

TOWELHEAD TEACHER

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BLACK SCREEN

We can only see black on the screen and hear the Islamic call to prayer music over the top.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

We then see a young Middle Eastern woman PARISSA, 25, in front of the bathroom mirror. She's wearing a towel on her head and one around her body.

The music has stopped.

She's brushing her teeth in front of the mirror. As she finishes, she rinses her mouth with water, spits into the basin, looks at herself for a moment and then sighs.

PARISSA

Ah Bugger.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPLE'S OFFICE - MIDDAY

PARISSA is in the office, sitting opposite the PRINCIPLE, BILL.

BILL is a young looking man, despite being in his early 40s. He's wearing a tweed jacket and shirt. He looks at PARISSA as though he wants to start with caution.

BILL

I called you in here because I think it's important to discuss your year 7 class today.

PARISSA

What was wrong with it?

BILL

I'm not sure how appropriate it was.

FLACHBACK TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

We see PARISSA standing in front of the classroom addressing the class.

PARISSA

Okay, who hear can tell me why Santa Clause is a racist?

At that moment we see BILL walk past the class with a look of concern on his face.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. PRINCIPLE'S OFFICE

PARISSA

I don't really see the problem.

BILL

Well it's not particularly relevant.

PARISSA

How so?

BILL

You teach English.

PARISSA is about to respond, but looks as though she's thinking of what to say.

PARISSA

Well... in English... history... and literature, actually, we've been told Santa delivers gifts to kids all over the world. Are we really suppose to believe that this old, rich, white man is giving gifts to the muslims, jews and the ching chongs in China?

BILL

That's not really for us to say, which brings me to another point. We need to try and keep our cultural difference neutral in the classroom.

PARISSA

I'm sorry Bill, I find it important as a young Muslim woman, in a Western culture, to educate people in a scope wider than what they're used to.

BILL

I didn't know you were particularly devout.

PARISSA

Oh I am Bill, I am even surprisingly quite strict about it.

(MORE)

PARISSA (CONT'D)

And not just that, but I think it
my duty care about including
diversity on behalf of all our
students.

BILL looks at her confused and trapped as though he cannot
pursue this matter for the sake of political correctness.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - AFTERNOON

PARISSA is behind a school building with another teacher,
TRISTAN, a somewhat camp male teacher, about the same age as
PARISSA.

They're both smoking behind the building and acting like
school kids trying to hide from the teachers. It also looks
as though they are holding a drink, though we can't see what
it is.

TRISTAN

What did the Principle want?

PARISSA

Fucking hell, he just wanted to
tell me off for the Santa Clause
thing.

TRISTAN

You go to a lot of effort to make
people feel uncomfortable around
you.

PARISSA

Yeah? You're a gay wood shop
teacher who made your class watch
"The Birdcage" as homework for
making an actual birdcage.

TRISTAN

That film's a classic.

PARISSA

It's somewhat irrelevant though,
isn't it.

TRISTAN

As relevant as Santa Clause?

At that moment BILL walks past the building and sees TRACEY
and PARISSA smoking.

BILL

Guys!

The two of them butt out their cigarettes quickly on the ground when they hear BILL.

BILL (CONT'D)

Do I really have to tell you what you're doing is grossly breaching school rules?

TRISTAN

Come on Bill, it's not like we're the students.

BILL

You're on school property and supposed to be setting a good example for them. And you, Parissa, I thought you said you were a strict Muslim.

PARISSA

Nothing against smoking in Islam.

BILL

You're drinking a beer!

We pan down to PARISSA's hand to see her holding a bottle of beer.

PARISSA

Light beer.

BILL walks off in defeat.

FADE TO BLACK.