

Resistance in **Manisa**

by Ege Eren Peker

Setting:

Manisa, Western Anatolia, 1919–1922. A modest Turkish city under Greek occupation during the Turkish War of Independence. Streets are filled with silence, fear, and smoldering hope.

Greek Officer: Cold and authoritarian.

Greek Soldiers: Enforcers of occupation.

Characters:

Zeynep: A devoted nurse who served during World War I. Fiercely patriotic.

Mustafa: A seasoned ex-soldier. Determined and strategic.

Mehmet: A humble farmer. Symbol of the people's

ACT I

Scene 1 – A Hidden Room in Manisa (*Dim lighting. Maps and documents lie scattered on a modest table. Zeynep, Mustafa, and Mehmet huddle in deep conversation.*)

ZEYNEP: Life on this land must go on. Every drop of our blood must nourish the soil of freedom

MUSTAFA: Words will not save us now. Action must speak. The pain of the past fuels the courage of our tomorrow.

MEHMET: The strength buried in this land now blossoms in our hearts. Manisa's future is ours to reclaim.
(*They clasp hands. Lights fade.*)

Scene 2 – A Road Outside the Village, Night (*Farmers crouch in bushes. A Greek supply cart approaches. Mehmet gives a signal.*)

MEHMET (*whispering*): Now! Take the sacks and run!
(*Farmers attack. Chaos erupts. Soldiers struggle. A torch is thrown—supplies burn.*)

Scene 3 – Hospital, Next Day (*Zeynep wipes a table, eavesdropping on Greek officers.*)

GREEK OFFICER: Burn the villages. Teach them fear.
(*Zeynep, horrified, rushes to inform Mustafa and Mehmet.*)

ZEYNEP: They plan to burn the villages tomorrow night.

Mustafa: Then we intercept. We strike first.

Scene 4 – Mountain Pass, Night *(A tree blocks the road. Villagers hide. Greek soldiers arrive.)*

GREEK SOLDIER: Clear the path!
(Ambush. Rocks and fire. Confusion reigns. A supply cart explodes.)

MUSTAFA: Fall back!

Scene 5 – Rooftop in Manisa

ZEYNEP: They will retaliate. We must strike again.

MUSTAFA: We've only begun. Now we must train the people.

(Montage: villagers training in secret fields. Women make bandages. Children run messages. Hope rises.)

Scene 6 – A Barn at Dusk *(Zeynep treats a wounded villager. Mustafa carves out new plans. Mehmet enters, carrying a map.)*

MEHMET: There's movement near the old depot. They're stockpiling weapons.

ZEYNEP: Then that becomes our next target.

MUSTAFA: We'll strike when they least expect.

Scene 7 – The Hills Beyond the Depot, Midnight *(The group prepares. Zeynep distracts a soldier while Mustafa neutralizes him. Mehmet plants explosives.)*

(Explosion. Depot burns. Resistance flees into the night, hearts pounding.)

ACT II

Scene 8 – Village Square at Dawn *(A boy rings a bell quietly. Zeynep speaks to gathered villagers.)*

ZEYNEP: Each of you has a role. Each of you holds a spark.

VILLAGER: We're ready. Show us the way.

Scene 9 – Olive Grove, Afternoon *(Mustafa and Mehmet train new recruits with wooden rifles. Birds chirp. A quiet calm.)*

MUSTAFA: Discipline wins wars. Even the quiet ones.

MEHMET: And roots hold firm through storms.

Scene 10 – Forest Path at Night *(Two Greek soldiers patrol. Zeynep and Mustafa eavesdrop from the trees.)*

GREEK SOLDIER: The rebels hide near the river. Command moves tomorrow.

(They slip away into the dark.)

Scene 11 – Old Bridge Over the Gediz River *(Resistance sets traps. Mehmet places a barrel.)*

MEHMET: When the water runs red, they'll understand.

(Bridge explodes as troops try to cross. Screams. Flames rise.)

Scene 12 – Greek Headquarters, Inside Manisa *(Greek Officer slams fist on desk.)*

GREEK OFFICER: They burn bridges, raid carts, haunt shadows!
CRUSH THEM!

GREEK SOLDIER: We can't track ghosts, sir.

Scene 13 – Cave Shelter, Night *(Zeynep bandages hands. Mustafa reads a message.)*

MUSTAFA: Reinforcements are days away. This is our moment.

ZEYNEP: Then let it be written in fire.

Scene 14 – Streets of Manisa, Twilight *(Flames light the horizon. Mehmet and others dart between buildings.)*

MEHMET: Protect the homes. Get the children out!
(Gunfire. Screams. Courage.)

Scene 15 – Inside a Burned House *(Zeynep pulls rubble off a young woman.)*

YOUNG WOMAN: I thought hope was lost.

ZEYNEP: It lives in you. And me. And all of us.

Scene 16 – Manisa's Central Square, Dawn *(The flag is raised. Bells ring. People weep with joy.)*

MUSTAFA: They tried to erase us. But we wrote our name in fire.

MEHMET: In harvests yet to come, we'll remember.

ZEYNEP: In every healed wound, we rise again.

Scene 17 – Hill Overlooking the City, Morning *(The resistance stands together, watching the sun rise over a free Manisa.)*

ZEYNEP: For those we lost.

MUSTAFA: For all who dared.

MEHMET: For the soul of a nation.

(Curtain falls. A bird sings. The land breathes again.)

THE END