

Radio version for DLF/ABC Sydney

Gesine Schmidt

# **loverap**

Cast

Yusuf

Vanessa

**[ Romeo & Julia ]**

**ROMEO** Julia!

**JULIA** Romeo!

**ROMEO** She is my lady; O it is my love!

**ROMEO** Sie ist es, meine Göttin, meine Liebe, oh!

**Yusuf and Vanessa Impro:**

Vanessa: There's my name, Vanessa, my name is on there.

Yusuf: I had to have it ...

**Announcer:** Yusuf and Vanessa are a Turkish-German couple.

**[ Romeo & Julia ]**

**JULIA** Verleugne Deinen Vater, Deinem Namen!

Schwör' dich zu meinem Liebsten!

Und ich bin länger keine Capulet!

**JULIA** Deny thy father and refuse thy name;

**JULIA** Und ich bin länger keine Capulet!

**JULIA** And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

Yusuf: Come on babe, don't be scared, I'll look after you.

**Announcer:** This is their story in their own words.

**Yusuf and Vanessa Impro:**

Yusuf: Really we should be at school now.

I'd like one Ayran. Just wait! Have you got any? I need money, I've only got 90 cents...

**YUSUF:** My friend, now, he's bustin' these full-on rhymes. Yeah I'm gonna be the shit, that sort of stuff. I'm killin' it. Used to be my thing too, but I was never that good. The rhymes come, but never so good. Just what I already know. But if you're talkin', like, R&B, some kinda love rap, that's a different story. I've got more of a feel for that, stuff comes to me. So I'm gonna make a song for her. So there's a girl singin' at the start, and then I come in, there's my lyrics, and then the girl comes in again, "Baby don't be sad, don't shed a tear, without you, I won't go away from here".

The tune is killer. I got it from a friend of mine, my brother, and he knows she and I are together. And he knows her too. He gave me that tune, just for me, just for her. I just had to make a song for her, but I didn't know what. And then all of a sudden I found it. And no-one's got it except me. And I don't want to fuck it up. I wanna make it for HER.

**Vanessa:** I feel like it was a flicker of fate that I found him. And everyday he proves it to me. Cos he's stressed out at home. Cos' his Dad's away and that sort of stuff. And he's got no-one. The other chicks say, fuck him! Vanessa. All of them think that. And his mates too. But inside, it says "No! Don't dump him". Cos' he doesn't have anyone else. That's why I stay . Cos' of me his life has changed. He's gettin' on better with his sister now, like heaps. His mum, every day she's proud of him, more and more. Cos' he gives her a kiss. Cos' he helps her. It feels like all that changed cos' of me. Like, the only reason I came is to bring them all back together. Just bein' there. Cos' his Dad's away and stuff. Cos' life is tough for him. That I've gotta take him under my wings and stuff ....

**Yusuf and Vanessa Impro:**

Yusuf: Yeah, let's go.

Vanessa: yeah, let's go.

Yusuf: If I was the boss, do you know what I'd do? OK kids, that's it, go home, see you.

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YUSUF: I was just lookin', you know, just lookin' to see who's comin'. And when I saw her I looked the other way, but my eyes just went back in her direction. Automatic. And then at recess of course I go lookin' for her. And then every recess and lunchtime.

VANESSA: I didn't take any notice of him then. I just didn't see him.

YUSUF: The first time I ring, it's the same day I get her number. The first time she doesn't answer. Me, I'm just normal. Then, like, suddenly she picks up. I get nervous.

So I say, hello. Big deep voice. She says, hey. Me, it's me, Yusuf. What you doin'? This and that. Stuff. Then I say to her, can I ring you often. And she says, yeah. Then we both hang up, and I'm jumpin' all over the place, right over the top. Cos' I'm so happy. And then I'm ringin' her every 5 minutes.

VANESSA: We were on the phone a long time, whoa.

YUSUF: Yeah man.

VANESSA: For hours. All through the night.

YUSUF: We talked heaps.

VANESSA: 'Bout everything that happened to us in our lives.

YUSUF: 'Bout how we're gonna get married.

YUSUF: Cos' I've got feelings for her.

VANESSA: ....that he wants to marry me.

YUSUF: She burnt me.

VANESSA: With a ciggie burnt his face. He's always puttin' his arms around me, kissin' me. I tell him, leave me alone, not interested. Cos' he does it so often. He won't stop. Then I stub it out on his face. After that I say to him, I don't want anything to do with you any more. I didn't want anything to do with him.

He keeps ringing up, I keep hanging up. Cos' my trust had been fucked up so many times by other boys. He's always ringin' me and I just hung up. He really fought. He did everything to get me. I didn't want... But he conquered my heart, this retard ...

**[ Romeo & Julia ]**

**ROMEO** Julia!

**JULIA** Romeo!

**ROMEO** Julia! Deine Schönheit hat so weibisch mich gemacht!...

**ROMEO** O sweet Juliet, thy beauty hath made me effeminate ...

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YUSUF: Look, I didn't want to fight the guy. Supposedly I insulted him. So the bigger ones say: You've gotta fight him. Otherwise we'll beat you up. So I had to fight him. They just wanna see blood. They get to say what goes down. And then at some point I piss off. They're filming it all on their mobiles. Even when I get run over by the car...

VANESSA: Can't you just say to them, shut the fuck up!

YUSUF: No way!

VANESSA: But I can say it.

YUSUF: Yeah, cos' you're a girl.

VANESSA: They look up to him. Cos' he's got me.

RAP

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YUSUF: So I'm practicin' to get my scooter licence. And the only reason I want the scooter is cos' of her. Cos' she's always getting home late. Always in trouble. And these foreigners, like, they're lookin' at her. Fuck that. So I'd rather give her a lift home.

VANESSA: Will you pick me up on the way to school too?

YUSUF: No problem! Yeah, wallah! I'll pick you up. Then we're gonna ride together.

VANESSA: He won't do it, he's too lazy.

YUSUF: Too lazy to get up. But right now I've gotta problem with the scooter licence. I'm too dumb for it somehow. Too much traffic. Can't do it.

VANESSA: He's only been doing it one or two days, he's never looked at it before. And then he's bullshittin' me he can't do it. He's gotta learn it by heart. Look at it every day. Cover it up. Look at it. Cover it up. Look at it.

YUSUF: Yeah, but I don't feel like...

VANESSA: Then you'll never get it . No pain no gain Babe.

### **ROMEO AND JULIET**

**ROMEO: But love thee better than thou canst devise. Juliet!  
Till thou shalt know the reason of my love**

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YUSUF: In the beginning, when I told my Mum, she wasn't happy, Cos' Vanessa's German.

VANESSA: Hey, I don't tell my parents anything...

YUSUF: She's thinking, Vanessa will get pregnant, and then she'll piss off...

VANESSA: I don't want it to be that hard for him when I introduce him...

YUSUF: Cos' then she'll get the single mother's pension. Or they'll rip off the family, and we'll have to do too much housework. Muslims think like that.

VANESSA: My Mum isn't like that. My Mum's like: We're only human. I don't know. She doesn't get it!

YUSUF: And that she might just get sick of me and leave. And then I'm stuck with the kid. Just like that.

VANESSA: But I don't want him to meet my Dad, no way.

YUSUF: It happened to our neighbour. It happens heaps.

## **Faith 1**

YUSUF Like, sometimes I ask myself. No-one can answer that for me: where did the world come from, actually, and everything in it? Like, everybody's got a faith, yeah? So where I'm from, we have a faith, and I have to believe. Even though I don't want to believe, cos' I reckon it's not true. But I have to, but, cos' it's our faith.

VANESSA Cos' he was brought up that way. Your friends, your parents, like they all believe...

YUSUF The most important thing of all is, belief in the Prophet.

VANESSA: Like, what I 'm asking myself is, where do all the names come from? Everything in the world has a name. And the names all fit so perfectly: table, chair...everything fits so well!

YUSUF: You think that, cos' that's the way you were brought up.



RAP

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VANESSA I'm waitin' downstairs. The lift opens. "Are you Vanessa?". And I'm like, yeah. And she says like, "I'm Yusuf's sister." Then she says like, "Come on up. Are you embarrassed or something?"

YUSUF My sister's always real down on both of us.

VANESSA And the whole time I'm saying, no, no – because I am embarrassed. But you keep on sayin' that, then you're rude.

YUSUF In case we want to sleep together. Cos' of that she won't let us sleep in the same bed, and she don't even like it if we sleep in the same room.

VANESSA So I go upstairs. Then I say hello, this and that. All polite. And stuff. I was cool.

YUSUF: My mum doesn't care.

VANESSA: And now I know the whole family. I love his Mum, I love his sister heaps, they love me heaps.

YUSUF: She's always thinking, little kids, they wanna have a bit of fun, there's nothing wrong with that, yeah ...

VANESSA: It's the rules. Until you get married, you have to be virgin. Muslims are like that, but.

**[ Romeo & Julia ]**

**JULIA** Willst du schon gehn?

Der Tag ist ja noch fern.

Es war die Nachtigall und nicht die Lerche, die sang.

Es war die Nachtigall.

**JULIET** Wilt thou be gone? it is not yet near day:

It was the nightingale, and not the lark,  
.... it was the nightingale.

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YUSUF: Seriously, when we broke up, it didn't bother me. Cos' I'd think to myself, it'll all be sweet. But after a while you realize you just can't get by without that person. And then on Saturday, we'd bought a packet of smokes. That was supposed to be for both of us. And then more than half are gone, and she takes the pack off me, cos' I'm smokin' too much. I'm playin' this computer game, I've gotta have a cigarette. And she straight to my sister.

VANESSA He says to me, never speak to me again, fuck off, he says all sorts of stuff to me...

YUSUF And the whole time she's sayin', come on, hit me, come on, hit me ...

VANESSA Yeah, cos' he pushed me away, really hard. So I say "Do you wanna hit me? Come on, hit me!" And he's like, "Shut your mouth! Or I'll hit you!" And I'm not gonna take that. Me, I wanna know, if I provoke him, is he gonna do that? Or not. Then he hits me. Rams my head into the windowframe. Grabs my head again and bashes it on a chair. And then he slaps me, hard.

I'm lyin' there on the ground. His sister comes in when he slaps me and kicks him out. I never thought he'd do it. Cos' he's promised me so often, "I'll never touch a hair on your head, not as long as I live. I love you way too much".

All that sort of stuff. Then he's out on his ass. Out in the stairwell.

YUSUF: First up I didn't know I'd done it, cos' often I don't do nothin'. Then I am out onto the fire-escape. That's when I know I can't live without her. I dunno what to do. I just think this pain has gotta stop. Should I jump off the window-ledge? Then I'm dead, and I don't feel pain no more. I go down, I see broken glass lyin' around. I cut myself. Then I go home. Luckily she's left her bag there...

VANESSA I left it there on purpose...

YUSUF Luckily she's left it there. So that I can take it and I can take it to her place. And then she says, come on. Even though she's so mad at me.

VANESSA Cos' he'd been kicked out. He was totally alone. There was no-one there for him right then.

#### **YUSUF AND VANESSA IMPRO**

**Yusuf: What's that bro? Is that ugly or what...  
Must be really old...**

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YUSUF Today I almost passed out. Cos' I've seen some things. What did I see Babe?

VANESSA We were riding around on the bus because we were skipping school. We studied a bit for the scooter test. And I know, like, there's this giant scooter stand. Paradise, for him. He loves scooters more than anything. We go past, he's lookin' out: scooters everywhere. Pressed the button, off the bus, he's running – bad! Then he almost starts cryin'. There's a white one there, he likes it, straightaway. Then he shows it to me...

YUSUF I fell in love with it that moment. That very moment.

VANESSA He shows it to me. I look, all of a sudden I see my name on the front: Vanessa! Just like that! Vanessa, it's got my name on it.

YUSUF I tell my mum about it later on. She says, nope, that one's way too expensive. 900 Euros for the scooter from Real, you think that's not expensive? We're buying you that one. Just be happy with that.

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YUSUF: We haven't gone to school for a week and a half.

VANESSA I still need a certificate. There's this doctor, he just hands them out.

YUSUF: Without checkin'. Yesterday I'm at school, practicing the scooter test, and my teacher sees me. She says, you better be here from tomorrow. "OK, I promise". Tomorrow I'll go to school for sure. Friday I don't know yet.

VANESSA Hey, if the subjects were more exciting, if it was something that was fun to do, like for instance Anne Frank, that stuff with the Jews, then I'd totally turn up.

YUSUF: Anne Frank? What's Anne Frank?

VANESSA Hitler. Anne Frank, the diary, that sorta stuff. I wanna know about that too.

YUSUF Actually I'm best in the class at maths, but I can't be asked, because on Thursdays I have three hours of maths in a row. That's bullshit. That's way too much!

### **Romeo and Juliet**

**ROMEO** Darf ich dem Schmeichelbild des Schlafes trauen  
Dann wartet mein ein nahes Glück ...

**ROMEO** If I may trust the flattering truth of sleep,  
My dreams presage some joyful news at hand .....

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YUSUF I got my scooter licence. Because of her I got it. On the third go. The first time I fucked it up. The second time I studied it with her, and the third time around we did it. My first scooter's gotta be real fresh. And I wanted a new one, had to be brand new. And that's why I chose this one..., firstly because it looks sick and because it's cheap.

Yeah, the scooter cost 1000 Euros just by itself, and then there was a hundred Euros for the helmets, and 50 for the plates and 300 for the mods. How'm I 'sposed to know you gotta pay extra for the mods?

**Hey wait on... (answers mobile) – Yeah, really? Awesome. In an hour? OK cool, I'll be there. You bet man.**

That was Faruk and Hakim, they just rang to tell me they know how to hot my scooter up, so it goes faster. Up to 80! They've got the tools and stuff. It only goes 25 at the moment. They can get it up to 80.

### **YUSUF AND VANESSA IMPRO**

**Yusuf            You could just give me a kiss**  
**Vanessa        Hey, I give you so many kisses Yusuf, all the time...**  
**Yusuf            Hey, look at her**  
**Vanessa        Women...he can't stop himself...all the time...**  
**Yusuf            She gets cranky when I say, take a look at that dress she's got on.**  
**She gets cranky all the time! Man, I have to listen to that all day.**

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VANESSA So with my pregnancy it was like, we all reckoned my best friend was pregnant, so we went to the doctor together. We both took the test to see if we were pregnant, and it comes up negative. Then we get a prescription for the pill. I get my period the same day, take the pill for 21 days – and my friend gets pregnant straight away, and she knew it. And then the doctor tells me I'm pregnant too.

YUSUF Prgenant yes, pregnant no ... I told my Mum about it, and she says, have an abortion, straight up. She was totally against it, full-on.

VANESSA Health insurance, hospital, I did it all on my own. But then my Mum found out.

YUSUF We actually wanted to keep the baby you know, we were really sad about it. But we couldn't do it...

VANESSA My Mum was really over the top, like fully. Scared for me, whatever. What if something happens to you, she keeps on saying' And then she asks me, when's the operation. So I'm like, tomorrow. And then my Mum like totally fell apart.

YUSUF I was with her the whole time. Except when they were operating on her. I went off for a bit, got some money, bought her some flowers. She didn't want the flowers. They were beautiful flowers. She wanted a rose instead.

VANESSA The same thing happened to my sister. But my Dad'd go off his head if he found out.

YUSUF To be honest, since this pregnancy thing happened, my mum and my sister have turned against her.

VANESSA It sorta changed ... everything.

YUSUF I haven't been home for five days. I ran away from home.

VANESSA Yeah, his sister, she comes across sweet, but really she's two-faced. And his mum too. We had a fight, totally over the top, us two. That was really bad. I was so drunk. I was gonna jump out of the window at his place and you konw what? What was really fuckin' fucked up was that his Mum rang my Mum the next day and told her everything.

YUSUF And on top of that she says we've gotta be apart.

VANESSA The message was like, her daughter should keep away from my son. Like...

YUSUF And then I had a fight with them and ran away. Every day my Mum's carryin' on, cryin', come back. And yesterday I say to her, give me some money. She's like: Why? You ran away. I'm like, I'm starvin'. Gimme money. She reckons: Nope. You've both hurt me. Badly. You've..No idea! I don't have to listen to this shit, I say, and take the money, and piss off straight away. Parents – they've got no idea, man. They were young once, but they still don't have a clue.

VANESSA: Right from the start his mother kept saying: Turkish girl! Well if that's what she thinks she should just go for it, and not be so two-faced. I changed him so much, all sorts of stuff. And what's the thanks I get? A kick in the guts.

YUSUF Sami and Emine, they get us food from somewhere. I can stay there for as long as I want, it's no problem. Well that's what I thought, but somehow I get the feeling it's stressing them out, me being there. They've got no money either, and they've got no electricity at home. They're living off mobile phones.

## **Faith II**

Vanessa: I was christened. My parents go to church every Sunday.

Yusuf: What they do in America, that's Catholic. You can go to see a priest and like talk to a wall. And Protestant is no wall. You can talk to the priest face-to-face.

Vanessa: I'm s'posed to be confirmed soon, but I don't wanna be. Altogether my sisters got, I dunno, about 1000 Euros. But I don't wanna do that, because then I'm going to be like totally churched! I couldn't be fucked.

Yusuf: Wait a moment. 1000 Euros? Can I do that?

Vanessa: No way. You're Muslim.

Yusuf: But can't you just do it, get the money, and then quit?

### **[ Romeo & Julia ]**

**JULIA** Komm Nacht...

**ROMEO** Julia!

**JULIA** ... und gib mir meinen Romeo...

**ROMEO** Oh Nacht!

**JULIA** .... dass ich ihn unbelauscht in meine Arme schließe!

**ROMEO** Reiner Jugendblüte zum Pfande setzt

**JULIA** Komm Nacht!

**ROMEO** .... zu verlieren!

**JULIA** Komm Romeo du Tag in Nacht!

**ROMEO** Julia

**JULIA** Komm!

**JULIET** Come, night; - come, Romeo, - Romeo - Leap to these arms .... come, thou day in night ... love performing night .....

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YUSUF When I pissed off from home we wanted to get our own flat. You gotta get permission from your parents. I talked to my Mum on the phone had a fight. I said to her, I'll get my own place whether you like it or not.

Vanessa: There's no way my Mum would let me leave home.

YUSUF The people at Social Security we're like, you're only 15, you can't get your own flat until you're 17. They reckon, if you're homeless, you can go to the emergency youth housing office and then maybe you'll get a place in a share flat. Takes a couple of weeks. I say, nah, I don't wanna share flat. Yeah...Maybe you'll get pregnant again, you never know. Then actually they'd have to give us a flat. And then, like, we'd get more money somehow.

VANESSA Flat, rent, they'd have to pay the lot. Furniture, the lot.

YUSUF ...rent, furniture, the lot.

VANESSA ...we'd get it all from the Youth Welfare...

YUSUF If we don't earn anything for a couple of months...

VANESSA ...they make it up...

YUSUF ...and then we'd have heaps of money. Sami is always talking about that. Six whole months he got no money at all from the job center and then all of a sudden 1800 Euros. So then he really spent up big.



YUSUF I've just been trying to convert my scooter into a Pegasus. A Pegasus scooter is always red in front and black at the back. And my scooter was red all over. I made it black at the back and left it red at the front. And then I didn't like it because there wasn't enough black at the back and the front was too red. The very next day I made the whole thing black. And fucked the whole thing up. If I could get 600 Euros for it now, honestly, I'd get rid of it.

**YUSUF AND VANESSA IMPRO:**

**YUSUF: Let's go to Karstadt, I'll steal you some perfume.**

**VANESSA: No! Yusuf, you've really gotta watch out with pinching stuff.**

**YUSUF You've just gotta make sure you don't get caught.**

YUSUF To tell the truth, I hate my sister more than anything. I don't even love her a little bit. I still love my Mum, but I hate her too. Really.

VANESSA So many young guys, if there's only women at home, they're the man of the house at 12, they've got a say. It's not like that for him. His mother says do this, do that and doesn't give him a chance. Like, they back him into a corner and then they're surprised when he doesn't come out. The other problem is, they never told him anything when he was younger. Like nothing!

YUSUF I didn't know what high school even was until I was in sixth grade. For example, womb, she told me what that is.

VANESSA The boy can't help it, but he's dumb. Because his parents didn't teach him anything. Everything he knows he got from his friends.

YUSUF If someone tried to come on to her, like, I'm not strong enough to do anything.

VANESSA To be honest, he is strong, he is strong but he doesn't have any confidence. That's the thing. He just like has no confidence.

YUSUF Because I was never supposed to get into fights. Because I had it drummed into me that I should never do that.

VANESSA With him, it's like, everyone reckons he's some kinda victim. But actually, in this world, we're all victims, you know. Because there's always someone stronger.

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VANESSA We wanted to go to my sister's place, for a meal. The next thing we know there's a cop car next to us and they're saying, pull over.

YUSUF And they ask me, what did it cost? Yeah, the scooter 1000 on its own, and then the helmets and the mods and the plates on top of that... Right, he says, mods, hey?

VANESSA Yeah, actually they only pulled us over because of the helmet.

YUSUF. They reckon, all up, it can cost 1000 Euros. For the helmets it's gonna cost 15 euro, 15 for her, 15 for me. A fine, they call it. 250 for the tow. And then 17 Euros a day for the parking spot at the police station. That adds up to heaps.

RAP

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YUSUF OK, so we're in Year 9 now, and both of us only have one more year to go. She'll do it. Me, I'm bad at school. My life is fucked already.

VANESSA Why are you giving up?

YUSUF 'Cos' I've only got one more year to go. One year of school. That means a year of hanging around and then...then I've got nothing left to do. My life is fucked. Then I've got nothing.

VANESSA I don't care, next year you're gonna sit your ass on a chair and study. Otherwise I'll leave you.

YUSUF And now they've made really stupid rules at school, like when you've missed 10 hours, you get done for truancy. Straight away.

VANESSA 10 ?

YUSUF 10.

VANESSA Hours?

YUSUF Yes hours

VANESSA Yusuf, I missed 8 already!

YUSUF Then she gets done and she can pay up to 2500 Euro, easy.

VANESSA It's not so as though I'm skipping school. If I'm late in the morning it's because I've slept through my alarm. I hear the alarm go off, but then I turn it off in my sleep. My Dad's always asleep still too and my Mum's gone to work.

YUSUF When I first got to know her last year, she was always sleeping in, even then. She was late for school every day for 2 months at least.

VANESSA I wasn't late, I was skipping.

YUSUF Most of the time you skipped because you slept in.

VANESSA Oh, shut the fuck up!

## **LAWS 1**

YUSUF            In general, laws are a load of shit.

VANESSA        Oh hallo? And why are laws a load of shit ? You tell me.

YUSUF            I guess everything here would be a mess, man.

VANESSA        What's a mess.

YUSUF            Everyone would kill everyone else.

VANESSA        Yeah. No money. No nothing.

YUSUF            No money, no nothing, everybody homeless.

VANESSA        You see. Put it like this, the world would be destroyed.

## **YUSUF AND VANESSA IMPRO**

**YUSUF I'd like to take you out, properly, y'know, go and have a nice meal together. Spanish food is really good!**

**VANESSA I wouldn't feel comfortable with all those people around, posh like...**

**YUSUF        She doesn't like fish, but me, I love paella, yum...and it's all yellow.**

**VANESSA Look, isn't it pretty!**

**YUSUF A wedding dress. See, when I get some money, I can buy it for you... She's not even listening to me..**

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YUSUF So on Friday I made it up with Mum, because I was starving. I promised her all this stuff, whatever, and everything was sorted out. And then yesterday, we have another fight. She says, "you can come home and have something to eat, but Vanessa's not welcome here". It was never like I wanted to hit my Mum before. Yesterday, I really wanna hit her. She gets scared and chucks me outta the flat. "Tonight you get your

things!" And last night, I went to pack my stuff up, I go up to the flat, and she's waiting downstairs...

VANESSA No-one's home, no-one's up in the flat...

YUSUF So I look, and there it is – "*You bastard*" – some shit like that – "*You bastard Yusuf, never come home again, because of you Mum is in the hospital, there's something wrong with her heart, they're operating on her right now*" and "*go to your slut and if anything happens to Mum I swear I won't let you live.*"

VANESSA "*You don't belong to the family no more.*"

YUSUF "*Just fuck off. Never come near us again.*"

VANESSA "*Here, leave the key on the table, take all your things and never darken our door again.*" So he should go begging on the street, so that he can eat.

YUSUF And then I go and start packin' my things. Fuck I was angry. I wrote her a letter, "*Firstly you're a slut. The two of you are whores and I don't need you anymore.*" And then I wrote, "*yeah, and my scooter got confiscated today*"... what else did I write?

VANESSA You can assume it's going to cost 1000 Euro...

YUSUF Like, have fun paying the fine...And then I wrote "*Fuck the two of you! I'll come back and get my things tonight and if you give me any shit when I come home I'll kick the door in and then I'll kill you both.*" I was so fucken' pissed off, because my sister called her a slut. No-one calls her a slut! And then I trashed the flat.

VANESSA Smashed everything. Took all her things, threw them on the floor, bathroom, make-up, perfume, everything on the ground, tipped out the washing powder, everything.

YUSUF The kids' room...

VANESSA All the CDs...

YUSUF CDs, everything on the ground,

VANESSA Clothes...

YUSUF Clothes, on the ground, all torn up. Everything all over the floor.  
We've got a balcony...

VANESSA He comes downstairs with his suitcase.

YUSUF We'd taken a lamp...

VANESSA He comes downstairs with the suitcase. From his own home!

YUSUF And this lamp always gave us light. We always used it. And I  
smashed that too.

VANESSA Babe, why haven't they called you?

RAP

### **FAITH III**

YUSUF     Our faith says that God created everything here to test us, until  
we die.

VANESSA If you do good, is the way shorter then?

YUSUF     Not shorter, but wider.

VANESSA So what happens, if you're on that wider way, and you lose your  
balance, and fall?

YUSUF     Then it's your bad luck. You're in Hell anyway.

17

YUSUF I rang Turkey, rang my Dad. I said to him, ring Grandad, tell him to ring the barber, and tell him to give me 50 Euros straight away, so that I can get something to eat. I'm starving to death here. And he says, let her alone, go from that girl, like ...

VANESSA "Don't fuck with your family like this".

YUSUF And I say to my Dad, "Do you know what's going on here? Two men came to our house, I don't know them, Mum says to them, like, Abe, and they come in and start trying to get to know me. Like, hey coz..."  
My Dad lost it then. He says to me, go to your mother and beat her to death. That was it. He was dead serious. I took it seriously too. That's a solution for my Dad. My Dad says, my Mum can't have any other man, and as the man of the house I gotta tell her "You can't have another man!" My sister can't have a boyfriend either. Hey, my sister's got a boyfriend and my mother's on the lookout for another man.

VANESSA Yusuf, I still don't believe you, that you smashed up the flat.

YUSUF I swear it's true!

VANESSA They would have called you up ages ago....

18

YUSUF Yeah, she's more into weed, I'm more into hash.

VANESSA Yeah, I reckon weed gets you much more mashed. You don't wanna know how much money I've spent on it. Cos' I used to smoke every day. But after a while weed gets boring. You know what they say, weed is just what you start off with. Then you get into other stuff: smack, coke, pills. I've only had pills. It's messed-up, full on, when you're on it. You're wide awake and hyper and shit. You don't have any inhibitions...

YUSUF The first time she did it, she rings me and she's, like, cryin', and sayin': we're gonna go to school, the three of us, we'll never do it again. And one week later, I swear, they've done some again.

VANESSA Me and my girlfriends, the three of us were sitting in bed, and we took another pill. We were all talking, about how much we love each other, just anything, what's important to us. We just talked about our lives, what's wrong, what's gone better, like, whatever. You really tell the truth, when you're on it. And then we thought, we've got our eyes open now, now we know what we've gotta do. But really, I dunno, we just couldn't do it.

YUSUF Someday I wanna move away from here with her. I don't care where so long as it's quiet. There's too many foreigners around here.

VANESSA For the sake of our kids, like...

YUSUF They do too much bad shit you know.

19

YUSUF I did get some money from the barber today, it was s'posed to be 50 Euros, but he only gives me 20. And all we did was eat something and buy smokes and it's all gone.

(VANESSA All gone again.)

YUSUF On the street, when you get hungry, you can't cook. You can't do anything. You've gotta get a kebab. It all adds up. Her and me 5 Euros for a kebab. But then I was still too hungry, so I got a falafel, that was another 2 Euros. 7 Euros all up. And then 2 Ayran. That's about 9 Euros. And an iced tea, 1,20 Euro. 10 Euro 20.

VANESSA And then smokes on top of that. That's 7 euro. And then you gave Emine 1 Euro for phone calls.

YUSUF And then the money's all gone again. It's that quick.



VANESSA Hey you know what I'm wonderin'? Why they still haven't called you.

**YUSUF AND VANESSA IMPRO**

**Vanessa**                    **What direction are we going now?**  
**Yusuf**                    **I dunno. What are we doing actually?**  
**Vanessa**                    **I dunno either. Just checking it out, just looking, yeah?**  
**Yusuf**                    **Don't we have to get out here?**  
**Vanessa**                    **No, it's the next one. Don't try and distract me. I saw you looking at her. All the time you're checking out girls.**  
**Yusuf**                    **Hey, I dunno what she's getting so worked up about. It's like, she's not listening to me, that really gets on my nerves. You never listen to me, you never believe anything I say. What, aren't I allowed to even look.**  
**VANESSA** **Hey, words are like clothes, you can cover yourself up with fine garments, but the truth can't be disguised.**

**[ Romeo & Julia ]**

**ROMEO** Dein edler Geist hat all zu früh  
der Erde Staub verschmäh't  
Nichts kann den Unstern dieses Tages wenden,  
Er hebt das Währen, andere müssen's enden ...  
**ROMEO** This day's black fate on more days  
doth depend;  
This but begins the woe others must end.  
Away to heaven, respective lenity,  
And fire-ey'd fury be my conduct now!

20

VANESSA It's like this with me. Whenever I think good, something negative happens. The last time I thought good , my grandmother died. From that day on I always think negative.

YUSUF With her it's like, she's gotta think negative, 'cos like, whatever bad thoughts she has, if they like, happen, then she don't get hurt so bad.

VANESSA In the end you know, it's always, always me on my ass.

YUSUF There's no need for her to be scared of losing me, because I would never, ever leave her, my whole life long. Honest, if the prettiest girl in the world came up to me, and she was rich too, and everyone had posters of her on their wall, I'd still say no. Because for me it's all about love. For me she's the prettiest girl in the world.

VANESSA I think like, such bad thoughts, and I don't even say half of them out loud. It's all in my head. I hold it all in. That's why I end up hurting myself or whatever. Just to get through. I'm just too scared, like, if I let myself start feeling good, then somethin' bad's gonna happen. I know, if I started thinking good, and everything went wrong, then I'd kill myself. I'm not strong enough. I'm not even 1% strong enough. Like, to handle stuff. If I really over-the-top love something, to leave it.

YUSUF It's no different for me. I'd do anything for her. She wants to cut herself and I just want her to learn, like, she shouldn't do it again. She knows I love her. I say to her, 'go into the kitchen. I like that knife is sharp, or that one.' And she even goes in there, and I go to the window and I feel like jumpin', just end it. I just can't live with it anymore. She wants to hurt herself the whole time and I can't stop her.

(mobile phone rings)

YUSUF You know what my mum says?

VANESSA What?

YUSUF I'm only calling because of your Dad. He says I should send you to Turkey.

VANESSA Really?

YUSUF You know what I said?

VANESSA No.

YUSUF I said, you get me a flight there and back. I wanna see the tickets, there and back, I wanna have them both with me. I say to her, have you already cleaned everything up? And she says, yeah, yeah, it's really not that bad. You're really still part of the family. Shit like that.

VANESSA Whoa!

RAP

**YUSUF & VANESSA IMPRO**

**Yusuf Hang on a moment, have you got a smoke?**

21

VANESSA Hey Yusuf, when did we split up?

YUSUF I can't remember exactly.

VANESSA On Friday or on Saturday?

YUSUF Friday.

VANESSA Saturday.

YUSUF Friday.

VANESSA On Friday?

YUSUF On Friday or Saturday.

VANESSA On Friday.

YUSUF On Friday.

VANESSA On Friday. On Thursday we spilt up, then on Friday I saw... no, we broke up on Wednesday evening.

YUSUF I dunno....

VANESSA Yeah that's right, on Wednesday night we split up, an argument, I dunno, I don't remember what it was about.

YUSUF Neither do I...

VANESSA On Friday I met up with my best girlfriend. We drank some booze, whatever. She says to me, Yusuf, you know he has other girls. I'm really pissed off after that, I wanna see him, I do too, then he hits me again, that's why my face is black and blue.

YUSUF When I started hittin' her ,it's just because she won't believe me, when I say I've been faithful. The whole time she just won't let me alone.

VANESSA I was drunk again.

YUSUF And then I hit her and then she wanted to kill herself. She wanted me to give her a knife.

VANESSA And then he rang my mother, my mother was looking for me all over the place, and then my whole family knew I was tryin' to kill myself.

YUSUF And that she was pregnant.

VANESSA My big sister blames my Mum. My Dad just picks fights with Mum. Because he's against the whole thing. Against abortion. Co's he's a Christian too.

## 22

VANESSA It was already three in the morning. And we were wanderin' around in the park, and it's all trees and stuff. The whole time we can hear noises. I say, my heart's tellin' me, something bad's gonna happen. All of a sudden there's a cat next to us, black as sin. And Sami says, devil, devil in that cat, and the cat looks at each one of us , and then whoosh! at me...!

YUSUF Then a red car drives up...

VANESSA ...pantin' and starin' at me like it's human...

YUSUF ...and the light's on and there's no-one inside.

VANESSA All of a sudden Yusuf says to me that it's him in the car. He was sittin' inside! Sami says, shut up, don't make stuff up like that. Yusuf starts cryin', really bawlin' his eyes out, he's really scared and yeah, really red and whatever. He says he saw him again. In the bushes. And then Emine starts praying.

YUSUF He didn't look at me again. When the next car went past he wasn't there, but the one after that, there he was again...

VANESSA And I'm saying to him, look at the ground, look at the ground...

YUSUF All of a sudden something black is standing next to me. And it felt like it had flown up to me.

VANESSA He's really bawlin' his eyes out, full-on. And then me and Sami and Emine get scared, really fucking scared.

YUSUF So we run to Sami's place, because the Devil has to jump over the Koran.

VANESSA Because the Koran is all over the place there and so the Devil won't get far. Nothing can happen. So we wait there until it gets light.

YUSUF That day was the worst. If you see that guy, with the three letters, it means you've been neglecting your religion. And with me, it's like, I really have been neglecting it.

VANESSA Why you of all people, Yusuf?

YUSUF I haven't gone out for three days without a knife.

VANESSA Hey, if the man in black really does come for you, do you really think a knife is gonna help?

YUSUF He starts stranglin' me, all you've gotta do is pull his hood off, and you just tell him to lay off.

VANESSA I'm not a Muslim. I can't see him.

YUSUF You can see him. Any one can see him. But mostly he comes to Muslims, because it's part of our faith. I've said I don't want to be a Muslim, I don't want anything to do with it.

VANESSA Maybe that's exactly why it happened.

YUSUF The police can't do nothin'. They'd just laugh at us. They'd think there was something wrong with me. Off to therapy...

VANESSA So when that happened to you yesterday, did I come to you?

YUSUF You were right beside me the whole time, I couldn't breathe 'cause of you. She's always huggin' me...like that! (*They kiss*) Hey, stop, I told you not to do that...

VANESSA Hey!

23

YUSUF Hey look, I sold my scooter. Because I didn't have a birthday present for her. On Thursday I got it back. 600 Euros fine. And Sami really wanted to buy it for 300. My mother kept on saying: sell it! And so I sold it.

VANESSA He wasn't around the whole day on my birthday. He kinda fucked up my birthday.

YUSUF The whole time I was away I was sellin' my scooter.

VANESSA 5 hours, he says to me, 5 hours to sell a scooter.

YUSUF Yes it does. First of all Sami was s'posed to give me 150 Euros, but then he's got no money. So I have to wait while he sells a phone, then he has to do something else, then he gives me 100 Euros.

VANESSA Whatever! And 5 hours go that quick, that what you're trying to tell me?

## **YUSUF & VANESSA IMPRO**

VANESSA hey, don't try and sweet talk me, hey...

YUSUF Hey, it's your birthday, and I'm trying to sell my scooter. Hey, piss off!

24

VANESSA Four weeks we were split up. We just couldn't work it out. I dunno. Those four weeks all I did was smoke weed and party. That's all. Every day I was drunk and stoned. I went to school when I felt like it and left when I felt like it. Because of him. I didn't want to see him.

YUSUF Last Saturday, my mates and I, we were all dead drunk. Hasan was fighting with Hasan, then Mehmet was fighting a cop, then I almost got into a fight with Osman, because he was saying things about my Dad. Then I was sayin', I miss my Dad, and I get tears in my eyes, and I start talking about her, and then I start bawlin', and he says, yeah, I know what it's like. Then the rest of them wanna keep on going, but I've had enough, and I go to her place, in the middle of the night. I wanted her back, because I found out there on Saturday that she really does love me after all. And then she wants to meet me yesterday morning...

VANESSA But I slept in...

YUSUF Me too...

VANESSA I met my girlfriends at 10, and then we went and got a big bottle of vodka, and we drank the lot, and then we went to school.

YUSUF I'd just got to school, and I see her. She can't even stand up anymore, she's fighting with the firemen. And then suddenly she's bleeding. And I think the firemen have done it. So I run at them, I grab one of the firemen and slam him against the truck, and I grab the other one, and he runs away. And then I pick her up and say, I'm never givin' you up.

VANESSA When they took me to the police station my blood alcohol was, like, 2.0! Then I was in a hospital, I was really out of it, really sick. Man, you know how bad that was? I was lyin' there in the corridor, all tied up, the whole time. My arms and legs are hurtin', everything's hurtin'.

Then I wanted to kill my mother, because I thought it was her who'd done that to me, taken me to hospital and all that. All my Dad said was "How could you drink

vodka that early in the day? You can drink, but not so much, and not the hard stuff."

That was pretty bad, but fuck it! (laughs) My life goes on!

YUSUF Everything you had on was torn. I swear. Your pants were torn, your stockings....

VANESSA My stockings were all ripped up!

YUSUF Your toe was pokin' out the whole time, and all you could do was grin!

VANESSA It was full on.

YUSUF You looked like a Nazi, bro. I swear to God!

VANESSA I had open cuts all over me. Wounds. Full on! Did you tell your sister I was tied up like that?

YUSUF Yeah. She says to me, Vanessa has to learn to live by our rules. Then I have no problem with you two being together.

VANESSA I said to your sister yesterday, I'm sorry. But the two of us, every time something bad happens, everytime something happens, both of us get in the shit. Everytime!

YUSUF That was so bad yesterday, I swear. The whole time, every 5 minutes.

VANESSA I felt so shitty. So shitty.

YUSUF You were giving me so much grief, fully, every 5 minutes. Tellin' me I don't love you and all that stuff. And then crying. And me saying, no babe, I swear!

VANESSA Hey, I was drunk. Dude!

YUSUF 2 Minutes later, Yes, I love you, fully, I love you more than anything in the world. And I'm like, yes, I love you too. Then I'm kissin' her the whole time.

VANESSA Dude, I was dead!

YUSUF Then she starts like, howlin' again. Four or five hours, it lasted, at least.



VANESSA I was so drunk yesterday.

YUSUF Do you know what you were sayin' the whole time yesterday?

VANESSA No.

YUSUF I don't want to lose you. I want to be with you all the time.

VANESSA Babe, I don't even know what you had on yesterday.

YUSUF I was dressed up real nice just for you (laughs).

VANESSA I don't even know what you had on yesterday. I don't even know what you looked like.

YUSUF I looked good.

Last year of school now. I wanna change school with her now, together. So we can make a brand new start. I've found a school now. Hardly a school. It's a school for kids who skip school. You have normal class for a day, and then you do a project for 4 days.

So it's not too much school at all. And I wanna move as well. Then we can get away from all these people. I don't wanna have anything to do with them. I just wanna spend time with her. I wanna hang in there with her. Until the wedding.

VANESSA I'm not cold, so how come I'm shiverin?

I'm really not cold.