



The Unwanted

a film by Anwar Boulifa



Technical Information

Working Title: The Unwanted

Director: Anwar Boulifa

Screenplay: Anwar Boulifa

Language: Arabic

Genre: Drama

Production Company: www.lebureaufilms.com

Director's Biography

Anwar Boulifa is a British filmmaker of Moroccan origin. **A Short Guide to Re-Entry** was his first short film; it went on to win both the Bill Douglas International Award and Audience Award at the 2016 Glasgow Short Film Festival and was nominated for the British Independent Film Awards. His second shot film **Templates** premiered at Encounters Short Film Festival in Bristol. Other accolades include being selected for the talent labs at Edinburgh International Film Festival and Toronto International Film Festival in 2016. His poetry has also been published in literary journals.

Anwar Boulifa

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

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Synopsis

Tawfik, with his cheap cologne, fake designer clothes and blacked out Hyundai 4x4, is a charming small town hustler in a coastal town in northern Morocco. He looks after expensive villas for rich foreigners, and when they are away, he impresses girls by taking them to these lavish houses. He charms them into sex with the promise of marriage, then drops them immediately.

Fatima, a naive country girl becomes pregnant after spending a night with Tawfik. He ignores her calls at first, but when she shames him in public, he is outraged and tells everyone that she's a whore who is trying to set him up with another man's baby. Fatima's sullied reputation leads to the community shunning her. She's spat at in public, and sneered at

by her peers. Fatima's family decide to press charges against Tawfik, and he realises that he could face arrest if he refuses to marry her. He convinces Fatima to abort the baby by playing on her fears of bringing a 'bastard' child to the world – he insists he will pay, it will be better for everybody, they can tell everyone she had a miscarriage. They drive to Casablanca in secret, Tawfik thinks he's in control of the situation, but Fatima has other ideas and events soon unravel.

Statement of Intent

It is estimated that up to 800 women per day seek backstreet abortions. Sex outside of marriage in Morocco is still considered illegal and the social stigma faced by these women has created a black-market. This story is as

much about cold-blooded capitalism as it is about religion or gender rights. Rather than just tell a social realist story from the point of view of the victim, I aim to document the story from a broader perspective, and show how all the characters are trapped in an oppressive system, where only the 'cunning' survive. This story is as much about the stunted growth of a developing society as it is about the tragic dilemma the characters face; it is as much about colonial resentment as it is about the erosion of religious and cultural morals.

Synopsis

Avec son eau de cologne bon marché, ses faux vêtements de créateurs et son 4x4 Hyundai, Tawfik, petit arnaqueur d'une ville côtière du nord du Maroc veille sur de luxueuses villas pour le compte de riches étrangers. Lorsqu'ils sont absents, Tawfik y emmène des filles pour les impressionner et coucher avec elles en promettant de les épouser, puis les laisse tomber.

Fatima, une fille naïve de la campagne est enceinte après avoir passé une nuit avec Tawfik. Il ignore tout d'abord ses appels, mais quand elle le confronte en public, il est indigné et dit à tous que c'est une prostituée qui essaie de le piéger avec le bébé d'un autre homme. La réputation souillée de Fatima conduit à son exclusion de la communauté. On lui crache dessus en public et elle subit

les railleries de son entourage. La famille de Fatima décide de faire pression sur Tawfik, qui se rend compte qu'il pourrait être arrêté s'il refuse de l'épouser. Il convainc Fatima de se faire avorter en jouant de sa peur de mettre au monde un enfant « bâtard » – il insiste sur le fait qu'il va payer, que ce sera mieux pour tout le monde, et qu'ils pourront faire croire à une fausse couche. Ils partent à Casablanca en secret, Tawfik pense qu'il maîtrise la situation, mais Fatima a d'autres idées et le cas sera bientôt dénoué.

Note d'intention

On estime que jusqu'à 800 femmes par jour cherchent à se faire avorter clandestinement. Le sexe en dehors du mariage est toujours considéré comme illégal au Maroc et la

stigmatisation sociale auxquels sont confrontées ces femmes a créé un marché noir. Cette histoire porte autant sur le sang-froid capitaliste, que sur la religion ou les droits du sexe. Plutôt que de raconter une histoire de réalisme social du point de vue de la victime, j'ai l'intention de nourrir l'histoire dans une perspective plus large et de montrer comment tous les personnages sont piégés dans un système oppressif, où seule la « ruse » survit.

Cette histoire porte autant sur la croissance retardée d'une société en développement que sur le dilemme tragique auquel sont confrontés les personnages; il s'agit tout aussi bien du ressentiment colonial que de l'érosion de la morale religieuse et culturelle.

