

Covert Kiss
by
Joanna Pascoe

19 Cholmondeley Ave.,
Opawa
Christchurch 8023
New Zealand

00 64 21 2351836

joannapascoe@gmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. TYPHOON BAR, GULF HOTEL, BAHRAIN

DEVIRIM, mid 30s, and VALERIE, late 30s, sit at a table on a wooden verandah in an upmarket bar. The night is warm. The bar is populated with an international set, including men in traditional Arab dress - thobes and ghutras. A cat slinks over to their table and rubs against Devrim's legs.

DEVIRIM
Cats like me.

VALERIE
That's a good sign.

DEVIRIM
So, Valerie, you like theatre?

Valerie nods in agreement.

VALERIE
And you like photography?

DEVIRIM
It's a passion.
(beat)
You know, when I first saw you on stage I thought you were German. But, you're Kiwi.

VALERIE
Are you German?

DEVIRIM
No, I'm Turkish.

VALERIE
(laughs)
I lived in Istanbul for a time.

DEVIRIM
So did I!

VALERIE
Do you know Orhan Veli? He's one of my favourite poets.

(beat)
I am listening to Istanbul, my eyes closed.

Önce hafiften bir rüzgar esiyor;
Yavas yavas sallanıyor
Yapraklar, ağaçlarda;
Uzaklarda, çok uzaklarda,

(MORE)

2.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

Istanbul'u dinliyorum, gözlerim kapalı.

DEVTRIM

Impressive.

VALERIE

What does your name, Devrim, mean?

DEVTRIM

Revolution.

He shrugs his shoulders.

DEVTRIM (CONT'D)

My dad was a Communist.

(beat)

How do you find it in the Middle East?

VALERIE

Wild. I feel like I have two lives, one is going on here and one back home in New Zealand. Sometimes it's a limbo space.

DEVTRIM

I'm pleased I have met you Valerie.

He places his hand on hers.

VALERIE

Me too.

EXT. GULF HOTEL CAR PARK, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Devrim and Valerie kiss for the first time. It's passionate.

DEVTRIM

Wow. Happy Valentines.

VALERIE

Will we be deported for doing that?

DEVTRIM

I don't think anyone saw us?

VALERIE

Unless there are cameras.

Paranoid, they look around them, and catch each other doing this. They laugh and hold each other.

FADE OUT.

THE END.