

Redemption

By Qasim Ansari

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Redemption

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

1

DANIEL (mid 30s) walks through a huge cemetery. He is wearing a long black coat and has some flowers in his hand. His consistent pace and lack of pausing highlight the fact that he has been here many times.

Finally he gets to the grave he has come to see. Kneeling down in front of it he puts the flowers down.

He pauses for a moment and is visibly emotional.

DANIEL

Sorry I haven't been to see you for a while Natalie. I really should come here more often.
I have to talk to you about Naomi and me.

He pauses.

I won't lie to you. I think she is special.

Daniel looks away and then returns his gaze onto the gravestone.

I never thought I'd find someone who connected with me like you did. Like I've told you many times already I wasn't sure I'd be able to commit to another girl.
I wish you were still here.
You were my heart and soul.

Daniel sheds a few tears, trying hard to hold the rest back.

I want you to know that no matter what happens with Naomi, and me I'll always love you. You'll always be my girl.

Just then, his pager vibrates. He looks and sees that it's Tony.

I have to go to work but I'll see you again soon. I promise.
Bye sweetheart.

Daniel looks up the heavens and touches his heart. He then gets up and leaves.

2 EXT. TONY'S HOUSE - DAY

2

Daniel approaches the front door to a nice detached house. He rings the doorbell. Within a few moments CRISTINA (mid-20s) answers the door. She is happy to see him.

CRISTINA

Hello boy!

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2 CONTINUED (2)

DANIEL

Hey Cris.

They hug each other very warmly highlighting how long it has been and also how close they are.

CRISTINA

It's been a long time. How have you been?

DANIEL

I've never been better. Having a few months away has worked wonders for me. You look fabulous.

CRISTINA

Thank you. You're not too bad yourself

DANIEL

You think so?

CRISTINA

You look really happy. I haven't seen you for a while but you look very pleased with life. She must be special.

DANIEL

Don't tell me that I'm that obvious.

CRISTINA

Nothing else would make you so happy. I know you too well.

DANIEL

That you do. Where is your wonderful husband?

Cristina points Daniel to the back garden.

CRISTINA

He's sitting in the back garden.

DANIEL

Some things never change.

CRISTINA

I'll leave you boys to it.

DANIEL

Thanks Cris. We'll catch up afterwards.

Cristina heads for the kitchen. Daniel walks through the house towards the back garden. Sitting alone at a large wooden table is TONY (mid 30s). He is sitting at the table, reading a newspaper, smoking a cigar and drinking a scotch on the rocks. Opposite him is an empty chair with a glass and a small jug of

(CONTINUED)

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2 CONTINUED (3)

water placed very neatly on the right hand side.

As Daniel comes out into the garden, Tony gets up to meet him.

TONY

Danny boy!

They warmly shake hands.

DANIEL

It's nice to see you again Tony.

They both settle down opposite each other at the table. Daniel takes off his glasses and puts them down on his left-hand side. He then proceeds to pour himself a glass of water.

TONY

It's been a while. I'm so used to you popping by every two to three weeks. You have missed some good work.

DANIEL

I've been training.

TONY

Bollocks Danny, I know what you've been up to. Since when has a girl been the top of your priorities?

DANIEL

She isn't just another girl Tony. Naomi is something special.

TONY

I thought you said that after Natalie there was never going to be another time you'd fully commit to a girl.

DANIEL

Things change Tony. We've been seeing each other for almost six months and I have a feeling inside that she is different.

TONY

I'm happy for you kid but you and I both know that girls are excess baggage in your line of work.

DANIEL

That is why I want to leave.

TONY

We have talked about this before.

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2 CONTINUED (4)

DANIEL

I'm serious this time Tony.

TONY

I've spoken to Benjamin about your desire to leave and he isn't too pleased.

DANIEL

Why not?

TONY

This isn't an office job. You can't just get up from behind your desk and tell your boss you quit.

DANIEL

Come on Tony, I've paid my debt to Benjamin. It's been nearly ten years.

TONY

He doesn't think so. The past year has seen you only do a handful of jobs and now that Naomi has come into the picture you've become even more laid back.

DANIEL

Look Tony, I have to get out. I really like Naomi and want to make her happy.

TONY

I feel for you Danny but you can't just walk out on Benjamin. It's not just the favour he did for you; it's the fact that you're the best he's got. He even has fears of losing you to his rivals.

DANIEL

The guy sounds paranoid. Does he really think that after ten years of service, I'm just going to betray him?

Beat.

Tony, I quit being a good guy a long time ago. I've seen loads of fucked up shit and I've done some terrible things that will see me condemned to hell.

TONY

You want redemption, go and see a priest.

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2 CONTINUED (5)

DANIEL

Quit joking around mate, I'm serious.

TONY

You've been chatting about this for over a year. Why should I take you seriously now just because you've met some girl?

DANIEL

There was a time I didn't really care about anything. I was a man fuelled by rage and revenge.

Beat.

And now I've met Naomi and she makes me feel so happy. I can't be the bad guy anymore.

He pauses. Tony decides to inject some momentum.

TONY

Enough with the melodrama listen up. I'll talk to Benjamin about your situation and try to convince him to let you go. Might help if you take on this job. This guy is on his 'A' list.

DANIEL

Give me the brief.

TONY

The guys name is HASHIM MALIK. He used to be a key man in our East London network but is now causing Benjamin much grief. Silence him.

He hands Daniel a CD-Rom. It has no markings on it and is in a simple plastic case. Daniel takes it, quickly finishes his drink and gets up to leave.

DANIEL

Consider it done.

He heads for the door. Before he enters the house he looks back to Tony.

And Tony.

Tony looks up.

You tell Benjamin that after this I'm gone.

Daniel leaves.

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3 EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY (MONTAGE) 3

Daniel is in deep thought. He goes and sits on a lonely bench in a busy park. He watches all kinds of people go by and sees the life he wants to lead. It's a life that was taken from him once before and now he wants a second chance.

4 INT. NAOMI'S APPARTMENT - NIGHT 4

Daniel and Naomi enter her apartment having just come back from seeing the film, 'Closer'. They are discussing the film as they walk through to the kitchen.

NAOMI

I'm not saying it was a bad film only that it was a little far-fetched at times.

DANIEL

At what point?

They both simultaneously go for the fridge freezer. Naomi gets out a tub of ice cream and Daniel gets a can of coke.

NAOMI

When Clive Owen meets Natalie Portman in the strip club.

DANIEL

She's a stripper and he's a horny rich guy.

Both of them settle down in the kitchen. Naomi sits by the table whilst Daniel is content to stand and lean on the kitchen counter.

NAOMI

They're lots of strip clubs in London.

DANIEL

They're lots of people in London as well. The film is based around chance and that instant connection that two people feel towards each other. Look at how you and I met in that café.

NAOMI

You happened to be sitting practically opposite me and we were reading the same book.

DANIEL

'Deception Point' by Dan Brown.

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4 CONTINUED (2)

NAOMI

I see your point.

DANIEL

Exactly. I mean what are the chances of that? And look at us now.

NAOMI

What about us?

DANIEL

We've become 'closer'.

Beat.

NAOMI

A lot closer.

Daniel decides to sit opposite her at the table.

DANIEL

By the way, I want to ask you something. Am I more like Jude Law or Clive Owen when it comes to sex?

NAOMI

Good question.

She prepares a good response.

It's funny; in the beginning you were more like Clive, a bit intense and a little rough. But recently you've become gentler and a lot more romantic, so you're now like Jude. But you don't ever close your eyes.

DANIEL

Thank heavens for that!

NAOMI

I know! That is a bit too sensitive for my liking.

DANIEL

So which do you prefer, fucking like Clive or making love like Jude?

NAOMI

I'm like Natalie I like it gentler. I prefer you now.

After hearing her say the name shared by his dead wife, Daniel has an unnatural pause. He drifts into his own thoughts.

DANIEL

Natalie...

(CONTINUED)

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4 CONTINUED (3)

NAOMI

What?

Daniel moves towards her.

DANIEL

You're just like Natalie.

He touches her hair and looks into her eyes.

NAOMI

Are you all right?

DANIEL

Yeah I'm fine.

He leans over and kisses her.

5 INT. NAOMI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

5

Daniel and Naomi are in bed. Naomi is asleep. Daniel makes a quiet exit fetching his clothes from around the room. His efforts to make a quiet exit are in vain and she wakes up.

DANIEL

Sorry, didn't mean to wake you.

NAOMI

Okay Jude. Where are you going?

DANIEL

I feel like having a coke.

NAOMI

You should stop drinking fizzy drinks.

DANIEL

And why is that? Tooth decay?

He returns to the bed whilst Naomi is talking.

NAOMI

Aspartame. It's an artificial sweetener found in almost all fizzy drinks. It's been designed to suppress the brain, particularly children. Helps keep them under control.

DANIEL

You love conspiracies even more than me.

NAOMI

There is always another side to a story.

(CONTINUED)

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5 CONTINUED (2)

DANIEL

Is that so? All right Scully, I'll try and cut down.

NAOMI

Scully's the sceptic, I'm more like Mulder.

DANIEL

All right Fox. You know what was so weird about that show? How they kept calling each other by their second names even when they became lovers!

NAOMI

I know. Can you imagine if we did that?

DANIEL

We'd be Horsefield and Mendes.

NAOMI

That would never make it to the screen!

DANIEL

Listen sweetie I can't stay the night. Have to start work early tomorrow.

NAOMI

Come on Daniel, stay the night.

DANIEL

You know I'd love to but I have to go. Get to sleep and I'll see you tomorrow.

NAOMI

Okay. Good night.

DANIEL

Pleasant dreams.

He kisses her good night and leaves the bedroom. Naomi turns over to her side and goes back to sleep.

6 CUT TO: 6

7 INT. NAOMI'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

7

Daniel is leaning on the kitchen counter drinking his coke and is in deep contemplation. Just then Naomi walks in, her hair slightly messed up but looking more awake than she was before.

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7 CONTINUED (2)

DANIEL

Why are you up?

NAOMI

I have to chain the door when you leave.

DANIEL

You don't have to chain it.

NAOMI

Don't be silly.

DANIEL

Control freak.

NAOMI

You're one to talk.

8 INT. NAOMI'S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

8

Naomi lets Daniel out of her apartment. She holds the door open as he turns to say goodbye again.

DANIEL

See you soon.

They come together for a quick kiss.

NAOMI

Bye Jude.

She smiles and then closes the door. Daniel is left alone in the hallway. He pauses for a moment and smiles.

9 INT. DANIEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

9

An alarm clock goes off at 7.30am.

Daniel wakes up and heads to the bathroom to wash his face. He pauses for a moment and looks at his reflection in the mirror.

He then begins his routine morning drill of preparing himself for the day ahead.

He places a briefcase onto the table in his kitchen. He opens it revealing an array of handguns and various accessories. Picking out a few of them he examines them and practices his aim.

Daniel puts on his dark glasses and looks at himself once again in the bathroom mirror. Adjusting his hair he pauses for a moment before leaving.

Finally he puts on the same coat he was wearing at the meeting with Tony. He grabs the briefcase from the table and heads out of his apartment.

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10 EXT. HASHIM'S APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY 10

A car parks next to a large apartment block.

Inside the car are Daniel and his GETAWAY DRIVER (mid 20s).

DANIEL

Lets go through the brief one last time.

DRIVER

For god sake Daniel we've gone over it six times! I'm not an idiot.

DANIEL

That kind of arrogance is exactly why I want you to go over it again.

DRIVER

I drive round the block twice and return to this exact spot. You come out of the backdoor and then we casually drive away. Are you satisfied?

DANIEL

Just get it right kid.

Daniel gets out of the car and watches the driver speed off. He then heads for the backdoor. Taking a lock pick out of his coat pocket he quickly opens the door and goes inside.

11 INT. HASHIM'S APARTMENT - DAY 11

(INTERCUT with Daniel making his way to him)

HASHIM MALIK, mid-20s Asian origin, is eating breakfast with three other Asian men of similar age, all of them armed with guns. Hashim is sitting on his own on the best chair with the other men sharing whatever furniture they can find.

The room is filled with stacks of money and cases filled with drugs.

They are all dressed in casual attire and are watching television in silence. Hashim tries to liven up the atmosphere with a joke.

HASHIM

(In Punjabi)

Hey boys, listen to this joke. There are three construction workers, an Englishman, a Scotsman and a Sikh working high up on scaffoldings in New York.

Daniel enters the main hallway and heads for the elevator.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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11 CONTINUED (2)

HASHIM (CONT'D)

They each have a packed lunch and have been talking about how they are sick and tired of their wives making the same thing everyday.

Daniel enters the elevator.

The Englishman opens his lunch box and finds sausage rolls. He is furious and tells the others if he sees another sausage roll in his lunchbox tomorrow he will jump off to his death.

Daniel inspects himself in the elevator mirror.

The Scot opens his lunch box and finds haggish with a side helping of pig scabs. He is also angry and tells the others that if his lunch is the same tomorrow he'll also jump off.

Daniel exits the lift and heads for the apartment door.

Finally the Sikh opens his lunch box and finds Arloo Parkoras and Keema Paratas. He is also livid and tells the other he'll also jump if he gets the same again tomorrow.

Daniel stands outside the door and can hear Hashim talking very loudly inside. He takes out his lock pick and quietly opens the door.

The next day they all open their lunchboxes one at a time.

The Englishman sees the same food again and jumps off.

The Scot also finds the same lunch awaiting him and also jumps to his death.

Finally the Sikh opens his lunchbox and finds the same meal. He too jumps to his death.

Later that day their wives are at the morgue to identify their bodies. They are all in shock.

The Englishman's wife shouts, 'if only he told me he could not stand sausage rolls anymore'.

The Scots wife shouts, 'if only he told me he'd have enough haggish and pig scabs'.

The Sikhs wife is can't understand why her husband jumped. 'Don't look at me' she shouted, 'HE MADE HIS OWN LUNCH!'

The room explodes with laughter. Everyone goes hysterical.

(CONTINUED)

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11 CONTINUED (3)

Suddenly out of nowhere several gunshots go off.

Everyone except Hashim is killed instantly.

Hashim is left alone in a room filled with dead bodies. He is in complete shock.

Daniel approaches the table where all the food is. Hashim tries to emphasise his status amongst those in the crime world.

HASHIM

(In English)

Are you crazy man? Do you have any idea who I am? I've got connections man you can't touch me.

Beat.

Who sent you?

Daniel ignores him and instead inspects some of the food.

HASHIM

It was Benjamin wasn't it?

Daniel remains silent, now looking at a tikka. Realising he is going to die, Hashim resorts to begging for his life.

HASHIM

Listen bro, whatever he's paying you I'll triple it right now. You see that briefcase over there? It's worth over fifty grand.

Daniel looks at the briefcase very briefly and then moves closer to the table. Without warning he tosses the table over and stands over Hashim who is now shaking.

DANIEL

It amazes me how an incompetent shit like yourself could get his hands on so much money.

HASHIM

Come on man please don't do this. I'm just doing business.

DANIEL

So am I.

Daniel takes aim for Hashim's head.

HASHIM

NO!

He fires twice. Hashim falls to the ground. Daniel fires two more times and then makes a quick exit.

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12 INT. HASHIM'S BUILDING - DAY 12

Daniel quickly makes his way back to the getaway point using the stairs instead of the elevator. He doesn't run but walks very briskly.

13 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY 13

Daniel emerges from the backdoor and to his horror there is no getaway car waiting for him.

DANIEL

What the fuck? That piece of shit! I'll murder the bastard!

He quickly makes his way to the nearest bus stop where he is left to wait very nervously for his means of escape. Feeling the tension he cannot stand still and is constantly shuffling about.

He is not a happy man.

14 INT. TONY'S HOUSE - DAY 14

The doorbell rings. Cristina goes to answer the door. In front of her is PHIL (early 30s), Benjamin's personal bodyguard. She is surprised to see him and is fully aware that this is not a social call. She sees a car in the background and can see someone sitting in the back. It must be Benjamin.

CRISTINA

Hey Phil, it's been ages. What's the occasion?

PHIL

Hi Cristina. Is your man in?

CRISTINA

Always.

PHIL

Call him. Benjamin wants to discuss business. We'll be in the study.

CRISTINA

Okay no problem.

Cristina goes to get Tony. Phil goes back to the car to get Benjamin.

15 EXT. BUS STOP - DAY 15

Daniel, still fuming with rage, steps out of the bus and quickly calls Tony.

(CONTINUED)

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15 CONTINUED (2)

DANIEL

Damn you, you bastard! Are you surprised to hear my voice? No one told me there were three guys armed with guns. I'm lucky that Hashim was such an incompetent fucking idiot! And then your getaway driver left me for dead. Benjamin tried to set me up. You tell him that if he ever tries to come after me, I'll kill him. This is it Tony. I'm never coming back.

He hangs up.

16 INT. DARK OFFICE - DAY

16

Tony puts his phone into his coat pocket and looks upset. He is in a dark office room sitting in front of a big desk. Behind the desk is BENJAMIN who is hidden from view.

BENJAMIN

I trust that was Daniel?

TONY

Yes.

BENJAMIN

I told you he would call you.

TONY

He said that he quit. Thought you'd set him up.

BENJAMIN

Daniel has progressively become more of a liability. The hit on Hashim was nothing he couldn't handle and I don't like his attitude. The getaway driver was just a little prank on my part. No one walks out on me. He knows that.

TONY

What do you want me to do?

BENJAMIN

I've given this some serious thought and see no other alternative. It is time for me to tie up loose ends. His relationship with the girl is about to end. Make it happen.

TONY

Benjamin, please reconsider.

(CONTINUED)

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16 CONTINUED (2)

BENJAMIN

I don't like the way you have a personal attachment to the man. These people are our assets Tony and we should not take it any further.

Beat.

Now make the call.

Tony looks visibly upset as he gets out his phone to order the death of Daniel, who he is very fond of. But with Benjamin looking on he has no choice or else he could join him.

With tears in his eyes he quick dials a number and almost immediately gets an answer.

TONY

Yeah, it's Tony.

He looks at Benjamin and pauses.
Kill him.

17 INT. NAOMI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

17

Daniel knocks on Naomi's apartment door. After a few minutes she answers. She is wearing her night suit and looks half asleep.

DANIEL

Sorry to wake you sweetie.

She immediately opens the door and lets him in. She is visibly a little upset.

NAOMI

You're late.

DANIEL

I have to leave the country tonight.
Please come with me?

NAOMI

Leave the country?

DANIEL

Yes. I want to get out of here for a while. Come with me.

NAOMI

What's wrong Daniel?

DANIEL

I can't explain it now. We have to hurry and pack your stuff.

(CONTINUED)

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17 CONTINUED (2)

NAOMI

You're freaking me out Daniel. Tell me what is going on.

DANIEL

There is no time.

NAOMI

After all this time you still won't tell me the whole truth.

DANIEL

Please Naomi not now.

NAOMI

You still won't let me in. What are you hiding from me?

Daniel loses his cool.

DANIEL

You want to know the truth? Okay, we're in a lot of danger and if we don't get out of here by tonight we could both be dead.

NAOMI

What the hell are you talking about? What have you done Daniel?

She starts to cry.

DANIEL

Oh come on Naomi, not now please.

NAOMI

Fuck you, after all this time you still lie to me.

Seeing her cry eases his tension. He comforts her with a warm hug and then wipes the tears from her face.

DANIEL

I know I haven't told you everything but I swear to you that once we are out of here I will tell you everything. Believe me Naomi, I will tell you everything.

Beat.

Naomi stop crying. We have to leave. Let's quickly pack your things. We'll go to my place.

He kisses her on the forehead and heads for her bedroom. Naomi remains in the hallway still looking very upset.

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18 INT. TONY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

18

Tony is visibly very upset. He is in deep contemplation and is constantly looking at his phone. Cristina notices that he is in bad shape and tries to comfort him. She puts her arms around him. He responds very warmly.

CRISTINA

What's wrong?

TONY

Nothing. I'll be fine.

CRISTINA

You're not a very good liar.

TONY

Not with you I'm not.

CRISTINA

Benjamin wants you to kill Danny doesn't he?

Tony starts to cry. Cristina knows that she is right and also starts to cry. They both hold each other warmly.

CRISTINA

Oh my God. Danny...

19 INT. DANIEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

19

Daniel and Naomi enter the apartment. In the hallway are two packed suitcases that he has done earlier. He heads straight for his bedroom. Naomi just hangs around in the hallway.

DANIEL

I just need to grab a few more things.

Naomi remains silent and looks unhappy.

Daniel grabs a large carrier bag and heads for the bathroom to collect his last bits of toiletries.

DANIEL

I won't be long.

He quickly puts everything into the bag in no particular order whilst continuing to talk to himself. Looking around the bathroom for anything else he turns and heads for the hallway with the bag in his hand.

As he steps in he feels a huge thud on his chest. He looks ahead and sees Naomi with a gun aiming straight at him. He looks down and sees a bullet wound on the right-hand side of his chest.

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19 CONTINUED (2)

Daniel is in shock. He collapses to his knees.

Naomi comes closer and looks down onto him.

NAOMI

No one turns their back on Benjamin,
Daniel, not even someone as good as
you. Tony knew this. So did I.

Daniel falls onto his side still with a shocked look on his
face.

Don't look so surprised Daniel.
Benjamin knew you were a hard man to
get to. He was concerned about you long
before you met me.

She pauses. Daniel is still lost for words.

I just never expected him to take so
long to come to a decision.

She pauses again.

It was not easy for me to do this,
believe me.

Daniel suddenly starts to smile. He now sees the irony of the
situation. He thought that Naomi would give him a new life and
in a way she has.

NAOMI

What's so funny Danny?

Beat.

DANIEL

You've set me free.

Naomi looks into his eyes. Pointing the gun at his head she
pauses for a moment.

NAOMI

Goodbye Jude.

She then closes her eyes and pulls the trigger.