

the Undertaker of Baghdad

By

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EXT. OUTSIDE PEACE LTD. - DAY

AHMED, in his mid twenties, thin and has a dark skin and a scar on his right cheek, waiting next to a black Benz, NABIL in his late thirties, his Dark hair is getting gray and he is wearing a formal dark suite.

NABIL  
we should pass by the "AGENCY"  
first .. we still have time

Ahmed looks uneasy and try to say something, he stops and then in a low voice he says

AHMED  
yeah sure ..

INT. INSIDE THE BLACK BENZ(DRIVING IN THE CITY) - DAY

Nabil is absent minded, Ahmed is looking at him from time to time through the mirror

AHMED  
the receptionist told me you got a  
call from the Agency

Nabil take a deep breath

NABIL  
yeah, i am scheduled... so i guess  
i need to collect my badge

Ahmed looks to Nabil for a second, then take his sun glasses from his pocket and puts them on.

NABIL  
what do have today

Ahmed stays silent for a second

AHMED  
Just the Gate of Baghdad, the one  
sponsored by that charity  
Organization, we are meeting the  
men there later

INT. INSIDE THE AGENCY - DAY

a huge hall, in the middle desks are organized in lines, a huge LOGO taking the most of the back wall and under it "The Governmental Agency for Organizing Civil Violence Casualties".

Nabil was passing by the desks listening to the conversations happening near him, he hears one man trying to choose how he will day next month, another is wondering if it will be alright if he finds a replacement for him as he is has a dentist appointment that day

he passes all that to an announcement board that has "N" on top of it in big font, he tries to find his name and then takes a Ticket and waits in the queue

EXT. IN SIDE THE BLACK BENZ - DAY

Nabil is smoking and looking out through the window to the dry desert, while Ahmed is driving. in the back seat there is a thick folder, with the Agency's logo on it and a plastic package with the same logo but in red under the logo "Nabil Housain" is written in big font

AHMED

so ? ...

Nabil looks at the smoke coming of his cigarette, and takes a deep breath.

NABIL

3 weeks, 3 weeks and some change

AHMED

some change huh,

I see Ahmed goes silent, while Nabil is humming an old tune while leaning his head against the side window

AHMED

almost there

NABIL

let the men know

Ahmed talks in the radio while Nabil looks through the front glass to the gate of Baghdad.

CUT TO

EXT. BY THE GATE OF BAGHDAD (WIDE SHOT)- DAY

by the high way, not far away from the gate of Baghdad, a group of vehicles are parked. the Benz and the two gray vans are in the back, an ambulance and a fire truck are in the front closer to the gate.

A group of people are gathered, most of them have the badge around their chest, most of the badges have the same date "3rd of may 2011".

near the people there is a table two men in dark suites, are doing some paper work while Ahmed is talking to them. he takes some paper and walks to the Benz.

4 EXT. BY THE GATE OF BAGHDAD- DAY

Nabil's door is open and he is opening the plastic package, he picks the badge and put it on his lap, and quickly looks to the pink paper that came out with it, Ahmed has reached now

AHMED  
guess what?

Ahmed looks to the badge on Nabil's lap, Nabil's steps out

NABIL  
media is late again

he tries to put on the badge, Ahmed help him gets it around his back

AHMED  
even the suicidal bomber is here in  
time

finally the badge is in it's place, the date on it was 26th of may 2011.

NABIL  
is he waring a gray coat?

AHMED  
they always do, to hide the stuff,  
as if no body knows what is going  
on

Nabil looks at the guy in the gray coat having some tea with the ambulance driver by the shadow of one of the trucks.

(CONTINUED)

NABIL  
are we ready then?

AHMED  
getting there, do you have any  
instructions

NABIL  
just the usual

Ahmed walks away, Nabil lights a cigarette, lean on the car and looks to the wide desert. he notice a 14 years old girl, sitting on a hill near by next to and old man. For a moment she looked straight to him as if she knew he was looking at her. then she looked away.

EXT. BY THE GATE OF BAGHDAD - SUNSET

the sun is setting down and the sky is colored with orange, media vans are around, "the Truth behind the Truth" is printed on the vans.

Two journalists are taking comments from the people and the suicide bomber is getting ready. they all take a memorial photo.

they all stand together forming a circle and the two journalists are talking to their cameras.

BOOM !

the Journalists still talking to the camera, the City Officials packing their stuff, fire fighters taking care of the fire.

Nabil steps out he looks to the explosion area, he notices the body of the girl he shake his head and then looks to the horizon.

Ahmed helps the men in the other two van which came with them, they are taking out black bags and preparing tags.

EXT. WAY HOME (AROUND THE CAR)- NIGHT

the Benz driving through Baghdad, it passes on the al-Sarafiya bridge on the other end a huge sign board is giving information about how many people died this day and how many to die tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

after they passed the bridge they pass by the a building with no front wall, a family in the third floor were having dinner while in another flat a man watching TV and smoking, in another flat laundry is left to dry as if the leaving room is just a big window.

other buildings were damaged in different ways, mostly having bullet holes

they stopped in the traffic jam, in front of them a building tilting on another, because there is a huge emptiness in what was its second floors, now it looks more like a bridge, rope ladders are coming out of the windows, on one of the rope ladders a 12 years old kid claiming with a bag of groceries

INT. WAY HOME (INSIDE THE CAR) - NIGHT

Ahmed stops the car, looks at the traffic jam, take a deep breath, he looks to Nabil

AHMED

you would think by now there is not  
enough people here to create  
traffic jam

Nabil smiles and does not look back

AHMED

so whats your plan ?

Nabil picks his pack of cigarettes and roll his eyes

NABIL

i do not know my friend, to die i  
guess

Nabil lights his cigarette and offer Ahmed one too, Ahmed takes it, Nabil lights it for him.

NABIL

the way I see it, if death is the  
opposite of life then it must be a  
grand thing

he stair at the window looking to nothing, then he looks to Ahmed

NABIL

Death has been my friend for a  
while, it gave me status and a bit  
of cash, it is time to try it first  
hand

(CONTINUED)

AHMED

you make it sound like a game or a  
show.

Nabil laughs and then cough till he tears

NABIL

trust me if this was a show, i  
would respectful return my  
ticket... i wont even ask for a  
refund

the jam was loosing, Ahmed starts the car, they pass under  
the bridge building.

INT. DREAM (DARKNESS) - NIGHT

Darkness!! the sound of wind is very loud, flashes of what  
seems like a machine gun, a 2 far away explosions, the sound  
of a heavy breathing and then a very explosion happen. and  
all go silent a very sharp tune is getting louder and then  
suddenly it stops a deep angry voice is humming and then it  
screams

VOICE (V.O)

Nabil Housain !! , stand to be  
judged

Nabil is trying to ask something but all he could hear  
himself say is confused sounds

VOICE (V.O)

you are guilty !!

CUT TO:

INT. NABIL'S BED ROOM - NIGHT

in a big bed room, Nabil is in his bed waking up from a  
night mare, he is alone, the room looks simple, a fan is  
spinning over the bed.

he sits up, hold his head with both his hands for a moment  
and then drink some water from the table near by.

INT. INSIDE PEACE LTD - DAY

a young boy (EDDIE), 14 years old with black short hair and dark skin, wearing old gray trousers much bigger than his size and a pale old blue T-shirt.

he is carrying a tray with 5 cups of tea and coffee, and he keeps looking at them worried that they he might spill them.

he reaches a door a sign on it says "Sales and finance", he puts the tray on the floor, opens the door, he walks into a small hall

in the the hall there 5 desk (3 of them are empty) and phones are ringing, he walk to the first desk, to MS FATIMA's desk she is on the phone talking.

MS. FATIMA

the price of a Muslim suni funeral starts from 70\$ the Shaii starts 65\$ .... other sects vary depending on the market price.

Ms. Fatima smiles to Eddie and cleans one of her nails while listening to the other end of the phone

MS. FATIMA (CONT'D)

if it 3 costumers or above there is a 25% discount

Eddie puts the blue cup on her desk and moves to another desk where MR.SALEEM is talking to in the phone

MR.SALEEM

sir i assure you, you will not find a better service in Baghdad. and for the business we do, we always welcome new investors.

Eddie puts the big white cup on Mr.Saleem's Desk and leaves the hall.

INT. NABIL'S OFFICE - DAY

a fairly big office, Nabil is looking out side his window, Ahmed is sitting on the sofa.

AHMED

so is there anything else you wish me to do

Nabil smiles, he walks to his desk and picks up his cigarette from the ash tray.

(CONTINUED)

NABIL  
as the new director, you should  
offer me a good deal for my  
funereal

Ahmed smiles and looks to the floor

AHMED  
it will be on the house

Ahmed looks to Nabil

AHMED  
you should take sometime off, you  
know

Knocks on the Door, Nabil smiles

NABIL  
come in

Eddie opens the door then picks the tray from the floor and  
comes in, he looks for a moment to the badge on Nabil's  
chest

NABIL  
Eddie you are you big man now, when  
will you get married

Nabil winks to Ahmed who smiles reluctantly, Eddie acts shy  
and almost spill the coffee cups.

EDDIE  
actually sir, i wanted to ask you  
something...

Eddie puts on mug near Ahmed, he walks to word Nabil's Desk  
and put the last mug.

NABIL  
sure Eddie ..

Eddie holds the tray close to him and looks to the ground

EDDIE  
i have been scheduled yesterday,  
and my mother asked me if my  
brother can replace me when the  
time comes

Nabil struggles to hold his smile, he looks to Ahmed

NABIL  
sure Eddie

Eddie turns back and walks out of the office and closes the door

INT. INSIDE THE AGENCY (DREAM) - NIGHT

the hall, looks much bigger than the real one, in the back wall where the huge logo used to be there is a black hall.

people with no faces, they all look identical, gray suits and all have knives and cutting pieces off human parts.

it all go dark, the same deep angry voice of the previous nightmare

VOICE (V.O)  
Nabil Housain you are guilty!!

INT. INSIDE THE AGENCY - NIGHT

Nabil is standing with a big bag on his shoulder, he is in a large hall it looks much bigger in his dream

he looks to the huge Logo at the end of the hall, he spits on the floor and stops himself from lighting a cigarette in the last second,

he moves around putting C4 packages then connecting them he sits in the corner holding the trigger in his hand. lights a cigarette, smoke it for a moment

NABIL  
let's just hope this will buy Eddie  
few more days..

he smiles

NABIL  
i wonder how many people died days  
before their scheduled day.. that  
will make somebody angry

he looks around him..

NABIL  
i was looking forward for the  
memorial photo..

BOOM!!