

PREJUDICE

by Aslı Simay Aksoy

Setting:

Old house with one room. The living room where brother sleeps. In the living room there is a kitchen. Living room and kitchen are shared.

Characters:

Leyla :17 years old, Long straight black hair,pale skin, brown eyes.Student. Turkish. She is a helpful girl with a shy personality. She gets along well with everybody.She gets along well with children.

Ömer: 24 years old. Brown hair,tanned skin and green eyes.Doctor. Leyla's brother.Turkish. He is a serious person who takes everything seriously. He is an introvert. He doesn't like to communicate with people.

Nazenin: 45 years old. Medium length black hair, green eyes and tanned skin. Housewife. Turkish. Leyla's and Ömer's mother. Generous and helpful person like her daughter. Quiet and calm person.

Zehra: 65 years old. Has grey short hair, brown eyes and pale skin. She doesn't work because of old age. Turkish. Nervous but kind person.

SCENE 1

(Omer is sleeping.He was sleeping in the room which was the largest room in the house and also the living room. Although the room was the largest, it was still small. But there was no other room in the house for him to sleep in. It is slightly bright inside the house.)

Leyla: Good morning dear family members!

(Ömer straightens up angrily)

Ömer : Can you be quieter?

Leyla: No, I can't. Today is an important day for me.

Ömer: Why?

Leyla: You know, the first day of school

Ömer:It completely slipped my mind.

Leyla: Don't worry, you forget a lot of things these days anyway

Ömer:Yes, because I have a lot to think about.

Leyla:like what?

(Their conversation is interrupted by their mother)

Nazenin: Breakfast is waiting. You can talk about these later.

Ömer: Mom is right, I'll explain later

Leyla: Okay

(They sit at the table)

Nazenin: I tried to make your favorite meal for you, Leyla.

Leyla: Thank you Mom. You are one of the best cooks I know.

Ömer: What about me?

Nazenin: I will do it for you too on your special day.

Ömer: Thank you.

(They start eating Leyla's favourite meal : french fries)

Ömer: If you want to get to school, you should finish your breakfast now, Leyla.

Leyla: You are so right! I didn't understand how time passed. Thank you mom!

Nazenin: You're welcome. I hope your school goes well.

Leyla: I hope so too

Ömer: Good luck, Leyla

Leyla: Thank you!

(Leyla quickly leaves home to get to school.)

SCENE 2

(Leyla returns from school. When she enters the house, she sees the house more tidy than it was and her mother very thoughtful. Her mother's thoughtfulness surprises her because her mother is normally always cheerful.)

Nazenin: Welcome, How was your school?

Leyla: Fine, how was your day?

Nazenin: It was good. We have a guest.

Leyla: Really, who?

Nazenin: You'll see

(Leyla comes in)

Zehra: Hello Leyla, nice to see you.

(Leyla was surprised and happy at the same time)

Leyla: I'm glad to see you too. Welcome!

Zehra: I know I come and go a lot lately but this time it looks like I'll be permanent

(Leyla looks at Nazenin nervously, they start whispering in a different corner of the room)

Nazenin: I know Omer wouldn't want this, but Zehra is really in a difficult situation.

Leyla: I know. Omer's problem is not with Zehra. He just doesn't like this kind of thing.

Nazenin: Yes, but if we don't help her, who will?

Leyla: But we are not a family of two. We should also ask for his opinion.

Nazenin: Yes, but he works at the same place as Zehra. He is aware of her situation. Maybe he can support her too.

Leyla: I hope so!

SCENE 3

(The three of them wait together in the living room like 1 hour for Ömer to arrive. It is a much more restless wait than usual because no one knows what Ömer's reaction will be. Doorbell rings. Ömer has arrived.)

Leyla: Welcome, How was your day?

Ömer: Strange

Leyla: Why, what happened?

Ömer : Nothing has happened yet but I have a feeling something bad is about to happen.

Leyla: You shouldn't think badly

Ömer: We'll see

(Ömer looks at Leyla)

Ömer: You look different, did something happen?

Leyla: I'm just a little nervous. You'll find out soon too.

Ömer: What will I find out?

(Comes in and sees Zehra)

Ömer: Welcome, nice to see you

Zehra: Thank you

(Omer thought this was just a temporary guest so he didn't react.Nazenin looks at Omer)

Nazenin: Can I talk to you for a bit?

Ömer: Of course

(They go to the only room in the already small house.)

Nazenin: You won't like what I say, but Zehra needs to live with us for a while.

Ömer: I don't want this to happen. It's already hard to support the family. We can't take care of her on top of that.

Nazenin: But she is in a difficult situation and has to evacuate her house. Where will she stay?

Ömer: Why are you trying to help everyone? Everyone can take care of themselves.

Nazenin: For my sake, please try to help even a little.

Ömer: She can only stay for 1 week. I don't want more than that.

Nazenin: Maybe one day you may need help too . You should learn to empathize.

Ömer: I won't need help

(He leaves the room. Nazenin is very upset with her son's reaction and his incomprehension.)

SCENE 4

(Omer and Zehra work in the same hospital. Zehra is a cleaner and Omer is a doctor. They see each other not very often though. This wasn't because Omer didn't like Zehra. Omer just didn't like the idea of someone living with them. Because Omer is a very successful doctor, there are many people who try to slander him. A colleague recently accused him of giving the wrong treatment advice to a patient. In the end, Ömer is slandered for something he did not do. He comes to the point of dismissal. But Zehra saw that Omer was innocent. And she was willing to do whatever she could to defend him.)

(While Omer is packing his things, Zehra comes near to him.)

Zehra: I know you are innocent, I saw it with my own eyes.

Ömer: How?

Zehra: While I was cleaning, I saw that you didn't do it. They were making someone else do it to slander you. I figured it out so I secretly recorded it on video. So you don't have to pack your things.

Ömer: If this is really true can you give me that video?

Zehra: Yes, of course. If you want, let's watch it together first.

(They watch the video together.)

Ömer: It is indeed true.

Zehra: I told you!

Ömer: My mother and Leyla will be very happy when they hear this. I was prejudiced against you but you saved me from a very difficult situation. No matter how much I thank you, it would be not enough

Zehra: Anyone would have done the same.

Ömer: Thank you for your help.

SCENE 5

(Ömer, Leyla, Nazenin and Zehra sit at the table, laugh and eat. They are celebrating Ömer's dismissal)

Ömer: ...That's how it happened. I mean, I've become even more valuable in their eyes now. Thanks to Aunt Zehra.

Leyla: Yes, Aunt Zehra, if you hadn't been there, the situation would have been very bad.

Zehra: As I said, anyone would have done the same.

Nazenin: But it was better in many ways that you were there.

Leyla: Why?

Nazenin: To break down Ömer's prejudices

(Ömer is ashamed)

Ömer: I apologize for being prejudiced. Not just against you. I regret it. But this incident has added a lot to me. I will try to improve myself in every subject. I will not judge people without understanding them.

Nazenin: I'm glad you understood this. This incident has brought you many things, both good and bad, but mostly good.

Leyla: So can we conclude from this that Aunt Zehra can stay with us as long as she wants?

Ömer: Yes, I really don't know what I would do without Aunt Zehra. I should be able to do at least this favor for her.

Zehra: Thank you guys but I don't know how long I can stay. I got good news from my relatives. I can go to them soon

Nazenin: Please stay as long as you can. You are also family to us. Also, what you did for Ömer was very important to us.

Ömer: Yes, Aunt Zehra, you can stay as long as you want

Zehra: Thank you guys, I will not forget your kindness.

Leyla: We will not forget your kindness too Aunt Zehra!

(They all continue to eat happily together)

THE END