

A SYMBOL

by Ahmet Zeki Aslan

Setting: Ankara, Bilkent University Campus, 2027, December

Characters:

MUSTAFA: 18 years old ,blue eyes, curly orange hair, wears glasses, 176 cm tall, electric-electronic engineering student in Bilkent, Turkish, genius, , creative, loves to read books

EMRE: 19 year old, brown eyes, straight black hair, has a little moustache, 178 cm tall, computer science student in Bilkent, Turkish, Mustafa's close friend, goes to the gym, supportive, funny

ELIZABETH: Maths student at Bilkent, 19 years old, blonde curly hair, blue eyes, wears glasses, hardworking, disciplined

THE PROFESSOR: Gives lectures about maths, very tall and slim, most students love him, he has just started to work at this university

PROFESSOR's COLLABORATOR: partner of the professor, wavy curly hair,
helps professor about his plan

SCENE 1

(In front of the class, Mustafa and Emre are chatting with each other. Their lesson will begin after a few minutes. Mustafa wears his blue jeans and sweatshirt. Emre wears very casual clothes.)

EMRE: Oh man ... The class is so noisy right now.

MUSTAFA: Yes, that's why I took you to the hallway

EMRE: Thanks, man. So tell me, what did you do last night?

MUSTAFA: Well... I did this lecture's assignment and then – *(interrupted by Emre)*

EMRE: Did you answer all of these questions? Some of them are off-topic I guess.

MUSTAFA: Yes, they are. But I used ... wait a second... this source *(showing an essay in his cell phone.)*

EMRE: Well, I used this source *(showing ChatGPT and it couldn't answer these questions.)*

(Both of them laugh about this.)

MUSTAFA: *(Continuing with his speech)* Then I read the book that I told you about before.

EMRE: Oh! I remember it. The Fundamentals of Advanced Physics, right?

MUSTAFA: Yes, I read almost 100 pages. I will have finished it by the end of today.

EMRE: Bro, why are you reading this book?

MUSTAFA: I need to prepare myself for the next course of physics.

EMRE: Isn't it so hard to understand?

MUSTAFA: Yes, it was hard for me at first, but I got used to it.

EMRE: You are an amazing man.

MUSTAFA: Thanks. So what did you do yesterday after school? Tell me.

EMRE: I went to the gym. I lifted 120 kg. Then I went to the dormitory and did these assignments.

MUSTAFA: Look, the professor is coming to the class. Let's go back inside.

(They go into the classroom.)

SCENE 2

(After the lecture, the school day ended. Mustafa and Emre are standing in front of the department's building and this time Elizabeth is with them. Now they are deciding what they will do.)

ELIZABETH: The professor gave us so many tasks. How can we do all of these?

EMRE: We can handle them. Our previous task is harder than these.

ELIZABETH: But there are so many things in this folder.

EMRE: I guess ChatGPT can do them in a second.

MUSTAFA: Bro, you should try it yourself to improve.

EMRE: I am going to the gym right now. Maybe after my workouts. See you guys.
(*He left.*)

MUSTAFA: I will go to the library after dinner. Would you like to join me?

ELIZABETH: Yes, I have to do these tasks on time.

(*They go to dinner.*)

SCENE 3

(*They are at the library right now. Elizabeth is reading some essays for her task. Mustafa has already finished his task and he is reading his book right now. At the end of his book, he finds an interesting symbol that he has never seen before. He decided to show it to his friend, Elizabeth.*)

MUSTAFA: What is that?

ELIZABETH: I don't know. Let's talk outside.

(*They go to the library's garden.*)

MUSTAFA: I checked almost all the documents but I didn't find anything.

ELIZABETH: Actually, we can ask ChatGPT.

MUSTAFA: I asked about it but it gave me no clue. I am very desperate right now.

ELIZABETH: We can ask the professor. He definitely knows it.

MUSTAFA: Yeah.... I guess I can ask him tomorrow.

(Now they go inside of the library and continue to work.)

SCENE 4

(The next day before the lecture, Mustafa goes to the professor's teaching unit and asks for it.)

MUSTAFA: Hi teacher, I was looking at this book yesterday and then I encountered this symbol. Could you look at it?

THE PROFESSOR: Sure, Let me check Hmm Where did you get this book?

MUSTAFA: In the corner of the library.

THE PROFESSOR: Are you able to understand it? This book is at a very high level.

MUSTAFA: Yes, I have been very into physics since I was in high school and also I am taking a physics lecture.

THE PROFESSOR: So you are taking both Electrics and Physics lectures Interesting.

MUSTAFA: Yes So, do you know it?

THE PROFESSOR: (*Looks thoughtful*) W-What?

MUSTAFA: The symbol.

THE PROFESSOR: Oh Yes, but I am not very sure about its meaning. I have to check my other documents, so I am taking this page.

MUSTAFA: No, I got this book from the library. I don't allow you to remove a page from this book.

THE PROFESSOR: Don't worry, I will tell them.

MUSTAFA: Actually, I can figure out its meaning on my own try

THE PROFESSOR: Oh Ok.

(*MUSTAFA takes the book immediately and then leaves the room.*)

SCENE 5

(*A flashback scene, a month ago, between the Professor and his collaborator. They plan to steal a very huge amount of money from the university.*)

HIS COLLABORATOR: Did you find the location?

THE PROFESSOR: No, but I will have found it by the end of this month.

HIS COLLABORATOR: Ok

THE PROFESSOR: When I find the location, I will put a symbol referring to a map into a book. Most probably, this book would be the least read book in the library. I mean the Fundamentals of Advanced Physics which is in the corner of the library.

HIS COLLABORATOR: Why don't you give me a call for its location?

THE PROFESSOR: We shouldn't draw attention to ourselves. This university's security system is very strict. This is the best solution, I guess.

HIS COLLABORATOR: So, when am I going to get this book?

THE PROFESSOR: Let me check the calendar.... You are going on the 8th of December.

HIS COLLABORATOR: If something goes wrong, what will we do?

THE PROFESSOR: Nothing will get worse, but if something goes wrong, I will ring your phone and you will meet me at this cafe (*pointing to the cafe*).

HIS COLLABORATOR: Ok.

THE PROFESSOR: And we won't meet anymore so as to not draw attention to us.

HIS COLLABORATOR: Ok, I understand.

THE PROFESSOR: Alright, I trust you.

SCENE 6

(Back to the future, after the lecture, Mustafa and Emre chat in front of their department's building.)

EMRE: Professor seemed so nervous today.

MUSTAFA: Yeah, he was sweating during the lecture.

EMRE: And why did the professor look at you all the time when he was lecturing?

MUSTAFA: Do you remember that thing that I told you at the break time?

EMRE: The symbol thing ?

MUSTAFA: Yeah, I guess this is the reason.

EMRE: Oh Can I see this symbol?

MUSTAFA: Yes, I can show you at the library.

EMRE: Ok. Let's go

(They go to the library.)

SCENE 7

(MUSTAFA shows the symbol to Emre in the library.)

EMRE: It looks really weird.

MUSTAFA: And it doesn't match with any other physical symbols

EMRE: What if it is not a physical symbol?

MUSTAFA: What do you mean by that?

EMRE: I don't know. Maybe, we should look at it with another perspective.

MUSTAFA: Hmm.... Wait a second. What if it is a map?

EMRE: What!

MUSTAFA: Look! It is computer science department's building

EMRE: Man, it has a very low chance.

MUSTAFA: We must give it a chance. He definitely hid something in there.

EMRE: Ok, man.

SCENE 8

(Meanwhile, the professor rings his collaborator's phone and they meet in the Cafe. The Cafe isn't so crowded right now. They sit inside the Cafe)

HIS COLLABORATOR: So, what is the problem?

THE PROFESSOR: One of my students got the book

HIS COLLABORATOR: What are we going to do?

THE PROFESSOR: He is obsessed with my symbol. Probably, he will figure out our plan so we must get the money at midnight.

HIS COLLABORATOR: Give me more details about this.

THE PROFESSOR: You will go to the computer science building and go down to the -2nd floor. On the right side, you will see a door. I am giving this card to you (*giving the card to his collaborator*) and you will use it to open that door. And then you will see the money on the table. Take the money and meet me outside. I will wait for you with a black Fiat.

HIS COLLABORATOR: Ok, I can handle it. See you then.

SCENE 9

(Mustafa and Emre go to the CS building and they encounter a person in front of the elevators.)

MUSTAFA: *(Whispering)* Look, there is a person in front of the elevator. What is he doing there?

EMRE: I don't know man, let's chase him.

(After a couple of minutes they go to the elevator to chase the guy. However, the guy go inside of the elevator and go down to -2nd floor.)

MUSTAFA: I saw that the guy went to the -2nd floor.

EMRE: Ok. Let's go there.

(They go to -2nd floor. Then they see an opened door and go inside.)

PROFESSOR'S COLLABORATOR: *(shouting)* AAAAHHHHH! I got caught.

MUSTAFA: What are you doing in there?

PROFESSOR'S COLLABORATOR: I am cleaning these desks.

EMRE: Don't lie to us. We are able to see the money bags and cash.

MUSTAFA: Where is the professor?

PROFESSOR'S COLLABORATOR: I don't know.

EMRE: We are sure that you know his location.

PROFESSOR'S COLLABORATOR: I won't say it.

(After the voices, the security guard come inside and takes them all outside. Security guard calls the police and they come immediately. Police officers take them to the police station. Mustafa and Emre tell them everything that they knew and they arrest the professor's collaborator and they make him talk. He starts to tell the truth about the professor. He tells them about his plan to steal a huge amount of money from the university. They start to chase the professor and they find him at the airport. They arrest him there. The professor and his collaborator go to the prison. Mustafa and Emre gain a reputation for their brave heart.)