



Polygraph by Samira Saraya

Short Film Synopsis

Based on events in Samira's life, the film follows the complex relationship of YASMINE (37), an openly lesbian Israeli Arab living in Tel Aviv, and her young lover, OR (26), an intelligence officer in the Israeli army.

Their liaison is being shadowed by the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict. Yasmine shuts herself off from the outside world and wants to insulate herself from the painful news emanating from Gaza. Reality, however, punctures the bubble that she built around herself. Friends and family visits shed a different light on her love life by pointing out how detached it is from the environment.

The sporadic anti-missile fire and air raid sirens that pierce their most intimate moments remind Yasmine and Or of the conflict they face. The situation is challenging the balance of power between them by activating their personal fears and differences in their beliefs.

As part of routine protocol of her army intelligence unit, Or is summoned for a background check. She admits to Yasmine that at the start of their relationship she underwent a similar investigation, in which she told the army about Yasmine and her family. At the time, she told the army they had briefly dated but that the relationship had ended. Revealing her socially unaccepted relationship would exact a heavy price professionally, perhaps leading to the end of her military career.

Yasmine, for her part, doesn't reveal her relationship with Or to her own family. A romantic relationship with the "occupier" isn't tolerable and relatives could sever ties with her. Now she feels deceived that Or gave information about her and her family. While she understands Or's situation she still wants her to quit the army.

Yasmine drives Or to the army base for another day at the office - as she calls it - a day of background checks, pressures and difficulties.

Before going home Yasmine wanders around in her neighborhood to take in the eclectic downtown bustle of Tel Aviv. A good friend who grew up in a refugee camp comes to visit Jasmine at her apartment. Later, her sister JAHAN, who lives in Ramallah and travels through the humiliating checkpoints of the Israeli Army, arrives for dinner to meet Yasmine's new girlfriend.

When Jahan realizes what Or does for a living, she can't accept that her sister's lover serves in the occupying army. The situation quickly escalates and Or leaves while the sisters continue to argue.

Later, just before dawn, Or joins Yasmine on the roof and reveals that she must undergo a polygraph test as part of the investigation. Their reality sinks in as dawn breaks on the city.

