

Theme: Muslim Culture in Britain

Text: Extract from screenplay *East is East* by Ayub Khan-Din (1999)

96a. EXT. MONMOUTH ST.

GEORGE drags MANEER across the street. NEIGHBOURS stop and watch. Some are half tempted to intervene but the look of rage on GEORGE's face stops them in their tracks. Mr MOORHOUSE

5 *looks on from his doorstep as he surveys his broken window.*

97. INT. CHIP SHOP.

ELLA is counting the float on the counter as GEORGE bursts in dragging MANEER with him.

ELLA Eh! Eh! What d'you think you doing with him! What's he done?

10 *She rushes round from behind the counter and tries to get GEORGE to let go of MANEER.*

ELLA Will you let go of him, you bastard!

GEORGE Look at what you baster children do to my things.

He slams the remains of the watches onto the counter.

15 GEORGE Who do it, hah? Hah?

MANEER Don't know, honest Dad!

GEORGE hits him again.

ELLA Oh for Christ's sake George, will you leave the boy alone!

GEORGE pushes MANEER to the ground, and locks the door.

20 *ELLA goes to him and tries to comfort him.*

GEORGE He lucky I no pucking kill him.

GEORGE goes towards MANEER again. ELLA stands between them.

ELLA Don't you touch him again or I'll swing for you myself I swear to

25 God, George! Maneer go on out the back.

GEORGE I not finished with you yet, Mr! (*to ELLA*) You just same as you bloody kid, I your husband. You should agreeing with me like proper Muslim wife.

30 ELLA Yeah, right, I'm a Muslim wife when it suits you. I'll stop being a Muslim wife at 5:30 when the shop wants opening, or one of your relatives wants help at the home office. Don't make me bleeding laugh, George.

GEORGE I tell, don't starting, 'cause I fix you, like I fix your baster kids! You all pucking trouble with me.

35 ELLA They're only trouble because you don't listen to them, you never have.

GEORGE You married to me 25 years and know nothing.

GEORGE is very angry.

GEORGE I warning Ella, you not talk to me like this.

40 ELLA Yeah, you're right, 25 years I've been married to you, George.

I've sweated me guts out in your bastard shop and given you eight kids as well. And I'll tell you this for nothing, I'm not gonna stand by and watch you crush 'em one by one because of your pig bloody ignorance.

45 *GEORGE grabs ELLA violently by the hair and hits her across the face. She is thrown across the room and lands on the floor.*

97a. INT. BACK ROOM CHIP SHOP.

Maneer stands with his back pressed against the wall. Tears run down his cheeks. Frozen with fear all he can do is listen to his mother being beaten.

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GEORGE You baster bitch! You call me pig, you pucker, you talk to me like this again I bloody kill you bitch and burn all your baster family when you sleep!

Slowly we pan up and see standing in the doorway that leads into the shop, SAJID. He's crying, but makes no sound. ELLA looks up at GEORGE. Her face an icy visage. She wipes blood from her nose and stares defiantly. GEORGE's face is a torrent of emotions: anger; fear, rage, regret. His lips tremble as he looks at her.

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Annotations: 7 float – sum of money

Assignments:

1. Use details of the extract to explain why George takes to such drastic measures. [Contents]
2. Elaborate on dramatic and comic elements in this extract. (Among other things consider the circumstance that Khan-Din picked Maneer to be brutalized by his father in the present scenes.) [Analysis]
3. Write a follow-up scene that features George and (any) other member(s) of the cast. (Make sure your scene contains [Creative Writing].)