

## ACT ONE

*A two-room office. It is quite plain. Metin Güneş is nervously pacing up and down smoking a cigarette.*

METİN GÜNEŞ: *(To the audience.)* Hello, I'm Metin Güneş. I'm forty-seven years old and from Istanbul. I'm the owner of a textile factory in Izmir. I'm single and I've never been married. This is our contact office in Istanbul. I've got about one hundred million dollars to my name, the sort sum lots of people would give their eye-tooth for. But something casts a shadow on my happiness: I don't talk to my brother, Doğan, or his wife, Filiz. We haven't spoken for twenty-two years. I think of their son, Orhan, as my closest relative. You can think of him as my nephew. He's twenty-two. I've never seen him before. We're meeting today for the first time. I'm very nervous. You'll understand why when you find out the whole story.

*There is a knock at the door.*

That must be him.

*He opens the door. Orhan Güneş is standing there. He is very stylish. He is wearing a navy suit and a dark red tie.*

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: *(Hesitantly.)* Er hello, I'm Orhan Güneş. And you must be my uncle.

METİN GÜNEŞ: That's right, I'm Metin Güneş. We're very close relatives.

*They shake hands, but it is a very formal handshake.*

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: *(With the same hesitation.)* How do you do?

METİN GÜNEŞ: How are you?

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: I'm fine, thank you.

METİN GÜNEŞ: *(Looking carefully at Orhan Güneş.)* You're sweating. Wait, I'll get you something to drink. What would you like?

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: Could I have a fruit juice, please, if it's not too much trouble? Whatever flavour you have is fine.

METİN GÜNEŞ: It's no trouble; it's my pleasure. The fridge is in the other room so I'll just go and get you one.

*He exits.*

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: *(To the audience.)* Hello! What a nice man he is! He's my uncle and I'm meeting him for the first time today. I'm a twenty-two-year-old law student from Istanbul. My mum and dad don't speak to my uncle. It's been twenty-two years. Ever since I was born. I don't know why. My mum and dad won't tell me anything about it. My dad passed away last week from a heart attack. I can't tell you how sad I was.

*Metin Güneş enters with two glasses and a bottle of fruit juice.*

METİN GÜNEŞ: So did you have any problems getting here?

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: No, I just got the bus.

METİN GÜNEŞ: Oh, how long did it take?

- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: One hour, fifteen minutes.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: What? You spent all that time just to come here?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: What else could I do? You called me; I had to come.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: Well, thank you. So, how long does it take you to get to university from your house then?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: One and a half hours by bus, so three hours per day.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: You waste three hours every day in the bus?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: What can I do? If I want to go to university, I have no other choice.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: Now I see why they say it's not easy being a lawyer!
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: Well, getting to and from university is the easiest part.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: What if you had a car?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: Then it'd only take half an hour.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: Have you got your licence?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: Yes, since I was eighteen.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: Why don't you get a car then?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: My mum and dad wanted me to, and we could have got one second-hand. But I said I wanted to get

one with my own money once I started working. I would have felt awkward asking them for money.

METİN GÜNEŞ: I think you're right. If I'd been in your shoes, I'd have done the same thing.

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: Anyway, I've got used to the bus now.

METİN GÜNEŞ: And how's university going?

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: Pretty good, thanks.

METİN GÜNEŞ: What branch of law are you thinking of going into?

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: I like international law.

METİN GÜNEŞ: That's interesting; I was going to suggest the same branch to you.

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: I've got my heart set on becoming a judge.

METİN GÜNEŞ: Is that really what you want?

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: It is, that and to be an ombudsman.

METİN GÜNEŞ: An ombudsman? I've never heard of that before.

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: It's a kind of mediator. An ombudsman tries to resolve disputes by listening to both parties.

METİN GÜNEŞ: Very good. Well then, if I ever have a dispute, I'll know who to come to.

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: And I will give a very fair decision without showing any favouritism to anyone.

METİN GÜNEŞ: Fine, we're agreed then.

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: I don't really know very much about you. What did you study?

METİN GÜNEŞ: I went to London after grammar school. I studied textiles there, but I didn't finish the course. It's a long story; I'll tell you about it another day.

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: London, that's great! Your English must be fantastic!

METİN GÜNEŞ: Let's say it's good; fantastic would be a bit of an exaggeration.

*Silence.*

What did your mum and dad tell you about me?

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: Nothing. They never used to speak about you in front of me.

METİN GÜNEŞ: Well, what do you think, then?

ORHAN GÜNEŞ: That you fell out about something, but I'd like to know what the reasons were. Maybe you'll explain it to me.

METİN GÜNEŞ: I wouldn't worry about it. Even if you did know, what difference would it make? There are plenty of other more interesting things under the sun.

- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: I see, well, I've just got to know you and it's a strange feeling, I mean, two people don't talk to someone, they completely break off relations. And these people are two brothers and a sister-in-law!
- METİN GÜNEŞ: Why don't we change the subject, what do you say?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: It's up to you, but I just want to say this, I'm really curious about what you all fell out over.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: I called you over here today to get to know you, thank you for coming, by the way. Me and your dad were like two opposite poles: I never liked what he'd do; he never liked what I'd do.
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: I know. That's how it was.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: And I got lucky. I got rich. My brother stayed middle-class.
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: Yes, you've been very successful in your work.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: Thank you.
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: My dad just stayed as a minor civil servant. He couldn't break through the glass ceiling.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: Your dad was a very proud man. He didn't want to work with me.
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: Yes, I even brought it up a few times. I'd tell him you had a good business and you could give him a job in Istanbul.

- METİN GÜNEŞ: Did you really say that?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: Really, I did. You can ask my mum!
- METİN GÜNEŞ: Well, what did he say then?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: He'd say he was perfectly happy with his job and that your business was none of his business.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: Well, did you ever have any money problems?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: No, we didn't, but that's because mum was working too. What they both earned together wasn't too bad.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: And you never wanted for anything, did you?
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: No, I never lacked anything. I wouldn't say it was always a feast, but I certainly didn't grow up in a famine.
- METİN GÜNEŞ: I came here to offer you a job. That way I'll have paid my respects to the soul of my late brother. That's what I believe anyway.
- ORHAN GÜNEŞ: You don't feel guilty towards him, do you?
- METİN GÜNEŞ: Now look here, young man, I haven't got any complexes about my brother or anyone else! I worked hard to get where I am and I was successful! I don't owe anyone!