

Extract from

NOBODY LIKE HER

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SCENE 12

Noor, Suad, and Joselin are teaching Amal how to kiss. Joselin has been hit.

AMAL: What was it like kissing Bilal the first time?

JOSELIN: Girl, we went to the laundry room, I had a blue IKEA bag on my shoulder, and Bilal looked at me all sexy. Ouff, I felt bubbles in my stomach. He leaned in and boom - it happened. Just as the elevator stopped, this old dude was standing there, and I let go of Bilal real quick. He tool the IKEA bag off my shoulder and then he held my hand... that's when I fell for him.

AMAL: But how did you know what to do?

JOSELIN: He took the lead.

SUAD: Yo, you seeing someone?

AMAL: No!

SUAD: Oh my God, you've met someone! You've met someone!

AMAL: Bitch, no.

SUAD: Is it a girl?

AMAL: No?

SUAD: Walla, I always thought you liked girls - you stare at them way too much, bro. But no lie, girls are fine as hell, look at me. Look at all this. Okay, it's not a girl. Is it a guy?

NOOR: No, it's a jet ski.

SUAD: Does he have an education?

Amal nods.

SUAD: A job?

Amal nods again.

SUAD: A car?

NOOR: Do you think she'd go for someone without a ride? I'd never date a guy like that.

JOSELIN: Girl, how you expect to get with someone who has a car, if you don't even have shoes!

AMAL: He takes the subway. We met on the platform. He just came up to me out of nowhere and started talking.

SUAD: Bro, did he kiss you?

NOOR: On the platform?

SUAD: Idiot, not on the platform. Did he though? Astaghfirullah! And you're mad at me for hitting the club? Amal got kissed! Amal got kissed! Kililili! Walla, I'm happy for you. All you do is study like a donkey otherwise.

Is he Muslim?

AMAL: Habesha.

SUAD: Christian?! CHRISTIAN?!

AMAL: Calm down! It's not like he proposed.

SUAD: You'll fall in love, get stuck, and then you'll get the headache of your life trying to leave him. It'll be drama, you know? Drama!

JOSELIN: Why does she need to leave him?

SUAD: Are you dumb? She can't have kids with him. Her kids need the same religion.

JOSELIN: My kids can choose for themselves.

SUAD: Bro, people who say that aren't as religious.

AMAL: Suad's not wrong. My religion is number one for me. Without God, I wouldn't be who I am.

SUAD: And you still go to him?

JOSELIN: How was the kiss?

AMAL: He said I was a little stiff.

JOSELIN: Were you?

AMAL: He was chilling on the couch and said, "Why are you standing?" So I sat at the other end. He moved closer. I'm like... sweating. I tried to relax, but I couldn't.

SUAD: Walla, your dad's gonna shred you, starting with your ears.

AMAL: Then he'll move on to you.

SUAD: I haven't been with anyone!

AMAL: Don't lie.

SUAD: I'm not! Habibi, this body isn't for just anyone. If someone gets near it, one, he needs to be 10/10.

NOOR: A guy? I'll graduate three times before you find a 10/10.

SUAD: Two, he puts a ring on it first.

To Amal: Is he tall?

JOSELIN: It's so sexy when Bilal does this (*puts fingers under chin and lifts up*) when he wants to kiss me. Sometimes I stand on my toes.

SUAD: I wouldn't stand on my toes for any man!

AMAL: He said my tongue was like a lollipop - hard and sweet.

JOSELIN: Girl, you need to relax.

AMAL: How?!

JOSELIN: When he gets closer on the couch, it means he wants you to lean your head on his shoulder. Come here, sit next to me. Good, now I move closer... a little more.

AMAL: Ey, you're getting too close!

JOSELIN: Girl, relax. Good, now lean your head on my shoulder.

SUAD: It looks like you got whiplash.

NOOR: Walla, stiff as hell.

AMAL: Says the one who puked all over her first date!

JOSELIN: From there, he can slide his hand under your hair and...

AMAL: Yo, that's enough!

SUAD: Do you wanna be a lollipop?

AMAL: You want me to practice with you?

JOSELIN: Yeah.

AMAL: Bitch, no!

JOSELIN: Okay, here -if you don't wanna try on my lips, kiss my palm.
Holds out her palm.

SUAD: Uft, walla you're gross. You're gonna kiss her palm? Does my sister look like an idiot?

NOOR: Yeah, for real.

SUAD: Shut up.

JOSELIN: Start soft. Just the lips first.
What are you waiting for?

SUAD: Okay, bro, do it - try it!

JOSELIN: Just lips first. Save the tongue for later. You can't go all in right away - you need to build the mood before you bring it out.

AMAL: Okay, okay, Imma do it.

No, I can't.

NOOR: Walla, you'll be a virgin forever.

AMAL: I'm gonna do it!

Amal leans towards Joselin's palm.

SUAD: Ey, pull in your tongue!

Amal tries again.

SUAD: The tongue!

JOSELIN: Again.

Amal leans towards Joselin's palm again, Joselin pulls her hand away.

AMAL: Did I do it wrong?

JOSELIN: It tickles! Sorry, my bad. Try again!

Amal does it again. Joselin pulls her hand away again.

NOOR: Ohooo.

JOSELIN: It still tickles!

NOOR: I'll show you tickling.

Noor playfully chases Joselin, trying to tickle her.

JOSELIN: Stop, stop!

NOOR: Say I'm the best.

JOSELIN: You're the worst! Stop, stop!

Somehow, Noor notices Joselin's neck.

NOOR: What's this? You've got a red mark on your neck.

Joselin quickly pulls her shirt up to cover the mark.

JOSELIN: It's nothing.

Noor pulls Josein's shirt back down

NOOR: Yes, it is. What happened?

JOSELIN: I fell down the stairs.

NOOR: Which stairs?

JOSELIN: At the salon.

NOOR: There are no stairs at the salon.

JOSELIN: There are.

NOOR: No, there aren't.

JOSELIN: Yes.

NOOR: Ey, idiot—there aren't! Joselin, what happened? Is it Bilal?

JOSELIN: No!

NOOR: Don't lie.

JOSELIN: We just argued.

He thought I touched a guy's head too much.

NOOR: Did you?

JOSELIN: No! You need to touch the head to angle it right! Or I don't know! Maybe I did. Honestly, I don't know. He's probably right - I held my hands there too long.

SUAD: Why did you do that?

JOSELIN: I was cutting his hair!

NOOR: And then?

JOSELIN: I told you, just an argument.

NOOR: Bro, you don't get scratches on your neck from an argument.

JOSELIN: Okay, he touched me lightly.

NOOR: He hit you?!

JOSELIN: It wasn't that hard.

SUAD: What do you mean "not that hard"? You're all red! Where does he live? Where does he live, bro?

NOOR: He lives with her, idiot.

SUAD: We're going there.

JOSELIN: I might've deserved it.

NOOR: Walla, you're dumb if you think that.

Was this the first time? It wasn't, was it? How many times has it happened before?

JOSELIN: He says he does it because he loves me.

SUAD: Uft, listen - a man who puts his hands on his girl is not a real man.

NOOR: You know what the punishment for domestic violence is? Prison. Minimum six months, max six years.

JOSELIN: You're not snitching on him!

NOOR: I'm not gonna lie - he deserves to be locked up.

JOSELIN: I love him.

NOOR: You need to love yourself first.

JOSELIN: I think about him all the time.

NOOR: Uft, think about something else.

JOSELIN: He's not calling, he's not answering, he's been logged out for three days. I'm losing my mind!

AMAL: Joselin, I'm giving you four options. One - leave the relationship.

JOSELIN: No! I'm not leaving! What's wrong with you?! Don't you get it? It's him and me! He's my soulmate.

AMAL: But listen!

JOSELIN: No! I don't wanna listen! I swear, you're not making me leave.

SUAD: Ey, listen to her!

AMAL: Two - change what you can.
Three - accept who he is.
Four - stay and hope for a change that'll never happen.

JOSELIN: Hope for a change.

AMAL: That'll never happen!

JOSELIN: He won't do it again.

NOOR: Bro, he will.

JOSELIN: No.

NOOR: Walla, you're beyond saving.

SUAD: He's done it before, which means there's a pattern, you get me? I'd say the chances of it happening again are 0.95.

Everyone looks clueless.

95 percent. What's wrong with you?

NOOR: Are you gonna let a boy treat you like trash? Where's your pride, bro?

JOSELIN: He owes me money.

SUAD: How much?

JOSELIN: 500.

NOOR: Ey, this girl is completely brain dead. Man, how could you lend him half a rack?

JOSELIN: I dunno, he needed it.

AMAL: You know what I think? Leave him, leave the money - it's not worth it.

NOOR: She should get her money back. Do you know what you can do with half a rack? Two pairs of sneakers, two sweaters, two perfumes, pita bread, cheese, pants, a law book, foundation, concealer, a weekend trip to Sweden...

SUAD: Ey, relax! She said 500, not five million!

Joselin's phone rings.

NOOR: Is it him?

JOSELIN: It's probably mom - she also calls from a blocked number.

Joselin answers.

JOSELIN: Hola, mami!

She hangs up.

NOOR: That wasn't her, was it?

AMAL: What did he say?

JOSELIN: "It's not your mom, you whore." Okay...

I'll do it. I'll leave him.