

In Orbit

Scene 1

***I thought I was going to die up there
My helmet was stuck and I couldn't breathe
I saw my father***

***My helmet was stuck and I couldn't breathe
I saw my father finishing his bottle while yelling at us
And my mother running...***

***Madam Issa,
It's your turn!***

Scene 2

***-But she can't breathe with a spacesuit like this
It's the second one we've received in 10 days and the helmet is too small
Where shall we place the microphones?***

- Is this where you're having the audition?

***-Wait a second
Can I help you?***

***-You're the one I spoke with on the phone...
Your voice seems familiar***

***-I'll call you in half an hour, is it ok?
Excuse me...***

***- It's Nada Issa
,***

For Christine's part, the astronaut

-Can you spell out your name for me?

- N, A, D, A, I, S, S, A

-How old are you?

***-Is it necessary?
This is not a question for women***

-It is, in an audition

***- How old is Christine?
You know age is relative***

*It was my birthday last week
And I was thrown a surprise party, it was amazing...*

-You have an accent!

-Can you hear it?

*I was born in Lebanon but I arrived in France a long time ago
I arrived in...*

-Have you experienced the war?

-I was too young

I don't really remember

-Fine, I'm listening.

-What do you mean?

-Have you prepared something?

-Right now?

-Yes

-In a fraction of a second, I saw my life before my eyes.

I thought I was going to die alone, up there in space

My helmet was stuck and I couldn't breathe

I saw my father finishing his bottle while yelling at us

And my mother running after the laundry, insulting the weather in the north

I even saw you Paul going after my toys while floating in space

You told me you weren't going to give them back to me if I didn't make your bed

Everything seemed to be running in slow motion...

Everything seemed to be running in slow motion...

-Thank you, that's fine

-Even the most mundane things in life are...

Can I repeat please?

-No, this should be fine.

-I'm just drawing a blank here...

I can resume from "I even saw you Paul"

-This is really not necessary. We will call you back.

-It's about the accent.

-It is not about the accent.

-I can replay it differently

In a fraction of a second, I saw my life before my eyes.

I thought I was going to ...

-Your type is compromising for the part

-What do you mean by type?

You mean the Arab type?

I've never experienced that...

-Have you ever seen an Arab woman traveling to the moon?

-Couldn't you mention this in your ad?

"We are looking for a woman except for an Arab one"

*-I spent 2 hours to get here and it's been 3 months that I've been rehearsing for this part
Where are my keys?
Now is not the time*

*-Is it Arabic?
-Yes it's Arabic
Do you want me to tell you something in Arabic?
French people are assholes*

-Great!

*-Do you speak Arabic?
-I understand it
-I'm sorry, I wasn't talking about you specifically
I was talking about all the French people, in a general way*

Scene 3

*-Are you an actress?
-No I just wanted to travel to the moon
-You mean for real?
-It's in your movie right?
-Yes, yes it's in my movie
-Fine, I guess I'm going to leave now
Have you found Paul?
-No, we prefer to find Christine first
And then find a brother who looks a bit like her*

*-Not from a certain type...
-You really want to travel to the moon...
-How old is the brother in the movie?
-Around 45, I guess
-Fine, I'm going outside for a cigarette
-You can smoke here if you wish
-Really?
-Of course
-Fine, it's cooler in here
Do you have a lighter please?
It is fine, I got it
-Why do you want to travel to the moon?
-Maybe it's because of the air conditioning
-You look like Carole Laure, the actress, you see?
-No I don't
I'm not an actress, I've never played a part
I know nothing about actors, actresses, cinema or movies...
-Nevertheless, you live in Paris?
-Yes, since 1993. If you let me finish my sentence earlier
-So you've witnessed the war
- I don't see how that's any of your business,
We don't pry into people's lives like that*

*-You've never passed an audition?
-No, no
-Christine might have witnessed the war for example...
-Is it true? Did she witness the war?
-Maybe...
-I have to go...
-Stay, we're not done yet
-You know? I'm wasting your time
My brother is waiting for me outside
I can't wait much longer*

Scene 4

*-Go ahead, you're on
-Can I?
-Yes, yes
What's your name?
-Anne-Laure Furgé
-Maybe you need me to tell you about my experience?
-Did you prepare the text?
-Yes, shall I start right away?
-Go ahead*

Scene 5

*-Don't you want us to do another take?
We can do another take
Can I do another take? I would really like to do another one
Let me do another take
Please*

*-No, that's fine
-Are you sure?
Because I could do another take if you want
I could really do another take
Please*

Scene 6

*I was asked when I was little
what I want to be when I grow up*

*My brother Ziad answered:
"We will become astronauts"
When I was asked the question a second time
I answered the same thing
I've been laughed at
I've been told, "You're too fearful"
But I don't remember ever being scared
Even when the electricity was off*

*I was impatient to see the planes light up the neighbourhood
I used to run up to the roof
And I said to Ziad:
"Hurry up! Can't you hear the bombing? The planes are here."
The war was over
Ziad disappeared
The power cuts went on
I kept going up to the roof
Waiting for the planes*

*Time passed
The moon rose in the sky
And I went to sleep*

*The planes didn't pass anymore
And I used to tell myself:
"Did Ziad go up on the moon?"
"He's crazy, he's capable of it."*

*I was suffocating.
As if the earth was strangling me.
I was breathless.*

*Get me out of here.
Get me out of here.
Get me out of here.*