

DHURATA

By

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A TRUE STORY

INT. WHITE BATHROOM. NIGHT

Dark room. Spotlight on a bathtub. The naked bodies of Andi and Dhurata are hugging each other. Instead of water, blood falls over their bodies. Shots of different angles of their bodies hugging. Title. Opening Credits.

EXT. BAR. BLLOKU (TIRANE). NIGHT

We're inside a bar in Tirana. A live band and a male singer are performing modernized traditional Albanian music (i.e. Dren Abazi). Andi and Tani are sitting at a table. In front of them a glass of beer and a glass of cognac.

TANI

How is your daughter? I am sorry I wasn't able to make it to her birthday three days ago, but i was shooting, as you know. She is beautiful. Looks exactly like Ema.

ANDI

Ah, do not worry at all. We had a beautiful time. Thank you for the kind words. Cheers (they cheers with the glasses)

Andi's cellphone rings. He looks at his phone. As he sees the name, he smiles.

ANDI

Hi, Irma, how are you? I was just thinking... every time I see your name on my phone, I smile because I know you always contact me for great projects.

Irma smiles on the other side of the phone.

IRMA

The owner confirmed the project based on your script. We leave tomorrow with the production team to get everything ready for the scenes. The casting was done by the owner and myself. Everyone is now selected.

ANDI

Ah, great. There will be four models, correct?

(CONTINUED)

IRMA

Yes, four. Three females and one male. We found the muse of the project (the main face of the brand) in Kosovo. She is beautiful and the owner loved her. Careful now, don't you go falling in love, you're married after all. (laughs)

ANDI

I'm always surrounded by beautiful women...I don't fall in love that easily darling... (laughs) Please don't forget, send over the plans for the scenes.

IRMA

I am very happy that we get to work together on this project. Can't wait to shoot tomorrow. OK, so tomorrow around lunch time, I will see you in Shiroke. We start filming at magic hour (sunset). I will send you the plans right away. I have to go now. Bye. Kisses.

ANDI

OK, perfect. Oh, wait, one second, what was the name of the girl from Kosovo?

IRMA

...

ANDI

Irma, you there?

IRMA

Yes, I'm here Andi. Her name is Dhurata.

ANDI

Are you OK?

IRMA

Yes, great. I have to go now.

Andi hangs up the phone. He is in his thoughts. This name has struck him. He turns over to Tani.

ANDI

Irma confirmed the production for the commercial. We're filming it

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDI (cont'd)
tomorrow (happy). She is sending me the plans shortly. As you know, this project is the first time I bring a painting to life, so to speak; the painting of Sandro Botticelli, The Birth of Venus. I love this project.

TANI
Of course, we'll kill it. Who are the models? Do you have the photos? Did Irma send them to you?

ANDI
Ah, yes. Good thing you reminded me. I'll text her now.

Andi is about to send a text, when two girls come into the scene. Andi and Tani get up to say hello. Andi is still preoccupied with sending his text and saying hello to the girls.

GIRL #1
Andi, how are you? It has been so long.

She goes to hug him and he gives her a warm hug. Tani hugs the other girl.

GIRL #1
I was just looking at the pictures and videos of Orieta you posted on Instagram. They're beautiful. You are so talented. And not bad looking either. Ah, yes, I just remembered, I'll text you soon because I have a project for us.
(blows him a kiss)

Andi's cellphone rings. He looks at his phone and at the girl who is now leaving. Before he answers his phone, he tells the girl 'call me, bye'.

ANDI
Yes, I am on my way home. I won't be much longer.

EMA
Can you please pick up diapers?
That's why I called.

(CONTINUED)

ANDI

I hope the stores are still open.
It's late.

EMA

You can go to the 24 hours
supermarket.

Andi hangs up his phone and turns to Tani.

ANDI

We have another 30 minutes to drink
more (laughing). Waiter...

INT. ANDI'S HOUSE. NIGHT

Andi opens the door. The mood in the house is very romantic. Ema has dimmed the lights and has lit candles everywhere. She appears from the kitchen holding two glasses of wine and walks towards him. She is wearing a silky, sexy, black night gown. Ema takes the diapers from his hands and throws them on the floor. She hands him his glass of wine as she drinks her entire glass. Andi is surprised.

ANDI

What are you doing, Ema?

EMA

What do you think I'm doing?

ANDI

Where is our daughter?

EMA

I put her to sleep earlier tonight.
Go, take a shower and come meet me
in bed.

ANDI

I am truly tired, Ema. And I have
to work early tomorrow.

EMA

I am waiting for you in bed (walks
away towards the bedroom).

INT. ANDI'S BATHROOM. NIGHT

Andi turns on the shower. He takes off his clothes. Looks at himself in the mirror and starts touching himself. He closes his eyes and is now feeling very aroused. He starts masturbating until he orgasms.

INT. KITCHEN. ANDI'S HOUSE. MORNING

Andi is taking his equipment and suitcase to the foyer. His daughter and wife are eating breakfast in the kitchen. Andi kisses his daughter on the head and takes a piece of toast with jam from the table. Kisses his wife and walks towards the door. Ema gets up.

EMA

How long are you going to be away?

ANDI

Two days, one night. I will be back tomorrow night.

EMA

The project involves models again?

ANDI

Yes, as per usual. Why do you ask?

Ema looks lost. She is staring somewhere. Shortly thereafter she comes to.

EMA

No reason. I'm sorry. Good luck
(she hugs him tightly).

Andi leaves his house.

INT. ANDI'S CAR. MORNING

Tani opens the trunk of the car. He puts down the equipment and closes it. He sits in the passenger's seat.

TANI

I haven't slept all night. I've been talking to this girl from Prizren on Tinder.

ANDI

Nice, how is she? Did you follow her on Instagram?

(CONTINUED)

TANI

Yes, we followed each other. She's beautiful. She's a model.

ANDI

How old is she?

TANI

24.

ANDI

Perfect age for marriage (laughs).

Tani laughs and looks out of the window.

ANDI

I've always liked marriages between Albanians and Albanians of Kosovo. It unites us.

TANI

Me too. I always feel at home in Pristina.

ANDI

Fingers crossed.

EXT. DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ON THE ROAD

The camera follows Andi and Tani driving towards Shkodër. We hear the song "Në tren për në Prizren" in the background.

EXT. SHIROKE. MID DAY

The car stops at the location. Many people are there, including the production team who are working on the shell, the owner of the company, Irma, four models (three female and one male), costume designer and a makeup artist that is opening her makeup bag in a shaded area.

Andi and Tani get out of the car. Tani is sending a text to the girl from Prizren. Irma and the owner are walking towards them. They greet each other. Irma has a few papers in her hand and hands them over to Andi.

IRMA

Here is the script. Look it over one more time so you know what is happening.

(CONTINUED)

THE OWNER

I have placed a lot of trust on you, Andi. You come very highly recommended by Irma. I need you to make this project like a true painting. This collection of watches is very special to me. It's my entire life's work.

Andi looks at the script and turns to Tani.

ANDI

Go get the equipment. We have time but I would like to get started.

TANI

Of course, as soon as i finish sending this text.

Andi turns his attention to Irma.

ANDI

Irma, let's go see the models. I would like to introduce myself and speak to them.

Andi, Irma and the owner of the brand walk towards the models. Andi greets them. The costume designer is next to them. Andi looks over the costumes. The makeup artist is starting to do the makeup of the main model, the face of the campaign, Dhurata. Andi turns his head towards her instinctively. Without thinking, Dhurata moves her head away from the makeup artist and notices that Andi is looking at her. At the same moment, something hits the both of them out of nowhere. They freeze staring at each other. Love has struck them. Dhurata comes to. She looks away, gets up from the chair and walks away (towards the lake). Irma has noticed this entire exchange.

EXT. SHIROKĚ. BY THE LAKE. DHURATA'S SHOT

Dhurata is standing by the lake. She feels cold and her stomach feels uneasy (as if she wants to vomit). She sits down to feel better and puts her arms around her stomach.

EXT. FILMING LOCATION. SHIROKĚ. MID DAY

Irma and Andi are walking around the location. The scene is being set up to be filmed. The production staff of the shell are making a lot of noise. The makeup artist is painting the faces of the other models. Irma is saying something to Andi but Andi is not paying attention.

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IRMA

You seem disoriented, what's wrong?

Andi hears her but does not look at her. Beside the physical beauty of Dhurata, Andi had felt something else. He couldn't name it. But he decides he will soon find out.

ANDI

What was her name again, Dhurata?

IRMA

You seem so out of it. Please, this project needs to be perfect. Yes, her name is Dhurata.

Irma stops walking suddenly and grabs his hand.

IRMA

Tonight, let's have dinner together. We need to discuss tomorrow's scenes.

Andi looks at her. He is confused.

ANDI

I'm sorry, Irma. I need to get ready to shoot now.

Andi walks away from her. Irma watches him walking away from her and looks down. Andi feels happy but at the same time a sudden sadness has entered his soul. The energy he felt towards Dhurata is incredibly mysterious.

Time Lapse.

EXT. SHIROKĚ. BY THE LAKE. SUNSET

Andi is holding his DJI and is directing the set. Tani is carrying a screen and his focus puller. Andi starts filming. The models are wearing light fabrics draped over their bodies just like the Botticelli painting. Dhurata is in the nude. Only a small piece of fabric is covering her intimate parts (like the painting The Birth of Venus by Botticelli). Everything is magical.

EXT. SHIROKĚ. BY THE LAKE. SUNSET. AN HOUR LATER

Andi is filming the scene. Here we see Andi and Tani in different moments while shooting. Montage of different shots to convey the passage of time.

EXT. SHIROKĚ. BY THE LAKE. SUNSET

Andi is shooting close-ups of each of the models to get their reactions. Everything is frozen. After he is done with this, he turns over to Tani.

ANDI

Go get the other camera. I am done with the videos. We need to take pictures now.

Andi gives the DJI to Tani. The costume designer hands over a robe to Dhurata to put on.

EXT. SHIROKĚ. SUNSET

Tani opens the trunk of the car. He places the DJI down and pick up the LED light.

EXT. SHIROKĚ. BY THE LAKE. SUNSET

Andi and Dhurata lock eyes again. They are struck by the same energy as before. Slow motion sequence. Tani startles Andi by handing him the camera. Tani turns on the LED light. Andi comes back to reality. He starts photographing the entire scene and then takes photos of each of the models. He then asks the rest of the models to leave, as he needs to take photos of Dhurata only. He, eagerly, takes many photos of her inside the shell.

Andi turns over to the costume designer.

ANDI

Give Dhurata this red dress to wear. I would like to take some photos by the lake.

The costume designer hands over the dress to Dhurata and she puts it on. She walks calmly towards Andi. Occasionally, she looks at Andi and then takes her gaze away from him. She cannot understand this energy she feels. Andi has not stopped looking at her. Tani notices that Andi is captivated by Dhurata and Dhurata is walking slowly towards him. Andi approaches Dhurata and gently moves a long piece of her hair behind her ear. At first, Dhurata seems scared but shortly thereafter she realizes he means no harm. She lets him touch her hair.

ANDI

Now, you're perfect.

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Andi takes the LED light away from Tani and walks away from him. Tani smiles and takes his phone out of his pocket to write a message. Andi and Dhurata walk further away towards the shore, by the water. They are now both completely engulfed in the world of photography.

ANDI

What is your name?

DHURATA

Dhurata.

ANDI

Do you like being a model? Is this why you chose this profession? Give me a melancholic face. Lay down here please. I would like to take some photos from above.

He cannot stop snapping photos. She has an angelic face, but there is something painful hiding behind those eyes. Andi stops as he is now standing on top of her (i.e. the scene Blow Up by Antonioni). He stares at her with so much love and compassion.

ANDI

Who are you? Can we go out tonight?

Dhurata looks at him lovingly but does not say anything. She looks into his eyes and then turns her head to the side. Andi moves away from on top of her and lays next to her on the sand.

EXT. BOARDWALK SHKODËR. RESTAURANT. NIGHT

Irma, Tani, the owner of the company, and the models are having dinner at a restaurant on the patio. The camera pans on close-ups of each of the models. They are all laughing. Camera stops on Irma's face. She is looking further in the distance at a restaurant across from her.

EXT. BOARDWALK SHKODËR. PATIO. NIGHT

A waiter carrying glasses of wine on a tray is walking towards a table. Andi and Dhurata are staring into each other's eyes tenderly and happily. Neither of them can believe that they have found each other. The waiter places the food and wine down at their tables and walks away. Besides them three musicians; a clarinetist, a man playing the tambourine and an accordion player dressed in traditional Albanian costumes are playing the melody to the

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song "Në tren për në Prizren". Dhurata is looking at them as her eyes smile. Andi seems to be entirely happy as well. He takes out a bill and hands it over to the musicians. Dhurata starts recording them with her phone. Shortly after, she looks over at Andi and picks up her glass of wine.

DHURATA

Let's raise a toast to chance.

ANDI

I think we should cheers to
"everything happens for a reason".

DHURATA

OK. Everything happens for a
reason!

They cheers touching their glasses. They smile at each other lovingly. They have not taken their eyes off of each other since they have sat down. It is as if if nothing else exists. Andi's cellphone rings. It's Ema. At the same time, Dhurata's cellphone also rings. It is her fiance. Andi gets up from the table and walks away.

ANDI'S DAUGHTER

Daddy, I miss you. When are you
coming home?

ANDI

Very soon, tomorrow I am home. What
did you learn today in
kindergarten, my love?

ANDI'S DAUGHTER

Daddy, I learned a beautiful poem
(she starts reciting an Albanian
poem).

Andi looks over at Dhurata, who is also speaking on the phone.

DHURATA

Sweetheart, how are you?

DHURATA'S FIANCE

Dhurata, how are you my love? Are
you having a good time? Please, do
not tire yourself out. I got the
blood work back today. My love,
you're pregnant (excited).

Dhurata is frozen. She cannot believe it. Her fiance is beyond ecstatic.

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DHURATA'S FIANCE

What's wrong my love? We're about to have a baby together.

DHURATA

I am very surprised but of course I am very happy. Kisses. Let's talk later as I am out with coworkers now.

DHURATA'S FIANCE

OK, my love. I love you. This is a miracle. I love you, baby, I love you.

Dhurata hardly smiles and hangs up the phone. She does not move. This news has stunned her. She, instinctively, touches her stomach. She had once loved her fiancé but she no longer does. Plus, this new encounter with the director had overthrown everything she had thought before. She notices that Andi has also finished his phone call and is walking towards her. Even after the pregnancy news, she decided that she had to get to the bottom of this new encounter that had touched her soul so deeply. They gaze into each other's eyes. They cannot believe that this feeling they have towards each other is real. They drink without saying anything. Andi takes out his phone and sends a text to Irma.

ANDI

I need a room tonight, please.

IRMA

I have a key.

ANDI

Where are you?

IRMA

In front of you. We are all here.

Andi lifts his head up and looks around. He sees Irma. He signals to Dhurata to wait and walks towards the restaurant where Irma and everyone else is having dinner. He greets everyone and asks to speak to Irma alone. Irma gets up, gets the key from her purse and hands it over to him. Andi smiles and warmly hugs her. She falls into his arms as if to never let go. She is hurt. Andi leaves her and walks towards his table. Irma follows him with her eyes until he sits down. The camera leaves Irma. Dhurata keeps looking at him. As he does to Dhurata. She moves her gaze to the side, grabs her purse and gets up.

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DHURATA

I have to go to the toilet. Won't
be long (tired smile).

Andi smiles at her (they both are so perplexed). The camera stops on Andi's eyes following Dhurata to the toilet and then looking down a bit lost.

INT. TOILET. RESTAURANT. NIGHT

Dhurata turns on the faucet. She stares at herself in the mirror. The news regarding her pregnancy has shocked her tremendously. She does not know what to do. This sudden and unplanned love has left her breathless. In addition, her pregnancy has confused her even more. She touches her stomach instinctively. She starts crying. She takes a deep breath (tries to calm herself down). She has stopped crying but the tears continue to fall down her face. She washes her hands with soap. She dries away her tears with her wet hands and freshens up. Puts on makeup and lipstick. She looks at herself in the mirror. Smiles slightly. Another deep breath and exits.

EXT. BOARDWALK SHKODËR. RESTAURANT. NIGHT

Dhurata sits down, looks over at Andi and sweetly smiles at him.

DHURATA

Can I please have a cigarette?

Andi takes a cigarette out of the pack, lights it up and hands it over to Dhurata.

ANDI

Can we please spend tonight
together?

Dhurata is in total shock from his directness. She has a terrified look in her eyes. Almost immediately, her face relaxes and she smiles. Perhaps the universe had introduced them to never be together.

DHURATA

Yes, we will spend tonight
together. This is craziness but I
want to be with you, even if it is
the last time.

Dhurata takes a deep breath to speak again.

(CONTINUED)

DHURATA

I don't know what is happening with you, I don't know. I do know that it is bigger than me and I cannot handle it. All that is left is for me to do, is to surrender. My entire body aches as if have no organs left. I feel empty and full at the same time. Nothing matters to me right now. Now, it is only about you and I and the universe has stopped. This is way bigger than me and I cannot handle it. I have to surrender (sighs).

Dhurata touches Andi's hands and places them on her head. Accidentally, she breaks her glass of wine that is on the table. Neither one of them seem to notice that the glass is broken. Andi moves his body and head slightly forward so that his head touches hers.

Note: This scene is to be edited in parallel to the scene at the house when both of them take their clothes off and get in the bathtub with their glasses of wine.

INT. WHITE BATHROOM. NIGHT

The bathtub is being filled with water. There is light only on the bathtub. We see Dhurata's naked feet. Both, Andi and Dhurata are nude walking towards the bathtub. They are holding a glass of wine. Andi turns off the faucet. They both calmly get in the bathtub. They place their glasses of wine on opposite sides of the bathtub. They admire each other as they sit on opposite ends of the bathtub. They start caressing each other's feet. Dhurata kisses Andi's foot and moves in a very sensual way towards him. She is on top of him. They kiss, slowly. After a few seconds, something takes over them and they start kissing passionately and ferociously. While they are kissing passionately, Dhurata accidentally pushes the glass of wine into the bathtub. Andi breaks it with his thigh. A piece of glass is stuck inside his thigh but Andi feels nothing. They are both completely engulfed by this intense sexual desire that has occupied their bodies and is taking them towards an orgasm that neither one of them have ever felt before. The bathtub is now red from the wine and the blood. They are both experiencing this sexual connection like it is their last. Neither of them understanding why. They orgasm at the same time and hug each other.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT

Andi is rolling a marijuana cigarette. Dhurata is by his side calm and smiling. They both feel a sense of peace next to each other. Nothing exists. The only thing that exists is the two of them. Andi has tied his shirt around his thigh to stop the bleeding.

ANDI

Please, tell me your story when the war started. Where were you? I want to know everything about you.

Strong emotions run through Dhurata's body. This question has struck her. Everything that has happened with Andi has left her breathless. She also feels incredibly happy. She tears up.

DHURATA

I was at my house in Prizren. My father opened the door in a frenzy and told us to quickly pack up some clothes. We had to leave immediately. The Serbian army was burning down villages and killed innocent people. We grabbed what we could and we left along with a few other families. We all got on a tractor towards the Albanian border. We were some of the first families fleeing Kosovo and we were not stopped along the way. We got to the Albanian border in Kukes and from there we got in a taxi towards Shkoder. My father had an old friend who lived in Shkoder. He welcomed us with open arms into his home until the war ended.

Dhurata wipes away her tears, looks at Andi and smiles.

DHURATA

The city of Shkoder took a whole new meaning for me. It was the city of salvation. Everyone was good to us in this city. They treated us with love and kindness. I made two best friends there as well. At the time, I always thought that when the war would be finally over, I would marry a man from Shkoder (weary smile).

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Dhurata turns her gaze back to Andi. She touches his face tenderly.

DHURATA

You have affected me so deeply that everything hurts... but it also makes me so happy. I had never thought that this kind of love existed.

Dhurata cries. She wipes away her tears but they won't stop.

DHURATA

Why did you come into my life now?
There is nothing for you now. There is nothing for us, now.

Andi is shocked by these words. He stares at her. His heart hurts. He wants to cry but there are no tears. He is tongue-tied. His joint is rolled but he cannot light it. He moves closer to Dhurata and hugs her. She moves away, holds onto his face with her hands and starts kissing his forehead, his eyes, his cheeks, his lips. They both get lost in each others embrace with the same passion as before in the bathtub.

ANDI

I love you. I love you.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT (5AM)

Andi lights up the joint by the window, his thoughts wondering. He turns his head to look at Dhurata, who is sleeping.

ANDI

Dhurata, wake up kid. Please come to me. Let's watch the sunrise together.

Dhurata moves a little. She is sleepy but does not want to sleep. She gets up and sees that there is blood all over her. She is terrified. She thinks she may have lost the baby. She runs horrified to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT

Dhurata turns on the light. She sees blood on the insides of her thighs. Andi walks into the bathroom, looking worried.

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ANDI

What's wrong? Don't worry. It's my blood.

Dhurata looks at him and feels calm right away. She washes the blood away in the shower.

INT. BEDROOM. SUNRISE

They are both watching the sunrise. They are gazing into each other's eyes as if it was the last time. Andi is smoking his joint. Andi lifts his arm up and brings Dhurata closer to him. Dhurata rests her head on his chest.

INT. BEDROOM. MORNING

Close up of Andi's cellphone. We see that there are many missed calls and unread text messages. Close up of Andi. Close up of Dhurata's cellphone. There are many missed calls and unread text messages on her phone as well. Close up of Dhurata. They are both sleeping. The white bedsheets covering them are stained red from the blood. Andi has lost a lot of blood. A cellphone rings. After the cellphone rings for quite some time, Andi barely wakes up. He is very sleepy and tired. Answers the phone.

IRMA

Andi, are you ready? Stay where you are. That's where we are filming today. Um mm, do you know where Dhurata is? She didn't come to her room last night.

ANDI

She is here (tired).

IRMA

OK. Get ready. We will be there in a couple of minutes.

Andi is terrified. He tries to get up. A big blood stain is visible on the white bedsheets. He feels weak. He does not know what to do. He sits back down on the side of the bed as to recover his strength. He feels dizzy.

ANDI

Dhurata, Dhurata, wake up. They are coming here. Dhurata, Dhurata...

Andi has lost all his strength. He feels unwell. He faints. Dhurata wakes up. Her head hurts. She vaguely remembers Andi

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calling her name and notices Andi by her side. She gets up and sees the blood on the bed. She gets scared and touches her stomach instinctively. She is now clear and is horrified by what has happened. Andi opens his eyes. He feels like death.

ANDI

They are coming here. They are coming...

Andi cannot finish his sentence. There is a knock on the door. Dhurata is terrified. Andi faints.

INT. BATHROOM. BATHTUB FILLED WITH BLOOD. NIGHT

Note: Scene after passionate sex

They are touching each other's feet. They are relaxed, relieved. Andi is hurt. He moves and touches his thigh and notices it is bleeding. He gets up to see the wound more clearly. Dhurata sees it as well. Andi touches the wound.

ANDI

Such a small cut but it's bleeding so much (surprised).

DHURATA

Should we go to the hospital to get it stitched?

ANDI

No, it's fine. I'll try to get out the piece of glass with my hand.

Andi tries to remove the piece of glass jammed into his thigh without success. He leaves it.

ANDI

It's fine. I'll just tie it with my shirt. It can wait until tomorrow.

DHURATA

Can we drain the tub, please? I'd like to take a shower.

They both get up. Andi removes the bathtub drain stopper. Turns off the shower head. They are showering.

ANDI

What is going to happen with us?

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Dhurata looks up at him. Her face is sad. She is washing her body with a bar of soap and starts to wash Andi's chest. Andi cannot stop looking at her. Neither does she. But every now and then, she looks down to the ground.

DHURATA

Nothing is going to happen with us.
We cannot see each other again. I
am pregnant. When we were having
dinner, my fiance called me and
gave me the news. I am sorry, I
don't know what to say.

She is sad and starts to cry. The bar of soap slips from her hands and she cries loudly. Andi is touched and tears up. He hugs her tightly. The water falls over their heads as they both cry.

ANDI

Everything will be OK. God willing,
everything will be OK (quietly). It
will be OK (repeated).

Andi starts kissing Dhurata's head, then her eyes, her forehead, her cheeks. The phrase "everything will be OK" is repeated.

The film ends with this phrase. We see Andi kissing Dhurata and Dhurata crying.

The camera moves backwards.

THE END.