

# "The Visit"

Written By  
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Inspired by the true story

of Tarec Ghattas

## ***About “The Visit”***

### **Logline:**

After that “ENSAAF” lost her husband and children, she gets a vision of her Great Grandmother “RAHIMA” who tells her that death came to her family because of a curse that RAHIMA had put on all MARY’s descendants since about 200 years. And to break that curse ENSAAF has to exploit the extraordinary abilities that she inherited from RAHIMA and travel to Lebanon to redeem the descendants of MARY.

### **Genre:**

Horror / Drama

### **Tone:**

The haunting of Hill House

### **Duration of the episode - Number of seasons - Number of episodes:**

40 minutes - 1 season - 10 episodes  
Potential to create subsequent seasons

### **Time of Storyline:**

From December 1981 - To June 1982

### **The Location of events:**

Lebanon.

### **Outdoor Shooting locations:**

Mount Lebanon area.

### **Structure:**

A linear narrative that may be punctuated by some flashbacks.

### **Main Characters:**

- **Ensaaf** (32 years): Descendant of Rahima's family
- **Claire** (52 years): Descendant of Mary's family
- **Rita** (32 years): Claire's niece
- **Laila** (12 years): Rita's daughter
- **Nathalie** (57 years): Claire's Sister and mother of Rita
- **Youssef** (54 years): Claire's husband
- **Amine** (20 years): Son of Claire and Youssef - the youngest
- **Sylvia** (25 years): Daughter of Claire and Youssef – the middle
- **Ibrahim** (32 years): Son of Claire and Youssef – the eldest

### **History events:**

The mover/Dynamo of the events is the Evil entity that was tied for more than 150 years to two families:

- RAHIMA's Egyptian Family.
- MARY's Lebanese Family.

The Evil Entity still until the day of the events, controls the lives of the Lebanese Family, descendants of MARY. But its evil influence is still haunting the Egyptian family as well. ENSAAF (RAHIMA's Great Granddaughter) is determined to conquer it, therefore she travels to Lebanon to face it and get rid of it and get rid of the feeling of guilt that is haunting her family because of what her Great Grandmother RAHIMA did in the past, and that is exactly what we will discover throughout the event.

## SYNOPSIS

Events start, where ENSAAF had arrived in Lebanon after she had her great grandmother RAHIMA in her vision asking her to free MARY's Lebanese descendants from the curse of Evil she had put on them decades ago.

RAHIMA appeared to ENSAAF in a vision at that time because she knew exactly that NATHALIE, granddaughter of MARY, needed a house governor, so it was the best opportunity for ENSAAF to infiltrate the Family. In that vision, RAHIMA told ENSAAF that the evil spirit exists within the descendants of MARY without pointing out to which descendant, so ENSAAF had to find it first in order to fight it and get rid of it.

ENSAAF arrives at NATHALIE's house during the preparations of both houses of NATHALIE and her sister CLAIRE for the engagement party of IBRAHIM, CLAIRE's eldest son. At that time, the youngest son AMINE was about to join the army after having already volunteered. ENSAAF claims that she came to work as a maid, so they accept her temporarily in a much-needed time until they make a final decision after a probation period. So, she starts meeting the family members and helping CLAIRE and her daughter SYLVIA with the engagement arrangements.

One day ENSAAF goes with SYLVIA to CARMEN the tailor. CARMEN feels the energy of ENSAAF right away as she is herself involved with the underworld where that same Evil spirit is using her to disrupt ENSAAF's mission in banishing him. CARMEN finds a way to the family by bewitching SYLVIA and making her believe that she found her a convenient husband who she must meet, and Sylvia agrees after years of wait for a man who will accept her as a wife despite her family's reputation of having weird incidents.

IBRAHIM engagement party takes place at CLAIRE's house, the general atmosphere is exhilarating. ENSAAF presents the Engagement cake to IBRAHIM but as soon as he eats it, the fire ignites in him (self-burning without any external source of fire). Everyone freaks out while ENSAAF stands in silence watching the shadow of the Evil entity appearing from within the flames as if he is warning her about what might happen if she tries to fight him. The spirit also wanted to scare the people at the house from ENSAAF and make them kick her out which was exactly what happened. IBRAHIM's body was totally burnt, and he died which made everyone, and mostly his mother CLAIRE, have a nervous breakdown. The family calls the police and an investigation is open.

The funeral takes place while CLAIRE is in very bad shape and everyone is trying to support her. During the rituals, the sound of hymns becomes loud enough for the evil spirit to suffer and starts making loud sounds of moaning that exceeds the sounds of hymns which make CLAIRE think that these are the moans of her son IBRAHIM so she runs to the coffin and opens it only to find a lot of snakes surrounding IBRAHIM and coming out from the coffin. Again, everyone gets scared and Claire gets traumatized. One of the family members calls for a responsible who comes over and realize that all the snakes have disappeared.

CLAIRE pours her anger over ENSAAF and kicks her out, and YOUSSEF, CLAIRE's husband, gets her a driver to take her away. The young silent girl LEILA becomes sad seeing ENSAAF leaving, as she got attached to her and did not want her to leave. While ENSAAF on the road

in the car with the driver, the car flips of an attempt of the Evil Spirit to kill her. The driver is badly wounded but ENSAAF comes out without a scratch. The driver calls the police who takes ENSAAF back home and decides that she needs to stay home until the investigations in the death of IBRAHIM are finished. The Family is forced to accept, on a condition that ENSAAF would not show herself to CLAIRE who was in a terrible state, and have in mind that the arrival of ENSAAF to the family brought misery and took the life of her son. Now CLAIRE was weakened a lot because of the death of her son and became the weakest descendant of MARY's family. This made the evil entity move to CLAIRE being the weakest while ENSAAF had kept looking for that evil among the family members.

ENSAAF stays at NATHALIE's house and begins going out at night searching for clues that might lead her to the whereabouts of that Evil. She goes into NATHALIE'S room while she is sleeping and puts her hand on her forehead and starts reading the verse of AL-Kursi from the Quran. Noises start around the house in an attempt from Evil to wake up the people at home which makes ENSAAF stop what she was doing and go out of the room.

The next day while little LEILA is playing in the garden, she finds someone sleeping there, which scares her at first until she realizes that it was ENSAAF. LEILA goes with ENSAAF inside the house where they start preparing breakfast. While ENSAAF is serving LEILA breakfast she touches LEILA's hand and gets a vision of NATHALIE slaughtering her son in law MOUNIR (Leila's father) in a brutal way, then burying him in the garden (at the same spot where ENSAAF was sleeping).

ENSAAF realized that moment that LEILA is gifted with paranormal abilities, and the drawings that LEILA has been doing have a meaning. She drew an image of her father bleeding. ENSAAF also realized that because LEILA feels that crime, she has a very dry superficial relationship with her grandmother NATHALIE and realized that the crime that NATHALIE did, might point out to the presence of the evil spirit in NATHALIE.

The army calls for AMINE and CLAIRE gets more depressed for being denied of her second son, so she tries to commit suicide, but they manage to save her.

RAHIMA comes to ENSAAF in a vision and asks her to ease CLAIRE and let her not worry about AMINE and gives her a piece of information that no one knows except CLAIRE.

ENSAAF goes to CLAIRE's room at night to give her the message. CLAIRE cries a lot at first but suddenly she starts laughing hysterically in an attempt from the evil spirit to mock ENSAAF and she holds ENSAAF's hand tightly inflicting a burn mark and asks her in a strange voice (different than her own): " and do you think he met RAHIMA or not yet ?" at that point the window's glass breaks and shortly after LEILA enters the room so ENSAAF hides her burnt hand which has the mark of CLAIRE's fist and runs out of the room so that the evil spirit would calm down.

Rita, LEILA's mother, receives a call from the police station saying that they have found the body of MOUNIR, but she discovers that it was not his. Meanwhile, while the events go by, LEILA tries to point out the murder of her father and the place he was buried through her drawings.

ENSAAF tries to mend her burnt hand and starts her journey of conquering the Evil spirit which she was sure that he is possessing CLAIRE. Her attempts are varied, where one time

she looks for something related to CLAIRE and she manages to get some hair from CLAIRE's Hairbrush and goes to a place where no one can see her do some kind of a ritual. CLAIRE starts suffering screaming in pain which points to the screams of the evil spirit inside her. In another attempt, ENSAAF starts writing prayers over all her body and intends to start a fire in the garden to divert everyone's attention while she gets her chance again with CLAIRE. Another attempt where the EVIL spirit wins and ENSAAF loses consciousness and we think that she died, but she gains consciousness again and keeps trying to face the evil in several other attempts until the time comes for the last confrontation.

YOUSSEF, CLAIRE's husband also faces problems with the Spirit throughout the events. His love for CLAIRE is helping her to resist the Evil spirit while this Evil tries several times to get rid of YOUSSEF. He enters the basement of the house and suddenly the door closes, and we start seeing the underground water level getting higher to a point where he would drown but the love of CLAIRE and her resistance to the evil spirit allows YOUSSEF to get out safely.

After that AMINE joined the army, he gets traumatized from what he had seen during the war and the loss of his best friend (a Muslim guy), this makes him hate war and lose his faith in the army. So, he decides to run away and go back home while he is in a strange state. He does not talk or interact with anyone. His family gets angry because of his reckless decision to escape the army and the consequences that will take place for doing so.

SYLVIA's relationship with her fictitious lover who she met at CARMEN's the Tailor develops right before her eldest brother IBRAHIM's engagement. SYLVIA's Lover comes alone to ask SYLVIA's family to marry her. CLAIRE asks him about his family, and he says they are out of town, but they will be here for the wedding.

RITA discovers the place where her husband MOUNIR is buried in the garden and she gets traumatized. At that point, she remembers her daughter LEILA's and the drawing she used to do and she tries to understand from her who killed her husband MOUNIR but LEILA is silent, she only points out to one of her drawings to show RITA that it was NATHALIE. But Rita is in denial until one day faces NATHALIE who gets enraged because of the false accusations as she could never do something like that.

One of the times where ENSAAF was confronting Evil, and while she was about to conquer him, the evil decides to weaken CLAIRE even more so that he can continue possessing her so he tried to kill AMINE as he did with IBRAHIM, but ENSAAF faces him and this time she manages to save AMINE which makes him an ally to ENSAAF in her conquest, believing in Evil possessions.

RITA starts gradually believing ENSAAF story about the Evil spirit curse in their family and the fact that Evil wants to destroy them all and it was likely the Evil entity that possessed NATHALIE and made her kill MOUNIR. This fills her with anger and makes her want to take revenge and this way, the evil spirit has gained another enemy.

One day while SYLVIA was coming back in the car with her Fiancé, the fiancé takes advantage that SYLVIA's mother is not home to convince SYLVIA to have sex with him.

During sex, he starts exhibiting strange behavior and aggressive attitude that scares SYLVIA and make her doubt the fiancé.

The last confrontation is the decisive one. CLAIRE disappears the whole day and no one knows her whereabouts. Meanwhile, ENSAAF knows that the Evil spirit will not get far because it is linked to that family. The Spirit tries to sink CLAIRE in the sea and we see the scene where CLAIRE is entering the water slowly and we think that she is going to die, but the evil spirit stops because if CLAIRE dies he can't move to anyone else as the whole family is immune now ( ENSAAF Creates talismans).

Ensaaf is now fully ready for the confrontation. She has immunized all the family's women with a talisman which makes it impossible for the Evil spirit to move from CLAIRE to any other women from MARY's descendants. ENSAAF and the rest of the family wait the whole night in the front yard of CLAIRE's house, by dawn we see CLAIRE standing at the outside door of the house staring at the rest of the family in a scary way. At this point, the Evil in her crosses the place to find out that he is surrounded and that ENSAAF and her good spirit guide made a trap for him he wouldn't get away from. The trap is about a circle that is protected with prayers and talismans where all the family members are inside it and if the Evil spirit tries to break in, he will be banished forever. Evil gets enraged and it tries to get rid of them by summoning evil snakes and weird animals and shadows everywhere around the front yard of the house. But all those creatures die as soon as they approach the protected circle.

The surprise now is that LEILA despite her being inside the protected circle, another LEILA is standing outside the house. ENSAAF focuses with her eyes over both of them to find out which one is real and realizes that the LEILA that is already inside the circle is not wearing the Talisman. And the one outside is. Here ENSAAF realizes that Evil used one of his Evil entities to infiltrate inside the circle. ENSAAF is startled for the fact that the real LEILA is outside the circle and she is not safe from Evil and his entities while the existence of a dark power inside the circle with the rest of the family is also a big danger that can empower the evil more.

Somehow, we get to know throughout the series that RAHIMA the great grandmother of ENSAAF had left a powerful weapon since the age of Salomon in this place. ENSAAF never used that weapon because it needs a huge power summoned to be able to use it and ENSAAF at her situation now might not bare it and it might kill her. But ENSAAF has no other choice but to use the weapon which is something like a dagger with many jewels on it. As soon as ENSAAF grabs the dagger we see her as if she became a lot stronger and her veins look like they are going to explode and suddenly we see ENSAAF inside the circle and outside too. ENSAAF at that point is everywhere we see her standing all around in different forms as if her soul was divided into small particles to help her fight evil and his entities inside and outside the circle.

At that point, the tricky Evil who had one of his entity infiltrating the circle decided to kill the whole family. The struggle is quite intense, some of them are thrown in the air some others are suffocating from snakes constricting their bodies, some others are starting to fade away in dust, until ENSAAF hits with her dagger the heart of CLAIRE (which is the of Evil) and suddenly a considerable amount of fog takes over the place...

After the last confrontation and the exorcism of evil out of her, CLAIRE recovers and her life goes back to normal like before, except with one change; She now can see the specters of the dead, such as her son and others and she even talks to them.

The family meets again to celebrate SYLVIA's wedding. ENSAAF tries to convince SYLVIA that the groom was only a tool in the hands of the Evil entity and that after the victory, the groom will never show up. SYLVIA does not believe her and defies her. A righteous prophecy is fulfilled, and the groom does not attend. SYLVIA was very shocked and when she goes to look for him at the place where he told her he lives in, she discovers that this person never existed at all.

After completing her mission, ENSAAF leaves the Lebanese family and returns to Cairo.

One day we see someone visiting the graves of the family of ENSAAF and we read the date of death to discover that ENSAAF died on the same night that her husband and children died, that is, before the beginning of the story of CLAIRE's family.



# Main Characters

## ENSAAF

### Who is ENSAAF:

Name:	Ensaaf Zenhom
Character:	The strongest descendant of RAHIMA. Able to rid MARY and her descendants from the Curse of Evil possession.
Character Type:	Essential – Protagonist
Date of Birth:	31 <sup>st</sup> October 1949
Age in story:	32 Years
Place of birth:	AL Kebsh Castle – Darb El Ahmar
Social level:	Lower / C-Class
Ranking brotherhood:	Unique Child
Education:	Primary
Profession:	House governor at Rita’s House (The niece of Claire)
Social status:	Widowed
Appearance:	Beautiful, Tidy, neat, wearing clean humble clothes, reddish long hair.

### Character’s backstory:

ENSAAF was born in the Darb al-Ahmar area, Qal'at al-Kabash, currently belonging to the district of Al-Khalifa neighborhood, her parents' house is next to the Ahmad Ibn Tulun Mosque, in an area filled with mosques and the principles of family respect and attachment to the parents.

Her Mother called her ENSAAF because her mother gave birth to her after more than 10 years of marriage and did not give birth after her. For her mother ENSAAF was the biggest love she had.

Since her childhood, she had special traits of personality and looks. She had a strong leader personality, she was good hearted, but when she got angry, she became very tough, but she always tried to control her anger. As for the looks, she had a very bright red hair that she inherited from her Great Grandmother RAHIMA. ENSAAF is the strongest link among RAHIMA’s descendants and she is the only one who can undo the curse of MARY’s Family.

When ENSAAF had her primary degree in school, her father refused that she continued, but on the other side, ENSAAF spent a lot of time with the Sheikhs studying the Quran and memorizing its verses. She also learnt mathematics and reading as she was very clever.

### ENSAAF, the supernatural powers and the underworld:

Ever since she was a child, ENSAAF started exhibiting a spiritual power, she used to dream of things that would become real and sometimes she felt that there is a good thing about to

happen and it did. This was quite recurring in the family of her mother. And she learnt from her Aunt AMOUNA how to read the coffee cup.

ENSAAF always heard talking about the legend of her Great Grandmother RAHIMA and the Curse that she had. No one knew what was the nature of that curse, but it is being said that this curse was the cause of MARY the wife of RAHIMA's Husband to go crazy, but no one knew that this curse is being passed over to the weakest descendants of MARY and the only person who can break that curse was the strongest descendant of RAHIMA.

### **ENSAAF and her normal humble life:**

ENSAAF got married when she was 20, which is 12 years before the series start. She married HUSSEIN EL FOULI who was an employee at the rail station. She had two children MAHMOUD and ZEINAB. Their life was mostly calm where ENSAAF tried to be a normal person living a normal life.

**But nobody can run away from his destiny,** one day ENSAAF had a dream which she believed it was more of a vision than a dream. She saw herself taking out two of her very white teeth and crying because there is nothing wrong with them to take out. She understood that this dream was a serious omen, but she never knew what was going to happen. This scared her a lot and she got worried about her children and wanted to protect them from any harm. HUSSEIN her husband never believed her superstitions even when her dreams proved to come true and he also never believed that ENSAAF could read the future or could have any supernatural powers and he definitely is not going to change his lifestyle because of a dream!! ENSAAF was more powerful than HUSSEIN, and she reached a point where she did not allow her children to play in the alley and she even was keen to take them herself to school and pick them up after school. She used to be at school half an hour before the bell rung to make sure they would not have the opportunity to go anywhere else without her.

**But you cannot be careful enough;** One day ENSAAF went out grocery shopping and left her children at home with her husband. HUSSEIN took the kids to his mother after she was insisting to see them and the kids insisting to go out as they are done from their mother's curfew and her overreacting in worrying about them. While they were visiting their grandmother, the house collapsed, and the husband and the kids died inside.

ENSAAF Collapsed totally after her husband and children's death in 1979 and she stayed for a while stuck at home. She started fasting one day and thinking another day. She started visiting the mullahs and going to pray walking all the way from the Kabsh Castle area to the mosque of Lady Nafisa in order to pray noon and stayed at the mosque until the night prayer. She kept doing so until the money that the government gave her for the death of her husband finished, then she had to start to look for a job.

### **ENSAAF and RAHIMA:**

ENSAAF always connected with her Great Grandmother through dreams. At first, she didn't know who was this woman that looked a lot like her and came to talk to her and tell her about things that always came true. With time ENSAAF understood that this was RAHIMA her great grandmother who she used to hear about and believe a lot.

RAHIMA tried several times to tell her about her fate in breaking the Curse of MARY's Family but ENSAAF was more focused on her normal everyday humble life and she always refused

to be different and follow RAHIMA's orders and requests therefore, RAHIMA stopped visiting her in her dreams a little after ENSAAF got married (which is 10 years before ENSAAF life collapsed) but after the drastic change that ENSAAF suffered, she no longer had anything else to lose so she decided to travel to Lebanon to do what she was destined to do since her birth.

ENSAAF never wanted to be different from the people surrounding her, she tried so much to resist her special gifts, but those things can't be avoided. She never wished to feel the death of her husband and children beforehand, even if she didn't know exactly the meaning of her dream at the time. She felt guilty for not being careful enough and not forbidding them from going to visit her mother in law. Had she been a normal person she would have just grieved for their loss as any other mother and wife. But the feeling of guilt was stronger than the feeling of grief. Guilt killed her Great grandmother RAHIMA.. Guilt is the debt that RAHIMA's descendants are paying since RAHIMA did what she did to MARY and her descendants.

### **During the events of the series:**

RAHIMA uses ENSAAF to connect with the family of MARY (the wife of RAHIMA's husband) in order to break the spell that she put on that family 200 years ago.

### **ENSAAF In Lebanon:**

ENSAAF went to Lebanon to do her duty. She arrived on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1981 to the house of Nathalie the sister of Claire. No one asked ENSAAF for any identification documents. She told them that she is coming to work in a house and take care of the family as a house governor. The owners agree and host her as if they were under a spell.

### **Character description:**

- A strong personality with leadership abilities.
- Good hearted but when she is upset, she becomes quite edgy and tough, but she always tries to contain her anger.
- She is not very talkative but once she starts talking, she is eloquent in a humble way.
- She possesses supernatural abilities predicting the future and seeing the past, which she was not part of; "The Past of RAHIMA and MARY" (of course with the help of RAHIMA)
- She is religious, she is very spiritual, she prays and fasts a lot. She reads the Quran, which she memorizes a lot of its verses. She wears a gold chain with the Verse of the Al-Kursi.

## **MARY'S FAMILY**

### **CLAIRE SEMAAN**

#### **Who is CLAIRE:**

Name:	Claire Ibrahim Semaan
Character:	One of Mary's descendants.
Character Type:	Essential – Protagonist
Date of Birth:	20 <sup>th</sup> March 1929
Age in story:	52 Years
Place of birth:	Ismailia – Egypt
Social level:	Upper / A-Class
Ranking brotherhood:	Youngest Child
Education:	High school
Profession:	Unemployed
Social status:	Married
Appearance:	Her looks change from the beginning of the events until her son dies and her being possessed. At first, she is elegant, funny, loved by everyone. Then she turns to become weak and fragile then bossy with a bad character. Her features and her exterior looks change with every stage.

#### **Character's backstory:**

Born in Ismailia Egypt from Lebanese parents, Ibrahim and Nadia. She is the youngest of her siblings. Nathaly is 5 years older than her and Raymond is 7 years older.

Since she was a child, Claire was pampered and spoiled by everyone. And she remained that way until her eldest son Ibrahim who was the source of goodness and sweetness in the family died. Since that day Claire changed to a point where she couldn't know herself anymore.

Claire's family is a big trader's family. They used to live in Egypt where they had quite a good lucrative business. They Left Egypt and went back to Lebanon in the late 1940's when Lebanon had its independence and became a country with its own government and parliament.

Ibrahim Semaan father of Claire returned to Lebanon to his old town in the mountains and created his own trading and commerce business that kept existing until the series start. Raymond, Claire's brother was the one handling the family business during Ibrahim's life and after his death. Raymond never had kids, so the successor of that business had to be the Young Ibrahim son of Claire and Youssef. But the young Ibrahim never liked commerce, what he wanted is to continue his studies in Music and become a professional musician.

Claire is loved by everyone, especially her children, with the beginning of the series we realize that the young Ibrahim is upset at his mother's family who has surrendered to the fact that he was the elected successor to handle the family business and that his mother Claire accepted her brother Raymond will, that Ibrahim should handle the business after him.

Raymond was controlling the whole family up to a point where he forced Ibrahim to marry the daughter of a wealthy man that benefits their business and he dealt with Ibrahim as part of this business deal.

On the other hand, Amine is quite upset that he is always in the shadow of his elder brother Ibrahim who always comes first before him therefore he joins the Lebanese army. Sylvia's relationship with her mother Claire is more neutral because of Sylvia's personality. Claire does not understand Sylvia and cannot deal with her. She feels that her three children are quite complicated unlike her and her husband.

The series start with Claire preparing for the wedding of her eldest son Ibrahim. But since the day started and disasters are falling upon her. Amine announces that he is joining the army while they are in a kind of a civil war. Claire cries her heart out and collapses from what Amine did and how he chose that special day to tell them. Then comes the second disaster and the wedding turns to a funeral. Fire consumes Ibrahim the groom in a strange way from inside out and he dies.

Claire collapsed after seeing her son in a strange situation that no one understood, and her sister Nathalie collapses with her.

#### **Character traits before the death of Ibrahim and the evil spirit possessing her:**

- Gentle, shy
- Very friendly
- Social, Elegant and stylish lady. Her classic appearance suggests femininity
- loved by everyone because of her gentle style.

#### **The phase of the evil Spirit in the life of Claire:**

Claire is no longer like before; she became nervous and Aggressive.

She became weird with her husband Youssef, very aggressive even in their calm relationship. At first Youssef liked the change that took place which added some spice to the relationship after 30 years of marriage. Better late than never! But after a while, things became weirder; Claire became violent and sexually insatiable and this is unusual at their age. Her taste in music has changed she reverted to more noisy tunes after she used to listen to romantic Egyptian singers. When she gets agitated, she could hit men stronger than her in a quite powerful manner. No one knew where she got this power from. With her, no one is safe.

When Claire is back to her conscience and while the possession is at rest, she reverts to be the gentle and calm woman. Claire is aware that something has changed, and she is trying to fight back. One of her fighting back solutions was putting an end to her own life.

#### **Character Internal life reflection:**

"I no longer recognize myself, no one recognizes me anymore.. I look at myself in the mirror and I do not know what happened to me and who am I looking at. My life ended with the death of my eldest child, there is no pain like the pain of losing and specially losing a son. This is against nature.

I never imagined that I will ever lose any of my children, I was afraid that I would lose Amine in the war but he always came back to me safe and sound, so I was always relieved and I knew that God will not take him from me. Then comes the day where God took my eldest son from me in front of my eyes!! What god would do this to a mother? Burn her baby alive in front of her eyes? Yes Baby, because no matter how old he gets, he is still my baby he is the fruit of my own loins and no one has the right to take a baby from his mother this way.”

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## **YOUSSEF ALBERT**

### **Who is YOUSSEF:**

Name:	Youssef Albert
Character:	Claire’s Husband
Character Type:	Secondary
Date of Birth:	1 <sup>st</sup> March 1927
Age in story:	54 Years
Place of birth:	Lebanon
Social level:	Upper / A-Class
Ranking brotherhood:	Unique Child
Education:	High school
Profession:	Sales manager in one of the outlets owned by Claire’s family.
Social status:	Married
Appearance:	Trendy, Clean cut, attractive, more reassuring than prestigious.

### **Character’s backstory:**

Born in Lebanon, but he moved to Egypt in the 1940s to work there, then came back to Lebanon in the 1950s. Youssef is married since 33 years ago from Claire. He married her after a love story and after Claire challenged her father “Ibrahim” who was refusing her marriage from Youssef because of the social difference and because he saw that he lacked ambition despite what Youssef was promising about the rosy life he is aiming for. Ibrahim told Clair that Youssef is a good guy, but she will not be very happy with him, but Claire didn’t listen and married Youssef.

He returned to Lebanon along with the return of Claire’s family and her father appointed Youssef in one of his shops because he spotted in him a good salesman but not a good manager. Youssef lives under the wings of Claire’s family and he is happy the way things are. Youssef’s relationship with his three children is different than Claire’s. Ibrahim is the closest to him as they both have a lot in common. While Amine is not, also because of the differences in both of their personality. Sylvia is his most pampered and spoiled child as he loves her a lot, but Sylvia wishes to marry a man that has a different personality than her father because despite of his goodness, she does not see in him someone who influences people. He never makes choices or decisions; he leaves everything to her mother Claire and follows Raymond’s orders.

### **Character’s traits:**

- Funny
- Very sociable and loved
- Not good in confrontation and always avoids it
- He has no ambition
- Very pleasant and affectionate
- Spendthrift and alcoholic

**Character Internal life reflection:**

“I can’t be bothered with what they say about me, they say I am greedy to marry Claire for her money and that I live under the wings of her family and if it wasn’t for her family, I wouldn’t have had such a life. Deep inside I know that what they are saying is half true! I never married Claire because of greed I was crazy in love with her and she deserves my love. I admit about the benefits I am having from her family but I neither care about their money nor I ask for it, but I do get it abundantly. I can’t be bothered with human struggles no matter what their nature is. Let everyone do as they want and let them leave me to live in peace. But with the death of my eldest son I lost peace or even long before since I entered Claire’s family, I lost peace, but I am willing to scarify everything to stay with Claire.”

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**IBRAHIM ALBERT**

**Who is IBRAHIM:**

Name:	Ibrahim Albert
Character:	(The dead Groom) One of Mary’s descendants, the son of Claire Semaan
Character Type:	Pivotal role
Date of Birth:	15 <sup>th</sup> April 1950
Age in story:	32 Years
Place of birth:	Lebanon
Social level:	Upper / A-Class
Ranking brotherhood:	Eldest Child
Education:	Business School then The Arab music conservatory
Profession:	Works in the Business of his mother’s family.
Social status:	Groom
Appearance:	Handsome, always beardless, attractive, more reassuring than prestigious.

**Character’s backstory:**

Ibrahim is the Eldest son of Youssef and Claire and the first grandson of the grandfather Ibrahim. They named him after his grandfather so he would become like him, but it seems that like father like son, Ibrahim is so simple and sometimes weak. He is unable to rebel, and

revolt and he doesn't know how to say no therefore he cannot rebel on his uncle Raymond who is controlling him and his fate neither can do what he feels like doing. Ibrahim is more of the guy who holds the stick in the middle, he studied business to satisfy the family, but he also studied music. He accepted to work with his family hoping that one day he could also work in the field of music on the side, but this never happened.

The series starts with Ibrahim getting engaged to a girl he does not like, an unsatisfactory convenience marriage. Ibrahim is very mad at his mother because she allows Raymond to control them all this way and mad at his father because he does not react.

### **Character's traits:**

- Clever
- Very emotional where his rebellion is weakened by his love to his mother
- Very simple
- Good hearted
- He avoids clashes and is afraid of confrontation.

### **Character's Internal life reflection:**

"I am the eldest and everyone awaits that I would be the source of power brains and wisdom but those are not my best qualities and the truth is that I do not care about such qualities I am like my father. But I cannot deal with the pressure of my mother and her family, I don't know what to do. in the past they decided that I leave the music studies which I love to take care of their prestigious businesses and now they are deciding that I get married to a girl I don't love just for them to ensure securing their money in which they never stop thinking and they never cared about what I wanted. Today is my wedding and I have to be happy and I know that I will be living a life that I do not want only to make my mother happy. How I wish I can take my revenge from this family and make them suffer as much as I am suffering!!"

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## **SYLVIA ALBERT**

### **Who is SYLVIA:**

Name:	Sylvia Albert
Character:	One of Mary's descendants, the daughter of Claire Semaan
Character Type:	Supporting
Date of Birth:	20 <sup>th</sup> April 1952
Age in story:	30 Years
Place of birth:	Lebanon
Social level:	Upper / A-Class
Ranking brotherhood:	Eldest Child
Education:	Anthropology



Profession:	Researcher in popular heritage in general and Lebanese in particular, and is currently preparing for the master in the manifestations of myth in popular heritage and its impact on contemporary people ...
Social status:	Single
Appearance:	Very Trendy matching her financial level and her good taste.

### **Character's backstory:**

Sylvia is the second offspring of Claire and Youssef. She was born in Lebanon after the move of her family to Lebanon. She was and still is pampered by everyone where no one says no to her. Very close to her father and mother or at least she seems so as she feels alienated with the rest of the people. She never knew true love while she had many fiancés but the marriage did not happen despite her agreement to marry people she did not have a real relationship with, at the end she accepted the situation and was convinced that she will never find someone who she would truly love.

Sylvia never experienced love or harmony with anyone except when she met Sleiman at the beginning of the series, through her tailor "Carmen" who she visits. She got attracted to Sleiman from the first second. He was distinct, educated and he thinks like her and feels what she feels. He infatuated her and she started a secret relationship with him which she never mentioned to anyone at the start.

Sylvia was always surrounded by people with special and strange powers; Carmen the Tailor used to call for spirits and have them live and work with her. Sylvia never knew any of that but when Ensaaf entered the place she directly felt the presence of spirits and Carmen Also felt Ensaaf's energy. Later through the series, we discover that the evil spirit is using the Tailor Carmen to have more control over the family of Mary's descendants.

Sylvia is a researcher in popular heritage and is currently preparing a master. She travels frequently to Beirut, where she is located before the start of the events and Ibrahim's wedding, to talk with her professors about her studies and to complete her research, but her brother Ibrahim's death made her long away from the university, but she still travels from time to time In the course of the events to postpone or discuss what she has reached in her research entitled "The manifestations of superstition in popular heritage and its impact on contemporary people"

### **Character's traits:**

- Sociable and quite loved.
- Romantic and a dreamer.
- She believes in superstitions and loves the story of legends.
- She likes to read.
- She likes nature and spends a lot of time in the mountains reading.

### **Character's Internal life reflection:**

"I am the most beautiful among the daughters of the family, in fact the most beautiful among the daughters of the whole town, the wealthiest and the most knowledgeable and educated,

everything points out that I should have been married a long time ago, but despite all this I didn't although I was engaged to many men, but I never reached the marriage part. I feel as if someone is interfering in my life, I feel that someone is always with me and my fiancé, even when we are alone. With every failure in my relations, I hear a loud laugh. I do not know who I am. Laughing with that happy high voice in my grief? But finally I found the person I was looking for and soon I would be with him and what happened in the past will not happen again, but I am afraid because we are a family to which the strangest things happen."

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## **AMINE ALBERT**

### **Who is AMINE:**

Name:	Amine Youssef Albert
Character:	One of Mary's descendants, the son of Claire Semaan
Character Type:	Supporting
Date of Birth:	5 <sup>th</sup> August 1962
Age in story:	20 Years
Place of birth:	Lebanon
Social level:	Upper / A-Class
Ranking brotherhood:	Youngest Child
Education:	High school
Profession:	Joins the army during the series.
Social status:	Single
Appearance:	Handsome, elegant, the army suit gives him an impressive look his charisma is totally different from his father's Youssef.

### **Character's backstory:**

Amine was born in Lebanon, the youngest of his brothers and the difference between him and them is great, Amine differs from them by being rebellious and spoiled, and sometimes violent, he is known to be reckless because of his young age and personality.

Amin decides to join the army before the events and does not tell anyone beforehand and decides on the day of Ibrahim's engagement to tell the family in a dramatic way, as usual, Amine is always aiming to get attention. That age difference between him and his brothers made him always make an effort to get the attention and be taken seriously.

### **Character's traits:**

- Adventurer
- Hard to get, rebellious and stubborn
- His actions take a dramatic figure to get attention.
- Emotional but more childish hiding his childish nature behind his tough looks
- Fiery personality, authoritarian if the situation allows it.
- Violent.

### **Character's Internal life reflection:**

Attention is something taken not given, I am the youngest of my brothers , they treated me in the past like a prince who will never be the crown prince in the presence of Ibrahim, Ibrahim the eldest, and in the great families who have wealth or influence, the heir is always the eldest son. I do not believe in luck I believe in actions; I am the legitimate heir whether they like it or not. I will inherit this empire and preserve it ... My mother Claire cannot see but Ibrahim ... the legitimate heir who she named after her father and in her perspective, it is his right to be so. I don't know what to do to make her realize that I'm right! "

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## **NATHALIE SEMAAN**

### **Who is NATHALIE:**

Name:	Nathalie Ibrahim Semaan
Character:	One of Mary's descendants, and one of the people struck by the curse. She was possessed by the evil spirit for years.
Character Type:	Supporting
Date of Birth:	1925
Age in story:	57 Years
Place of birth:	Lebanon
Social level:	Upper / A-Class
Ranking brotherhood:	Eldest Child
Education:	High school
Profession:	Unemployed.
Social status:	Widow
Appearance:	At the beginning of the story we see her as a very controlling woman, but with the death of Ibrahim and the fact that the Evil spirit left her. She became weak and skinny unable to move. No one knows what hit her.

### **Character's backstory:**

Nathalie Ibrahim Samaan, born in Lebanon, moved with her parents Ibrahim and Nadia and her older brother Raymond to Egypt. They settled in Ismailia where the father worked in the Suez Canal.

Nathalie married Salim a relative on her mother's side and moved to Lebanon. She was the first of her family to arrive in Lebanon in the early 1940s. Salim died at the age of 40 and Nathalie was in her mid-thirties.

Nathalie gave birth to "Asaad" and after him "Rita", Assad immigrated to America more than 10 years ago and settled there, Nathalie and Rita sometimes go to visit him, but very seldom he comes to Lebanon.

Nathalie was very depressed, and the Evil entity was able to enter her body and turn her into a nervous and angry person most of the time. But Nathalie's worst acts were her power to

create fights among people. Nathalie got her daughter Rita and her husband Mounir who are staying with her at home to fight.

The problems between Mounir and Rita reached the point of mutual violence. Mounir decided that a priest should come to the house to pray because he felt that something strange had happened and that someone might have done an evil spell on them. Therefore, the evil spirit decided to get rid of Mounir and Nathalie was the tool. Nathalie killed Mounir unaware of what she did and buried him below the house that was under construction inside their private garden.

After Mounir's murder, Nathalie began to resist the Evil spirit inside her, until the spirit decided to move to the weakest who happened to be Claire at the time of the loss of her son Ibrahim. Nathalie Collapsed when the evil spirit left her body as not only, he took her supernatural powers but also her human powers.

### **Character's traits:**

- Strong personality
- Logical to the point of being very calm.
- Clever
- Always very serious. Very seldom that she would laugh.
- Controlling
- She viciously makes people fight (the work of the evil spirit)

### **Character's Internal life reflection:**

"Everything changed at the moment of Ibrahim's death, the Evil spirit which had kept me locked for years, left after I finally got rid of it and its control over me. it humiliated me, but when it left me I was sickened, weakened, unable to move or speak. !! ""

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## **RITA HANNA**

### **Who is RITA:**

Name:	Rita Salim Hanna
Character:	One of Mary's descendants, the son of Nathalie
Character Type:	Supporting
Date of Birth:	10th May 1949
Age in story:	32 Years
Place of birth:	Lebanon
Social level:	Upper / A-Class
Ranking brotherhood:	youngest Child
Education:	Children Sports academy
Profession:	Kindergarten teacher.
Social status:	Widow

Appearance: she does not care about her looks as she used to do before, but she is still holding up strong.

### **Character's backstory:**

Rita was born in Lebanon. She is the youngest daughter of Nathalie and Salim. Asaad her brother who immigrated to America more than 10 years ago is two years older than her.

Rita is the opposite of her mother Nathalie; she is romantic and very dreamy. But things changed with the start of her problems with her husband Mounir two years ago, but Mounir mysteriously disappeared and rumors surfaced that he had run away with a woman he was working with.

Rita does not believe that Mounir fled as they say, despite their recent problems, which sometimes reached mutual beating Mounir is the love of her life, she never knew any man before him. She loved him from school and he was two years older than her, he was a friend of her brother Asaad, their love story was fictional and mythical..

Lately Rita has been living in a twister of bad events. When Rita and Mounir's problems reached the climax, Rita heard Laila screaming in her room with a terrified voice, she entered her room and saw her collapsing. When Laila woke up, she could no longer speak, doctors said it is a nervous shock. Both Rita and Mounir felt guilty and decided to separate until Mounir decided to go to the church and bring a priest because what was going on in the house became very strange.

Mounir then disappeared and a rumor spread that he ran away with another woman, when the series start, Ibrahim her cousin gets burnt before all eyes and his mother completely collapsed and was unable to move since and was almost unconscious all the times. Rita took her to many doctors looking for cures.

Despite everything that happened, Rita is steadfast, every day she prays to God asking for his help and the return of her husband. He is the only one who will help her in everything that is happening. Once Mounir appears, everything will change. She can no longer bear these burdens. She was never used to bear anything alone, Mounir was always there as her advocate and source of strength.

### **Rita and her Mother Nathalie:**

Their relationship is highly confrontational because of the personality difference. Rita is more romantic and emotional, while her mother Nathalie is authoritarian and cold not giving away any feelings, only orders and rational and logical solutions. Each one complemented the other, but the girl needs her mother's arms no matter how old she grows Nathalie understands love and expresses it with acts of interest and this is the peak of love from her perspective ..

### **Rita and her daughter Leila:**

To make it up for her lack of love, Rita gives Laila passion and love, or this was what happened before Mounir's death. After his death Rita became colder and turned into a bad version of her mother Nathalie. In recent years, Laila has been under the control of her mother Rita and is trying to evade this control. She is rebellious and does not accept restrictions.

**Character's traits:**

- Romantic dreamer, still looking for her husband and does not believe what people say.
- Despite her sturdiness in front of people, in her personal time she exhibits worry and fear most of the times.
- Loved by her students at school.
- Religious, wearing a necklace with a beautiful cross gifted to her by Mounir before their marriage, a necklace inherited in his family since generations

**Character's Internal life reflection:**

"I do not believe what they say about my husband. What we have in common is a deep love that nobody understands. Even with our recent conflicts, we never hated each other ... It is true that we reverted to mutual violence at a strange moment. None of us knew what to do, but I know he loves me very much. Mounir would not escape .Should he hated me, he will look me in the eyes and say it to me face to face, Mounir is not afraid of anyone .. Mounir does not escape, and how would he escape being the love of my life since we were fifteen .. They say I am strong and solid but little they know that Mounir was my source of power, I will not rest until I know what happened to my husband. "

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**LEILA MOUNIR**

**Who is LEILA:**

Name:	Leila Mounir
Character:	Daughter of Rita and the granddaughter of Nathalie. Supernatural child.
Character Type:	Pivotal role
Date of Birth:	1969
Age in story:	12 Years
Place of birth:	Lebanon
Social level:	Upper / A-Class
Ranking brotherhood:	Unique Child
Education:	Student
Appearance:	Calm, doesn't talk much, she suddenly became Mute/Silent.

**Character's backstory:**

Laila is the daughter of Rita, and her mother's aunt is Claire, who was born in Lebanon and has known wealth since childhood. Her life was so nice and distinctive until her parents'

problems started, and one day she cried and wished death. She was in her room. The evil spirit tried to possess her, but she fought and resisted but this gave her some supernatural abilities now she can view the past and sometimes the future.

Laila does not know what are these visions that she sees, but the day the evil spirit tried to possess her, she kept screaming until she became mute and turned to be isolated where she expressed what is inside her only with sketches/drawing.

Laila learns a lot about the family and is the biggest help for fairness in her journey. One of the visions that Laila saw is her grandmother Nathalie hitting her father on the head and killing him, and she expressed this in her drawings.

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### **Secondary characters that can be developed in a future stage:**

#### **Raymond Semaan (65 years):**

Raymond is the eldest son of Ibrahim and Nadia, the eldest of the family of Simon (Mary's descendants), the eldest brother of Claire and Nathalie, who is responsible for family finances and business. He is the one who controls the family's destinies and decides not to choose Amin as he is not the eldest and chose Ibrahim instead. He is the one who decided to marry Ibrahim from the daughter of one of the senior officials in the country to ensure gains in his works and projects. Raymond is a cancer patient and no one knows this, he tried to transfer everything to Ibrahim to take over the business, but Ibrahim died, and Amine went to the army where Raymond throughout the events is trying to get him out in whatever way ..

#### **Carmen the Tailor (60 Years):**

A famous Tailor her customers are all from upper class, working alone in her own workshop and despite the large number of customers, she finishes her work almost on time, everyone thinks that she has workers in her workshop which does not usually receive customers, but the fact is that there are spirits that help her in her work. She knows how to summon those spirits.

Sylvia goes to her continuously, and one day Ensaaf goes with her and feels the spirits everywhere, and Carmen the tailor will also feel Ensaaf energy, we discover with the events that this lady was used by the Evil spirit to control the family ..

# The Backstory

## **RAHIMA: (1793 - 1843)**

She was born in the cemeteries. It was her family's habit to go to family graves and spend Thursday and Friday there. They never knew the fear of death like the rest of the Egyptians. Like their ancestors, they believed in magic and feared those who master it. They sanctify death and hate those who deny its sanctity by any act, no matter how simple it was.

RAHIMA grew up in Al-Darb Al-Ahmar area, Qal'at Al-Kabash, which is currently affiliated to the Al-Khalifa district, specifically in the Al-Saharid road, which is very close to the citadel of Saladin.

RAHIMA still remembers the day of “the massacre of the castle” on March 1st, 1811. That day was quite special and weird. During that day The fate of the country along with the fate of RAHIMA both have changed. Even the fate of the Lebanese MARY and her descendants after that.

### **When did Rahima begin her journey with magic and spirits?**

On March 1st, 1811, the massacre of the castle, carried out by Muhammad Ali, took place, to get rid of the Mamluks once and for all. It was a very violent event, not only the violence and cruelty of the Mamluks besieged by the fortress, but also the public living in the hundreds of houses surrounding the castle. Thousands witnessed what happened so they closed the shops and fled to their homes for fear of the brutality of Mohammed Ali's soldiers, which unfortunately happened.

Mohamed Ali slaughtered all of the Mamluks, and it was said that more than 500 Mamluks have died, and in other stories they say that they died in thousands. The legend also says that the area of the Darb el Ahmar (the red path) took that name because of the amounts of blood scattered from the Castle of Mohamed Ali and towards the surrounding neighborhoods.

RAHIMA was 16 years old and lived with her parents in the tank road near the castle. One day they found a man knocking at their door drenched in his blood. She opened the door and brought him home without waiting for the approval of her father, who slapped her on the face only because she did not respect his will as the master of the house. (How dare someone at the house acts before getting back to him?) But RAHIMA did not wait for anyone's opinion. She had a very outgoing personality and soul. She hated the restrictions like a wild horse that no one should ride.

After that the wounded Mamluk entered the house, the people of the house began to take care of him and the first one to do so was RAHIMA. She sat next to him and approached him as she did not approach a man before him. The two felt at that moment a strange proximity, not one of a man and a woman but a proximity of souls. She used to put her hand over his chest to feel his heartbeats and realize that something inside her is changing.



The Mamluk died, but the evil spirit inside him has moved to possess RAHIMA who became haunted by its shadow, and became powerful than ever. She learnt magic and reading the coffee cup and she was keen on having more power and knowledge.

The evil entity was pushing RAHIMA to do evil work, But she was different than his previous host. Evil inside her was strong, but the good was stronger. RAHIMA continued resisting evil trying to limit it and she kept having this struggle for more than 20 years until something happened and pushed her to strike a deal with this evil entity.

### **Rahima and Mary:**

For many years, RAHIMA has committed herself not to do any harmful evil work, until one day a Lebanese family fled the ottomans in Lebanon and moved to a neighboring house of hers. RAHIMA considered them her brothers and sisters and she got closer to them until the two families almost became as one. But one day, RAHIMA's husband AZIZ (42 years) decides to marry their daughter MARY (18 years). At that Time RAHIMA was 40 years old. She got angry more than ever. With her tremendous evil powers, she carried out on both of her husband and MARY a tough punishment. RAHIMA made a deal with the evil entity; for it to possess MARY and her weakest descendants after her, and this way, RAHIMA would get rid of the struggle she lived with for more than 20 years.

But RAHIMA was not a wicked evil person, she was just blinded by jealousy and anger therefore only a short while later she regretted it especially after she saw what had happened to MARY; everyone thought she was crazy and AZIZ's life turned to hell.

The evil Spirit left RAHIMA who lost all her powers despite her efforts to bring him back and bring back things to the way they were. At that point RAHIMA secluded herself and stopped talking to anyone around her. She lost so much weight and she died shortly after.

There is a common legend around the neighborhood that says that RAHIMA never died. Her body died but her soul is still alive visiting anywhere anytime. She appears in a place and creates hustle and chaos sometimes to inform every one of her presence. People still swear by her name and await her benediction *"May your benediction reign Rahima.."*

### **The text of the curse:**

***"Mary... that gent shall followeth thee and followeth thy descendants, that gent shall targeteth thee and targeteth the weakest until the endeth of timeth. Nay one shall beest able to free thy weakest descendant from mine own beshrew except mine own strongest descendant"***

**("Mary... He will follow you and follow your descendants, he will target you and target the weakest until the end of time. No one will be able to free your weakest descendant from my curse except my strongest descendant ")**

And because this is what the curse says, RAHIMA kept awaiting her strongest descendant and she never expected that her great granddaughter ENSAAF would be the one. The one who looks like her Great Grandmother in everything even the looks.

## **The idea of subsequent seasons**

In the second season, we can go back and see the childhood of ENSAAF and her extraordinary abilities which she inherited from her great grandmother RAHIMA, and how she tried over the years to lead a normal life and to establish a family until she lost everything she received RAHIMA's Message which sent her on her journey to Lebanon to free Mary's descendants from the evil spirit.

We may return in later seasons to Rahimah and her story with the Mamluks, then the Mamluks and his story with the Genie.

We can also go along with LEILA the girl when she grows up.