

MOUNTAINS LIKE FIVE FINGERS

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD (CYPRUS) - DAY

Long, grey, dark green, narrow -- the Kyrenia mountains: five peaks jut out against the pale blue sky, slicing a thin white line into the sea below.

Everywhere, yellow mustard flowers wave to and fro in the transformed landscape.

Bus stop sign is seen outside traditional Cypriot taverna: "Mountain Taverna."

INT. "MOUNTAIN TAVERNA" - CONTINUOUS

Warmth reflects through glass -- it belies the February cold outside. Wind blows against the trees.

At a table by the window sit a young American couple: TOD, intellectual and sensitive-looking in tortoise-shell glasses, he wears a cream colored turtleneck sweater and jeans, jacket draped over chair. He is a writer.

SEVANA is Tod's girlfriend. College sweethearts. She still loves him but the shape of her love has changed. Petite and pale, her black hair, in a twenties style bob and ruby lips, give her a distinctive look that causes heads to turn.

She continues to wear her red coat.

Four pieces of luggage with stickers from various European destinations are stacked nearby.

SEVANA

What should we drink?

She takes off her coat and puts it on the back of her chair.

TOD

I haven't had a coffee yet today.

SEVANA

I had one this morning but could have another one.

Tod lifts his arm at the WAITER, young and fresh faced, not yet disillusioned with life.

TOD

Two Turkish coffees, with a little sugar in mine.

SEVANA

And mine.

TOD

Davis is hassling me for the next chapter already.

SEVANA

Doesn't he get it? True writers don't have deadlines.

TOD

True or not, he wants it yesterday.

SEVANA

Well he'll have to wait till we get back, won't he?

Tod writes on his iPad. Sevana looks at the countryside. It looks grey and cold in the sun.

The Waiter brings the two small cups of coffee. He places them on the table, along with two glasses of water and looks at Tod and Sevana.

SEVANA (CONT'D)

Merci. How long do we have?

Tod looks at his watch.

TOD

Thirty minutes.

Sevana continues to look at the mountains.

SEVANA

It looks like five fingers.

TOD

That's why they call it Besparmak or Pentadactylos which means five fingers.

Tod drinks his coffee.

SEVANA

Thanks for the Turkish and Greek lesson.

TOD

Hasan had invited me to go hunting with him up there. I should have taken him up on it.

SEVANA
It looks like a broken hand.

Sevana looks at the framed sepia photographs depicting traditional Cypriot scenes on the walls.

SEVANA (CONT'D)
Could we have a drink?

TOD
What do you want?

SEVANA
I don't know. How about a raki?

TOD
Isn't it a bit early?

SEVANA
I've been up since five.

Tod raises his arm to the Waiter. Makes gesture of two fingers.

TOD
(loudly)
Raki.

Tod continues to write on his iPad and Sevana stares out of the window.

The Waiter brings two oblong glasses half-filled with a clear liquid, two empty glasses, a bottle of water and a small bucket of ice cubes and a pair of tongs.

SEVANA
Merci.

The Waiter returns with two forks, small plates of white cheese, another with slices of honey melon and a bowl of olives.

Tod places ice cubes into the two glasses of raki, pours water onto them, which turns cloudy grey. He then fills the empty glasses with water.

TOD
Şerife.

He clinks his glass against Sevana's one.

SEVANA
Şerife.

They both take a drink.

SEVANA (CONT'D)

The other brand is better. This tastes too sugary.

Sevana puts the glass down.

TOD

I suppose the aniseed makes it sweet.

SEVANA

Not necessarily.

She takes another sip.

TOD

Yes it does.

SEVANA

Well, it isn't about the taste of the aniseed. I can taste that alright. It's the sugar.

TOD

Oh, stop it. Don't drink it if you don't like it.

SEVANA

You started it. I was just making conversation.

TOD

We could drink something else.

SEVANA

Isn't that all we do? Try new things?

TOD

Oh, come on. Cut it out.

SEVANA

Alright. Aren't we having a nice time?

TOD

There you go again.

Sevana looks at the mountains.

SEVANA

They are beautiful mountains. I mean, I haven't looked at them before. I mean, we drive through without really looking at them. They don't really look like a broken hand. They look more like a hand waving.

TOD

Shall we have another drink?

SEVANA

All right.

Sun shines through the window. Sevana tilts her head back, closes her eyes.

TOD

The raki's good.

SEVANA

It's lovely.

Sevana looks at the ground and then at the small plates of untouched meze.

SEVANA (CONT'D)

You know it's for the best.

Sevana continues to look at the ground.

SEVANA (CONT'D)

It's a pretty straightforward operation, really. It's not even an operation.

Tod looks at the ground.

SEVANA (CONT'D)

It's not really anything. They won't even need to put me under.

Tod takes a swig of raki.

SEVANA (CONT'D)

And you can come with me. It will be over in a flash. They won't even put me under. It's all perfectly O.K.

TOD

Then what will we do afterward?

SEVANA

It will be the same as before. But much better.

TOD

What makes you think so?

SEVANA

This is the only thing that's made us unhappy.

Sevana looks at the picture of a Cypriot shepherd holding a crook and touches the frame, collects dust on her fingertips.

TOD

And you think we we'll be alright and happy?

SEVANA

I know we will. You don't have to worry. I have a lot of friends who've done it.

TOD

(sarcastic)

So have I. And afterwards they were ecstatic about it.

SEVANA

Well, if you don't want me to do it, I won't. I don't want you to think I'm forcing you to agree. But it's for the best, right now.

TOD

So you really want to do it? You'll be happy and things will be like they were between us?

SEVANA

Things haven't changed, Tod. You know I love you.

TOD

I know. But I worry about the future.

SEVANA

I don't worry because it's for the best.

TOD

Then let's do it because it's for the best.

Takes a long drink.

SEVANA

Yes.

Tod bangs his glass on the table. Sevana looks at him, startled. Looks over to the Waiter who looks away.

TOD

Then do it and everything will be fine.

SEVANA

(whispers)

What are you talking about now?

TOD

You should do it because I don't care about it.

SEVANA

Now don't be silly. Of course you care about it.

TOD

That's why it's the best decision.

SEVANA

We'll be happy.

TOD

Exactly.

SEVANA

Look, I won't do it if you feel that way.

TOD

"Not waving but drowning" - yes, that's the name of that poem.

Tod takes a packet of cigarettes out of his pocket, gets up and walks out of the taverna.

EXT. "MOUNTAIN TAVERNA" - CONTINUOUS

Tod looks across the road at the muddy fields full of weeds, trees wiry and bare.

The air chills him, he shivers. He takes his glasses off and squints his eyes.

Lights cigarette, smokes. Sevana approaches.

TOD
(whispers)
And we have had all this and we
could have everything and every day
we make it impossible.

Sevana in her coat stands beside him.

SEVANA
What did you say?

TOD
I said we have had everything.

SEVANA
No, we can't have everything.

TOD
No we can't.

SEVANA
We can have it all.

TOD
No we can't.

SEVANA
We can have it all.

TOD
No we can't.

SEVANA
We're free to do anything and go
anywhere. It's our life.

TOD
No, it isn't. It isn't ours
anymore.

SEVANA
It's ours.

TOD
No, it isn't. And once they take it
away, you never get it back.

SEVANA
But they haven't taken it away.

TOD
We'll wait and see.

SEVANA

Come on back inside. You mustn't feel like that.

TOD

I don't feel any way. I just understand now.

Throws cigarette on floor and steps on it.

SEVANA

I won't do anything about it if you're really against it.

TOD

You've obviously made up our minds. Let's get another raki.

SEVANA

All right. But you've got to understand --

TOD

I understand. Can we stop talking about this?

INT. "MOUNTAIN TAVERNA" - CONTINUOUS

Tod and Sevana sit down at the table. Tod looks at the mountains and Sevana looks at him and at the table.

Sevana sips raki, slightly tipsy.

SEVANA

You've got to understand that if you really want me to have it, then I will have it --

TOD

Doesn't it mean anything to you? We would manage.

SEVANA

Of course it does. But I don't want anybody but you. It's that simple.

TOD

It's alright for you to say that now but I do understand it, you know.

Tod places his hand on Sevana's.

TOD (CONT'D)
It's going to be alright. You
mustn't be afraid.

SEVANA
Would you do something for me now?

TOD
I'd do anything for you.

SEVANA
Would you just stop, just stop
this? No more talking about it. I
can't stand it. Please.

Tod looks out of the window.

TOD
But I don't want to.

Sevana withdraws her hand.

SEVANA
I'm going to go mad.

The waiter comes to the table.

WAITER
The bus will be here in five
minutes.

Places bill on the table.

TOD
Merci.

He pulls out some notes.

TOD (CONT'D)
Keep the change.
Let's drink up and get out of here.

Tod picks up two heavy bags. Sevana smiles at him.

SEVANA
Alright.

EXT. "MOUNTAIN TAVERNA" - CONTINUOUS

They stand by their luggage as shuttle bus pulls up.

SEVANA
Do you feel better?

TOD

I feel fine, there's nothing wrong.
I feel just fine.

It begins to rain. They get on bus.

As bus pulls away, Tod, deeply troubled, looks out of window,
reflection of the mountains are seen.

Fade to Black.