

PERSEPOLIS
Sample Script for Page 33

(Voice of MARJANE comes from off-stage, younger actress playing YOUNG MARJANE at age ~10 is on stage in her bedroom, laying on her bed reading a book.)

MARJANE

I'd never read as much as I did during that period.

(Off stage voice continues, but actress gets up from the bed and the backdrop changes. She is now walking with her MOTHER past a dimly-lit, underground book store)

MARJANE

My favorite author was Ali Ashraf Darvishian, a kind of local Charles Dickens. I went to his clandestine book-signing with my mother.

ALI ASHRAF DARVISHIAN

(Said slowly, keeping pace as he writes the same words) Fer me friend Kourosh

YOUNG MARJANE

(Looking up to her mother) Why does he speak like that?

MOTHER

(Looking down to YOUNG MARJANE with a smile) It's just his Kurdish accent.

MARJANE

(Again, voice of MARJANE comes from off-stage, while different actors are highlighted in a single spotlight. They stand in frozen tableaux, acting out the characters being described. Stage is dark with the audience only able to see the single character as it being described)

He told sad but true stories: Reza became a porter at the age of ten. Leila wove carpets at age five. Hassan, three years old, cleaned car windows.

ANGRY MAN IN CAR

Get down from there, stupid!

(Last tableau is of YOUNG MARJANE and her FATHER sitting in their Cadillac)

I finally understood why I felt ashamed to sit in my father's Cadillac.