God Waits at the Station

A play by

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Translated from Hebrew by Eran Edry

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1. god waits at the station
Dramatis Personae

AMAL (30) – A nurse
THAISER – Amal's father
NABILA – Amal's mother
FARÈS – Amal's brother
DR ABU KHALED
JAMAL – Taxi driver
SARAYA – Jamal's wife
NASRIN – Childhood friend of Amal's
WAITER AT RESTAURANT
YASEL – Israeli female soldier
TZACHY – Israeli male soldier
CHEMY – Israeli Secret Service agent
PALESTINIAN MALE 1
PALESTINIAN MALE 2
PALESTINIAN FEMALE 1
PALESTINIAN FEMALE 2
RANDOM PEOPLE (indicated by a hyphen)

god waits at the station
1.

_The cast is all on stage, fighting over who gets to speak first._

JAMAL  Pregnant woman gets inside my taxi. "I want something to eat," she says. Who knew _that_ was her plan?!

AMAL  Know any good restaurants round Haifa?

JAMAL  There's this little place; one of ours; right here. Not even that far.

AMAL  Uh-uh, no; not one of ours. Take me to where they go.

CHEMY  Where we go... And what did he think she had in mind, huh? Peace talks?

- Well, go on, get started.
- You start.
- I'll start: one.
- One.
- Oh, so you're starting then.
- No, no, go ahead. You start.
- Fine. One.
- Two.
- Three.
- Four.

3.  _god waits at the station_
- Someone said, “Excuse me… could you warm this up please?”

- Right, and someone was ordering: “Cappuccino, no froth.”

- And someone was asking: “That man with the guitar; what's he doing standing there like that?”

- Five.

- Six.

- It was a mistake coming here. Look at all these people!

- Eight.

- Nine.

- And some kid was asking: “Grandma, why does that woman look scared?”

- And his grandmother answered: “She's not scared.”

- And the kid said: “But I can feel her fear.”

YAEL You listen to your grandson!

- “Got nothing to be scared of, kid.”

- Eleven.

- Twelve.

- Thirteen.

WAITER I saw them come in – a man and a woman. She was pregnant.
The others interrupt.

CHEMY Like hell she was!

JAMAL She wanted something to eat. The first thing she tell me, take me to a restaurant, she says. You want I suspect of that?! I'm a taxi driver!

CHEMY Why'd he take her to a restaurant, huh? Why? Wasn't he thinking, what's she doing going to a restaurant for?

- We should have eaten at home.

- Or at someone else's place.

JAMAL I have pregnant woman in my taxi, wants to eat somewhere – I take her to eat!

CHEMY So help me God, the next time I hear about her being pregnant!

WAITER Hang on, hang on, they went into the restaurant, the woman and her husband…

CHEMY That was not her goddamn husband!

WAITER A man and a woman, looked… kind of traditional, village folk, I guess. Think she was pregnant.

JAMAL Where we can sit?

WAITER It was crazy busy inside.

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AMAL I'd prefer indoors.

WAITER Table thirty-two was available.

AMAL Could we have that table please?

WAITER Except she asked to sit at table eleven instead.

JAMAL Madame prefers this table.

WAITER I'm sorry, miss, but this table's reserved, half an hour from now.

AMAL We'll be quick.

WAITER So I said, “No worries.” Gave them table eleven.

- Fifteen.
- Sixteen.

WAITER They were sitting at table eleven, in the western end of the restaurant. He was facing south and she was sitting to his left. They ordered some food. I served them myself!

CHEMY The Woman chooses the least intimate table, smack in the middle of the restaurant and he never stops to ask himself why?!

JAMAL Sure I was – surprised! They had tables much more quiet.

AMAL Sit down, sit. Here's fine.

JAMAL It's like eating at a train station.

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AMAL: It's nearer to the a/c.

JAMAL: She was feeling hot, I argue with her?! I'm a taxi driver, I don't fight with my passengers!

- Eighteen.

- Nineteen.

JAMAL: She ordered some mango juice and the chicken skewers.

WAITER: She ordered some mango juice and the chicken skewers.

JAMAL: And they come back with orange juice and kebabs.

AMAL: This is not what I ordered.

WAITER: I'm so sorry. Let me sort this out for you right away.

- We spent ages waiting for our check. We were all ready to leave but we just kept sitting there, waiting for the check…

- Excuse me, how's our check coming along?

YAEI: Get out! Get the hell out of there! Never mind the check; get out of there right now!

JAMAL: The truth is she hardly touched her food.

WAITER: I took her order back to the kitchen, untouched.

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CHEMY She asks to go to a restaurant, orders the skewers and then doesn't even look twice at her plate; a person doesn't even get kind of suspicious? Well the man's either thick as pig shit or he knew damn well what she was going there for. Got no other explanation!

And when the check did come, I gave them my credit card and there we were again, having to wait some more, till the waiter came back with our card.

WAITER We were having a bit of trouble with the computer, I apologised for the delay…

Dad said, “You go on, wait in the car. I'll stay and wait for the card.”

YAEL Go wait for him outside!

So we went outside to wait for him.

Suddenly there was a bang!
- Bang!
- Bang!
- I can't hear a thing.
- Mum???
- Are you here on your own?
- Nobody move.
- Where's Raia?
- I don't know where my mum is. I don't know where my mum is. I don't know where my mum is.
- Bang.
- Daniel, close your eyes!
- But I can't see a thing!
- Can we go buy me a football tomorrow?
- I don't wanna die, I don't wanna die, I don't wanna die.
- Bang!
- You can't explain it; this massive bang!
- And we kept ringing, and ringing, and that damn busy signal, over and over again…
- Busy.

(Busy signal)
- You've reached the voicemail box of…
- Itzik Raveh.
Osnat Kedem.

Vered Goldberg.

Please leave a message after the...

Bang.

YAEL She was pregnant; she left me this necklace.

This epic bang!

Nuclear!

Earth shattering!

Like your whole world was caving in

Like you, yourself, had set it off; from inside your head

Like someone accidentally ‘pushed the button’.

Like a supernova!

Like some supersonic boom!

As if we were back at the Big Bang all over again, only now it meant the end was here.

As if it were time –

Bang.

And after the bang, you don't hear anything anymore