LEILA
(darting a glance over her shoulder)
Yasmin! Keep it down! Do you want your father to come investigate?

YASMIN
Sorry Modar. I was just so surprised! Are you really going to go to one of the Yahud's holiday celebrations?

LEILA
(holding up a notebook triumphantly)
Finally! Here it is! Let's see. Chanukah will be December 20th this year.
(dismayed)
There's quite a few addresses here. I'll just have to try my luck at a random one. 8 Valiasr St.

She closes her eyes and repeats the date and address to herself a few times until she is sure she knows it. Then she quickly starts replacing all the documents.

YASMIN
Modar, can I come with you?

LEILA
(vehemently)
Absolutely not! Are you crazy? Do you know how dangerous it is? What would your father do if he found out?

YASMIN
(stubbornly)
I don't care! If you're a yahud, then I am too!

LEILA
And what about Chassan?
(Yasmin is silenced. Leila puts her hands on her hips)
Just as I thought. Do you remember your betrothed?

(she crosses to Yasmin and says softly)

Yasmin, I understand that for you, this sounds like an exciting adventure. But believe me eshgham, this is deadly and dangerous. You're a young girl with a bright future already laid out for you. Your wedding is in less than a year. Don't throw everything away for a girlish whim.

(she cups Yasmin's chin and lifts her head)

Do you understand khoshgelam?

YASMIN nods solemnly and LEILA drops a kiss on her head.

LEILA

Good night Yasmin.

YASMIN

Good night Modar.

LEILA leaves the room after one long, lingering look at her daughter. YASMIN sits in the silence, a thoughtful look on her face.

YASMIN

8 Valiasr St.

SCENE 7

The stage is set as a modest, but comfortably appointed living room. DINA, MOSHE, KALEV, and RACHEL join the CHANUKAH SONGDANCE as they stand around the menorah. They sing about the similarities of the Maccabees hiding in caves and their hiding behind closed shutters. In every generation, the light of the Menorah burns brightly and outshines all the negativity. As the choir winds down, MOSHE motions off stage.

MOSHE
Quick! Close the window curtains! Quickly, quickly!

The curtains shut, but lights and subtle noises can still be seen and heard. LEILA, dressed all in black, heads up the audience aisle, often glancing furtively behind her. On the stage, in the corner in front of the curtains is a street sign reading "Valiasr St." Two men, YOSEF and PINHAS, hang around, seemingly casually. LEILA walks up on stage and pauses intently in front of the curtains, trying to see inside. YOSEF and PINHAS look at each other significantly and start to amble up to LEILA.

YOSEF
Good evening khanum. What do you think of the stars tonight?

LEILA
(taken aback)
The stars?
(she gives them a funny look)
They're very pretty.

YOSEF and PINHAS look at each other.

PINHAS
Khanum, are you lost? Do you need help finding directions?

LEILA
No thank you. I can find my own way.

She tries to walk past them, but they block her path.

LEILA
Excuse me gentlemen. I'm trying to pass.

YOSEF
I think you had better come with us.

LEILA
(alarmed)
Come with you? What do you mean? I was just walking on the street!

PINHAS
Khanum, do you usually eavesdrop on people's houses as you walk by?

LEILA
(stammering)
No, no! You don't understand!

They take her by the arms, tie her eyes with a blindfold and knock on the curtain. RACHEL pops her head out.

RACHEL
Yussef! What is going on?
(she sees Leila and her eyes widen)
Bring her inside! Quickly!

The curtains open as LEILA is dragged in. Immediately, all conversation stops and everyone stares at her in fear and consternation. YOSEF and PINHAS bring her behind a

partition and sit her down on the ground, removing the blindfold. They take up menacing positions in front of her. RACHEL joins them.

LEILA
Please agha. I don't know why you've dragged me here. Please let me go!

RACHEL
(to Yosef)
What happened?

YOSEF
She was loitering outside, trying to listen. She's a spy!

PINHAS
And she didn't know the code!

RACHEL
(to Leila)
What's your name?

LEILA
Fa-fatima.

PINHAS
(to Yosef, scoffing)
And my name is Shah Reza.

RACHEL
Is your name really Fatima?

LEILA
(head hanging down)
No. It's Leila.

RACHEL
And what were you doing on this block all by yourself late at night?

LEILA
(boldly)
I wanted to join the Chanukah celebration.

PINHAS
(angrily)