

ISAAC  
Gotta make up for all the lost years... -  
Could I use your rest room?

AMIR  
Down the hall on the left.

ISAAC  
Right. Got it.

Isaac crosses to the hall. Exits.

AMIR  
What are you drinking?

JORY  
You have scotch?

AMIR  
Still have that bottle of *Macallan* that you gave me.

JORY  
I expect more from you, Amir.

AMIR  
We'll finish it tonight.  
On the rocks?

JORY  
Neat.

AMIR  
You're not kidding around.

Amir begins to prepare the drink...

START

JORY  
You hear about Sarah?

AMIR  
What about her?

JORY  
She got her terrier back.

AMIR  
How?

JORY  
She hired a dog investigator who kidnapped it back  
from Frank.

AMIR  
Lord.

JORY  
Frank's gonna sue her.

AMIR  
On what grounds?

JORY  
Just to make her life miserable.

AMIR  
The two of them.

JORY  
Tell me about it. She and I ran into Frank at the courthouse.

AMIR  
Oh, you were in court today?

JORY  
Proctor insurance arbitration.

AMIR  
How'd it go?

JORY  
Fine.  
We're just dancing around the number now. They have to pay and they know it. They just need a little time to get used to the idea.

AMIR  
Mort there?

JORY  
Steven took it over. He has me on it now.

AMIR  
But Proctor's Mort's.

JORY  
Was.

AMIR  
Why is that not a surprise?

JORY  
Mort couldn't be bothered. Rather be meditating.

AMIR  
Yeah, instead of taking his Lipitor.

JORY

You know he took me to lunch and tried to teach me to meditate? I actually tried it a couple of times. Ended up gaining five pounds. Kept thinking about food. I'd get frustrated, give up, and pig out.

AMIR

What's up with the offer from Credit Suisse?

JORY

I'm not gonna do it.

AMIR

Didn't they come back with another two hundred thousand?

JORY

They did.

AMIR

I told you that move would work.

JORY

You were right.

AMIR

But I don't think you can get more...

Beat.

JORY

The partners are countering.

AMIR

Of course they are. I doubt it's two hundred more.

JORY

I've put down roots.

Beat.

AMIR

Kapoor, Brathwaite.

JORY

What?

AMIR

You and me. On our own. In business. Steven and Mort got ahead underpricing the competition. Back in the day, when they got started.

JORY

Well, downtown WASPS didn't want to be doing mergers and acquisitions.

AMIR

Yeah, fine. Which is why Jews were doing it. And then mergers and acquisitions became all the rage. And guys like Steven and Mort became the establishment. We are the new Jews.

JORY

Okay...

AMIR

We go about it the right way? We'll get to where LBH is now, in a quarter of the time it took them.

JORY

You coming up with this on the fly?

AMIR

That firm will never be ours. It's theirs. And they're always going to remind us that we were just invited to the party.

JORY

I don't think it's a bad idea.

(beat)

Amir --

Just as...

...Isaac returns from the bathroom, holding a book. Interrupting...

ISAAC

Who's reading this? - Sorry, am I interrupting?

JORY

Well...

AMIR

Just talking shop.

STOP

Just as Emily enters, in a lovely dress.

EMILY

I'm so sorry.

(to Jory)

Nice to see you.

JORY

Nice to see you, too.

START

AMIR

So like I was saying...  
The angel Gabriel shows up and teaches Muhammad this  
verse. You know the one, honey.  
I'm paraphrasing...  
*Men are in charge of women...*

EMILY

Amir?

AMIR

(continuing)

*If they don't obey...  
Talk to them.  
If that doesn't work...  
Don't sleep with them.  
And if that doesn't work...*  
(turning to Emily)

Honey?

EMILY

I'm not doing this.

AMIR

*Beat. Them.*

JORY

I don't remember that being in the Koran.

AMIR

Oh, it's there alright.

EMILY

The usual translation is debatable.

AMIR

Only for people who are trying to make Islam look all  
warm and fuzzy.

EMILY

The root verb can mean beat. But it can also mean  
leave. So it could be saying, if your wife doesn't  
listen, leave her. Not beat her.

ISAAC

Sounds like a pretty big difference.

AMIR

That's not how it's been interpreted for hundreds of  
years.

JORY  
(suddenly impassioned)  
No. See. Sometimes you just have to say no.  
I don't blame the French.

ISAAC  
The French?

JORY  
For their problem with Islam.

ISAAC  
You're okay with them banning the veil?

JORY  
You do have to draw the line *somewhere*.

ISAAC  
Okay, Mrs Kissinger.

EMILY  
Endearing.

ISAAC  
I'm married to a woman who has a Kissinger quote  
above her desk in the den...

JORY  
*"If faced with choosing justice or order, I'll always  
choose order."*

EMILY  
Why do you have that above your desk?

JORY  
To remind me. Not to get lost in the feeling that I  
need to get *justice*.  
You pull yourself out of the ghetto, you realize *real  
soon order* is where it's at...

EMILY  
Me. Justice. Always.

JORY  
You know what they say? If you're young and not a  
liberal, you've got no heart. And if you're old and  
not a conservative...

AMIR & JORY  
(together)  
...you've got no brain.

ISAAC  
I happen to know a few very brilliant Muslim women  
who *choose* to wear the veil.

AMIR  
You really enjoy playing the contrarian, don't you?

ISAAC  
I'm not playing the contrarian.

JORY  
(to Isaac, over)  
Who do you know that wears the veil?

ISAAC  
You wouldn't know them.

JORY  
I think you're making it up.

ISAAC  
I'm not.

JORY  
So who?

ISAAC  
Khalid's sister.

JORY  
Khalid?

ISAAC  
She's a Professor of Philosophy at Cornell.  
She wears the veil.

JORY  
Khalid? Your trainer?

AMIR  
You train at Equinox?

ISAAC  
Yeah.

AMIR  
I know Khalid. Balding? With the guns?

ISAAC  
That's him.

AMIR  
I didn't know you trained at Equinox.

ISAAC

For years. Which one do you go to?

JORY

(coming in, to Isaac)

What's your point?

ISAAC

Khalid may be a trainer, but he comes from a ridiculously educated Jordanian background. All the women in his family wear the veil. By choice.

EMILY

It's not always what people think. It's a source of pride for a lot of Muslim women.

AMIR

First of all, they're probably wearing headscarves. Not the veil. It's not the same thing --

JORY

(cutting in)

The veil is evil.  
You erase a face, you erase individuality.  
Nobody's making men erase their individuality.  
Why's it always come down to making the woman pay?  
Uh-uh. There is a point at which you just have to say no.

STOP

AMIR

Just. Say. No.  
That is exactly what Muhammad *didn't* do.  
Here's the irony:  
Before becoming a Prophet?  
He was adamant about his followers *not* abusing women.  
And then he starts talking to an angel.  
I mean, *really*?

ISAAC

I still can't believe I've never seen the parallel with Mormonism before.

AMIR

You keep saying *that* like it means something.

ISAAC

Both religions where you can have multiple wives, too. Though I think Mormons are okay with dogs.

AMIR

You still don't get it.

ISAAC

Get what? That you're full of self-loathing?

4/4