

H: NARIN: By the River Tigris, 2014

In a bleak cinderblock house by the River Tigris in 2014, Narin scrubs pots amid a tense atmosphere marked by militant frustration over losses in battle. The commander abuses the two newly acquired Yazidi women. One, a younger woman, cries constantly, while the elder attempts suicide, resulting in brutal punishment from the commander. Narin, tasked with serving tea, nervously enters a room full of militants only to be grabbed and spun around before being saved by the commander, who scolds her captor and drops her unceremoniously.

Three days later, conversations in the kitchen reveal the commander's wife believes that Narin is cursed, responsible for her husband's impending death. Agitated by the hostility, Narin attempts to avoid the commander's wife, but their encounters are frequent and uncomfortable. The commander eventually informs Narin that she will be sold to a new owner in Antep due to her "bad luck." Devastated, Narin pleads for her friend Salma but is denied. Horrified by the implications of her new master's appetite for young girls, she fears there is no chance of escape given the brutal realities faced by those who resist.

In despair, Narin stumbles upon a clay tablet while seeking support, reminiscent of the ones she learned about from her grandmother. Her brief moment of joy turns to terror when the commander discovers her. He violently reprimands her by striking her and subsequently kicks her while she is incapacitated. After regaining consciousness, Narin encounters a doctor and the commander, who reveals he wants her to read the tablet as part of his looting and selling scheme involving antiquities.

Narin learns that the militants not only commit violence but profit from stolen artifacts, perpetuating a cycle of destruction and greed. The commander presents her with a lapis lazuli tablet, demanding she reads it for potential profit. In a moment of defiance, she extracts a promise that Salma must not be harmed. Faced with the reality of her friend's suffering as a result of the commander's viciousness, Narin succumbs to despair, feeling only numbness as she awaits an inevitable demise.