



← Season 1

A young, enigmatic, woman from Egypt begins her international studies at UCLA, where her budding friendships- both on and off campus- begin to pose challenges to her career, aspirations, and overall livelihood.

Episode 1

Episode 2

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Episode 8



Burdensome Subjects or
Young Progressives



Episode 2

Episode 2 begins with a big move for Greene and Fadia from campus, to Northeast LA; their journey as roommates begins.

Leaf and Fadia, in a chaotic chance of events, finally cross paths, and their connection may seem apparent to us, but certainly not to them. They don't even trade numbers or anything; he just drops her off via the Ryde app.

Fadia spurs the story down the proverbial flashback, into pre-colonial Los Angeles, with her question to Greene- "... You're a 'native?' Are you from *here*? Los Angeles? Mr. Native?" As flashbacks involving the characters are usually preceded by a historical flashback, Fadia's past comes to light after we dissolve from a short visual history of the Los Angeles Basin. We see, for the first time, Fadia's life before America, and the important relationship she has with her father.

The episode sees the transition from 2014 to 2015, beginning with Greene's viewing of Obama's State of the Union for 2015. The year is also marked by the beginning of the Saudi Arabian bombardment of Yemen, thus so it begins in our characters as well, and will span throughout the series.

The plot thickens between Leaf and Greene, as Greene becomes a new customer. It also thickens between Dean and Fadia, as Dean continues to ask for her advice on his thesis. Another trajectory is spawned when they start talking about populists- "What about Mohammad Mossadegh? He's one of my favorites," Fadia lectures. Inevitably, we end with a short history of Iran's Mohammad Mossadegh, and his overthrow from Iranian leadership.

66.

GREENE
I got your kitchen stuff. I'll see
you in a little while?

FADIA
I'll need to stop by the post
office, first. See you soon!

Greene shuts the door behind him.

CUT

EXT. UCLA, DORM - CONTINUOUS

Greene walks down with the stuff, putting it into the
The whole Ryde car, standing next to it an annoyed DR
is stuffed to the brim, except for the passenger seat

GREENE
Alright, my friend, let's go!

Greene gets in the passenger seat, and Driver 6, anno
in the driver seat.

DRIVER 6 (V.O.)
I know I'm not getting a fucking
tip for this.

INT. UCLA, DORM - MEANWHILE

Fadia manages to pack everything she owns into one su

130.

BERNIE SANDERS (CONT'D)
And, my conclusion is: that type of
economics is not only immoral, it's
not only wrong, it is
unsustainable. It can't continue...

CUT TO:

EXT. SEPULVEDA DAM , PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Fadia is thinking...

FADIA (V.O.)
How about Mohammad Mosaddegh in
Iran-? He's one of my favorites...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. IRAN, TEHRAN, OFFICIAL HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mossadegh's (current Prime Minister of Iran) house
but a moment, before a single tank shell rocks the
Smoke comes out of the house first, then The
Mossadegh follows, coughing.

, TEHRAN, COURTROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mossadegh rests his head on his arms, disassociated
trial for which he's being convicted for. He's
unkempt, wearing baggy clothing. They'll all be
Parsi.

JUDGE

... To raze statues of the present
Shah and the late Riza Shah, as
well as having begun preparations
to form a regency council to assume
the Shah's functions. This trial is
adjourned.

looks up, and scoffs in great sarcasm.

MOHAMMAD MOSSADEGH

Watch the rule of law prevail! I am
forever grateful! Truly, tonight,
the Iranian nation now understands
the meaning of constitutionalism!

room erupts in laughter, and Mossadegh laughs with
in astonishment, looking around the room...

131.

MOHAMMAD MOSSADEGH (V.O.)
Alas, it couldn't have been greed
that angered the imperialists. No.
It was the utter hatred that I
would dare to demand a better deal.

Some tears come down his face, but not too many, as he shakes
his head looking around at the laughing, bustling courtroom.

MOHAMMAD MOSSADEGH (V.O.)
Where are my people?

FADE TO BLACK:

End of Episode 2

EXT. SEPULVEDA DAM , PARKING LOT - DAY

Leaf, before entering his vehicle, turns around, casually
taking a last look around for Fadia. He kind of sees her
behind one of the other parked cars, on her laptop. He gets
in his vehicle, drives off.

INT. LEAF'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

A calm mood prevails between Jasmine and Leaf.

LEAF
I'm guessing your hungry.

Jasmine just gives off an affirmative "hm-mhm." After a
pause, she says, purposefully obnoxious-

JASMINE
Cut to- Indian food restaurant!

Leaf sighs in dull irritation, but smirks.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Jasmine and Leaf eat Indian food or something.

LEAF
How's the- those things?

JASMINE
Good. How's "the those things"?

LEAF
(nodding)
Mhm.

Episode 3

Episode 3 gives deeper insight into Leaf and Jasmine's relationship, as shown in the first scene; they (attempt to) discuss the problems between them, while diving into their past with blame, anger, and guilt.

By this point, Fadia and Dean have discussed much about politics and the supposed science thereof. Much to Fadia's alarm, she finds that his thesis looks a lot like the one she's been working on; even though she never revealed her own to him (or us for that matter), she finds that her tutorage of Dean was taken advantage of in a way she couldn't have foreseen. Fadia, in response, begins her plan of defense, or offense, depending on who you're asking. She begins the process of filing a claim for plagiarism.

As we near the end of the episode, the 2015 republican primaries start, sparking new revelations for all the characters.. Greene continues his film, while also unexpectedly getting involved with Jasmine that starts with a "rehearsal kiss."

Fadia and Jasmine cross paths, which sparks another pre-colonial Los Angeles trajectory that features the famous Tongva rebel, Toypurina. By the end, Fadia meets the Dean of Students, Richard Paulson, to discuss her claim of plagiarism against Dean Walker. Fadia's despair continues as it's both represented in, and actually connected to, the shelling of Aleppo.

135.

JASMINE
Your mom was a teacher.

LEAF
And she taught! Yeah, she went to work like she was supposed to! Wow, yeah! Big applause for her! She was a fucking drunk, and you know that!

JASMINE
So? You were an asshole. Maybe that's why she drank.

Deafening silence. Leaf is fuming, but if he reacts again, it will be worse than the first time, so he does well to be still; very still, looking at the wall.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Hey, I didn't want to fight either.
(beat)
It's fucked up to criticize me. To bring up my dad- that's fucked up. To say I did nothing with my life? Well, now I am. What, you want me to just wait around like before?

LEAF

192.

FADIA
Should I go?

RICHARD PAULSON
(charming enough)
As much as I enjoy your company, I think I have everything I need from you. For now. If anything new comes up, anything that helps your case-

Points at the card he gave her-

RICHARD PAULSON (CONT'D)
Email.

Fadia nods, stands up, grabs her backpack. She walks to the door, stops turns around, making him not sigh in exasperation...

FADIA
Thank you again, Dr. Paulson.

RICHARD
"Richard" is fine. And, you're welcome! Have a good Day.

Fadia nods again, approaches the door. Richard awaits next move through the corner of his eye. She opens the

FADIA
I'll email you tonight.

RICHARD
(still friendly)
Great.

FADIA
Bye, Dr. Richard.

RICHARD
(friendliness devolving)
Bye.

Fadia. Finally... Exits. Richard Paulson, the Dean of Students, lets out a whole lot of air from his mouth-

EXT. UCLA, RIDE-SHARE ZONE - LATER

da-da-ding! The Ryde app shows Fadia that her driver is "Jeff." She looks away from her phone to her surroundings; other students are getting picked up by other Rydes. She slowly descends into brooding, clenching her fist.

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Deafening silence. Leaf is fuming, but if he reacts again, it will be worse than the first time, so he does well to be still; very still, looking at the wall.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Hey, I didn't want to fight either.
(beat)
It's fucked up to criticize me. To bring up my dad- that's fucked up. To say I did nothing with my life? Well, now I am. What, you want me to just wait around like before?

LEAF
No.

JASMINE
Remember? I ended up coming with you on runs, cause I'd get so lonely back at the cave.

LEAF
(remembering)
The cave...

JASMINE
You remember how needy I was? I

193.

FADIA (V.O.)
Everything's good, why're you feeling this way?

DISSOLVE TO:

ALEPPO GOVERNORATE, SYRIA - DAY

Syrian loyalist forces and Hezbollah forces move toward the Azzan mountains through the Southern end of the Aleppo governorate.

Shortly after, firefights breakout between fighters, no more than 5 km apart from each other. A Russian Tupolev-22M zooms through, shooting off 10 missiles along a stretch of 5 km, hitting bodies, some flying into the air.

17 km away is Aleppo, which is being shelled by multiple parties, mostly by anti-aircraft equipment, but also by machine gun skirmishes. This was one Day of fighting: October 19, 2015.

FADIA (V.O.)
Baba once drove me four hours to Aleppo because they had "the best pistachio ice-cream in the world," he said. He was right. I haven't tasted anything like it since.

CUT TO:

EXT. UCLA, RIDE-SHARE ZONE - CONTINUOUS

Fadia is still standing there, fist clenched, face doubtful. After a moment, her car arrives, she gets in, and it drives off with the rest of the cars pulling in and out.

FADE TO BLACK:

End of Episode 3

INT. LEAF'S CONDO, GARAGE - LATER

Leaf has placed a sun-diffuser as a net for him to shake out his dead poppies for seeds, which he is doing into the rows of soil below. Many seeds stay on the net, some fall through.

CUT TO:

Episode 4

Episode 4 is one of the shorter episodes, focusing more on Leaf and his contraband techniques; how he harvests, how he sells, etc.. And we see the continuation of his (seemingly stable for now) relationship with Jasmine. However, there are weird things happening, such as running into Fadia again, this time at the drop-off/pick-up zone at the University. And, this time, they *will* trade numbers.

As Fadia's plagiarism claim is processed, she confronts Dean Walker about his theft (regards to Leaf's Ryde services) of her work, which he used to, not only graduate, but create a political strategy start-up which seems to be picking up momentum. Their conversation, despite attempts from both- sorta'- doesn't go well.

Jasmine, too, continues her complicated relationship; physically involved with Greene and Leaf, whom she sees little of both.

194.

INT. LEAF'S CONDO, GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

He ties and throws a bundle of dead leaves, twigs, branches, into a pile containing bundles of the same material.

CUT TO:

INT. LEAF'S CONDO, KITCHEN - LATER

Leaf is boiling the twigs, dead pods, leaves, etc.. He puts the newly boiled material into a sock-net, where he squeezes it, allowing the potent liquid to fall back into the pot.

195.

INT. LEAF'S CONDO, GARAGE - LATER

He swipes the seeds off of the net, into a large bucket. The soil (where the poppies used to be) is turned over with water, grounded poppy trimmings, and some new soil, via small shovel.

Next, he takes the bucket of seeds and plants them in the new soil.

INT. LEAF'S CONDO, GARAGE - LATER

Leaf puts the finishing touches on the equipment: lights, water systems, etc. The garden is ready for its new cycle.

INT. LEAF'S CONDO, GARAGE - LATER

He swipes the seeds off of the net, into a large bucket. The soil (where the poppies used to be) is turned over with water, grounded poppy trimmings, and some new **store-bought** soil, via small shovel.

Next, he takes the bucket of seeds and plants them in the new soil.

CUT TO:

INT. LEAF'S CONDO, GARAGE - LATER

Leaf puts the finishing touches on the equipment: lights, water systems, etc. The garden is ready for its new cycle.

CUT TO:

205.

FADIA
Home.

LEAF
Yep!

She turns back to her phone, reading-

DEAN (V.O.)
"We are a data-driven-" blah, blah,
blah- "target and persuade-" blah,
blah, blah...

Fadia pauses, then reads...

DEAN (V.O.)
"... Political foresight... Our
pattern-theories are the foundation
of our new firm, with a strategic
finger on the political pulse of
our society... Simply put, our
insight is guaranteed a win."

FADIA
(bitter)
Strategic finger on the political
pulse...
(to Leaf)
Can I change the address?

LEAF
Sure.

She does, the app making a sound confirming it. Leaf reads-

LEAF (CONT'D)
(looking at phone)
Politic Life Strategies..?

Fadia nods.

LEAF (CONT'D)
(beat)
"Politic life," huh?
(beat)
So, have you picked a major yet-?

FADIA
When does it say I'll arrive?

LEAF
One hour.

GARAGE - MINUTES LATER

Leaf opens the garage door to the house structure with locked

and for something, finds it, then picks it up. He slides it on canvass (copy not real) of a poppy in slope. He unfurls it, and slides it into the glass frame.

On the other side of the indoor line-up of, es. He slides a painting of gargantuan grass in the foreground, that would have been for the depicted Winter.

CUT TO:

GARAGE - MINUTES LATER

Leaf presses the timer of the lights, walks to a music box in the storage area of the garage, behind a door. He presses play, and sound resembling music comes through a few speakers inside.

LEAF
Go outdoing yourself, bro.

JASMINE (O.S.)
That's for sure.

230.

GREENE
But...! I still don't know anything!

FADIA
(smirks)
You know enough.

Greene shakes his head in disbelief like- "fine, whatever, I give up." Fadia is fine with that.

FADIA (CONT'D)
(beat)
So, where're you going right now?

GREENE
I'm going to the production studio
to edit Street Dreams.

FADIA
(smirks)
Yeah, how *is* the movie going?

Greene turns red.

GREENE
Uh. Finished filming. Just
now.

FADIA
I'm kind-of tired of seeing
in the house.

GREENE
I'm returning the equipment
tomorrow!

FADIA
That's not what I mean.

Fadia looks at him, then shakes her head
looks out the window, embarrassed even

FADIA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Doesn't she have a boyfriend?
Greene gulps, still looking out the window

GREENE
She said it was okay.
Fadia laughs. Greene becomes a bit irritated

231.

GREENE (CONT'D)
Well, it's none of *my* god-damn
business!

Fadia laughs a little more, then sits back, leaving Greene to
stare out the bus window. After some time, her face
neutralizes...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SYRIA, DARAA DISTRICT, BOSRA - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Fadia's father, Abdul-Karim Qudsi (Baba), stands in front of
a billboard- 6 ft across, 6 ft wide- of the three main men of
Assad (Basil, Hafiz, and Bashar). He's preparing himself as
though he's about to be photographed.

BABA
Darling, I will tell you
something... As you grow up, you
will probably be seeing the faces
of these men a lot. This trio is
remembered throughout Syria as the
only thing standing between a
functioning society, and chaos. In
a way, that is true. In other ways,
it is not. Life is complex. But
politics is even more so.

FADE TO BLACK:

End of Episode 4.

INT. UCLA, MURPHY HALL, CLASSROOM - DAY

It's a committee-style set-up on one end: Dr. Richard Paulson
(The Dean of Students), Dr. SUSAN SHAW (Assistant Dean of
Students), Rachel (Assistant of The Dean), Professor Dana,
and PROFESSOR DICKMAN.

Dean Walker next to a LAWYER, and Fadia Qudsi are on the
other end, some feet away from each other, at two different
tables.

Greene is sitting in the middle-back of the classroom.

GREENE
(shaking his head)
Witness...

Fadia, meanwhile, is unfurling her 2nd diagram that's 2 ft by
1 ft, divided into vertical thirds.

Episode 5

Episode 5 covers a lot of ground; from Fadia's plagiarism hearing, to Jasmine and Greene's new relationship that now includes sex, to Leaf's ongoing technical difficulties as a drug dealer in Los Angeles.

Fadia, by the end of this episode appears to be triumphant in her efforts to prove to the University that Dean stole her work, though much is still to come.

Leaf accidentally runs into a protest regarding "LAPD spying," which unfortunately for him, is a topic he should look into; thus begins his irksome descent into activism (which wouldn't fully develop until a theoretical Season 2 or 3).

Greene, during all of this, is having a brush with acid, and breaks his hand in a fight (with Dean Walker). This chaotic stream of events probably explains his odd decision to go meet with Leaf for more LSD (LSA), before he realizes how awkward it is that he's fucking the dude's girlfriend. Leaf is seemingly unaware of this, but it's questionable how much he'd care. Not to say he wouldn't.

Leaf's relationship with Fadia develops, not sexually, but as becoming actual friends.

The top third is the US White House, Capitol Hill, and Supreme Court merged into one erection.

The second third are bright, thin lines emanating from the merged structure (US gov't) from the first third.

There are about 20 different lines, and they each carry a sentence representing policy:

One line reads "H.R.2500 - NDAA for Fiscal Year 2014.
Effects: Funding militias against ISIS=\$13.6 Million daily spending, Funding Israeli war on Gaza=2500+ killed in 1.5 Months."

And that one line splits off into 3-5 other lines that travel down to the third section of the illustration- Planet Earth.

Each region of Earth is littered with up to 100 of these bright lines of US policy. Most lines go to US, but there are other regions affected.

Rachel softly asks Richard about the joining of other members of the committee, who shakes his head in response. Next, he addresses Fadia. Rachel takes notes on her laptop.

RICHARD PAULSON

Alright, everyone, let's do this thing. I'd like to thank you both for being here, and for...

(to Lawyer)

You, as well- I'm sorry about you?

LAWYER

(friendly)

I'm just a note-taker for my client, Mr. Walker. I'd like to say...

Fadia unfurls her third diagram showing 10 different points, each representing a different facet of dignified description- facets of dignified description.

RICHARD PAULSON

(beat, to Fadia)

Go ahead, Ms. Cudzy. Yes.

Greene mouths "Cudzy?" Fadia, dressed in business casual clothing- approaches the committee.

FADIA

I thank the committee for "Qudsi," I'm sorry about you?

FADIA (CONT'D)

Is politics the act of voting, marching, demanding in numbers, organizing to reign in the destructive powers of big government? Yes, government is the ultimate power, but politics are the levers that move it. But somebody else might say- "no, politics is power." I would say politics is the organizing, exercising, general movement, and results of power, but not power itself. So, how is politics life and death itself, then, as Dean is trying to say?

Greene does well not to cry out in triumph again.

FADIA (CONT'D)

Because, remember, when we're talking about "politics" we're talking about political culture. The fossil fuel industry politicked to emit more gases, which wouldn't have otherwise been emitted. Fine. But no one lobbied for the nuclear arms race- government did that on its own; in this case- and this is important- it was the imperialist political culture, and policy thereof, that allowed such a monstrosity- nuclear weapons in this case. However, the radical reduction of nuclear arms in the 1980's was a political response to political pressure which argued that getting rid of nuclear weapons is a matter of *life and death*. Nuclear weapons are a matter of life and death, of course. But what created them? This is important. Government? Physicists? Policy? For the sake of argument I'll say "All of the above." But what is "all of the above?" The answer... Is Political culture. i.e. Politics.

(beat)

Our *politics*. Is the deciding factor how we run our institutions; our government; our power.

(beat)

This is not a natural truth, by any means, and that's not what I'm arguing.

(MORE)

FADIA (CONT'D)
And, while you made some mistakes
today, I want to thank you for
being there, and supporting me.

Greene sees she truly means it, so returns in kind-

GREENE
Yeah. Of course. Anytime.
(beat, calm)
May I ask a question, Fadia Kohdsy?

He tried to say it right, so she does well not to laugh.
Greene asks this out of good faith-

GREENE (CONT'D)
Why didn't you tell me?

Fadia's face changes, and she shifts her body,

FADIA
I'm a political science major. You
knew that.

Greene's face changes too. He, too, clears his

GREENE
Yes. But in the context of all
that's happening. *Something's* been
dishonest. You've been keeping *this*
a secret the whole time?

Fadia
(scoffs)
C'mon, you're being over-top. We
had talks.

GREENE
Yeah! But you obviously didn't... I
mean... You were dishonest about

GREENE
Yeah.

LEAF
(beat)
I wish you all the best.
(beat)
Can I see it when it premiers?

GREENE
(nervous)
Yeah! Uh. You will!

Greene looks at his watch; it's now 8:15am, but the numbers
are still moving around as if they were trapped in water.

FADE TO BLACK:

End of Episode 5.

EXT. UCLA, RIDE-SHARE ZONE - NIGHT

Leaf drops somebody off at the familiar ride-share zone at
UCLA, and peels off.

INT. LEAF'S CAR - NIGHT

Leaf does about 30mph in the UCLA campus streets. Dressed
pretty good today, despite his low-key AF car; his dress
includes Carhartt, Patagonia, and a Rolex watch worth a
humble \$5000 or so. Red and Blue lights flash behind him-

LEAF
Oh, fuck.

He parks off to the side, letting the cop car go... Passed?
It does, a sigh of relief, then it U-turns. Leaf watches it
park behind him again. Campus Police 3 approaches the car on
the passenger side, holding a flash-light, saying-

CAMPUS POLICE 3
Evening sir, do you know why I
pulled you over?

LEAF
(cordial)
No, sir.

CAMPUS POLICE 3
I noticed your tags were expired.
License and registration, please-

LEAF (CONT'D)
(genuinely curious)
The movie! Was she good??

Greene is wide-eyed, not fully processing anything except
"Jasmine."

LEAF (CONT'D)
I mean, I know she's trying to be
an actor, but I don't know if she's
actually... You know, good.

GREENE
I... I don't know!

LEAF
(bemused)
You don't have an opinion on how
she did? Wasn't she the lead or
something?

GREENE
You haven't seen her in an acting
class- something like that?

LEAF
Mhm- no.
(beat)
I don't think she did acting class-
anyways- bro, I'm just asking-

GREENE
She did really good! In the movie!
She did *really* good.

is put-off by his behavior.

LEAF
Okay, good to hear.
(beat)
You can be honest with me, man, if
she wasn't-?

Leaf calms himself down with something like ujjayi breath.
able to answer like a normal person-

GREENE
No, she was good. Honestly.

LEAF
(shrugs)
Cool. I'm interested!
(beat)
You said you're cutting this movie?

Episode 6

Episode 6 is full of cops, much to Leaf's exasperation, from the beginning, through the end.

Fadia is mailed the decision on whether or not Mr. Walker plagiarized her. Not only is he not found guilty, but her scholarship, she is notified, will be suspended for her breaking of some technicalities (meeting with Dean pre-plagiarism trial). After an unexpected fit of anger, the process of her new fight against the university begins.

As Leaf becomes more and more cautious about staying under the radar, while he and Jasmine are in the midst of a struggle of their own again. Greene is in the post-production stage of his film, as his physical relationship with Jasmine continues, an obvious barb, but not the catalyst, which will lead to her eventual breakup with Leaf; it will precede insight into their past, their lives in Chico, and surrounding Butte County.

MIDDLE MAN from the crowd, a non-white male, steps to the both of them, and Cop 1 points at him, but Middle Man just continues his course, which is to get in front of the Boyfriend, and he does, now being at gunpoint himself.

By this point, others start to approach, but that makes Cop 1 more aggressive, pointing at others. It's hard to hear the Middle Man, but he motions for people to calm down.

The protesting crowd warns the cop "we got you on video, bro, don't do it." And other things like "Yo, what's this guy's badge number?!" Cop 2 says-

COP 2
Back off.

LEAF
Yo, you're partner's going to execute him, you fucking idiot!

The crowd agrees with Leaf- "that's right." around to Cop 1 who's under some kind of uneasiness. She walks over and pats him on the shoulder,

COP 2
Just cuff the dirtbag. Wait for backup.

Cop 1, through his rage, nods. He pushes the both of the way and cuffs the Boyfriend tightly; in so much pain that he doesn't let out so much as a sound.

He's sat down at the back tire of the car.

Leaf turns to see the "backup" arrive- about 10 SUVs. Leaf, now a bit nervous again, stays close to his car. Cop 1 says to his female partner

COP 1
I was just trying to scare him.

His partner laughs-

324.

GREENE
"Feel free to re-apply for the following semester..?"

He looks back down, squinting at the pieces of ripped paper, managing one more sentence: "However, these are fully the actions of the Fund alone..."

GREENE (CONT'D)
(disturbed)
Ah, man. Poor Fadia.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GREENE & FADIA'S PLACE, LIVING ROOM - LATER

Fadia peaks her head out. Greene's asleep on the couch, so she quietly exits her bedroom, turns off the lights that were on, and quietly exits the apartment.

354.

JASMINE
Leaf. NO!!!

He unloads the clip, using only the firepit as a point of reference. The smoke from the gun lifts, Jasmine has hard, but controlled, breathing at this point; bewilderment and fury on her face.

Protests and shouting can be heard a quarter-mile out. Leaf turns back to his vehicle in a brisk movement-

LEAF
Get in the car, Jasmine.

She sees headlights turn on from the area of the burning firepit, so she complies with the order from Leaf. They drive away...

JASMINE (V.O.)
My god. I was with you everyday.
Those nightmarish Days where I
relied on you for everything.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHICO, APARTMENT COMPLEX - LATER

Leaf and Jasmine walk up the steps to a second floor, and open the door to one of the apartments (their vehicle parked right below)-

INT. CHICO, APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Jasmine and Leaf enter the one-bedroom apartment. Jasmine just stands by the door, as Leaf immediately makes his way into the bedroom-

JASMINE (V.O.)
I thought you had it all figured
out because you were independent.

INT. CHICO, APARTMENT, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Leaf sits on the bed. A bunch of marijuana buds are hanging off portable racks behind him (curing)- at least five pounds worth.

FADIA (V.O.)
That's why I was drawn to you. Bro,
I was young- we both were.

T - MINUTES LATER

Leaf is talking on the sidewalk, hands in her pockets, and slumped, which is rare for her. She's looking down, not really halt moving along with her...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHICO & FADIA'S PLACE, FADIA'S BEDROOM - BEFORE

Leaf is sitting in front of her laptop, waiting for her dad to pick up a Skype call... He doesn't, and she sighs in relief. She's not sure if she's getting a call-back from him... She's not sure if she wants to answer though...

Leaf is on the last ring. They'll speak in Arabic.

FADIA
Baba..?

BABA
Hello, my love.

Leaf is struggling to get her words together, so her dad

BABA (CONT'D)
How are you?

Episode 7

Episode 7 marks the near-end of the winter quarter of 2015, which also means the end of the year.

Greene is almost finished with his movie, but the closer he gets to finishing, the less he feels about the whole project; plus there's something that could be problematic about the picture, but he doesn't dare say it aloud at this time!

Fadia is in the midst of her lowest point; she doesn't know where where she's going to get funding for the next semester, her work looks to have been stolen for good, and the top university brass seemingly want her out. While there are nebulous ways to fight back such as "taking it to the Times," this is a full defeat. Leaf and Fadia have become pretty good friends at this point, meeting up for multiple coffee meets, food, and general bullshit.

Leaf knows of Fadia's money troubles, and has ultimately brews up the idea to give her the money to continue school, for at least the next semester. If you know Fadia, it won't come as a surprise that she's reluctant to accept such a great gift. But after a back-and-forth, and Leaf reassuring her that it's a loan, not a gift, she does end up accepting. This moment codifies their friendship in a new way, unseen to either of them.

Leaf's intentions are not ulterior, as he makes clear, he wants to help her. She doesn't fully buy it, but there seems to be no other way. And, she doesn't have the heart to tell her parents what happened, who she's afraid will ask her to come back to Cairo. While she doesn't intend to go back to the Middle East, the story takes a huge U-turn exactly that way, where now we gain insight into Fadia's life before America...

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FADIA (CONT'D)

(beat)

But, I still need to go to college.

He says this like he's reassuring her of his previous promise-

RICHARD PAULSON

I'll write my recommendation,
Fadia. I do hope you're able to
secure new funding. You're one of
the most promising students here.

FADIA

(pause)

Thank you.

She stays for a moment, sinking into herself.
He says something to her, but it's unheard..

FADIA (V.O.)

(forth point of thesis)

Lastly, I'll explore the mechanism
of self-destruction, why they
exist, and why there are people who
wield them. Is it truly a hatred of
life that is behind destructive
behavior, or is it something more
complex?

Fadia says one last thing resembling a "good
all cordial. She stands up, and leaves Richard
who takes a moment to breath. Then, he continues

FADIA (V.O.)

Violence, antipathy, and cynicism
span across class, race, and
region. Self-destructive behavior
remains a mystery of psychology.

419.

FADIA (CONT'D)

So, I believe it's important. So
let's stick to U.S. Imperial
politics, okay?

PROFESSOR DANA (O.S.)

Okay.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SYRIA, AL MAZZEH - DAY

The beautiful landscape encircles, and turns to a nice
suburb, Al Mazzeh, of Damascus...

FADIA (V.O.)

My father and I would talk. When he
was young; he grew up in Hama,
NorthWest Syria. And Ba'athism was
growing when he was a kid, and
before that, Pan-Arabism. It was an
exciting time for Arabs- uh-
Syrians. Of all kinds.

(beat)

Now, that, was a revolution.

EXT. SYRIA, DAMASCUS SUBURB - CONTINUOUS

Fadia opens a sliding screen door, walking out to a back
patio, that oversees the barren (or green) hills that border
the Rif Dimashq Governorate. She's on the third floor in a
spacious apartment.

It's one of those temperately perfect moments, where the sun
is out, but not too high, the air is warm, and the breeze is
apparent. Fadia would be about 14-16 years of age at this
point.

EXT. SYRIA, APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Inside the apartment, through the patio door, are about 10
cackling women. One of them, Fadia's MOTHER (Layla, 40s),
calls her-

MOTHER

Fadia! Come help me serve these
sweets.

FADIA

Okay, one second!

393.

FADIA

(beat)

No.

(doing well to be polite)

No, I can't accept it. Uhm. Thank
you. But no thank you.

Leaf looks back out to the lights in mild embarrassment.
Fadia remains thinking...

FADIA (CONT'D)

Of course... Nobody's really
offered to help me like this
before.

LEAF

I know it's unusual, but-

FADIA

I'm thinking you want something in
return.

LEAF

Yeah, I want my damn money back!

Probably funny, but surprising-

LEAF (CONT'D)

I told you, it's a loan, not a
gift. You'll owe me the money-

FADIA

But you'll use it in the future?
Against me?

LEAF

No way! Just owe me the money!

FADIA

(thinking, then grim)
Why not? Why wouldn't you use
something like this to help
yourself later?

LEAF

(firm)

Hey. I'm not like that dude who
screwed you over, just so we're
clear. Whoever he is, I'm a bit
different than that.

FADIA

(beat)

What do your parents do?

Episode 8

Episode 8 is a full hour of Fadia's young adult life in Syria.

The long awaited answers to the mystery of Fadia's political leanings, principles, and experiences are given. We also discover why her family moved from Syria to Egypt, and despite what many might think, it wasn't because of the war itself. Instead, it was because of her organizing of peaceful protests against the Assad regime that compelled her father to retire early, and move them out of the country to Cairo. The infamous troubles, though, do begin soon after.

We see a side of Fadia that was unknown; she is a fierce activist at heart. Because, while her family was trying to disrupt her path of dissidence in order to protect her, the famous Tahrir Square protests begin soon after they move. Of course, she participates in those protests too, and that begins her eventual path to America to study "imperial politics" as she puts it. Important personal insight, like her relationship with her mother and father, is also given.

Fadia and her father are like best friends, but his action of taking her to Cairo becomes unforgivable, at least for the time being. The schism between Fadia and her mother is apparent, and it's obvious that it really began when she became a teenager. She has her familial struggles, but by the end, there is a kind of resolution between all of them; she accepts their mistakes as acts of love, and they accept her as a fighter for her convictions, despite their differences in politics.

This is also the time a new historical trajectory begins, that of the modern history of Syria, from Shukri al-Quwatli to Hafez al-Assad that will, like all the other trajectories, lead to an apex (this one in Season 2).

Before the season closes out, we see her talking to Greene after the 2015 semester's end. She has told Greene virtually all of what we have just found out about her life in Syria, a major admission of information, which signifies a breakthrough for her, and her friendship with Mr. Davids.

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GREENE
(still hugging)
Thank you for sharing this with me.
Thank you so much. I'm just. I'm
honored, you know?

Fadia laughs, and they part shortly after.

FADIA
Well, Greene. Thanks for listening.

She looks at him a moment, then gives him one good slap on
his shoulder-

FADIA (CONT'D)
I'm glad you care.

One last moment between them, then continue across the
freeway overpass...

GREENE
Since you're an activist-

FADIA
Oh God, I was afraid of this-

GREENE
Wait, listen, we could organize
student groups against the war in
Yemen, and rally support for Bernie-

FADIA
(laughing)
Greene- Greene, my activis
are behind me. Besides, I
thesis, I have my plagiar
and I've got no money for
Semester after next. How
do those things, and I'll
here looking at you while

GREENE
Yeah, okay.
(beat)
I hope your parents can he
again.

FADIA
(beat)
Uhm. Yeah. Hopefully. One
at a time, right?

By this point they get to the other
overpass-

480.

GREENE
There's a coffee place right around
the corner here-

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Fadia sips her coffee, smiling, listening to somebody,
presumably Greene.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. VEHICLE - MEANWHILE

Leaf drives his vehicle, while a passenger sits in the
backseat. Leaf looks over his shoulder, checking his blind
spot, and moves into the next lane...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GARAGE - MEANWHILE

The beds of soil that usually contain Leaf's poppies are
currently only beds of soil. His weed plants to the side are
thriving, and his morning glory is doing okay. The water
system for the poppies clicks on, and showers the soil.

FADE TO BLACK:

End of Season 1