

Senem's Journey to a New Beginning
Modified Version
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Chapter 3

That whole day was fuzzy in Senem's mind. Tarkan and Senem called their families in Turkey. They told them that Emine and her boyfriend had taken Hasan. Both families were shocked and worried.

In the morning, Senem decided to go to English class. If she were in Turkey, all her family would be with her night and day. Senem wanted to be in the middle of lots of loving, caring people.

Tarkan stayed home in case Emine called again.

Senem enjoyed her English class at a local public school. The teacher, Karen, and the other students were her good friends. She wanted to be with them now.

It was a mistake. There were too many people, especially children. Karen saw Senem and came over to her. Senem said, "Here is my journal. I must go home." She handed her journal to Karen.

Senem's Journal Tuesday, June 15

I feel so sad. I sit here in apartment, with no life in. No Hasan. Is he happy? Is he crying? Emine loves him, but she is not his mother. She hurts me, Tarkan, and even Hasan. Tarkan is very angry. He wants to punish Emine. I am sad most of all. Emine is almost like a young sister. But Tarkan and I both want same thing. We want Hasan. Now, I cannot tell you more English. I know you understand.

Two friends from Tarkan's university program were at the apartment when Senem got home. Soon Ruth and Martha arrived with food. Everyone stopped talking and eating when the phone rang.

"Hello?" Senem tried to sound confident and strong.

Emine spoke. Her voice was shaky. *"Senem, I know what I am doing is wrong."*

Senem said, *"Yes, Emine, you are right. You must come home now."*

"But you must hate me," whispered Emine. She was crying. *"I only wanted to keep Hasan with me. I can't go back to Turkey without him, but I don't want him to be unhappy. He cried today for you and for his daddy."* Emine admitted, *"I don't know what to do."*

"Bring him home to us, please, please," begged Senem.

In a small voice, Emine said, "*Come downstairs. Come alone. You can see him. You can kiss him goodbye.*"

"Goodbye? Kiss him goodbye?"

Tarkan understood. He and Senem ran out the door and downstairs. But the car with Emine, Alex, and Hasan was already leaving. Alex ran the stop sign. They were gone.

Back in the apartment, Senem sobbed. Martha handed her a cup of tea. In the middle of this nightmare, there was a quiet knock at the door. Tarkan opened it.

Emine stood there. Her long black hair was wild around her white face. Tears poured down her round cheeks. In her arms, she held the sleeping Hasan.