

H: ZALEEKHAH: By the River Thames, 2018

In a chic enclave of Chelsea, Zaleekhah arrives at her Uncle Malek's home, feeling a sense of estrangement. As she enters, the familiar elements of the garden evoke nostalgia, yet simultaneously highlight her disconnection. She hands over a book, "Nineveh and Its Remains," to Kareem, the doorman, before making her way upstairs past her closed childhood bedroom door.

Zaleekhah enters Uncle Malek's study, a room filled with exquisite decor and an ambiance of warmth. She peeks out the window to see her Uncle and Aunt with Lily, their granddaughter, engaging tenderly with each other, which evokes mixed emotions in her. Intending to leave the book on the coffee table but drawn to an old drawer, she discovers a concerning photograph of a young girl alongside unsettling details about her condition. The image strikes a chord of alarm within her, leading her to take it with her when she abruptly leaves, feeling conflicted and anxious.

Downstairs, Kareem notices her hurried exit, mentioning that Uncle Malek was informed of her visit and would be joining her shortly. Despite his insistence, Zaleekhah asserts the necessity of her departure. Uncle Malek arrives shortly thereafter at a tattoo shop searching for a girl, a scenario that underscores his distress and desperation regarding Lily's health. When Zaleekhah confronts him, he reveals the gravity of the situation: Lily is critically ill, and time is running out for a suitable organ donor.

Uncle Malek explains that he's found a match within a group of Yazidi girls in dire circumstances, indicating that they are often overlooked and neglected. He insists that unbeknownst to most, this arrangement could ultimately benefit all involved, especially the girl, who would be rescued from a life of abuse. However, Zaleekhah is horrified, realizing his proposition amounts to organ harvesting cloaked in paternalistic rationale.

Their argument escalates as she grapples with the morality of his plans and the implications it holds for the girl and her family. Uncle Malek attempts to justify the "arrangement," but Zaleekhah remains resolute in her condemnation of the ethics behind it. Their familial bond, now strained by the revelation of his intentions, forces Zaleekhah to reckon with her uncle's choices and the deeper, darker narrative they encapsulate surrounding their family's dynamics and values.