



1-LS

1C-MS

1D-MCU

1E-MCU

1B-CU insert

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

SAM ONEILL, 17 is on the side of JULIA SMITH, 17, the leader of the pack, who stands with her head facing a mirror inside one of the lockers. She is fixing her lip gloss and notices Aminah's presence out of the corner of her eye.

1A-CU insert

JULIA

(unfazed)

Aminah. Nice of you to join us.

Aminah is taken back by the question. She stands small. Grace continues to apply lip gloss, waiting for a response.

AMINAH

Sorry, class ran late and -

JULIA

(interrupting)

Girls, we have to start planning our homecoming dresses. James is taking that Olivia girl and I have to look better than her. Lets go shopping after school.

AMINAH

Ugh, I can't today.

Julia glares at her.

AMINAH (CONT'D)

My mom signed me up to tutor a student after school.

JULIA

Whatever, we'll just go this weekend.

1F-MCU

Julia continues to ramble on as the Sam stares at her with admiration.

1H-MCU

1G-MS

Suddenly, Aminah notices a student wearing a head scarf just a couple lockers down. RAYAH ABBAS, 15, is putting books in her locker. One book drops to the floor.

The sound attracts Julia's and the rest of the girl's attention. All of them look Rayah's way.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Hah. Check out the new girl.

Julia closes her lockers and leans on the back of it.

**JULIA** (CONT'D)  
God, what is she wearing on her head.

Without hesitating, Aminah answers.

**AMINAH**  
That's a **hijab**.

The girls all turn their heads to face Aminah.

**JULIA**  
(confused)  
What?

**AMINAH**  
I, I mean I think that's what it is. I'm not really sure though.

The girls continue to stare at her.

**JULIA**  
Whatever. Thank god you're not like that Aminah. Let's go.

The girls begin to walk away. Julia makes notices that Rayah is watching them

11-MCU

**JULIA** (CONT'D)  
(annoyed)  
What are you looking at?

Rayah opens her mouth but nothing comes out.

**JULIA** (CONT'D)  
Oh, you don't speak English? You know we speak English here.

The girls continue to walk away. Sam and Julia are laughing. Aminah looks at Rayah as she passes, but says nothing.

2-LS

INT. **HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY** - AFTERNOON

Aminah enters the **school library** and walks over to the **front desk**. She converses with the **librarian** while smiling.

2B-MS

The **librarian** points to a **table** in the far corner. Rayah is sitting at a **table** with a **notebook** open in front of her. As Aminah's gazes shifts towards Rayah, her smile immediately fades.

**AMINAH**  
Rayah?

↻

Rayah turns to see Aminah, who she recognizes from before.

**RAYAH**  
(surprised)  
Oh! Hello.

**AMINAH**  
Hi.

Aminah's eyes stayed fix on Rayah. They are both tense. Aminah reluctantly sits down.

**2E-MCU**  
My name is Aminah and I think I'm your tutor today. Geometry right?

The two continue to stare at eachother.

**RAYAH**  
Right.

**AMINAH**  
Okay.  
(beat)

So let's start on page 93.

Rayah shies away from Aminah and flips the pages of the **math book**.

**AMINAH (CONT'D)**  
(cautiously)  
You're new here, right?

**RAYAH**  
Yeah, um, I got here last week.

**AMINAH**  
Cool. How do you like it?

**RAYAH**  
It's okay, I guess.

**AMINAH**  
Okay?

**RAYAH**  
Yeah, just -

Rayah looks up at Aminah and then back down to her **textbook**.

**RAYAH (CONT'D)**  
It's okay, you wouldn't understand.

2D-MS

2F-MCU

2G-MS

4.

Aminah sees Julia and the rest of her group walk by. She quickly reaches down and pretends to tie her shoes.

2H-CU

Rayah flips the page and begins to work on each question.

3-LS

\*pan

INT. AMINAH'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Mrs. Tahir sits in the living room. Aminah walks through the front door.

3A-MCU

3B-MCU

MRS. TAHIR

Pershendetje Aminah. How did tutoring go today?

AMINAH

It was fine.

MRS. TAHIR

Ok.

(beat)

I was thinking that we could for homecoming dresses for you.

AMINAH

Already made plans with Julia, sorry mom. She said I could borrow one of her old gala dresses if I want.

Aminah walks through the living room and towards the stairs.

4-LS

INT. AMINAH'S BEDROOM - EVENING

4A-MS

Aminah enters her room and closes the door behind her. As she lays down on her bed, she drops her phone in between the mattress and the wall. She reaches down for her phone but grabs something else. Curious as to what it could be, she pulls the item up. In her hands is a picture frame of Aminah with two other girls who are wearing hijabs. Not knowing what to do with it, she puts the photo frame into a drawer.

4B-MCU

\*birds eye angle  
4C-CU  
\*low angle  
4D-MCU

\*over the shoulder

4E-MCU

5-LS

5A-CU

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

\*dolly

Aminah sits with Rayah, who is working on geometry homework. They are focused.

6-LS

6A-MCUEXT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

6B-MCU

Aminah walks with Julia, Annie and Sam through the hallway. They pass Rayah, who waves to Aminah. Aminah does a small wave back, hoping that Julia won't notice.

\*tracking

7-LS

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL QUAD - NOON

7B-MS

Aminah eats lunch with the three other girls. She notices Rayah sitting alone across the quad.

8-LS

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

Aminah sits with Rayah, they continue to work on geometry but they laugh every once in awhile.

9A-MCU

9B-MCU

9C-MLS

9-LS

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Aminah, and Sam surround Julia as she applies lip gloss in the mirror of her locker. Aminah's attention shifts to Rayah who was retrieving items from her locker. Rayah sees her and waves. Julia notices.

JULIA

(to Aminah)

Why is 'Ms. Allah' waving at you?

Julia and Sam laugh.

AMINAH

(quietly)

I don't know.

9D-MS

Aminah looks away from Rayah.

★pan

10-MS

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

10A-MCU

10C-CU

★pan Aminah → Rayah

Rayah and Aminah sit in their usual spot. Rayah's geometry book is open on the table top. Aminah talks through the problems while Rayah is notably distraught.

AMINAH

So then the answer would just be 1.

Aminah looks over to Rayah who is disconnected from the conversation. Aminah knows what is wrong so she ignores asking that question.

AMINAH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for the way my friends treated you.

Aminah looks at Rayah, but still, no response.

AMINAH (CONT'D)

You know when I first met you, you said that I didn't understand.

(MORE)

**AMINAH** (CONT'D)

(beat)  
Well I do.

Rayah lifts her head and looks at Aminah.

**AMINAH** (CONT'D)

I do understand what it's like.

**RAYAH**

What do you mean?

**AMINAH**

I moved to this country, this town  
last year.

(beat)

I was the new girl.

**RAYAH**

I don't understand, you seem like,

(beat)

You seem like -

**AMINAH**

(interrupting)

Like them? I know.

(beat)

I wasn't always like this. When I  
first moved, no one knew who I was.  
It was like I was invisible. All I  
wanted to do was to fit in.

**RAYAH**

How did you do it? Should I change  
my clothes? What should I do?

**AMINAH**

No, no you don't need to do any of  
that.

(beat)

Don't change the person you are.

**RAYAH**

So what do I do?

Aminah looks down, realizing that she got herself in a  
situation that she didn't want to be in.

**AMINAH**

Let's talk in our next session. We  
should head home now, it's getting  
late.

Aminah rises to leave.

Aminah? **RAYAH**

(tired)  
Yeah? **AMINAH**

**RAYAH**  
Do you think I could possibly come with you to the homecoming dance. You're my only friend and -

**AMINAH**  
(explodes)  
No Rayah! We are not friends, I am just your tutor!

Rayah stares at her, horrified. Aminah stares back and leaves.

11-WS

INT. AMINAH'S **LIVING ROOM** - EVENING **11B-MCU**

**11A-MCU**  
Aminah enters through her **front door** to find her mother sitting on the **couch**, waiting for her.

**MRS. TAHIR**  
It is late Aminah. You are home late.

**AMINAH**  
Sorry, my tutoring ran late.

**MRS. TAHIR**  
Next time, tell me.

**AMINAH**  
Okay, I'm sorry, I will.

Aminah confides in her mother; Mrs. Tahir says she's a good person & she is guilty.

~~Mrs. Tahir leans over and grabs a shopping bag and pulls out a long, purple dress with silver lining.~~

**MRS. TAHIR**  
I found the ~~most~~ perfect **homecoming dress** for you. **11C-MS**

Mrs. Tahir points at her **computer screen** as Aminah walks towards her. **11D-MCU**

**AMINAH**  
(shocked)  
Wow, mom, it's beautiful.  
(beat)  
But I can't wear that to school.



Mrs. Tahir looks at her, confused.

**AMINAH** (CONT'D)  
It's just not the type of a dress that girls wear at my school.

**MRS. TAHIR**  
Well, that's okay, you can be different.

**AMINAH**  
(overlapping)  
No, mom, it's not like that.

**MRS. TAHIR**  
(overlapping)  
You said it was beautiful, why don't you -

**AMINAH**  
(explodes)  
Mom, I can't wear that!

The two stare at each other in silence. Both are shocked and confused.

**AMINAH** (CONT'D)  
(quietly)  
I-I'm sorry, I have a lot of homework.

12-LS

12A-MCU

12B-MS

12C-MCU

INT. AMINAH'S **BEDROOM** - NIGHT

☆ birds eye

Aminah is confused as to which just came out of her mouth. Distracting herself, she lays down on her **bed** and pulls out her **school binders** and begins to work.

12D-CU

As she works, she is distracted by a thought. She <sup>leans</sup> leaves over to one of her **drawers** and opens it. She pulls out **the picture of her and the two other girls in hijabs.** She looks at it almost as if she was asking it for help.

**AMINAH**  
(to herself)  
What am I doing?

13-LS

13A-MCU

13B-MCU

EXT. **HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY** - NOON

Aminah, and **Sam** surround Julia as she fixes her **makeup** in her **locker mirror**. Aminah sees Rayah, who is standing at her **locker**, and waves. Rayah waves back and smiles.

Julia notices Rayah smiling out of the corner of her eye and turns to her. Rayah's smile disappears at she locks eyes with Julia.

**JULIA**

(to Rayah)

And what are you smiling at?

**RAYAH**

Oh! Um -

**JULIA**

(interrupting)

How about you just go back to your terrorist group or whatever little country you came and mind your own damn business.

Aminah glares at Julia as she can't believe what she just heard.

**AMINAH**

Shut up Julia.

**JULIA**

Excuse me, what did you just say to me?

**AMINAH**

I said Julia, shut up.

**JULIA**

Who do you think you are?

**AMINAH**

You can not treat another human like that. She has every right to be here as you do.

**JULIA**

(defensive)

Fine well then you should go off with you little friend because you sure as hell aren't in this group anymore. Forget about homecoming and good luck finding your own dress!

**AMINAH**

Fine.

**JULIA**

You're never going to fit in if you're with us.

*leave*

AMINAH

Maybe you're right Julia. But I am sick of the way you <sup>do mean</sup> treat people who aren't your friends and if fitting in means staying with you, then I don't want to.

Julia laughs and slams her lockers.

JULIA

(to Sam)

C'mon Sam. We're leaving.

The two storm off through the hallway. Aminah turns to Rayah.

AMINAH

Are you okay?

RAYAH

Yeah, yeah I'm okay.

(beat)

Thank you. Thank you for standing up for me.

AMINAH

No, I am so sorry for how long I let her treat you that way. I'm sorry for the way I treated you. <sup>was acting before.</sup>

Rayah slowly begins to grin and then nods.

AMINAH (CONT'D)

Thank you.

RAYAH

For what?

AMINAH

For reminding me who I am.

14-LS

The two smile at each other and walk away from the lockers.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Aminah and Rayah sit together, laughing, still working on geometry.

15-LS

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL QUAD - DAY

Aminah and Rayah sit together at lunch. But it is not just them two, the table is full of other girls. They all laugh together.

15A-MS

★ zoom out to LS

INT. AMINAH'S **BEDROOM**

16-LS

Aminah and Rayah get ready for homecoming together.

17-LS

INT. AMINAH'S **DINING ROOM** - EVENING

17A-MS

Aminah and Rayah sit at the **dinner table** with Aminah's family. The girls are dressed in their **homecoming dresses**. They pray together before the begin eating. The **table** is full of smiles and laughter.

\* circle from center of dinner table

18-LS

INT. AMINAH'S **BEDROOM** - MORNING

18A-MCU

Aminah is awoken by her **alarm clock**. The **picture of her alongside her old friends is hung** above her **bed** next to a **picture of her and Rayah**. She swiftly gets out of **bed** and heads to her **closet**.

\* tracking shot

18B-MS

Aminah, now **dressed for the day**, sits in front of a **mirror**. She leans over to her **jewelry stand** and puts her **dangly, gold earrings** in.

\* over the shoulder

19-MLS

INT. AMINAH'S **KITCHEN**

19B-MCU

Aminah's mother stands in the **kitchen** with a **lunch bag** in her hands.

19A-MCU

**AMINAH**

Miremengjes mom! Thanks for lunch.

Aminah grabs the **bag** from her mother.

**MRS. TAHIR**

(laughing)

Miremengjes Aminah. Have a great day.

**AMINAH**

You too!

(beat)

Une te dua Mom.

**MRS. TAHIR**

Une te dua Aminah.

Aminah kisses her mom on the cheek and runs out the **door**.

20-LS

EXT. AMINAH'S HOME - MORNING

20A-MLS

\* tracking

Aminah runs to her bicycle and pulls out her headphones and phone from her pocket. She begins to play a song from her favorite artist in her old country.

20C-MCU

20D-MCU

20B-CU  
(of phone screen)

RAYAH  
Aminah! Are you coming?

Rayah is on her bike on the other side of the street.

Coming!

AMINAH

20E-LS

20F-WS

The two ride their bikes down the street.

FADE OUT.

\* drone

**THE END**