

A Deathly Shade of Blue

By

Salman Rushdie

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FADE IN:

INT. TAXI - DAY

The driver, KARIM (62), expertly navigates London's afternoon rush hour traffic. He glances in the rear view mirror and smiles at the passenger in the back, ABDUL (15).

ABDUL (VO)
I used to dream, while in the camp
in Italy, what it would be like to
breathe English air.

Karim honks his horn and gives a passing driver the finger.

KARIM
Fucking gora bastard.

Abdul winds up the window.

ABDUL (VO)
But the air is polluted.

Despite the road rage, Karim offers Abdul another smile.

ABDUL (VO)
I had been very lucky in meeting
Karim. He warned me of the
unscrupulous criminals that wanted
to take advantage of orphans just
off the boats, make us work like
dogs, enslave us.

Karim stops outside a small mosque.

ABDUL (VO)
Karim gave me a job, cleaning and
running errands.

INT. MOSQUE - DAY

A large, clean, open space. A podium rests at one end with a Quran open atop it.

In one corner, rugs are rolled up and piled neatly.

A Somalian with a battle-scarred face, JAMAL (32), sits at a small table while smoking from a hookah. His wary eyes watch as Karim leads Abdul inside.

KARIM
This is Jamal. Jamal, Abdul.

ABDUL
Salaam.

Jamal replies by blowing a stream of smoke into the air, laughs at an inner joke, shakes his head, and pulls on the hookah some more.

KARIM
Come. Come.

Karim opens a cupboard and hands Abdul a mop.

KARIM
The place must be kept clean. This is Allah's house, brother.

Karim places a friendly hand on Abdul's arm. Abdul smiles and nods appreciatively.

INT. MOSQUE - BROOM CUPBOARD - NIGHT

Arabic music and occasional laughter from outside the door keeps Abdul awake as he lies on the floor amidst blankets and cleaning implements.

ABDUL (VO)
I had heard stories of twenty men sharing a room when they first arrived in England, so I praised Allah for being luck enough to have my own space.

A small candle near his head illuminates his personal copy of the Quran.

EXT. MOSQUE - YARD - DAY

Standing near the taxi, Karim hands Abdul a carrier bag containing a brown, paper-wrapped, 5kg brick-shaped object.

KARIM
Satnav knows where to go. They will be waiting for it, OK?

Abdul takes the bag and gets in the car while Karim punches coordinates into the satnav.

KARIM

Tiga, tiga. Ride fast, yes. I am making food. It tastes better hot.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

A permanent grin plastered across his face, Abdul drives around, enjoying the sights of London.

ABDUL (VO)

This was much better than being in the mosque, cleaning or studying.

He drives by the Houses of Parliament.

ABDUL (VO)

I awoke early every morning, hoping that Karim would hand me another package. He always told me to ride fast, but I liked to take my time.

Buckingham Palace.

ABDUL (VO)

Even if I went the wrong way, the satnav would redirect me. I could go where I wanted and never get lost.

The Shard.

INT. MOSQUE - NIGHT

Arabic music plays from a wireless speaker set close to Jamal's phone.

Karim and Jamal sit at a table, a curry laid out for dinner. Abdul arrives late and takes his place.

KARIM

It takes you longer each time.

ABDUL

Traffic.

They share the food, eating with their right hand only.

Abdul looks up from his meal to find Jamal staring at him. He holds his gaze for a while before returning to his food.

INT. MOSQUE - BROOM CUPBOARD - NIGHT

A candle's flame dances in a light breeze that blows through a small, partly open window. Abdul lies on the floor while reading the Quran.

Loud Arabic music from beyond the door. A female's laughter followed by laughter from Jamal and Karim.

ABDUL (VO)
The noise that night made it more
difficult than usual to sleep.

The female cries out. The sound of a scuffle. Grunts from Karim and Jamal.

The door bursts open, JADE (18), mixed race, clothes ripped, her almost bared chest heaving, her pretty face full of panic, stops when she sees him. When she sees it's a dead end. There's no escape.

She shakes her head, pleading with him.

ABDUL
What has happened?

She turns away from Abdul as he stands to help her and walks into a right hook from Jamal.

Abdul freezes in shock as Jamal grabs Jade by the hair and drags her into the main room where a mattress has been laid out on the floor.

In his underwear, Karim spots Abdul watching and reaches for a slim cane.

Abdul recedes further inside as Karim enters and beats him with the cane, only stopping when laying eyes on the copy of the Quran on the floor.

KARIM
You're not yet a good Muslim.

ABDUL
I try, brother Karim.

Karim sighs and rests the cane against the wall.

KARIM
She's a djinn, brother. Do you
understand djinn
(off Abdul's nod)
We are serving Allah by doing this.
Come, come.

Karim leads Abdul him into the next room.

INT. MOSQUE - NIGHT

Pants around his ankles, one hand over Jade's mouth, Jamal pumps angrily in and out of her till he climaxes. He climbs off, leaving her crying while he adjusts his pants.

Jamal takes a mouthful of water and spits it at her.

Karim pushes him away.

KARIM

(Urdu)

Let us have our turn before that.

High on drugs, Jamal meets Abdul's eye, snorts derisively and takes a seat at the hookah table where an array of drugs are laid out.

Jamal crushes some Rohypnol into a squirty bottle of water and sprays it into Jade's mouth, making her cough and splutter.

KARIM

(to Abdul)

It makes her evil weaker.

Karim pushes Abdul toward Jade.

ABDUL (VO)

I had never had a woman before. The sight of her perfect breasts made my loins scream for her.

Karim spots Abdul's erection through his serwal and laughs, pointing at it. Jamal laughs too.

Karim quickly whips Abdul's serwal down to his ankles and pushes him roughly on top of Jade.

ABDUL (VO)

It was as though she barely knew I was there.

Abdul penetrates her, kisses the side of her neck while he pumps in and out, quickly building up rhythm.

Karim locks eyes with Jamal who shakes his head incredulously before pulling a few banknotes and waving them in the air in a 'you win the bet' gesture.

Abdul pumps hard, grits his teeth and climaxes inside her. Karim allows Abdul time to get his breath back before moving him out of the way.

Jade stirs. Karim forces her mouth open and squirts more of the Rohypnol-laced water into her mouth.

ABDUL (VO)

First Karim had her and then Jamal took another turn. They started using things on her, like bottles.

Abdul strolls toward the broom cupboard.

ABDUL (VO)

But, even though she allowed them to do those things, I couldn't help but love her.

With a smile on his face, Abdul enters the broom cupboard and shuts the door.

INT. MOSQUE - DAY

As Abdul mops near the mattress, he notices that Jade has turned a deathly shade of blue.

KARIM (OS)

It has left her.

Startled, Abdul turns to find Karim behind him.

KARIM

Sometimes when the djinn leaves or through ruqya, it kills the host on the way out.

Jamal moves them aside and unceremoniously rolls Jade's body in a prayer mat.

KARIM

You did well last night, brother. We will dispose of many more, yes?

Jamal tosses a set of car keys at Abdul who fails to catch them and picks them up off the floor.

KARIM

Brother Jamal will put the djinn bitch in the back of the car. You drive, find a good spot to bury it.

INT. CAR - DAY

Alone, Abdul drives with Jade's corpse rolled up in the prayer mat on the back seat.

He adjusts the rear view mirror so that he can see her eyes.

ABDUL (VO)

I knew that she was thinking about
our encounter the night before.

Jade's lips move verbatim with Abdul's VO.

ABDUL (VO)

(verbatim with Jade)

You're different to the others.

(no verbatim)

She said, passion forcing her
tongue.

(verbatim with Jade)

With you it was nice. It meant
something, you know?

ABDUL

Yes. I felt exactly the same.

Abdul glances at Nelson's column on the way past.

ABDUL

How do you enjoy the sights of
London, Jade?

The sights of London are reflected in her glassy eyes.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The sound of manly grunting.

Abdul wipes sweat from his brow and, serwal around his ankles, pumps doggy-style in and out of Jade's corpse that he has bent over the taxi bonnet.

ABDUL (VO)

True love overcomes everything.

INT. MOSQUE - NIGHT

Abdul cowers from the blows from Karim's cane.

ABDUL (VO)
I arrived home late.

Jamal smokes the hookah while watching Karim beat Abdul to the floor. Finally seeing enough, he pulls Karim away and places a gun next to Abdul's head.

Karim puts the cane down, pulls out a suicide bomb vest, and places it over Abdul's shoulders.

KARIM
Allah has smiled upon you, brother.
He has chosen you. You will be
greatly rewarded in heaven. A seat
next to Allah, your parents will be
there, and, of course, your
seventy-two virgin wives.

Karim secures the vest and shows him the detonator - a black button set into the left side.

KARIM
You know what this is, yes?

Abdul nods.

ABDUL (VO)
I knew what it was. Both my mother
and father had worn them for
al-Dawla al-Islamiya fi al-Iraq wa
al-Sham. Known more simply in the
West as Daesh or Isis. My heart
sank. I had not wanted my life to
be like theirs.

KARIM
Your parents are waiting for you.
Make them proud.

EXT. LONDON STREETS - DAY

Abdul drives the taxi, a jacket covers the suicide vest. In the back, Jade has been propped upright with the prayer mat.

ABDUL (VO)
I could pick any place I wanted,
but the more I killed, the greater
my glory in heaven.

Abdul drives past Nelson's Column, Piccadilly Circus, the Houses of Parliament, and Big Ben.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Abdul stares into Jade's eyes in the rear view mirror.

ABDUL (VO)
 (verbatim with Jade)
 The djinn is within the individual.
 (no verbatim)
 She said.

ABDUL
 But I cannot make up my mind.

ABDUL (VO)
 (verbatim with Jade)
 Do you love me, Abdul?

ABDUL
 I love you more than the moon loves
 the stars.

ABDUL (VO)
 (verbatim with Jade)
 Then you have your answer.

INT. MOSQUE - DAY

Playing cards, Karim and Jamal look up, their poker faces
 turn to shock.

ABDUL (VO)
 Love is the answer to everything.
 Hatred is spread by the uneducated.
 The trouble is, some will just
 never learn.

Abdul presses the detonator before Karim and Jamal can get
 to him.

OVER BLACK:

ABDUL (VO)
 After the initial burst of light,
 the first face I saw was Jade.

Jade's face fades in and she smiles.

ABDUL (VO)
 I knew she would be waiting for me.

FADE OUT.