

TAKE A NUMBER

Short film script

senaryookulu.com

INT. ID OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Rows of plastic chairs. A radiator ticks. Red digits on the screen on the wall: 097. A beep.

ONUR (27, shirt, tie loosened, work lanyard stuffed in his pocket) looks at the ticket in his hand: 148.

His phone buzzes. On screen: ERCAN - WORK. Onur declines it. The phone buzzes again at once.

In the next chair sits HAYRI (75, flat cap, a thermos in his lap). Between his fingers, a ticket: 101.

ONUR

Sir, would you swap with me? I'm on my lunch break, I've got half an hour.

Hayri looks at his ticket. Looks at Onur's. Looks around the room.

HAYRI

Everyone's got half an hour, son.

He nods at the row opposite: WOMAN WITH PRAM (30s). The baby in the pram has started to squirm.

HAYRI (CONT'D)

Hers, for one. That one'll be hungry in twenty minutes.

Hayri gets up and goes over to the woman. They swap tickets. She's baffled but grateful.

Hayri comes back and sits down. He shows Onur his new ticket: 131.

ONUR

What did you do that for?

HAYRI

Baby.

Screen: 098. Beep.

Hayri unscrews the thermos, pours tea into the cap. Holds it out to Onur.

HAYRI (CONT'D)

Tea?

ONUR

No thanks, I'm fine.

Hayri drinks the tea himself. With relish.

INT. ID OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - LATER

Screen: 112. Beep.

One row ahead, Hayri is swapping tickets with a STUDENT buried in lecture notes. In return, the student hands over half a sesame bagel.

Hayri comes back. He breaks the bagel in two and leaves one half on Onur's knee. His new ticket: 156.

ONUR

What are you even here for? What's it for?

Hayri takes his old ID card out of his wallet and hands it over. In the photo: a young man with thick black hair and a moustache.

HAYRI

Renewing it. The photo's got old. Nobody recognises me.

ONUR

At this rate you'll be here till evening.

HAYRI

Evening comes at home too.

Onur hands the card back. The phone buzzes: ERCAN - WORK. This time Onur declines it without looking.

Screen: 131. Beep. The woman with the pram goes to the counter, turns and waves at Hayri.

INT. ID OFFICE - SERVICE COUNTER - LATER

Screen: 148. Beep.

Onur shoots up, all but runs to the counter, slides his ticket and ID under the glass.

The CLERK (50s, reading glasses) looks at the ID, then at Onur.

CLERK

Biometric photo?

ONUR

Was I supposed to bring one?

CLERK

They do them downstairs. Then you'll need a new number.

Onur looks at his ticket. At the room behind him. His shoulders drop.

INT. ID OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - LATER

Screen: 152. Beep.

Onur comes back holding a passport photo that isn't dry yet and a new ticket: 203. He slumps down next to Hayri.

Hayri's ticket is now 199. In his lap a tangerine, a ballpoint pen and a child's drawing have piled up.

The phone buzzes: ERCAN - WORK.

Onur looks at the screen. He turns the phone face down on his knee.

Hayri fills the thermos cap. Holds it out without a word.

ONUR

Go on, then.

Onur drinks from the cap. There's only one cup; Hayri drinks his share straight from the thermos.

Screen: 153. Beep.

They both look up at the screen. Neither of them moves.

FADE OUT.