

Senem's Journey to a New Beginning
Modified Version
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Chapter 7

The next morning, Senem got out of bed and went into the living room. Hasan and Tarkan were playing. *"People might be coming over,"* she said. *"I will cook some food."*

Tarkan nodded. *"I'll take Hasan to the park,"* he said.

Senem turned on the TV news and turned up the volume. Then she went into the kitchen. She heard a voice on TV speaking Turkish. She went to see who was talking.

A young woman was sobbing. Her face was in her hands. *"We were coming back from a party. The earth began to shake. We screamed and ran. The buildings began to fall. The noise was terrible. Then, when the shaking stopped, we stopped."*

The woman raised her face to the camera. Senem gasped. It was Hulya!

Hulya said, *"To my whole family, I am fine."* The picture changed. Senem rushed out of the apartment to find Tarkan and Hasan.

When she saw them she called, *"Tarkan! Hulya is fine! She's alive!"*

"Thank God," said Tarkan. *"Everyone is fine."*

Tarkan and Hasan decided to keep playing in the park. When Senem got home, the phone was ringing. It was Senem's mother with the good news about Hulya.

"I saw her on television," said Senem. *"It was a miracle."*

Then Senem's mother said, *"There is more news. Emine was injured. She was already sick before the earthquake. She wasn't eating. Now she may die."*

After they hung up the telephone, Senem thought about Emine. She should try to help her friend. She dialed the number of the hospital where Emine was being treated. She asked for Emine Bahar.

“That young woman died this morning,” said the woman on the other end. Senem sat down on the sofa and wept. Very soon, she heard a knock at the door. Senem wiped her face and went to the door. It was Martha. She could see something was wrong. Senem told her that Emine was dead.

Martha hugged her. “I understand Senem. You feel so sad because Emine was your friend. Maybe she a little crazy, but is not change how you feel for her. My grandmother died last year in Mexico. We have no money for me to go for the funeral. I am then very sad, how do you say, depressed? Then is better, little by little.”

“I will think about what you say. Thank you.”

“I going now,” said Martha. “But I be back tomorrow for the school. You coming then.”

Senem smiled. “Maybe,” she said. She thought about Emine. She remembered how much Hasan loved her. She remembered watching television with her and laughing with her. Emine was dead, but Hulya was alive. How did those two things go together? One was so joyous, the other was so terrible.

Finally, Tarkan came home. She put her arms around him. She whispered that Emine was dead. He led her to the bedroom helped her get into bed. *“Sleep.”*

Senem slept. When she woke up it was still dark outside. Her mind was calm and clear. She thought about the past year. Then in the darkness her mind was filled with a

golden light. Senem thought of Hulya. She was alive. She thought of Emine. She didn't mean to hurt Senem's family.

Slowly, the feeling disappeared. She understood that life must go on. Senem knew there would be bad days and good days ahead. But now she had hope. She was ready now to have another baby.