those below you, then success is impossible. This is how you get rich quick.

ISABELLA
You and Min-su gotta take it easy on the weed, you're becoming delusional.

SEIF

Y'all are all just haters. When I'm a crypto- genius mastermind by day and music artist by night, you will all be begging to be employed. Poverty doesn't look good on you two.

He smirks. He smirks and heads up the stairs.

The girls look at each other.

ISABELLA

You would look so fucking ugly homeless.

ANTA sticks her tongue out at Isabella and they both slump down to the ground in laughter.

Cut to:

AMINATA

(Looks to the camera)

The Shaheen family had it hard these past two years. Their dad Anis died two years ago. Hassan was about 17, Seif was 15, and Faiza was 22 at La Sorbonne. She wanted to be lawyer.

AMINATA smiles lightly with adoration.

She stops smiling and continues.

AMINATA

After the tragedy, she kept going to school and got her degree. Their mom wanted to move down to Montpellier but her and the boys wanted to stay here. So they did and her mom went down and just sends money up here every so often. Faiza became an assistant at a law firm and pretty much raises Seif and Hassan on her own.

12 INT. A LAW OFFICE - 10PM - NIGHT

12

The camera zooms in onto the running feet on the stairs as it cuts to FAIZA, running up steep grey stairs with mud under her shoes. She enters her large office building in a huff.

She runs to her boss's office.

FAIZA

Hey, I came back as fast as I could, what's the problem sir.

Her boss sits at the edge of the table going through a small file. he looks up after Faiza finishes.

He's quite young for his age and clearly has the look of a man who has never had to work for anything in his life. His nails are finely manicured and his hair is combed to the side in a way that screams 'nepotism got me this company.'

THE BOSS

what's the problem, really Faiza? The problem is you've been working here for months and you can't understand a single note I have given you.

He points to a paragraph.

THE BOSS

Here, do you see this. DO YOU SEE WHERE THE PARAGRAPH IS SUPPOSED TO END. DO YOU SEE WHERE YOU MESSED UP AND DIDN'T PUT A LINE BREAK. What would we have said if his lawyers said something? huh?

FAIZA

I'm so--

THE BOSS

do you know what would have happened if I didn't catch this? what if his lawyers came back to cross check that in Paragraph 5 Clause H ensured complete authority of right for the artist's work on the recording company and we said, " sorry mr. lawyer man, we don't have a Paragraph 5 clause H in any of our contracts." DO YOU REALIZE HOW STUPID WE WOULD LOOK.

he takes a deep sigh of exasperation. He stands up, revealing his name, ' ARNAUD COUTEAU ' with fire emojis next to either side of his name plate.

ARNAUD COUTEAU

This is entertainment copyright law. If you can't copy with the right stuff, you are out.

FAIZA

Yes sir.

ARNAUD hands FAIZA a pile of documents.

ARNAUD

So you go home, look through all these files, and remember down to the last clause exactly how these contracts look. Do you hear me Ms. Shaheen.

FAIZA

Yes, sir.

She does not hesitate and takes the files from her desk and struggles to watch her step as she marches down the staircase.

13 INT. THE METRO STATION - NIGHT

13

FAIZA SHAHEEN, walks to the metro and clumsily scans her metro pass, makes her way down the stairs, and tries to make it onto the train before it closes.

She does not make it.

She puts the files onto a chair and breathes heavily.

RANDOM MAN

Hey sexy, why does a woman like you not have a strong man like me to help you out. It seems like your struggling and I'd like to offer my services.

FAIZA

What if I told you I had a dick.

RANDOM MAN

All women need a little lovin', even you.

FAIZA

Not interested. Have a night.

RANDOM MAN

Ungrateful bitch. You need to take an offer when it's handed to you. Should've learned that in school.

FAIZA

What the hell did you just say?!?!

The RANDOM MAN grabs her files and throws it on the track, then runs away.

She looks at the waiting time for the next train, 10 minutes.

FAIZA

Allah, I'm not your strongest soldier, so if I don't pick up all those files in time, just have mercy and make it quick.

FAIZA hops onto the tracks and tries to grab all the papers, she looks at the wait time for the opposite side of the tracks. 2 minutes.

BYSTANDER #1

Don't kill yourself, you're so young and have so much to live for.

BYSTANDER #2

Madame, Ça va?

FAIZA

Everything is alright, I'm just trying to pick up my files.

There are people with their phones out recording.

A train bell.

The wait time is 00

FAIZA grabs the last paper in time and runs to the other side of the tracks.

She takes a deep breath and everyone puts their phones away and moves about.

There are 8 minutes until her train comes.

She sinks into the chair, puts on headphones, blasting ACDC and waits with her dismantled file papers.

14 EXT. OUTSIDE METRO STATION AUBERVILLIERS - NIGHT

14

Running out of the metro steps, She takes a side step and twists her ankle, dropping one of the files. She struggles to carry the additional files while also reaching for the one on the ground. After some time, she picks up the file and slowly limps home.

Flashback:

15 INT. THE SHAHEEN APARTMENT. MIDNIGHT**15**

Faiza and her mother are at the kitchen table. Yassine, Seif, and Hassan are all sleeping. The two women have a pile of papers, documents, and folders in front of them.

Farah, the mother, looks at a bill and sighs, maybe even tears up a little. Faiza, looks at her.

FAIZA

I'm going to keep going to school.

Her mother looks up and freezes.

FAIZA

You can't provide for 2 boys on your 15,000 euro salary. It's impossible and you know that. I'll work a few more jobs now and in three months, I'll take whatever awful first job someone hands me.

Her mother tries to hold herself together, but fails. She begins to sob.

FARAH

Ealayk 'an tatabie 'ahlamak ya fayizat la takun mithli. la takun mithli.
(You need to follow your dreams Faiza, don't be like me. Don't be like me.)

FAIZA

Omm awaqafuu ean albuka', yajib 'an nakun 'aqwia' min 'ajl wahusn a wasayf
(Mom stop crying, we need to be strong for Hassan and Seif)

Farah tries to cover her mouth to silence her sobs, as to not wake the boys. Faiza sits in silence, a tear rolls down her cheek.

16 INT. THE SHAHEEN FAMILY APARTMENT**16**

A large living room. A vase of blue hydrangeas in the center of the living room brightens the room in contrast to its beige and white decorum. Three photos are hung on the walls. A small portrait of the Beirut landscape, a small photo with the word 'Bismillah' written in a calligraphic style. Lastly, a large family portrait. It looks like a brand new photo. In the background of this traditional exterior, we hear video game sounds.

HASSAN

Seif, I'm home.

SEIF

Yooooo

HASSAN

Where's Faiza?

SEIF

Still working probably. Did you call her?

HASSAN

No I figured you did. Shit it's already 11pm.

SEIF

Yup.

HASSAN

Did you even eat?

SEIF, still playing his video game.

SEIF

Do cigarettes and beer count?

HASSAN

Nope.

SEIF

Then no.

HASSAN

I'll order the pizza, Pizza Time must love us for keeping them in business.

17 INT. THE SHAHEEN FAMILY APARTMENT - MIDNIGHT

17

HASSAN and SEIF are on the couch, drinking beers and playing slapjack.

FAIZA enters the house, takes off her shoes, puts the files on the kitchen counter, walks over to the couch and picks up a pillow and screams into the pillow.

The boys do not look up.

HASSAN asks if she misspelled a word this time or forgot a comma. She says a line break and the two boys break into a knowing, 'ahhh.'

HASSAN
Did you misspell a word this time?

SEIF
Probably a comma.

FAIZA
Line Break.

HASSAN AND SEIF
(knowingly)

Ahh..

FAIZA
And some dick threw all of my files
on the fucking metro tracks

SEIF
First of all sister, language.
Second of all, that was you going
viral on the RATP Twitter? Someone
said if you got hit they would be
so pissed because the next train
wouldn't come for like 45 minutes.

He shows her the video on Twitter.

FAIZA screams into the pillow.

HASSAN notions SEIF to put the phone away

After a moment, FAIZA sits at the kitchen table and grabs the beer away from SEIF and takes a sip.

SEIF makes an annoyed face before grabbing another beer out the fridge.

HASSAN

No screaming at the table, we're not savages.

FAIZA rolls her eyes.

FAIZA

Did you guys eat?

HASSAN

Yeah, you?

FAIZA

No, I'm fucking starving.

HASSAN

There's pizza in the microwave.

FAIZA

Again? Pizza Time must love you guys.

A beat.

FAIZA (CONT'D)

Did you guys call mom?

SEIF

I tried, she must still be working.

FAIZA

Yeah, I tried yesterday and left her a voicemail. The head nurse said she was pulling a double again.

SEIF

Mmmmm.

HASSAN

How's Mister Couteau?

FAIZA

Oh he's great. I think he's having sex with the new accountant, which is interesting because his ex-ex girlfriend came by with muffins.

HASSAN

Tiffany?

SEIF

No that was his ex-ex-ex girlfriend. Ex-ex is Carol, the one he told Faiza to tell that he left the country to tend to his dying grandmother in Brazil.

HASSAN

I didn't know he was Brazilian.

SEIF AND FAIZA

He's not.

They all laugh.

HASSAN

Want a beer?

FAIZA

I thought you'd never ask.

She asks the boys when she can join the next game and they pick up the cards and start shuffling the deck again.

TRANSITION TO:

A WIDE PAN SHOT of the entire apartment building.

Lights begin to flicker on in each window starting with the top floor, then the middle floors. Bodies move simultaneously as each person in the window begins their day.

Then, an alarm clock.

18 INT. THE NEXT DAY- MORNING

18

The camera pans to Faiza, who is in the bathroom brushing her teeth. She washes her face quickly and heads toward the kitchen.

She hooks her phone up to a tiny black speaker and plays Ya Ana Ya Ana by Fairuz.

A montage of close ups follow the next scene:

A coffee pot roasting, eggs cracking, turkey bacon sizzling, the sound of toast popping up.

Hassan stumbles into the kitchen and sits at the unprepared table.

An alarm clock plays as we see SEIF wake up

At the same time, the alarm clock in MIN-HO goes off whose room is vis-a-vis to SEIF.

MIN-HO has a larger frame than SEIF's but has gentler movements when getting ready for the day.

Seif and Minho mirror each other as they get ready in their vis-a-vis windows inside their rooms.

After they are finished getting ready Min-ho motions a thumbs up to Seif, he responds with a thumbs up again, and they both head down the stairs.

Seif walks around the corner and meets min-ho.

A complex handshake routine occurs.

HASSAN

You're up later than usual

FAIZA

My boss has a case on a music copyright infringement with some big time artist. I have to go in later because of the time difference in LA.

HASSAN

Shit, what time will you be home

FAIZA

I won't be. I'll leave money on the table for food, order something other than pizza.

HASSAN

No promises.

A silence

HASSAN

So who's the artist

FAIZA

What?

HASSAN

Who's the artist for the case you're working on.

FAIZA

I can't remember. Something like Nina, or nine or--

HASSAN
NINHO?!?!?!?

CUT TO

19 INT. HASSAN'S ROOM. MORNING

19

HASSAN

(Looks at the camera)

NINHO?

NINHO?

He begins to spiral. He jumps on the couch. Runs around the room. Throws a complete fit

NINHO?

NINHO?

Cut Back:

20 INT. THE SHAHEEN APARTMENT- MORNING

20

HASSAN

Ninho?

FAIZA

Yeah, have you heard of him?

Cut to:

HASSAN

(to the camera)

He is singing Ninho lyrics, very exaggerated expressions and movements.

J'ai toujours rêvé d'être dans l'top sourd, face à la jalousie

Jefe

Jefe

C'est Johnny, que pour la qualité (eh, eh), bordel

Cut Back:

21 INT. THE SHAHEEN APARTMENT- MORNING**21**

HASSAN

yeah, I have heard a few songs, not too much of a big deal though.

FAIZA

Mm.

They both sit in silence for a moment, with FAIZA cooking and HASSAN.

SEIF runs through the kitchen, slaps Hassan in the back of the head, kisses Faiza on the cheek and runs out the door, careful to close it without slamming it.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. EN ROUTE TO SCHOOL - DAY**22**

MIN-HO and SEIF walk down a busy street.

MIN-HO

Last night was a movie dude.

SEIF

The way we was cranking out the moves and rapping, nobody could touch us.

MIN-HO

And you remember that girl too?

SEIF

You mean my beautiful Pakistani Rap Princess? How could I forget her

FLASHBACK TO:

23 INT. A WAREHOUSE - NIGHT**23**

MIN-HO is break dancing, quite terribly, in one corner of the room as SEIF stands beside him, mouth completely open looking at Eva B, who's dressed in traditional Balochi clothing while freestyle rapping.

24 EXT. EN ROUTE TO SCHOOL - DAY**24**

SEIF

And then she looked at me and
 couldn't take her eyes off me. I
 knew she would fall in love the
 minute the red light hit my
 beautiful soft skin.

Flashback to:

25 INT. A WAREHOUSE - NIGHT 25

A red light crosses SEIF's face, Eva B doesn't look at him at all.

26 EXT. EN ROUTE TO SCHOOL - DAY 26

MIN-HO

You know, I heard she's going to be
 at La Place this weekend with all
 the freestyle rappers and dancers
 this weekend.

SEIF

My weekend is free

MIN-HO

So is mine.

They look at each other and smile, they hear the bell to the school ring and start running.

27 INT. LYCEE PROFESSIONAL JEAN-PIERRE THIMBAUD- DAY 27

MIN-HO and SEIF walk down the vacant white hallways.

They are late, once again.

They joke around, skipping down the halls and laughing. Their homeroom teacher hears them and steps out of the classroom.

The professor has a large stature and a lip that pops out ever so slightly to indicate his disapproval.

SEIF

What's up Prof? Min-Ho and I were
 just out here in these halls trying
 to keep them safe. You know these
 children can be a handf--

He grabs MIN-HO and SEIF by the collar and drags them into the classroom.

28 CLASSROOM - DAY

28

The boys sit in their assigned seats, SEIF in the desk in the back of the class in the far right seat. MIN-HO is in the front, in the far left seat. This is highly intentional.

THE PROFESSOR

Who can tell me how many times Min-Ho and Seif were late this semester.

A girl in the front raises her hand.

GIRL IN THE FRONT

37 times, not including the 3 times where they didn't show up at all.

THE PROFESSOR

BINGO

MIN-HO

Shut up, Eloise

ELOISE

Idiot.

THE PROFESSOR

Okay Eloise, that's not a nice word to say, you can say gros beta instead.

ELOISE

Noted.

The professor walks down the aisle and hands out the previous exam.

THE PROFESSOR

Our last exam went quite well overall, except some repeated offenders who chose not to read the book at all. Keep in mind, if you have not passed 6/10 exams it is an automatic fail for the semester.

MIN-HO and SEIF receive their literature exam and look at each other across the room. They are screwed.

After passing out all the exams, the professor announces in front of the entire class that since MINHO and SEIF have failed another exam, their parents will be called and they may have to repeat the course.

The boys slump in their seats.

Cut to:

29 INT. THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

29

The head of the high school administrative's office.

The professor and head of the literature department sit on one side of the table, while MIN-HO and SEIF are sitting on the other side.

At the same moment, FAIZA walks in and sits next to SEIF and San-young, a tall lean man with stern eyebrows and disappointed face walks in and sits next to MIN-HO.

SAN-YOUNG
Annyeong Faizaya

FAIZA
Annyeonghaseyo Ahjussi

The professor looks a bit confused.

FAIZA
Mr. Choi used to babysit me as a kid. Sometimes I think my Korean is better than my Arabic.

All the adults laugh, while the boys remain uncomfortable.

The head of literature, Professor Valentin folds his hands and lowers his tone.

PROFESSOR VALENTIN
Faiza, Mr. Choi, these boys have been late to school 37 times, they have not read any of the novels for class, let alone written a single paper. While their behavior is foolish, they are not disrespectful. They're just boys.

FAIZA
Thats no excuse.

PROFESSOR VALENTIN
I'm aware, and at this rate, they might not graduate until 2030.

The boys look at each other, menacingly and begin to sob and beg the administration to pass them.

The administration doesn't not budge and the boys awkwardly stop.

FAIZA and SAN-YOUNG look at the boys embarrassingly.

SAN-YOUNG hits both of boys on the head and scolds them.

The administrator, Monsier Croix looks down pitifully at the boys.

MONSIEUR CROIX

Don't scold the boys too much. I used to be like them at their age, not a care in the world, just looking for fun.

he pauses

MONSIEUR CROIX

Faiza you were always so studious and well mannered, never late to class and always turned your work in on time. I know your family has been through a lot. Just cut Seif some slack. Hassan had the same hiccup and look at him starting his first job.

He looks to San-Young

MONSIEUR CROIX

And Mr. Choi, Min-Ho wrote some of the best essays in class last year. Perhaps the pressure has led him astray a bit.

Faiza looks at Seif and San-Young at Min-HO.

MONSIEUR CROIX

I want to offer the boys a deal. If they can make up all the work that they did not complete this year within the next 8 weeks, we will give them a passing grade. If not, we will have no choice but to hold them back a year.

FAIZA

I can assure you Monsieur Croix that they will absolutely finish all this work and more.

SAN-YOUNG

Absolutely.

MONSIEUR CROIX

I am happy to hear that.

Everyone stands, and prepares to leave. SEIF stands up

SEIF
12 books in 8 weeks? Who am I?
Einstein?

FAIZA
Einstein could pass his literature
classes, and you will do the same.

Faiza trips Seif as he walks out the door.

30 EXT. OUTSIDE THE LYCEE - AFTERNOON

30

FAIZA, SAN-YOUNG, MIN HO, and SEIF begin walking to their apartment.

Faiza kicks SEIF in the knee and Seif falls to the ground

SEIF
What the fuck Faiza? This is like
child abuse.

FAIZA
You're 17.

SEIF
I'll call the cops

FAIZA
Good luck when I'm in jail.

Faiza walks ahead of the group.

SAN-YOUNG hits Min-Ho in the head continuously. He only stops when Min-Ho falls to the ground to surrender

SAN-YOUNG
(to Faiza)
Seif will come study at our house
tonight. They'll be reading and
finishing Madame Bovary tonight.

FAIZA
Works for me, tell Ajumma I said
hi.

SEIF
Sis plea-

FAIZA
Have fun

THE CAMERA zooms in onto san-youngs crooked smile

31 INT. MIN-HO'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

31

MIN HO and SEIF sit on the couch reading Madame Bovary as San-Young sits on the sofa watching the news.

The boys periodically groan and move around

SAN-YOUNG

Stop making so much noise. You know when I was your age I had to climb up a mountain and cross a bridge made of old wood to get to school, and I was happy about it.

MIN-HO

Dad you grew up in seoul.

SAN-YOUNG

I used to live in the village where me, my sister, and my older brother would all share one room. We would study together, read all the same books, and make sure we stayed on top of our work.

MIN-HO

What does this have to do with us

SAN-YOUNG

You should be grateful you have an education! This book was my sister and i's favorite book when we were your age. She hated French though. She enjoyed English literature the best, but she loved Madame Bovary.

SEIF

Where are your siblings now?

SAN-YOUNG

My oldest brother is in Korea taking care of my parents and my sister is in New York, she's an English teacher. We all haven't spoken in so long now, but I check up on them through the facebook.

a pause.

MIN-HO's mom, Sol-A, breaks up the moment as she brings in a tray of coffee and cookies.

SOL-A
 You boys have been studying so
 hard, how far did you get

SEIF
 Page 76

MIN-HO
 Page 83

SOL-A
 Not too bad, huh? Take a break and
 drink some coffee and have a snack.
 You too San-Young.

They all hunch over the table and grab their snack.

SOL-A smiles

SOL-A
 How's your mother and sister doing?
 I never see Farah come around and
 Faiza comes by every so often to
 pick up some ginseng

SEIF
 They're both working. I barely see
 mom either, but Faiza helps out.

SOL-A
 Your mother and i came to this
 country at the same time. She and I
 were best friends. We still are. I
 went down to Montpellier and saw
 her at the hospital. She seems
 tired and overworked. But as long
 as you and your siblings work hard
 it will make it all worth it,
 right?

SEIF
 Yeah

SAN-YOUNG
 Alright boys, time to get back to
 it, you got 250 more pages to go.

32 EXT. THE ALLEYWAY TO THE LEFT SIDE OF THE APARTMENT - DAY 32

Three girls are smoking at the children's park.

There is ANTA and ISABELLA on the see-saw and INES on the
 slide next to them.

ANTA

So then he lays me down on his bed and the lights are still on right, and all I could see is that white thick layer of like shit like fucking bacteria on his tongue and I started gagging like straight up dry heaving.

ISABELLA

No fucking way, thats so funny

ANTA

Poor Nasty Breath Rayan never saw it coming he asked if I was okay and I told him I ate something bad for lunch. I walked away dry heaving before he could even mention walking me home.

INES

So what did you do after?

ANTA

What do you mean? I went home and told him that we shouldn't see each other again because I'm "too embarrassed to ever see him again"

ISABELLA

Nice, simple and effective.

INES

I don't know, Rayan seemed kinda sweet

ISABELLA

You think everyone is sweet or cute and its probably because you never did anything with a guy ever. They are like really gross and childish once you get too close with them. That's probably why people try out girls in their 20's.

ANTA

WAIT, you haven't done anything with a boy? Like at all?

INES

you all have?

INES looks at ISABELLA

ISABELLA

Of course we have. My first kiss was disgusting and slimy and I was like 12 and that same guy - Gaspard also took my virginity like two years later, his sister Eloise was in the house too.

ANTA laughs

ANTA

Eww gross

INES

With his sister there?

ISABELLA

Yup, i was traumatized.

ANTA

Listen Ines, we all sparkle at our right time. You don't have to kiss a boy but its like a human right you know? Boys start kissing and sleeping with girls when they're like 12 years old, we should be able to do it too. And once you kiss a boy you'll realize exactly how gross they are and you won't find every roadman in the Paris suburbs to be cute and kinda sweet.

ISABELLA

Exactly

INES

Yeah you're probably right, I'm just waiting for the right guys.

They all nod and shake their heads in agreement and take one puff from their cigarette simultaneously.

Then we hear keys.

SEIF

Salut Les filles, did you miss me?

The girls are shaken down for the rest of their cigs. They return back home.

Ines wakes up as her alarm goes off. She brushes her teeth, brushes her hair, does her makeup and puts on a slightly more mature outfit.

There is no one in the house but her.

She roams around the apartment.

It's a typical family home. Portraits of Ines as a kid, her mom and dad. There are small knick knacks around that suggest that multiple live in the house.

But there is only Ines.

There's a calendar on the fridge with the next day marked as 'MOM COMES HOME!!' with a smiley face next to it.

She opens the fridge where there is only a bottle of water, Boursin, pita bread, and shredded cheese.

INES grabs a handful of cheese, the water bottle and heads out the door.

34 EXT. THE TABAC - AFTERNOON

34

LOIC

well look who it is, the princess
of the 93

INES

Hey Loic, how are you

LOIC

I'm better now that im seeing you
beautiful, how's the other 2 in
your gang of musketeers.

INES

They're alright, definitely still
sleeping in

LOIC

One thing about you, 'Nes, you'll
never sleep a minute pass 10

INES

Haha you know me

LOIC

The usual?

ines smiles

INES
You know me, predictable.

He hands her the box of cigarettes

LOIC
See you tomorrow.

INES
See you.

INES exits the store and walks in the direction she came. A few second later she enters through the front door and marches to the counter

INES
Actually, do you wanna go out on a date with me? Like tonight?

Loic smiles

LOIC
You're not as predictable as you seem.

a pause

LOIC (CONTINUED)
Alright, meet me at Chatelet. Wait here's my number

INES gives him her phone and enters it in his phone under "Tabac Boy"

INES
Perfect.

She takes her phone and walks out, maybe does a little dance outside the door.

A voice comes from the back of the store.

THE VOICE
Yo Loic, this shit isn't gonna stock itself.

THE RANDOM MAN from the train station comes out from being the back of the store.

LOIC
Niko, chill I was gonna come back there in a minute

NICO

Well get your ass back here. Move
it!

Loic and Niko disappear

35 EXT. OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

35

MIN HO exits his house with a white polo top, khakis, a navy blue vest, and white sneakers.

SEIF hysterically laughs falling onto the floor, close to hyperventilation.

MIN-HO

don't you say a fucking word, but
dad will put you in one of these as
soon as he can find your size.

SEIF continues his laughing fit on the ground

MIN-HO stands, annoyed until it all finishes.

SEIF stands up.

SEIF

So whats going on with Ahjussi?

MIN-HO

He says if i wear this uniform, ill
gain some discipline. And I'll be
attending tutoring for like 8 hours
after school.

SEIF

No way, he really went full prison
routine on your ass

MIN-HO

You'll be joining me every other
day

SEIF

Fuck.

a pause

SEIF

Shit, what about La Place?

MIN-HO

Shit

a pause

SEIF

We gotta go to La Place dude

MIN-HO

Alright so here's the plan..

36 INT. THE HALLWAY OF THE APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

36

AWA heads up the stairs toward her apartment, but she comes up to the first landing of the stairs and sees Nura, a young mother of one year old Saanvi.

NURA struggles to carry the stroller along with Saanvi. As AWA sees this, she grabs the stroller and walks behind NURA with a reassuring smile.

NURA

Thanks

AWA

Don't worry about it.

They walk to the front door and Nura fumbles with the keys until the door opens

NURA

Would you like to come in for tea?

AWA

I dont see why not.

37 INT. NURA'S HOME - DAY

37

As AWA enters the home, she is shocked at how barren the apartment looks. There is a small mattress on the floor with a baby cradle, a few children's toys on the ground, and a small table in the middle of all of this.

NURA, puts Saanvi in the cradle with a few toys to keep her occupied as she puts on a kettle to boil water.

AWA

You have a very... cozy home. How long have you lived here

NURA

Thanks for putting it that way, but it's not cozy, it's tacky.

a pause.

NURA (CONTINUED)

About 2 months

They drink their tea

NURA

When I first moved here a lot of people said I looked too young to live on my own, and then they see Saanvi and say I look too young to be a mother. I say, I look too young to be this broke.

Awa laughs slightly then takes a sip of tea

AWA

If you don't mind me asking, how did you get here? To Paris, to all this.

NURA

Well. About a year ago I ran away from my family. We were quite wealthy. My father was a businessman and my mother was an architect. I was an only child. I went to a prestigious university, Oxford, where I met Nirved. He was handsome and kind, and I could be myself around him. But after university he got no job offers in London so he went back to Sri Lanka, but he told me he had a few friends in Paris who can take care of me until he comes back. So I'm here.

AWA

And your little one?

NURA

Of course. That's also why I'm not returning home. So on our last night in London together we made Saanvi. I only found out when I moved here so I spent some time with Nirved's cousin's wife and she helped me throughout the whole pregnancy. I couldn't have done it without them.

a pause

NURA

Nirved hasn't even met her yet. But
i like to think he'll be here
sooner than later.

AWA

Do you guys call at all?

NURA

When we can. The time difference
makes it hard.

AWA

I wish she had the courage to do
that. Leave everything I know
behind and spend my life how I
choose to. My parents are both
doctors and I can't even dream
about what I want unless I want to
give them a heart attack.

Nura listens patiently, Awa begins to cry a bit.

AWA

My family doesnt approve of
anything i do, and I cant tell them
no. I have no power in my own life
and its all my fault.

NURA

Listen, no one's parents can let go
of their child and let them start
making their own decisions. You
have to force them by choosing to
do what you want. You have to
choose yourself before you can
choose anyone else. So if you want
to go to college in London, do it
if you want to route up your entire
life and bury some men because you
love him do it it's not up to her
parents it's up to us. You have the
power, now use it.

Awa sits back and takes all of this in.

Saanvi coos and Nura goes to pick her up.

NURA

If you ever need someone to look
over your applications, don't
hesitate I'm just a few floors up.

AWA

Thanks... and if you ever need a
babysitter you know where to find
me.

Awa gets up to leave, before she exits she asks

AWA
Hey whats your name by the way

NURA
Nura, and yours?

AWA
Awa.

NURA
Nice to meet you Awa, I'll see you
around

Awa waves and closes the door behind her.

38 INT. A TUTORING OFFICE - SUNSET

38

TUTOR
Today you will read and finish the
count of Monte Cristo. Every 5
chapters you read I will quiz you.
At the very end of this session I
will give you a 30 question test to
ensure your comprehension of the
novel. Are we clear Min-Ho Choi?

MIN-HO
Crystal.

THE TUTOR looks around for the book.

THE TUTOR
I must have left the book in the
other room, ill be right back

The tutor leaves

SEIF pops out of the bushes and waves.

MIN-HO opens the window and crawls out while SEIF helps him.

Once they are outside, they take off running toward the
metro.

39 INT. THE TUTORING OFFICE - SUNSET

39

THE TUTOR walks back inside the room and without looking up says

THE TUTOR
If you dont finish this novel by
10:30pm i get paid double so take
your ti-

She sees Min-Ho is not in the room.

She looks at the open window

THE TUTOR
putain

40 EXT. LA PLACE HIP HOP SQUARE IN CHATELET - NIGHT

40

At the exhibition, MIN HO and SEIF walk into a group of freestyle rappers rapping to a Vivaldi remix.

Eva B steps into the circle.

MIN-HO
Its your time to shine loverboy

MIN-HO pushes SEIF to the middle of everyone

EVA B
what you got dude?

SEIF starts to sweat

EVA B
Awww pretty boy is too scared to rap

EVA B
(to Min-Ho) next time if your boy cant keep up with the wolves, dont throw him in the pack

SEIF
You didnt even give me the chance

EVA B
show me the chance i blew

SEIF raps, like its natural.

The crowd goes wild, min-ho is impressed too.

EVA B

Didn't look like you have it in
you, but you did. mad respect

SEIF

Next time dont knock me while im
down

EVA B

So I'll see you next weekend?

SEIF

Of course, see you then

Transition to:

The Vivaldi remix continues the play but slowly returns to
its classical version.

41 INT. THE YADE FAMILY APARTMENT - NIGHT

41

The camera zooms into AWA studying at her desk. As she types
on her computer, an email notification pops up. It says all
the materials for her application for the University of Arts
London has not been fully uploaded and the deadline is in 7
days.

She opens a file with her application fully completed, and
drags the folder to the application site.

She takes a breath.

Hesitation.

She presses the upload button, then submits.

There's a silence for a moment, she audibly gasps and
realizes what she has done..

42 INT. THE GONZALES FAMILY APARTMENT - SUNSET

42

INES lays on her bed facetimeing ISABELLA and ANTA

INES

Guys, I'm going on a date

ISABELLA

A date?

ANTA

Girl, with who

INES

You know the guy from the Tabac who always kinda stares at me, well i asked him out and he said yes

ANTA
YOU SAID WHAT?

ISABELLA
HE SAID WHAT?

ANTA
Girl he's like 4 years older than us

INES
It's not that bad, who knows he might be my first kiss

ISABELLA
SHUT UP

ANTA
I'm literally at your front door right now

ISABELLA
We both are

INES
Okay hold on

INES opens the door and hangs up the phone call.

ANTA
So I raided my sister's closet and found the stress that would be perfect for a first date. It says hi my name is Ines and you're going to fall in love with me today.

ISABELLA
I brought some of my make up that'll give a more mature look but still look innocent. I'll call this look, "Mouth Virgin"

INES
Oh God

ANTA
Don't make it sound weird

The girls laugh

INES

Dude we have like an hour till i
have to leave

ANTA

Don't worry you'll be right on
time.

43 INT. CHATELET - NIGHT

43

INES walks out of the metro. People are swarming left and
right from her.

She takes out her phone and sees a message from Loic that
reads "Exit 16, make a left and you'll see a sexy man from la
banlieu"

INES smiles and makes her way to exit 16.

44 EXT. OUTSIDE CHATELET METRO STATION- NIGHT

44

LOIC

You look gorgeous

INES

You look amazing too

LOIC

I was thinking we can take a walk
around, maybe chill by the water

INES

Sounds perfect

The couple walks down the stairs and onto the sidewalk near
the water.

There's an awkward silence before any word is said.

INES

So how's working at the tabac?

LOIC

Lame mostly. My father owns it and
he runs other stores so he has me
and another part timer working

INES

It must be interesting, seeing
everyone come and go everyday

LOIC

Yeah I mean like I see the entire neighborhood once or twice a day so it can be interesting, but you. Ines you have truly caught all my interest. Especially tonight, in that dress.

INES blushes

INES

So. Have you always lived in Paris?

LOIC

Nope, not at all. I'm half French half Belarusian. I was born here but then we went back and forth from here and Belarus because of my dad's job.

INES

What does your dad do?

LOIC

He's a business man, the head of his own company. He bought the Tabac in Aubervilliers so my mom, brother, and I could live a quiet life. Quiet and quaint as my mom says.

INES

Nice. There's a writer I love named Śvialłana Aleksijevič from Belarus.

LOIC

Wow, you're pretty and smart. Consider me smitten.

INES found the line a bit cringe, but she ignores it nonetheless.

They walk in silence for a bit. INES becomes less interested with every step she takes.

There's a sound of an audience bursting into cheering. A sign above indicates that the building is called La Place.

INES

Sounds like they're having fun.

Suddenly a man comes from behind the two and tries to grab INES's handbag.

LOIC catches his hand before taking it and flips him over his back.

the man groans in pain before getting up and running up the stairs. INES is surprised by LOIC as he recovers.

He notices this and cuts the tension.

LOIC
I took Karate lessons as a kid.

INES
Of course you did.

She's suddenly more interested than ever.

They smile and LOIC puts his arm around INES.

CUT TO:

45 EXT. OUTSIDE LA PLACE- NIGHT

45

MIN-HO and SEIF head out of LA PLACE laughing with a crowd of people. As they slowly begin to scatter, MIN-HO checks the time.

MIN-HO
DUDE, the metro closes in like 10 minutes

SEIF
Can we make it back in time?

MIN-HO
Shit, we can try.

The boys start to run.

46 EXT. OUTSIDE THE METRO - NIGHT

46

INES
I had a great time with you tonight

LOIC
Same here. You are extraordinary
ines

INES
You're not too bad yourself.
Especially with the whole karate
thing.

a silence

INES kisses LOIC.

INES
I have to go

LOIC
Wait.

He kisses her back.

INES
Are you heading to the metro

LOIC
I have something to do for my dad
in the morning, so I'll be sleeping
at my cousin's place in the city.

INES
Oh.

LOIC
But text me when you're home. I'll
be waiting.

INES
Okay, I promise.

LOIC
See you 'Nes

INES
See you.

INES walks toward the metro, smiling.

LOIC walks the opposite direction as his phone rings. His
tone completely changes and his face almost become distorted.

LOIC
Make the deal as quick as possible,
I'll be there in 10 minutes.

He pulls up his hoodie, puts his hands in his pockets, and
darts off into the night.

Transition to:

Ines, Seif, and Min-Ho stumble upon each other at the exit. Seif and Min-Ho look at her. They half tease and half admire her effort.

SEIF

Looking good Gonzales, what man has the pleasure of dining with you tonight

MIN-HO

Madame, spare change?

INES

Shut up, you wish you could have all this

SEIF

Not in the slightest... im a married man now

MIN-HO

500 far dude

SEIF

we basically are

INES

Well congratulations to the lovely couple

SEIF

Likewise

SEIF looks at MIN-HO who's crying

SEIF (CONTINUED)

You good?

MIN-HO

My dad is gonna kill me, and then he's gonna kill you, and then he's gonna revive me and kill me again.

SEIF

Woah why would your dad kill me?

MIN-HO

I'm not gonna go down alone

The gang marches their way to the apartment and climb the stairs to their respective places

Hassan lays in bed with his a burger shop uniform. He gets a ping on his phone, it's a text from Seif.

"come up to the roof !"

Hassan slowly crawls out of bed and makes his way to the door

49 THE APARTMENT ROOFTOP - NIGHT

49

In the late evening, Awa sneaks out of the apartment and climbs onto the roof where Seif is smoking.

AWA
You're always up here.

SEIF
How could say the same about you,
insomniac.

AWA
Can I take a hit?

SEIF
WHAAAAATTT?!?!?! THE AWA YADE WHO
USED TO BREAK MY FUCKING BALLS FOR
SMOKING CIGARETTES IS ASKING FOR A
HIT OF MY WEED.

AWA
Yeah, well I've been doing a lot of
things unlike myself today.

She takes a long inhale from the joint.

SEIF
Shit, Awa. This can't be your first
time.

AWA
I've dabbled before.

A pause.

AWA
Does Hassan know you're here.

SEIF
Yeah, he's heading up here in a
few.

AWA
Oh.

SEIF

When are you going to stop hating
each other.

AWA

When he stops being such a coward.

AWA walks to the edge of the roof and screams.

SEIF is a bit freaked out, but doesn't think anything of it.

Hassan opens the door to the rooftop and see's AWA at the
edge. He tackles her off the edge and begins to yell and
freak out. She laughs in his face.

HASSAN

What the fuck was that Awa

AWA

Fuck off

HASSAN rolls off of her.

HASSAN

Fuck you.

SEIF laughs. A beat.

INES barges onto the rooftop and sees SEIF with a joint

INES

I knew I smelled cheap weed.

She grabs it, and takes a few hits.

They sit in silence.

SEIF

Our dear Ines here went on a date.

AWA

No way, with who?

SEIF

I don't know, but he looked
familiar.

AWA

How was it.

INES

It was... I don't know it was boring at first but then I almost got robbed and he like kicked the guys ass and it was really hot and really scary but I also had my first kiss.

Everyone looks at her a bit awkwardly.

AWA

You're a late bloomer. But I'm glad your first kiss was thrilling

INES

Thanks Awa.

They sit in silence as INES continues to smoke.

SEIF

Ya'll really love smoking weed for people who can't pitch in for a fucking gram.

HASSAN

Your shit sucks anyways, it's not worth much.

They all laugh then suddenly the door swings open.

THE GARDIENNE

How many times do I have to tell you kids, NO LOITERING ON THE ROOFTOP! Next time I'll call the police myself.

Everyone scurries off the roof and down the stairs.

The gardienne stands a moment, looks down the stairs, closes the door and sits down, taking what's left of Seif's joint

THE GARDIENNE

Cheap weed.

She sits, smokes, and falls asleep.

50 AN EMPTY WAREHOUSE- SOMEWHERE IN OR NEAR PARIS- NIGHT

50

MAN #1

Did you bring it?

NIKO

Yeah, show me the cash.

MAN #1 opens a suitcase and shows him tens of thousands of euros. His body guard stands next to him.

LOIC walks in, he's waving a bat.

LOIC
Did you fucking miss me?

MAN #1
Who the fu-- shit.

MAN #1 tries to make a run for it as LOIC hits him in the head with a bat. NIKO fights off the body guard and knocks him out.

LOIC and NIKO grabs the bag of cash and the bag they brought and run into the darkness.

END OF PILOT