**The *Shamdanis***

Ayoub Aghakhani

**Characters (in order of appearance)**

Grandmother

Akbar Shamdani

Fereshteh Shamdani

Souri (Shamdani's wife)

Faramarz Shamdani (Fafar)

Gholam (Janitor)

Touraj Nik Bonyad (Great Uncle)

**Stage:**

It's always the Shamdani's house

Wherever in the world

It was bigger before the moving.

**First act:**

“If there is no buzzer hit the janitor!”

**First buzzer on the left**

Grandmother: O God almighty!

Shamdani: Swear to God I told the truth.

Grandmother: O lord! … Out of thin air?

Shamdani: No, no! From the E-Mail.

Grandmother: They don’t pay anyone just like that!

Fereshteh: They will Grandmother. It's a lottery. Why don’t they?

Grandmother: My child doesn’t like these ill moneys.

Fereshteh: That's not ill Grandmother. Faramarz created the E-Mail for dad last month. Don’t you remember him talking about it at the gathering party?

Grandmother: He was always hungry even when he was a kid but he doesn’t need that ill money. God is the best protector. Leave it my son. Step on your wishes.

Shamdani: *(Loud)* Souri! Come and help me in this party.

Fereshteh: What do you want to do now dad?

Shamdani: Where is that Fafar when I need him. Tell him come and read this damn E-Mail for me.

Grandmother: He was eating much from the start swear to god!

Fereshteh: They went out with Ali X3.

Shamdani: *(Angry)* May Ali X3 and all of his family die for Grandmother!

Fereshteh: Amen!

Grandmother: *(She didn’t get it. Says prayers.)* Thank you my son!

Fereshteh: With that ugly face!

Shamdani: ALI X3?

Fereshteh: Yes. That gaudy idiot.

Shamdani: *(Whispers)* Something happened?

Fereshteh: No! Of course not!

Shamdani: Is there something that you don’t tell me?

Fereshteh: Dad! No!

Shamdani: You should call him.

Fereshteh: That damn X3?

Shamdani: No! Fafar!

Fereshteh: I called him! Dad I know English myself!

Souri: *(Enters)* Why are you screaming again Shamdani?

Shamdani: You fully paid our debt to the communications ministry? Are you satisfied now?

Souri: It was Badri. She wants to free her home. She borrowed money. Poor woman!

Shamdani: You talked for one hour and forty minutes!

Grandmother: I said it is ill. Don’t fool my son! Bride of Thamoud!

Fereshteh: *(Laughs)* Thamoud!

Souri: Grandmother! *(To Fereshteh)* Did she ate her pills?

Fereshteh: *(Still laughs)* Thamoud!

Grandmother: Fear the hell's fire.

Souri: Someone turns her off.

Shamdani: Souri give up. She is talking about her friend who borrowed money Grandmother! She doesn’t talk about me!

Grandmother: Whoever! Whoever!

Shamdani: Yes! Yes!

Souri: What happened here?

Fereshteh: *(Writes somewhere while whispering.)* Thamoud!

Shamdani: Your precious Faramaz is missing for now.

Souri: When Fafar was at home this time of day!? Do you need him?

Shamdani: Not himself!

Souri: Then what?

Shamdani: Damn that crappy TOEFL of his. How much I paid for it.

Grandmother: There are no toffies. They were on the table yesterday. By god I have blood sugar. Someone else ate them!

Souri: *(To Shamdani)* What do you want now?

Grandmother: *(Angry)* He doesn’t want that ill money in his house!

Shamdani: Her friend, Grandmother. Her friend Badri.

Fereshteh: *(To Souri)* Dad won!

Shamdani: *(Points to somewhere for Grandmother)* Her friend!

Souri: Wow! Your dad! *(Surprised)* Is she telling the truth Shamdani?

Shamdani: *(In middle of explaining to Grandmother)* If she was lying her name wasn’t Fereshteh, Souri dear!

Fereshteh: *(Laughs)*

Grandmother: HUSH!

Souri: Now what?

Shamdani: We became upside down, Souri dear.

Fereshteh: One million dollars!

Shamdani: Worthless!

Souri: …

Fereshteh: Mom!

Shamdani: Souri!

Fereshteh: Say something!

Souri: …

Fereshteh: Mom! *(Louder)* Are you dead?

Grandmother: This is what ill money brought us! Turns her towards the Mecca!

Shamdani: Don’t say that Grandmother!

Souri: *(Calm and confused)* What is the price of dollar today?

Shamdani: Don’t even think about it my dear! If we change it to Rial we can build the twin towers again!

Souri: How come?

Shamdani: Count it yourself. Even the calculator runs out.

Souri: How come they gave it to you?

Shamdani: What do you mean? I'm very important.

Souri: Don’t be ridiculous!

Shamdani: You were ignorant about your partner whole your life!

Fereshteh: It's a lottery.

Souri: Between who?

Fereshteh: Yahoo users!

Grandmother: Yahoo! God will protect you! That's good! Thank's god!

Shamdani: Is it good?! It's great grandmother! *(To Souri)* if I knew I told him to sign up to yahoo sooner. Mine is one month old!

Grandmother: Oh god!

Souri: E-Mail?

Shamdani: If I created it two or three months ago how much they would gave me.

Fereshteh: How is it related?

Shamdani: It's relate my girl, it's relate. For those who are not Iranian everything is accountable. Just like this! I started it and it's already paid back. And that's how they bought the world. Yes!

Souri: What should we do now?

Shamdani: Call your precious professor with that degree right now.

Souri: *(Picks the phone in a hurry.)* …

Shamdani: *(Victorious and fun towards Fereshteh.)* Did you see? She knows who I am talking about.

Souri: Hello! Badri! Hello dear! Don’t get that money maybe I can…

*(Suddenly Shamdani jumps. It seems he now noticed who his wife called. Sudden, silent and* *strange moves of him quiets his wife. Shamdani is trying to cut the dialogues.)*

Souri: Ha? ... No… I'm here… no… what? I said maybe I can find a fortune teller who tells you to take the money or not.

*(Shamdani breaths calmly.)*

Grandmother: She is always thinking about that ill money. Bride of Thalmoud!

Fereshteh: *(Writing. laughing)* …

Souri: What? No it's Fereshteh… Why should she laughs at you?

Fereshteh: *(Still laughing)* …

Souri: No! Swear to god!

Grandmother: *(Whispers) G*od will kill you.

Souri: She is laughing at Grandmother.

Fereshteh: *(Still laughing)* …

Grandmother: Laugh at your mom!

Shamdani: *(To Grandmother)* Enough!

Fereshteh: What?

Shamdani: Not you.

Grandmother: He is with me! What a son!

Souri: I look. Okay. Just wait a little more.

 Shamdani: Is it finished?

Souri: Bye! *(Ends the call.)* What the hell is going on with you?

Shamdani: Do you want to give them all away? They should put a record of you in Guinness.

Souri: This was nothing!

Shamdani: But where is it? Do you see any of it yet? It's still in the E-Mail.

Souri: *(To Fereshteh)* so take it out girl!

Fereshteh: It's one and half pages. Faramarz must read it.

Shamdani: I will forbid until the very first of this grand social network's payment…

Fereshteh: *(Completes him.)* Yahoo!

Grandmother: Yahoo! Thanks god for her redemption.

Shamdani: To tell anyone about this!

Souri: But why?

Shamdani: They will took it in the air!

Souri: She just had a divorce. She needs it. if not she will borrow that money.

Grandmother: *(Angry)* If anyone talks about that ill money again I will call the 110!

Fereshteh: *(Laughs and writes)* The 110!

Souri: *(To Shamdani)* What is your mother talking about?

Shamdani: She just learned about 110 and she thinks it can help with everything *(to grandmother)* okay okay.

Grandmother: I told you.

Souri: *(Remembers now)* What is the grand social network?

Shamdani: I don’t know! When that professor Fafar of you created the E-Mail told me this. if he leaves that Ali X3 he will come and clear everything!

Souri: Now Fafar can buy his own X3 so that boy couldn’t make plans of his own.

Fereshteh: Mom!

Shamdani: I don’t spend my dollars on these young fools!

Fereshteh: Who do you mean?

Shamdani: Everyone!

Fereshteh: Even me?

Shamdani: When you pick up a pen and write something at night it doesn’t mean you are better than them. I meant your entire generation. Ok?

Fereshteh: Except me please.

Shamdani: Why are you an exception? Because you write in your diary? What is this life that needs a diary?

Fereshteh: If I wasn’t an exception, my name wasn’t Fereshteh.

Shamdani: Did you see !? Now she learned how to milk me.

Souri: Don’t say that!

Fereshteh: You will buy me a Mazda 2 Dad? A hatchback.

Shamdani: God help me!

Grandmother: God! What’s happened?

Souri: Why is he so warmblooded? So let it stay there! Why do you want to take it when you do nothing with it?

Shamdani: Whats wrong with the Pride? It's a national car or that Tiba?

Souri: What? Pride?! I’ll ask my kid to write on the back window “Iran the great”!

Shamdani: It has no problem and it's very good. Instead of spoiling them, tell them about our actions when we were young.

Fereshteh: Do you want her to tell all of it?

Shamdani: I mean the united progressive actions!

Fereshteh: I didn’t mean that.

Shamdani: Instead of calling your dear Badri, you should call his highness.

Souri: leave him alone! He will become stressful

Shamdani: And there is no worry if I have stress. My heart is stopping!

Grandmother: You are right! You are right! God will teach her.

Shamdani: You heard what doctor said last time. It will stop.

Souri: He will come soon.

Grandmother: Call the 110!

Fereshteh: Why?

Grandmother: Call the 110!

Fereshteh: I asked why?

Grandmother: Ha?

*(Faramarz enters.)*

Shamdani: Where have you been Mr. Prince?

Faramarz: Hi.

Fereshteh: You told about 110 to grandmother?

Faramarz: She should know about it.

Fereshteh: Just like sticking internet and E-mail to dads head?

Faramarz: What’s happened?

Fereshteh: Come with me.

*(She guides Faramarz to the outside of the stage. Probably one of the rooms.)*

Fereshteh: Everything is changing! *(To Shamdani)* Dad what's your password?

Shamdani: *(Fast and easy)* “Soghra can I say”! Type it in English!

Faramarz: Dad!

Shamdani: What? You said your password must be hard one to tell.

Faramarz: You tell everyone your password like this?

Shamdani: She is not everyone.

Faramarz: “Soghra can I say”!... in English?

Shamdani: What's the difference? Material is important!

Faramaz: Does “Soghra can I say” has the material?

Fereshteh: Now we have work to do!

Shamdani: Yes! Yes! Run my son! Run to the computer!

*(They exist.)*

Souri: *(Silence then screams)* What should we do with all this money?

*(Shamdani puts his finger in front of his face to show the sign of silence)*

Shamdani: Be calm woman!

Souri: What? No one is here. What's with you today?

Shamdani: Maybe Gholam is cleaning the corridor and stairs. He mustn’t hear us!

Souri: Gholam wasn’t your confidante sir?

Shamdani: Not at this scale. I meant taking the mails and moving the car and cleaning the house.

*(Fereshteh and Faramarz enter. Souri and Shamdani are waiting for Faramarz to talk.)*

Faramarz: Congratulations! It seems real. You have won one million dollars in Yahoo's lottery.

Grandmother: Yahoo! God is with us!

Shamdani: As I said!

Souri: Wait till the family know.

Faramarz: They gave a number with a real code. It's the number of the lawyer who will move the money to your account.

Shamdani: Did you write it?

Fereshteh: *(Shows a piece of paper.)* I did!

Shamdani: I should call him now?

Faramarz: Not now! And there is another account that you must put some money to pay the lawyer so he can begin his job.

Shamdani: It must be the legal process. How much?

Faramarz: One tenth. 100 thousands dollar. But you should send ten thousands now and the rest of it next week.

Shamdani: One hundred…. Thousands dollars?

Fereshteh: It's not that much.

Souri: What was the price of dollar today?

Fereshteh: Do you remember that you forced me to change my course because of that five million rials tuition? I won't continue it. It's not right for me.

Shamdani: How should I pay this 100 thousand dollars?

Faramarz: You must pay ten thousands now. And it needs an international account with the swift code.

Shamdani: With my past they'll find us very soon and the government doesn’t let me to get any of that money.

Fereshteh: You didn’t do anything dad!

Shamdani: It's for the past maybe my name is in a black or white list.

Souri: What did you do?

Shamdani: Silence. I'm thinking.

Souri: Then you don’t open an account?

Faramarz: If you don’t have one you don’t get the money.

Shamdani: Touraj!

Souri: What?

Shamdani: Touraj Nik Bonyad!

Fereshteh: *(Surprised)* Great uncle? Yes… I missed him so much.

Shamdani: Yes! Faramarz send an E-Mail to your great uncle and tell him give us one his accounts number. We tell that and the government can't trace that back to us.

Faramarz: Okay!

Shamdani: But don’t tell him why we need it. There is a money that he will receive and he must give that to us. Only this.

Souri: If he didn’t give that to us then what? How do find him in that other corner of the earth?

Shamdani: I trust Touraj with my heart.

Fereshteh: Me too! He is a gentleman. Why every good person is so far away?

Souri: That's enough!

Fereshteh: *(To shamdani)* What about the 100 thousand?

Grandmother: Someone is talking about that ill money? Give me the phone.

Shamdani: No, grandmother. No.

Grandmother: Call the 110!

Shamdani: No! No!

Souri: Your daughter is right. What about the money?

Shamdani: We need to do it fast!

Souri: Now talk about leaving Iran! You know with this money how we can live in Iran?

Shamdani: Hurry up son! The great uncle!

Fereshteh: Say my regards to him!

*(Souri, Shamdani and Grandmother are remained alone on the stage. After a thoughtful silence between the characters. Grandmother stands up and goes to the exit.)*

Souri: Where are you going Grandmother?

Grandmother: Not your business! *(Exits)*

Shamdani: Souri I'm hungry.

Souri: It's only the beginning! Come to the kitchen!

*(They both go then Gholam comes and starts to clean the surface with a wet cloth. He looks at audiences then says.)*

Gholam: Forty days later!

*(Exits from the other end while working.)*

**Second buzzer from left in below**

Grandmother: O God almighty!

Shamdani: I'm serious Grandmother

Grandmother: I don’t want anything!

Shamdani: It's my duty as a son!

Grandmother: Godspeed!

Shamdani: Your nurse will grow on you. That way you don’t need Akbar or Souri or anyone else. Then nurse is being paid to show respect and look after you.

Grandmother: *(Smiles)* Godspeed! Choose a young one!

Shamdani: *(Surprised)* What?

Grandmother: The nurse!

Souri: *(Reading the newspaper.)* Look at this!

Grandmother: With a good body!

Shamdani: *(Confused)* …

Souri: Villa in Dubai, fast and cheap!

Shamdani: You said we won't go from Iran.

Souri: I still say that.

Shamdani: So what's that villa in Dubai?

Souri: Buy it fast and cheap. I didn’t say we will go there.

Shamdani: Let's just seal this side of the deal and get the house in Elahieh. Then you can think like Faramarz.

Grandmother: Faramarz is seduced! God must protect him!

Souri: Like Faramarz? Think Shamdani! You must have a strong back!

Shamdani: Don’t argue with me! I say we can still go. To hell with this place where we can tell no one about our money.

Grandmother: *(To Shamdani)* What is she saying? Don’t argue with her! Look after Faramarz!

Shamdani: Yes mother!

Souri: *(Loud to outside)* What’s happened to Fafar?

Shamdani: The professor is out on an expedition! There are only two E-Mails.

Souri: Don’t tease him.

Shamdani: *(With himself)* They said twenty days! But there is no money yet!

Souri: It will get here. That's not a joke! (reading) what about Ahmadabad? That's not Dubai anymore. Villa or empty field? Choose. Think of tomorrow!

Shamdani: We signed six deals! … I owe people money… wait a little more woman!

Faramarz: *(From outside.)* Coming!

Shamdani: Did you see your precious answering with the speed of light? Don’t worry your highness!

Souri: Don’t tease him. I just want a beautiful villa in Dubai or in Ahmadabad or Kelardasht. I will shut that Mahrou's mouth up for five years with this. She speaks about Gisoum's villa everywhere so much that I can't say your aunt's grandchild name because her name is Gisou too. She remembers me of Mahrou' Gisoum. Now if you suddenly go to her home you will see her with her chador in shit and washing powder just like work people. Then she puts some kind of chicken in front of you with Doctor Tanasa's diet!

Faramarz: *(From outside – a bit loud)* Mom!

Shamdani: I think your son wet himself. (Loud) Yes baby?

Grandmother: God covers everything!

Souri: Yes?

*(No one answers)*

Souri: Yes Fafar?

*(No one answers)*

Shamdani: Is he dead?

Souri: Fafar?

*(Faramarz enters and sits somewhere frustrated.)*

Souri: Why you didn’t answer?

Faramarz: You called me?

Souri: Yes!

Faramarz: I came.

Souri: You called me first.

Faramarz: Nothing.

Souri: What is nothing?

Faramarz: No news.

Shamdani: What do you mean? We must wait longer?

Faramarz: *(Shrugs)*.

Shamdani: Are you mute?

Faramarz: What do you want me to say?

Shamdani: Didn’t they say twenty days?

Faramarz: They did.

Shamdani: Now it's been forty days. I owe people money!

Faramarz: What should I do? Do you want your money from me?

Shamdani: God! Save us!

Souri: Don't exaggerate!

Shamdani: What? Someone help me!

Grandmother: Call the 110!

Souri: My baby! Dear! tell me exactly what is happening.

Faramarz: You should tell me what is happening.

Shamdani: Did you write something for them?

Faramarz: I did yesterday.

Shamdani: What did you write?

Faramarz: I said yesterday!

Souri: Now say it again.

Faramarz: I’ve written … Mr. Ludick Mahon…

Shamdani: The lawyer!

Faramarz: Yes!

Shamdani: Well!

Faramarz: We are still waiting and we have sent the money…

Shamdani: That hundred thousand!

Faramarz: Yes.

Shamdani: Well!

Faramarz: … The money that…

Shamdani: Hundred thousand dollars!

Faramarz: … Yes, we out in your account and we are waiting to put our money to the account…

Shamdani: Touraj's account!

Faramarz: Yes great uncle's account

Shamdani: And that didn’t happen.

Faramarz: Yes didn’t happen.

Shamdani: You didn’t write great uncle. Yes?

Faramarz: Dad!

Shamdani: You could be distracted.

Faramarz: Touraj Nik Bonyad!

Shamdani: So where is the money then?

Faramarz: *(Shrugs)*.

Shamdani: *(Angry)* Are you mute?

Grandmother: I wish he was mute!

Shamdani: Mom don’t say anything.

Faramarz: What should I say? What should I do?

Shamdani: Weren’t you and your idiot sister that encouraged me? Hurry dad! Give dad! Put dad! Money dad!

Faramarz: It was legal. We should take our chances!

Shamdani: No! We should hold it tight! Now what?

Souri: You forgot that Ahmad's family got their green cards this way and now they are having fun in there? It's not a sham! Nothing happened yet Shamdani!

Shamdani: Nothing happened! Nothing happened! We gave them hundred thousand dollars! I owe people money! And you say nothing happened!

Souri: They didn’t say they don’t give us the money.

Shamdani: Their twenty days won't be forty days. it is not Iran!

Souri: Maybe your friend took it and didn’t told us.

*(Silence. Shamdani is thinking.)*

Shamdani: Touraj?

Souri: He isn’t a saint!

Grandmother: God forgive us!

Faramarz: Great uncle? No way!

Souri: Is it not possible? Money changes everyone!

Shamdani: Can you be silent just a moment! *(Thinking and turns his look from everyone.)*

Souri: Think Shamdani! All of that money that went to his account and he said to hell with my old friend. I can use it myself why should I give it back to him?

Grandmother: Call the 110!

Faramarz: Enough grandmother! Don’t you see everything has gone shit?

Grandmother: Call the 110!

Souri: Do you know how he live in there? Did you see it? I'm in the west. Ok. But how? Does he have anything in there? Money? Respect? Credibility? We bring up everyone then we don’t know how to behave with them.

Faramarz: *(To Grandmother)* 110 even can't reach him grandmother!

Grandmother: What?

Faramarz: You should call 911 in there.

Souri: Who is this Touraj Nik Bonyad?

Shamdani: Enough! You know him yourself.

Grandmother: Oh! God!

Faramarz: Say it once!

Souri: I don’t know him! I saw him twice at best.

Grandmother: Say what?

Faramarz: 911! Nine...One…One.

Shamdani: You know your friends by other ways?

Souri: Of course!

Grandmother: 911… Nine… One… One.

Souri: Leave me alone!

Shamdani: For example this Badri.

Grandmother: Which one?

Faramarz: There is no difference.

Shamdani: Yes Badri!

Faramarz: Nine Eleven or Nine… One… One.

Shamdani: Why don’t you answer me? How much do you know him?

*(Phone rings and Souri picks it up fast to avoid Shamdani’s questions.)*

Souri: Hello?

 Grandmother: I said these… 110 or 911?

Souri: Hi badri!

Shamdani: See who it is!

Souri: *(Silences Shamdani with a sudden move.)* No dear! What bothering? Are you ok? Things are better?...

*(Souri exists slowly.)*

Faramarz: Here 110. There 911!

Grandmother: Where is there?

Faramarz: America!

Grandmother: What?

Faramarz: Swear to god!

*(Fereshteh enters frustrated.)*

Grandmother: In the name of god! She came like a genie!

Fereshteh: Hi!

Faramarz: Hi! What’s happened?

Shamdani: *(Sees fereshteh with faramarz’s words.)* Hi! How are you?

Fereshteh: Nothing.

Shamdani: What happened?

Fereshteh: Nothing!

Shamdani: *(Moves towards Fereshteh with worry.)* Did someone bother you? They stole your bag? Phone?...

Grandmother: Call the 911!

Faramarz: Hush! Just 110!

Shamdani: Why you don’t talk?

Grandmother: Just call the 110!

Faramarz: Hush!

Fereshteh: My friends.

Shamdani: Did your friends bother you?

Fereshteh: Many of them got it.

Shamdani: What?

Fereshteh: Of those! At least for three people!

Shamdani: What?

Faramarz: Are you serious?

Fereshteh: Yes!

Shamdani: What? Talk!

Fereshteh: E-Mail!

Shamdani: What do you mean?

Faramarz: Exactly?!

Shamdani? What exactly?

Fereshteh: The E-Mail with that award!

Shamdani: So… What’s the problem? Only one person… had to win that? …. It’s a grand social network… if it wants…

Fereshteh: My friends say it’s a total sham, some crooks started it to stole ten thousands hundred thousand from people. Do you know how much it will be?

Shamdani: It means…

Faramarz: Ali X3 told me.

Shamdani: *(Screams angry.)* Why do you say it now?

Faramarz: *(Scared)* Well… If I told you… You’ll know that I told him…

Grandmother: Don’t scream or you’ll have a panic attack!

Faramarz: You forbid us to tell anyone!

Shamdani: You ruined me!... So that’s why there is no news about it in forty days…

Fereshteh: Now what?

Shamdani: The checks? The deals? God!

*(Souri enters frustrated.)*

Souri: Badri… Said two months ago she has received an E-Mail that said she has won!

Faramarz: What did she do? Paid the money?

Souri: *(To shamdani)* If you let us to tell the family and friends…

Shamdani: Enough!

*(Moments of silence.)*

Souri: Now… What should we do?

Shamdani: I should did it my way from the beginning.

*(Exits fast from the stage. They look at each other. Souri follows him. Grandmother wants to exit while whispering.)*

Faramarz: Where to Grandmother?

Grandmother: Not of your business! *(Exits.)*

Voice of Shamdani: *(From outside)* Faramarz, Fereshteh one you take that lawyers papers in here. Fast!

Voice of Souri: *(From outside)* There is a computer in the room! Yellow folder! It’ written Jalali, immigration lawyer on it! Fafar it’s your job!

Faramarz: Ok!

*(Faramarz exits. Feresheteh is confused and shaking!)*

Fereshteh: *(While exiting fast)* Mom!

*(Gholam washes the empty stage and some people like him are talking and moving the accessories. Gholam is rubbing the stage in front of audiences. look at audiences for a moment and says)*

Gholam: Two years later!

*(Workers and Gholam finish their job and exit the stage. Stage looks different.)*

**Second act:**

“We don’t live here anymore!”

**B:B2 - NO.13**

Grandmother: O God almighty!

Shamdani: I told the truth Grandmother!

Grandmother: What did I say?

Shamdani: It’s not your business! Live your life. Let me handle the debt and the money.

Souri: Who takes her seriously anyway?

Grandmother: Did you hear her? Bride of the Thalmoud.

Fereshteh: *(Laughs. Then suddenly turns to Grandmother.)* Grandmother! Hush!

Grandmother: She speaks irrelevant since she came here!

Shamdani: She won’t. She won’t. *(To Souri.)* Don’t.

Souri: Leave me alone!

Grandmother: I hope you die!

Souri: Shamdani!

Shamdani: Hush! He is in the bathroom, he could hear it!

Faramarz: Hush Grandmother.

Souri: We had to bring him with us to L.A. with all of these hunger and shit?

*(Toilet flushes.)*

Shamdani: Hush! He is coming.

*(Touraj Nik Abadi enters. He is younger than shamdani and he is luxe and single.)*

Touraj: I’m ready! *(Laughs)*

Shamdani: We are waiting!

Touraj: You didn’t begin? *(sits fast.)* Shame on me! No one should wait on the dinner. Please!

Souri: But we like you Mr. Touraj! We want to begin with you.

Fereshteh: For real!

Touraj: Ok! I’ll begin.

Shamdani: Please!

Touraj: Here you couldn’t be careless. Every dollar could work for you. Here is different with Iran.

Faramarz: I think american’s language is not proficient.

Touraj: *(Surprised)* What do you mean?

Faramarz: Their English is weak!

*(Touraj laughs suddenly. Everyone except Fafar join him.)*

Fereshteh: Excuse Fafar, uncle.

Touraj: It was funny dear Fafar.

Faramarz: But I was serious!

Touraj: *(Laughing.)* How so?

Faramarz: They don’t do a lots of thing I know!

Souri: My Fafar has the TOEFL.

Touraj: We should train them. *(Laughs)*

Faramarz: Are you kidding me uncle?

Touraj: No! No! I say we should train them. there is no the way around it. *(Changes the subject.)* Yes dear Akbar. Don’t lose the wheel! You hit the ice cliff just like the Titanic!

Shamdani: They could should hear you! Specially with the condition that we had in Iran we should think more economic!

Touraj: You have a good family. They will heed you.

Shamdani: They are spoiled in Iran. The remaining of my kid’s food can cure the hunger of Ethiopia.

Grandmother: God will gave you more!

Shamdani: But it’s hard. Very hard. It can break the bones.

Touraj: How’s the work? Are you happy?

Shamdani: It’s labor!

Touraj: You shouldn’t fear these jobs. If you see me sitting here and eating your wife’s homemade food I done all kind of works to become an accountant.

Souri: Enjoy your meal.

Grandmother: God help us!

Touraj: Here working is not shame. And we don’t escape it either. Everything will be ok. Food and drinks are good there. And even there is game too. It’s not bad at all.

Shamdani: Of course!

Touraj: With your english, you couldn’t get this job without the lobbying.

Faramarz: He is right. Dad!

Touraj: I have a plan for you too, Fafar!

Shamdani: Are you serious?

Faramarz: What’s the plan?

Shamdani: I will send you to a saloon in the mall where your dad works there, to become a control man. Your English is good. You can guide people and sometimes you can watch films yourself and correct their English too! *(Laughs)*

Faramarz: I said you are kidding me.

Touraj: I was kidding. But I took it for you. if you don’t help your father he can’t run things.

Grandmother: My Akbar can run everything.

Shamdani: Working is hard for his highness.

Faramarz: Don’t say that.

Touraj: *(To Shamdani)* You will see.

Souri: My Fafar is very handy. He didn’t have a reason to work in Iran.

Touraj: You shouldn’t play with them in there. You will throw away everything you have earned.

Shamdani: No… But sometimes…

Touraj: What an idiot!

Shamdani: What should I do? Sometimes…

Touraj: You lost everything, didn't you?

Shamdani: …

Souri: Shamdani!...

Touraj: It’s little. I don’t play all of it.

Touraj: Why do you even play?

Shamdani: For money!

Touraj: Why you play If you need money?

Shamdani: Because of money!

Touraj: But you always lose!

Shamdani: I need money because of that! I’m in a hurry. Look at my age! I need to sort it out faster!

Touraj: Rest assured even the bigger ones couldn’t sort it out yet.

Shamdani: But I must. That enough for me. I need a relaxing life now. I need to be sure about my family.

Touraj: You shouldn’t play anymore and you must work harder.

Shamdani: But…

Touraj: But?

Shamdani: Nothing…

Touraj: Say it!

Shamdani: Sometimes I don’t even have the rent of this place.

Souri: *(Whispering.)* Sometimes!

Grandmother: He said it by himself but I hadn't to say!

Shamdani: You want me to wait how long to enjoy my life? When you are seventy or even sixty five you only have the medicines not fun.

Touraj: I get it… but…

Fereshteh: *(Suddenly)* Are you still single?

*(Moments of silence.)*

Grandmother: Look at how she grew the kids. Bride of Thalmoud.

Touraj: Yes Fereshteh! Why?

Fereshteh: Nothing. It’s odd!

Shamdani: Touraj was a dodger from the start.

Souri: The trap wasn’t the right trap! *(She laughs long.)*

Grandmother: You whore!

Faramarz: *(To grandmother)* Hush!

Touraj: No ma’am! There were good traps but I believe that someone who has a wife only has a wife but someone who hasn’t a wife only hasn’t a wife.

Fereshteh: Wow! Cool!

Grandmother: Hush! You bitch!

Souri: Mr. Touraj there are lots of caring homes in L.A. aren’t they? *(Says loud so grandmother gets her.)*

Shamdani: Souri!

 Grandmother: You are Hareth! Ibn Ziad! Hend!

Touraj: *(To grandmother)* She only asked to know it.

Grandmother: I will rip her open. Call the 911!

*(Touraj laughs.)*

Souri: Shamdani look what she says.

Shamdani: How did you leaned the 911?

Fereshteh: Fafar Shamdani the update manager!

Faramarz: I shouldn’t?

Shamdani: Thank you so much! *(To Touraj)* Mother couldn’t sleep well since we came here. She talks ill because of that.

Touraj: I know. I was the same when I had arrived here. But my situation had a difference to hers; I didn’t want to get well. Honestly it was good for me.

Souri: You devil!

Fereshteh: Of course!

Touraj: Just a little ma’am! Later when I needed more sleep, I bought a drug from Dallas that is always with me. I don’t eat it but I have it just in case. (Brings out the drug.) It’s powder. If you dissolve it in water it will knock out an elephant. These long insomnias gave me migraine. If I don’t sleep it's possible for migraine to return. I keep this one and you can have the rest for your mother and yourself. Here you are!

 Souri: Thanks! It's our cureless pain and your cure!

Grandmother: *(Whispering)* I hope you get the cureless pain

Touraj: That was very delicious ma'am.

Souri: Sorry it wasn’t good enough.

Touraj: It was very good indeed! After this long afternoon in your house I should go now because I have a Saturday night date!

Souri: You are a devil!

Fereshteh: Of course.

Touraj: I said just a little!

Shamdani: You want to go?

Touraj: Yes, with your permission.

Fereshteh: You don’t want to tell us about your single life more?

Touraj: What should I say in front of the family ma'am? *(Laughs)* But know that I'm like a boy who has a few pieces of chocolate and wants to eat them now!

Fereshteh: What an amazing metaphor.

Touraj: You are very kind to me ma'am.

Shamdani: Can you do something for me?

Touraj: It depends.

Shamdani: It's easy.

Touraj: Ok.

Shamdani: You said I shouldn’t play for money.

Touraj: For your own sake.

Shamdani: You know that the bridge behind us is destroyed and should sort it out faster in here.

Touraj: Wasn’t it?

Shamdani: Faster. I need it faster.

Touraj: What's the story of the bridge?

Faramarz : An old imagination!

Shamdani: It's not an imagination son! I was always a dangerous man for them! Because of my progressive actions!

Faramarz: Of course

Touraj: Why? Is it bad to be progressive?

Shamdani: Depends!

Faramarz: Because of the special abilities! The unique progressive.

Shamdani: *(To souri)* Woman!

Souri: Fafar!

Faramarz: Am I lying mom?

Touraj: Tell the end of it.

Shamdani: I participate in Lotto too.

Touraj: Really? Good for you!

Shamdani: Is it ridiculous?

Touraj: Not much.

Shamdani: I even sell the tickets myself.

Touraj: Selling them has no problem…

Shamdani: Sometimes I take one or two for myself… kinda buying it.

Touraj: You will do everything you want every time. Now how can I help?

Shamdani: I want you to approve it! Buy one just for approval!

Touraj: Are you forcing me?

Shamdani: Please!

Touraj: I should pay then.

Souri: Shamdani!

Shamdani: It's for the good luck Souri! Yes I will take it Touraj.

Touraj: It seems there is no other way…

Shamdani: *(Takes the money)* For you! It has a round number 141414281!

Touraj: What can I say? I'm a beautiful and lonely girl in a boat in middle of the sea. I can't say no.

Fereshteh: What an amazing metaphor.

Souri: You are a devil!

Fereshteh: Of course!

Touraj: Just a little! *(Takes the ticket)* Thanks *(Puts it in his pocket)* With all due respect I should say good afternoon to the lovely Shamdani's family who brought the Iranian goodness to the east of L.A. and are living in the unit 13 of the B2 building!

Fereshteh: We will see you again!

Touraj: Of course!

Faramarz: We should do something uncle?

Touraj: Wait for my call.

Souri: Thank you for visiting us.

Touraj: Thank you old friend! Bye!

Shamdani: Bye!

Touraj: *(To grandmother)* Goodbye Ma'am!

*(Grandmother is sleeping.)*

Touraj: It's because of those insomnias! The drug I gave you is effective! Fafar must read it to give her a controlled dose!

*(Everyone follows Touraj to the door. Grandmother opens her eyes and stands up then moves. Then she turns and looks at audiences.)*

Grandmother: It's not your business where I go!

*(Then she exists. At the same time Gholam enters while washing the surface of the stage. He looks different. He is like the black people now. He has a loose pants and shirt, a chain and a white headphone on his head. He looks at audiences then says.)*

Gholam: Two weeks later.

*(Exits from the other end while working.)*

**Suddenly, Apartment No.13**

Shamdani: O God almighty!

Grandmother: Swear to god I say the truth Akbar!

Shamdani: Souri! Faramarz! Fereshteh! God!

Fereshteh: What happened dad?

Faramarz: *(From ouside)* What?

Grandmother: I'm serious! Something happened!

Shamdani: Come *(Loud)* You shit *(Calm)*

*(Souri enters.)*

Souri: What’s happened?

Fereshteh: Dad became crazy!

Souri: As usual!

Grandmother: Didn’t i?

Shamdani: Faramarz!

*(Faramarz enters.)*

Faramarz: Why do you want to scare us? I'm coming!

Shamdani: *(Gives him a newspaper.)* Take it.

Faramarz: What's this?

Shamdani: Read it.

Faramarz: What? Where?

Shamdani: There! The numbers!

Faramarz: What numbers?

Shamdani: The lotto! Winner's numbers!

Faramarz: Ok I see that.

Shamdani: The one I highlighted!

Faramarz: 1414141281!

Shamdani: *(To souri)* Listen!

Souri: To what?

Shamdani: *(To Faramarz)* Read again!

Faramarz: 14… 14… 14… 281… so what?

Shamdani: So what?

Grandmother: *(With herself)* 911!

Souri: 141414281 it's so round.

Fereshteh: Uncle!

Shamdani: That's it.

Faramarz: What?

Shamdani: *(Sad and scared)* He had won!

Fereshteh: The one you sold to him! Oh god! Uncle won!

Shamdani: *(Hits his head*) Yes! Yes!

Souri: How much?

Shamdani: One million dollars.

Grandmother: *(With herself)* O My God!

Fereshteh: *(Happy)* Wow!

Faramarz: One million dollars? But why?

Shamdani: Because his ticket is not here.

Souri: Then take it!

Shamdani: What are you talking about?

Souri: Say it's mine.

Fereshteh: He can't do that!

Souri: What? We didn’t pay the rent for three months! We have four months of debt and we even don’t have anything to eat! *(Screams loud.)* Take that back!

Grandmother: *(Frightened)* Faramarz! Faramarz!

Faramarz: What’s happened?

Grandmother: Call the 911! Did you see her? I said that she is whore from the start! Now look at our life! We have nothing! O god!

Souri: *(Loud)* You bitch! We should let you stay in Iran and rot!

Grandmother: I always have money in my pillow and I need no one bride of the Thalmoud

Souri: *(Screams)* Shut up!

*(Everyone becomes silent. Shamdani is looking down. Kids sit somewhere and grandmother is looking scared at Souri who is standing in front of her.)*

Faramarz: *(Whispers)* … I wish we were in Tehran.

Souri: *(Fast)* Do whatever you can Shamdani to take that ticket back. Did you heard me or not?

Shamdani: But… how?

Souri: You should say!

Shamdani: If… he knows it by now then what?

Fereshteh: Don’t you think that Mr. Nik Bonyad doesn’t think about this kind of money?

Souri: Great uncle!

Fereshteh: What's the difference?

Souri: A lot!

Shamdani: I think he doesn’t know he even bought it by force!

Souri: Yes! That's it! You always ruined our life! You fucked my dreams and whole my life! I couldn’t tell Badri or dog or shit who I am for once in my life! Cautious all the times! But when? Why? Where we should say who we are? He gave our luck to that rotten single man who is always looking for a way inside our cloths! God look how I ruined my life for this man! Take my life now!

Shamdani: Enough! Who said you are a devil that day?

Souri: My blood is on you if you don’t take the ticket back.

Shamdani: Give it up!

Souri: I said it.

Shamdani: But how?

Faramarz: Maybe it's still in his jacket. I always saw him wearing that lately.

Shamdani: Are you telling me to rob him?

Fereshteh: Maybe he gives it to laundry always. And this doesn’t mean he didn’t check them out.

Faramarz: Maybe it's in his house!

Shamdani: What should I do? Rob his house at night?

Faramarz: *(Turns to grandmother)* You should…

*(She is sleeping.)* She is asleep!

Shamdani: She is sleepless! Leave her alone! What she can do?

*(Souri is angry.)*

Souri: Shamdani! Shamdani!

Shamdani: What?

Souri: Call him and say that we are going to your home tonight… No tomorrow night to see you.

Faramarz: For what?

Souri: We go to his home and me and Fereshteh helps him to cook and… and not this… no no!

Shamdani: Shame on you woman? What's this?

Souri: Don’t say anything let me do my thing!

Fereshteh: It's meaningless!

Souri: We pour that sleep drug in his meal…

Faramarz: Hooray mom!

Shamdani: What? Stop! What should we tell him when he awakens?

Souri: It has nothing to do with us!

Shamdani: He will know it.

Fereshteh: He is right mom!

Shamdani: We only have him in here. You want us to lose him? If he leaves us we are done!

Souri: Okay! Then I will live you and your life! Isn’t it better?

Faramarz: Mom!

Fereshteh: Mom!

Grandmother: *(Between sleep and wake)* Let this bitch go!

Souri: What did you say? I am talking to you!

Grandmother: *(Scared and closes her eyes)* I am having a dream! With a bitch in it!

Souri: I will go! I have a place everywhere! But know this! The day you are looking at my empty space you must know that I left you because of your foolishness and your imaginations. You brought me to a level that I had to eat the rotten cake that you brought from the café by the sink! You know I didn’t dye my hair for how long? Do you understand? Is it not important? Is it? Tomorrow you will say that I was become old and you didn’t want me anymore! This happened to Badri too! You ruined my star Shamdani!

*(Souri wants to leave but Shamdani stops her.)*

 Shamdani: Souri wait! *(Innocent)* Tell me… What should I do?

Souri: *(Long silence)* … Call Touraj and tell him that we go to his house tomorrow noon.

Fereshteh: If we didn’t find the ticket?

Souri: Then we can't do anything.

Faramarz: One million dollars! Where are you Ali X3? We will help you dad.

Fereshteh: It's inhumane!

Souri: I didn’t know you studied philosophy too!

Fereshteh: Mom!

*(Silence. Grandmother is whispering some prayers. Shamdani goes to the phone and dials a number. Then it connects. Everyone is looking at him)*

Shamdani: hello… Touraj! ...it's Akbar Shamdani!

*(Everyone except Fereshteh and Grandmother are happy while exiting. Shamdani exits to continue the call. Grandmother moves hardly and wants to exit.)*

Fereshteh: Where are you going Grandmother?

Grandmother: None… call the 911!

*(Exits. Gholam enters with a wet cloth in Fereshteh's presence and looks at her and audiences but doesn’t say anything. Other people enter too and moving the accessories outside the stage. Gholam is looking at Fereshteh and audiences again then exits. The stage is empty now. Fereshteh comes towards us and stands under the spot light.)*

Fereshteh: It wasn’t a bad night at first. I couldn’t stop them doing their plan. I think the uncle knew it but he was a gentleman and didn’t say anything. I don’t know maybe it was my imagination… My dad forced him to drink. Mom put the powder in the meal and in the drinks too. Dad was cautious but he drank hard. And he said: Tonight I am so smart and bright that I can hear an ant moving in the kitchen! I don’t know why he didn’t heard mom talking to Badri about the one million dollars while making the meal. We were eating and laughing then uncle dropped on the table. It wasn’t hard it was in his jacket. But when we were finished a bitter waiting started. We didn’t know to leave him or wait till he wakes up. Everyone wanted to wait and see that he is alright… but I wanted to tell him how I felt for him from the moment we came to L.A. a feeling that many others before me told him, but maybe mine was different. His age wasn’t important for me. I didn’t know to tell him I love you or I'm in love with you. With the first one he was mine but with the second one I was his. And to a person with lots of experience. It was more dangerous that the Russian roulette. My mom was right, maybe I should study philosophy! But a bigger danger was on the way. *(Pause.)* Uncle didn’t wake up. Never ever! He told that the dose must be controlled. Forensics said: stroke by using too much of that Dallas drug! Until then only I was sad then my mother started to scream in front of him, dad didn’t know what to do. When we asked grandmother where is she going she said not your business and called 911 for real. My dad took all the responsibilities. My mother is in an asylum, my dad is in a prison and grandmother is in a caring home. Only Faramarz and I are remained. He always think of you and we want to return but we can't. I wanted to help him this way. He was mom's Fafar and now he is very sad. If you can come to Turkey or where we can see you. He is always talking about you Ali. We… don’t have any… money for… this… trip… but if you can… for your friend before he becomes like mom… help him to see you. I hope my negative answer doesn’t stop you from reading this E-Mail.

See you soon

Fereshteh

P.S. This is the eleventh time that I send this mail for you, where are you?

*(Gholam enters slowly and doesn’t have a piece of cloth. Fereshteh moves away from the light and goes to a frame where all of the family is standing in it with a fake smile. Gholam smiles at audiences and says.)*

Gholam: I found it in their home. It didn’t have a date.

*Darkness.*