

**HADEEL.** I'm going to get married.

**BANA.** What?

**HADEEL.** Yes. Ahmed asked me.

**BANA.** Well. Congratulations... (*To AHMED.*) When did you propose?

**AHMED.** Just now.

**BANA.** In front of Youssif?

**AHMED.** No. He was outside waiting for you.

**BANA.** So he had already told Hadeel that he loves her.

**AHMED.** Yes. And he was happy for me. You were happy for me. At least you looked happy, but Hadeel had just rejected you. You were crying inside. Look at you now. Poor Youssif. I'm sorry but I can't... I really don't want to see you suffer like this.

**BANA.** Hadeel... Congratulations. My sister...

**HADEEL.** Thank you, Bana.

**AHMED.** (*To HADEEL.*) Wait. Stop that.

**HADEEL.** Why? This is completely...

**AHMED.** This is all wrong.

**HADEEL.** No.

**BANA.** Don't be like that right now.

**AHMED.** (*To HADEEL.*) Why didn't you tell me?

**HADEEL.** I was going to keep it a secret.

**AHMED.** Forever?

**HADEEL.** Yes...

**AHMED.** But...

**HADEEL.** People make mistakes.

**AHMED.** Yes, but this, what happened here changes everything.

**HADEEL.** It doesn't.

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start

**AHMED.** Hadeel, don't you see? In the happiest day of my life my dear brother tells my girlfriend that he loves her, and when a few minutes later I tell him that I am going to propose to you he congratulates me. And then my future wife, you, tells me that she is willing to

be my wife, while deep inside you're hiding the most horrible secret. Will this be the happiest day of our lives? What did you expect, Hadeel? Were you going to hide this secret from me all your life? And from Bana, your friend, your sister? Don't you know that a sinful secret creates a bond that's...it can be even stronger and deeper than love? Is that what you were thinking about, were those your doubts, the reasons for your surprised look before you said yes?

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**HADEEL.** I did not doubt.

**AHMED.** Yes. You did doubt. You didn't want to say yes.

**HADEEL.** No.

**BANA.** Please, Ahmed. Don't do this. Don't. She loves you with all her heart and you know it. She's your future wife and she's the most honest woman in the world and that's why you still love her. And maybe that's the reason Youssif says he loves her. Because he doesn't have an ounce of honesty in his body.

**YOUSSIF.** Bana, please.

**BANA.** Did you congratulate him?

*(No answer.)*

Youssif...I'm talking to you. Did you congratulate him when he told you he was going to propose to Hadeel?

**YOUSSIF.** Yes. I had to.

**AHMED.** I'll never trust anybody again.

**YOUSSIF.** You don't understand. I told Hadeel I love her. That much is true. And I'm terribly, terribly sorry. But I didn't know what her reaction was going to be...so it was a shock. And then Ahmed arrived here so happy... So I thought, it's not for me to tell him anything... Hadeel should be the one to tell him... It's her marriage after all.

*(HADEEL is coughing.)*

**BANA.** What was Hadeel supposed to tell him?

**YOUSSIF.** About our conversation.