

SECOND DANCE

written by

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FADE IN:

DREAM SEQUENCE - INT. STAGE - DAY

In front of a background that is completely pitch black, a bright orange spotlight beams down on a FEMALE DANCER.

The dancer in question is in her early-20s and of Middle Eastern descent.

Her gleaming exotic face, highlighted by a dazzling smile, could easily be mistaken for someone who may have lived in ancient times.

She is doing a special kind of dance. Unique in its form and style, it is known today as belly dancing.

She dances her way towards us.

THE SCENE SUDDENLY SHIFTS TO:

INT. SAMANTHA LEONARD'S ROOM - NIGHT (BACK TO REALITY)

SAMANTHA LEONARD, a lovely and attractive girl in her early-20s, wakes up from a strange dream. She takes a couple of deep breaths as she recovers from the dream.

She turns the nightlight on, and her pretty face shows a genuine look of confusion.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Samantha looks herself in the mirror and sighs. After a moment of hesitation, she gets herself together and walks out of the bathroom.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Samantha takes off her slippers and gets back into her comfortable medium-sized bed.

She looks with beaming pride at the American Dance Festival posters that dominate her wall, posters that represent Samantha's love of modern dance.

She turns off the nightlight and goes back to sleep.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Samantha, already dressed up for her morning class, is having a bowl of raisin bran for breakfast.

LINDA LEONARD (early-50s), Samantha's mother, sits across from her at the table. She's reading the paper as she drinks her coffee in her pink bathrobe.

Samantha looks at her mother.

SAMANTHA

I had the dream again last night.

Linda puts down the paper.

LINDA

What dream?

SAMANTHA

The dream about the dancing girl.

Linda cannot help but laugh.

LINDA

Dancing is your life, honey,
whether you're asleep or awake.

SAMANTHA

I'm serious, Mom, and it's not me
dancing in the dream.

LINDA

Who is it then?

Samantha hesitates.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Who is it, Samantha?

A beat.

SAMANTHA

This is gonna sound strange, but
it's a girl with some foreign look.

LINDA

Foreign? Does that mean she's
German? Italian? French?

SAMANTHA

I believe she's Middle Eastern.

LINDA

That sounds strange indeed.

Samantha checks her watch.

SAMANTHA

Gonna have to figure it out later.
Gotta get to class.

Samantha finishes her cereal; she stands up and takes her bowl to the sink. She gets her college belongings and kisses her mother.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Love you, Mom.

LINDA

Drive safely, honey.

INT. CAR - DAY

Samantha is driving her way to Duke University; she's letting Norah Jones be her musical guide. She hums to the sweet, jazzy music that's playing on the CD player.

INT. DUKE UNIVERSITY - PHILOSOPHY CLASS - DAY

Samantha is sitting amongst a class of STUDENTS listening to the PROFESSOR (early-40s) give a lecture.

PROFESSOR

Everyone has had missed opportunities. Sometimes we all want to do something so bad, and sometimes we never get the chance to do it.

(pauses)

However, what if you had the chance to go back in time? What if you could go back and prevent yourself from missing those opportunities, and in the process make your life a whole lot different than it is right now?

A beat.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

If you could, would you want to?
Should you want to?

Samantha raises her hand, and the Professor points at her.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
Yes, Ms. Leonard.

SAMANTHA
Are you talking about the
possibility of time travel?

PROFESSOR
In theory, yes. However, the
question I'm asking is this: would
you want to go back and grab the
opportunity you missed the first
time and make the most of it?

Samantha gives the Professor's question some serious thought.

SAMANTHA
I admit I'd missed some things that
I wanted to do, but what's the
point of going back in time to
change something that can't be
changed?

(sighs)
To answer your question, Professor,
opportunities come along once in a
lifetime and we live to regret not
taking them.

PROFESSOR
So what you're saying, Ms. Leonard,
is that life goes on and that we
cannot control our own destiny.

A beat.

SAMANTHA
Exactly.

INT. DUKE UNIVERSITY - HALLWAY - DAY

Samantha is headed toward the exit doors when a VOICE stops
her.

VOICE (O.S.)
Sam, wait up!

She stops and looks back. She sees JENNY DAVIS (early-20s),
her Philosophy classmate. A girl full of optimism and
ambition, Jenny is also Samantha's best friend.

SAMANTHA
What is it, Jenny?

JENNY
Mind if I walked with you?

SAMANTHA
Not at all.

The two of them walk towards the exit door.

EXT. DUKE UNIVERSITY - DAY

Samantha and Jenny sit on a bench as they talk the time away.

JENNY
So you don't believe in one's own
destiny, eh?

SAMANTHA
How could I? I mean, the idea of
having control of my own life is a
bunch of nonsense.

JENNY
But you do have control of your own
life. Look at me. I'm studying to
be a psychologist, and do dancing
on the side.

SAMANTHA
I wanna do dancing for a career,
but...

Samantha hesitates.

JENNY
But what?

SAMANTHA
(sighs)
Never mind, Jenny.

JENNY
No Sam, tell me.

SAMANTHA
I don't know if I have what it
takes to join the ADF.

Jenny laughs.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
What?

JENNY

Are you listening to yourself?
It's that doubt that's creeping up
on you. You gotta stop that!

Samantha looks at Jenny.

SAMANTHA

Gee, you're right, Jenny. Maybe
fate wants me to do something else.

Jenny gets up.

JENNY

Funny thing about fate. It always
finds a way to change someone's
plan...and make it into something
better than expected.

Jenny heads to her car and waves goodbye to Samantha; she
looks back at Samantha.

JENNY (CONT'D)

See you tomorrow at class?

SAMANTHA

Of course.

Samantha is left to think about what Jenny said about fate.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

Samantha enters the room and immediately puts down her
college belongings. She's about to change into her dance
clothes.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - LATER

Before Samantha starts her dance routine, she goes through a
series of warm-up exercises.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Arm stretches.

Leg stretches.

Back stretches.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

Samantha is in the middle of her dance routine, moving with the grace of a ballerina.

All of a sudden, without warning, she begins to do hip circles. Without realizing it, Samantha has ventured into belly dancing.

INT. STAGE - DAY

The mysterious belly dancer from Samantha's dreams shimmies.

INTERCUT

Samantha is now belly dancing, like the girl in her dreams, as if she's almost possessed.

Two young ladies, from two different worlds, are doing the same kind of eerily familiar dancing.

END INTERCUT

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

Samantha looks herself in the mirror, and she immediately stops. She catches her breath and delivers a look of astonishment and confusion.

SAMANTHA

What on earth was I doing just now?

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I swear I was dancing. What's happening to me?

Samantha sits down to take a breather. She tries to get herself together, but it will take a long while to get there.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Samantha is on the phone with Jenny.

SAMANTHA

I don't know what's going on with me.

INT. JENNY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jenny, in a room filled with posters of Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud, is on the receiver end of the phone.

JENNY

Calm down, Samantha. Take a nice, deep breath and tell me what's going on with you.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

SAMANTHA

It was so bizarre. I got home after class and started doing my routine dance thing, and then all of a sudden I felt like I was possessed.

JENNY

Like spirit possession?

SAMANTHA

No, of course not, but it felt like I had no control over myself.

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Listen, I don't feel comfortable talking about this on the phone. Can I meet you tomorrow after class?

JENNY

Sure thing, I'll be at the library. Talk to you then.

SAMANTHA

Okay, Jenny. Bye.

END INTERCUT

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Samantha hangs up the phone. She breathes a sigh of relief, knowing she has a friend she can talk to about the surreal episode in her room earlier in the day.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha is tossing and turning in her bed as she has another dream about the mysterious Middle Eastern dancer.

DREAM SEQUENCE - INT. SYRIAN TENT - NIGHT

The exotic-looking female dancer, in her native country of Syria, is belly dancing in front of a small group of people.

All of a sudden, her face morphs into that of Samantha's. The small "audience" doesn't notice the change.

THE SCENE SUDDENLY SHIFTS TO:

INT. EGYPTIAN THEATRE - DAY

The Algerian Dancers of Morocco are performing at the attraction called "A Street in Cairo". The female dancer, known as FARIDA MAZAR SPYROPOULOS, is one of the performers dancing on the stage.

As before, however, Farida's face morphs into Samantha's face. The audience watching doesn't notice the unusual transformation.

THE SCENE SUDDENLY SHIFTS TO:

INT. CHICAGO RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A handsome GREEK MAN (early-30s) is dining at his self-owned restaurant. Next to him is his wife, who just happens to be Farida.

Suddenly, though, Farida changes into Samantha.

The two of them smile at each other, enjoying each other's company.

THE SCENE SUDDENLY SHIFTS TO:

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - NIGHT (BACK TO REALITY)

Samantha wakes up in the middle of the night, in a sweat. She shakes her head, trying desperately to shake off the ever-growing images of her in different places.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Samantha takes a sip of water, then she looks herself in the mirror. She is puzzled, confused, and frightened with what's going on in her dreams.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - NIGHT

With her nightlight on, Samantha is laying on her bed. She is thinking about the dreams that are getting more strange and bizarre with each passing night.

EXT. DUKE UNIVERSITY - PARKING LOT - DAY

Samantha's Hyundai Elantra is parked in a nearly empty lot.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Samantha is writing some notes on a blank piece of paper, making an effort to remember things from her dream.

She writes on the paper:

Belly Dancer

Performing in theatre

Married to foreigner

She puts the pen and paper down, and she sighs. Samantha looks at the library outside.

After a moment of hesitation, she gets out of the car and heads toward the library.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Samantha is looking around at the many books, a world of knowledge waiting to be discovered.

Jenny finds Samantha there and waves at her.

JENNY

Samantha.

Samantha turns and smiles when she sees Jenny just a few feet from her.

SAMANTHA

Am I glad to see you.

The two of them hug. Jenny sees Samantha's smile quickly disappearing.

JENNY
What's wrong, Sam?

SAMANTHA
I don't know who else to turn to.
(beat)
I really want to talk to you.

JENNY
Let's chat at one of the tables.

INT. LIBRARY - READING ROOM - DAY

Samantha sits across from Jenny at one of the tables; the two of them are in the middle of an interesting conversation.

JENNY
That dancer girl changed into you?

SAMANTHA
Yeah, in my dream. There was this tent in the middle of nowhere, and she was dancing in front of this small group. Her face transformed into my face.

JENNY
What?

SAMANTHA
Is that freaky? Later, she was dancing with some company in Morocco.

JENNY
Morocco?

SAMANTHA
Again, she became me. And the weirdest part? I saw her with some Greek guy in a restaurant...

She stops.

JENNY
And?

SAMANTHA
My bad, it was me in that restaurant. But how can that be?

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

She was doing the same dancing I was doing when I had that episode yesterday.

JENNY

What kind of dancing was it, Sam?

SAMANTHA

It was belly dancing.

(pauses)

What's going on with me, Jenny? I don't know anything about belly dancing.

Jenny thinks about it for a moment, then she looks back at Samantha.

JENNY

I believe you were experiencing "tarab".

SAMANTHA

Tarab? What on earth is that?

JENNY

"Tarab" means that you were dancing in the present time of now. You were in a deep spiritual state.

SAMANTHA

You mean I was possessed?

JENNY

No, nothing like that.

SAMANTHA

How do you know about all this? Are you in some bellydance class?

A beat.

JENNY

I actually do attend a belly dancing class, and there's this amazing lady who teaches it. Her name is Akila Zeta.

SAMANTHA

Akila Zeta? That sounds New Agey to me.

JENNY

Akila is an Egyptian name that means "intelligent". It's the perfect name for her, I think.

(pause)

Sam, this lady knows more about belly dancing and its history than anyone I've ever met.

Jenny pauses and smiles at Samantha.

SAMANTHA

What're you thinking, Jenny?

JENNY

You know what? Maybe you should come to the class this afternoon and meet her. She's a very spiritual person, very much into dreams and the subconscious. Maybe she can help you discover the reason for your dreams.

SAMANTHA

Are you crazy? I'm into modern dance, not belly dance. And I don't need some old New Age guru lady to analyze my dreams.

JENNY

She's no old lady, I can assure you. I'll pick you up at your house and we'll go to the belly dancing class together.

SAMANTHA

No, Jenny, no! I'm not going to a belly dancing class! It's not me.

JENNY

Yeah, you are.

Samantha shakes her head.

SAMANTHA

No, I'm not.

EXT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - DAY

Samantha is sitting on one of the steps as she waits to be picked up by Jenny.

SAMANTHA

Why do I have the feeling that I'm going to regret this?

It doesn't take long for Jenny's blue Ford Fusion to pull into the driveway. A couple of horn honks signals for Samantha, who reluctantly gets up and walks toward the car.

She opens the car door and Jenny, who's in the driver's seat, greets her.

JENNY

Hi Sam, thought you weren't going.

SAMANTHA

A dancer dances, so I guess I'll try something new...once.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jenny drives as she talks to Samantha.

JENNY

You aren't properly dressed for the class. No need to worry, Sam, I will fix that.

Samantha looks at the rather "normal" clothes she has on.

SAMANTHA

What do you mean you'll fix it?
What do you have in mind?

Jenny smiles as she keeps her eyes on the road.

JENNY

You'll see.

INT. JENNY'S ROOM - DAY

The door opens, and Jenny invites Samantha in.

JENNY

You can sit over there, Sam.

Jenny points at a yellow wooden chair, and Samantha sits on it. Jenny opens her closet, which has a section devoted to belly dance wear for the class. She picks out a short sleeve choli top and jeans.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Hold on, be back in a second.

Jenny goes to the bathroom to change while Samantha waits.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Jenny comes back with the choli top and jeans on, displaying her style to Samantha.

Jenny goes to her closet and picks out a swirl studded halter top to go with Samantha's jeans.

Samantha returns from the bathroom wearing the royal blue top.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. CAR - DAY

Jenny is all smiles, while Samantha has an embarrassed look on her face. They're both wearing belly dance wear for the class.

SAMANTHA

I look ridiculous. I'm going to look like an idiot in there.

JENNY

No, you won't, Sam. You gotta trust me on this, it'll be fun!

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - DAY

Samantha and Jenny sit next to each other amidst a group of STUDENTS, all wearing belly dance costumes.

SAMANTHA

You call this fun? I thought this was supposed to be like aerobics, not a day at the Mardi Gras.

JENNY

Well, Akila likes doing things a little differently.

All the chatting stops when the instructor comes in. That instructor is AKILA ZETA (early-40s).

An alluring woman with a strong spiritual vibe, Akila is a vision of beauty wearing a turquoise headband and an Egyptian-styled three-piece costume. She is definitely a lady who's ready to take charge.

She meets the students with a warm, friendly smile.

AKILA
Good afternoon, students.

STUDENTS
Good afternoon, Akila.

Akila looks at all the people who've come to belly dance today.

AKILA
I am quite impressed with all of you.

She sees Jenny.

AKILA (CONT'D)
Nice to see you again, Jenny.
(sees Samantha)
Oh, I see you've brought someone with you.

JENNY
Yes, Akila, this is my best friend Samantha. I call her Sam. She's a dancer, but this is her first belly dance class. She's a bit shy.

Akila walks to Samantha, and she shakes her hand.

AKILA
It's nice to meet you, Samantha. Thanks for coming. You have absolutely nothing to worry about. You're going to do just fine here.

SAMANTHA
I hope so, Ms. Zeta.

AKILA
Please, call me Akila.

A smile slowly grows on Samantha's face.

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - DAY

It's the middle of the class, and Akila is leading the students as she teaches them some of the basic belly dance isolation moves.

MONTAGE

1. Akila has the students doing head isolations.

2. She has them doing shoulder isolations.
3. She has them doing rib cage isolations.
4. She has them doing pelvic isolations.
5. She has them doing a combination of all parts of the body.

END MONTAGE

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - LATER

As Akila is instructing the students, Samantha suddenly dances like Farida without realizing it. She's really into the dance.

Akila and the other students, including Jenny, are at first puzzled and then awestruck by Samantha's exquisite dance moves.

Everyone else stops dancing and steps aside to see Samantha do her thing. When her "performance" is over, the others cheer and applaud loudly.

Jenny is quite surprised by her friend's dancing, which would be more suited for advanced class than for beginners' class.

JENNY

Sam, you're such a fast learner! I didn't know you had it in you.

There's a confused look on Samantha's face.

SAMANTHA

I don't know what happened. It felt like I was in another world.

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - LATER

It's the end of the class. Akila is talking to the students.

AKILA

It was a real fun class today. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again next time. Drive safely and I'll see you then.

Everyone is walking out of the studio, and Akila sees Samantha and Jenny.

AKILA (CONT'D)

Samantha?

Samantha looks at Akila.

AKILA (CONT'D)
Could you stay for a while longer?
I'd like to talk to you.

Samantha looks at Jenny.

SAMANTHA
Akila wants some time with me.
This could take a while.

JENNY
I'm going nowhere so take your
time. I'll be in the car.

Jenny leaves with the rest of the students while Samantha sighs; she wonders what Akila wants with her.

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - LATER

Samantha and Akila sit on chairs as they talk.

AKILA
I have to tell you, Samantha, for a
first timer you were simply
amazing. I have never seen anyone
dance like that before.
(pause)
Just out of curiosity, how long
have you practiced belly dancing?

SAMANTHA
Would you believe never? I'm a
dancer, yes, been doing it all my
life. But I'm more into modern
dance.

AKILA
Your friend tells me you've been
having dreams about a certain belly
dancer. Tell me about them.

Samantha hesitates.

AKILA (CONT'D)
It's okay, Samantha, you can tell
me. I won't judge you.

Samantha takes a deep breath before she starts talking.

SAMANTHA

She's in her early-20s, just like me. She's of Middle Eastern descent, I think, and in my dreams she was belly dancing.

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

And the strange part is...

Samantha doesn't know if she wants to finish her sentence.

AKILA

It's all right, Samantha.

SAMANTHA

She dances in different places and suddenly she changes into me. Now I'm the one dancing in those places. In my dreams, that is. And I've never been to any of them before.

Akila is in deep thought, taking in everything Samantha has told her. Then she looks at Samantha.

AKILA

What if I told you that your dreams aren't really dreams?

SAMANTHA

What?

AKILA

What if I told you these dreams you've had are repressed memories?

SAMANTHA

Repressed memories? Uh, Akila, you're not making any sense.

A beat.

AKILA

Have you ever heard of a belly dancer named Farida Mazar Spyropoulos?

Samantha shakes her head.

AKILA (CONT'D)

She was a Syrian belly dancer in the nineteenth century, and she was the first of her kind in America to demonstrate the "danse du ventre", the "dance of the belly".

SAMANTHA

Bellydance.

AKILA

That's right.

SAMANTHA

You're telling me I've been dreaming about Farida Mazar Spyropoulos?

Akila nods her head.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

And you said something about repressed memories, too.

(pauses)

What does all this have to do with me?

Akila gently touches Samantha's shoulder, and she sighs.

AKILA

Samantha, I don't know if you're prepared to take in what I'm about to tell you.

SAMANTHA

Tell me what?

Akila hesitates.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Tell me what, Akila?

After taking a deep breath, Akila gives Samantha a shocking revelation.

AKILA

I don't know how to tell you this, Samantha, but I believe you are the reincarnation of Farida Mazar Spyropoulos.

Samantha's mouth is wide open, showing a look of shock and bewilderment.

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - HALLWAY - DAY

Samantha is storming out towards the exit door; Akila goes after her.

AKILA
Samantha, please wait.

Samantha looks at Akila.

SAMANTHA
This is a really sick joke you're playing! I knew this was a mistake! I never should've let Jenny talk me into coming here!

AKILA
It's not a joke, it's very real. I wouldn't have told you this if it wasn't true.

Samantha stops at the door, and she starts to cry. Akila catches up to her, and she gives Samantha a hug.

AKILA (CONT'D)
I know it's a lot to take in.

SAMANTHA
It can't be true! I couldn't have lived a past life. There's no such thing as reincarnation.

She looks up at Akila.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Is there?

A beat.

AKILA
Wait right here a moment. This won't take long.

Akila walks back to the studio while Samantha waits. Samantha wipes the tears away from her eyes.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jenny is driving as she talks to Samantha.

JENNY

You should be honored that she gave you her phone number, because she doesn't give it to everyone. She sees something in you.

SAMANTHA

Like I told you before, I'm no belly dancer. And to think she told me I may be...

Samantha cannot finish the sentence.

JENNY

What's wrong, Sam? What did Akila tell you?

SAMANTHA

(sighs)
Let's just drop it, okay?

JENNY

No, let's not drop it. I wanna know more about what you two talked about at the studio.

A beat.

JENNY (CONT'D)

You mind being at my place for a while?

Samantha is hesitant, then she shakes her head.

SAMANTHA

I guess not.

INT. JENNY'S ROOM - DAY

Samantha and Jenny, back in their street clothes, sit next to each other in chairs. Jenny looks surprised at what Samantha just told her.

JENNY

You've been having dreams about a past life as a Syrian belly dancer?

SAMANTHA

(sighs)
Yeah, that's what she told me.

JENNY

Wow, that is deep. Maybe you should consider going to a counselor about this.

SAMANTHA

I'm not doing that, Jenny. There has to be a simple logical explanation for why I'm having the dreams.

JENNY

Maybe that's why Akila gave you her number. After all, she's the expert on dreams and the subconscious.

SAMANTHA

Wait a minute, I thought she was a belly dance instructor.

JENNY

She's a whole lot more than that, Sam.

A pause.

JENNY (CONT'D)

If I were you, I'd call her. She can really help you explore those dreams of yours, and perhaps your so-called past life.

Samantha looks at the paper that has Akila's phone number, and she sighs as Jenny gives her a warm smile.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

Samantha lies on her bed as she thinks about her dreams, as well as Akila telling her about repressed memories and reincarnation.

She gets up and picks up the paper with Akila's number on it. She intently looks at the number, showing concern on her face.

After some deep thought, Samantha takes a deep breath and gets up from the bed. She walks over to the phone, picks it up, and dials the number.

After a couple of rings, there's a response on the other line.

AKILA (V.O.)

Hello.

SAMANTHA

Akila, it's Samantha.

INT. AKILA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Akila, wearing a pretty light blue dress and sandals and sitting on a Middle Eastern burgundy sofa couch, is on the other line.

AKILA

Hello, Samantha, I'm very pleased you decided to call.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

SAMANTHA

Believe me, I was a bit hesitant. I talked with Jenny, and she said you can help me explore my dreams.

AKILA

Yes, I believe I can. What do you know about hypnosis?

SAMANTHA

Only a little. Why'd you ask?

AKILA

I can use it to regress you back to your past life as Farida Mazar Spyropoulos.

SAMANTHA

I honestly don't know if it's going to work on me.

AKILA

Are you willing to try?

Samantha hesitates.

AKILA (CONT'D)

There's nothing to be afraid of, Samantha.

SAMANTHA

What will it cost me?

AKILA

I wouldn't dream of charging you for this. Can you come to my place around eight o'clock tonight? We can have the session then. It's near the dance studio, just a few blocks.

SAMANTHA

All right, I'll give it a shot.

AKILA

Wonderful, then I'll see you tonight at eight. Get ready to discover a world you've only dreamed of.

SAMANTHA

(sighs)

See you at eight.

AKILA

Looking forward to it, Samantha.

Akila hangs up the phone.

END INTERCUT

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Samantha hangs up the phone and walks her way back to the bed. She sighs and looks heavenward.

SAMANTHA

What am I getting myself into?

EXT. AKILA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Samantha is just getting out of the car, and she sees a handsome-looking house, medium-sized with some windows.

She walks toward the house, walking on the steps until she gets to the door. She takes a deep breath, then she rings the doorbell. It takes only a moment before the door opens.

Akila is delighted to see Samantha, and she greets her with open arms.

AKILA

Samantha, you actually came.
Welcome.

Akila hugs Samantha.

SAMANTHA
Nice to be here.

AKILA
You're right on time. Please, come
on in.

Samantha enters the house with little hesitation.

INT. AKILA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Akila sits across from Samantha, who's drinking apple juice.

AKILA
When I first saw you at class this
afternoon, I knew you were someone
special.

A beat.

AKILA (CONT'D)
I saw you dancing like Farida and I
thought to myself I've never seen
anyone dance like that before.

SAMANTHA
How did I learn to dance like that
so quickly?

AKILA
It's something you were born to do.
It's what you were destined to do.
The dreams you've been having are
no coincidence. It's your past
life coming back to you.

Samantha puts down her glass of apple juice.

SAMANTHA
And you think you can actually have
me relive these so-called memories?

AKILA
Yes, I believe I can. But you need
to believe, too.

SAMANTHA
I can try.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha is lying comfortably on a couch. Akila is about to start the hypnosis session.

AKILA

Are you ready to start your journey
into the past, Samantha?

SAMANTHA

(sighs)

Ready for anything, I guess.

Akila takes the large-sized Egyptian medallion off her neck, then she starts talking to Samantha in a genuinely soothing tone.

AKILA

Take a nice, deep breath, and clear
your mind of everything.

Akila swings the medallion in front of Samantha's face.

AKILA (CONT'D)

I want you to focus all your energy
on the medallion.

Samantha's eyes are immediately glued to the strange, unique medallion swinging in front of them.

AKILA (CONT'D)

Follow the medallion, Samantha,
watch it as it sways back and
forth. It's the only thing you
see. It's the only thing you want
to see, and it's the only thing you
need to see. Let everything else
melt away.

A beat.

AKILA (CONT'D)

Think of nothing else. Nothing
else exists. There is only the
medallion. There is only the
medallion swaying back and forth,
back and forth, back and forth.

A pause.

AKILA (CONT'D)

As you follow the medallion with
your eyes, Samantha, you soon start
to find it tiring. So tiring.

(MORE)

AKILA (CONT'D)

Your eyelids are starting to get heavy now, and you cannot keep them open. You feel yourself going down, down, down.

Samantha's eyes are closing, slowly but surely, as they follow Akila's medallion.

AKILA (CONT'D)

You are falling, falling, falling into a deep relaxing sleep. Don't fight it, Samantha. Give in to the safe feeling of total relaxation. Close your eyes now and sleep, sleep, sleep.

Samantha's eyes are now completely closed. Once she's under, Akila puts the medallion aside. She immediately refocuses her attention to Samantha.

AKILA (CONT'D)

Can you hear the sound of my voice, Samantha?

SAMANTHA

Yes.

AKILA

And do you trust this voice?

SAMANTHA

Yes.

AKILA

Then let this voice start you on a journey through the mist of time. Let my voice take you back to the life you once had...as Farida Mazar Spyropoulos.

FLASHBACK - EXT. CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR - DAY (1893)

An audience of SPECTATORS are standing as they wait for the show to begin.

AKILA (V.O.)

Where are you now, Samantha?

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

Some fair, the Chicago World's Fair. There are people standing, anxious for the show to begin.

AKILA (V.O.)
What year is it?

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
1893.

Suddenly, a man walks on the stage. He is SOL BLOOM, twenty-three, looking dapper in a fancy suit.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The show's about to begin. There's a guy about to introduce the act.

SOL
Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, come witness the most amazing act to come to this great nation of ours! I proudly bring you the Algerian Dancers of Morocco!

Once Sol leaves the stage, the female dancers in their Moroccan costumes start their show.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
The show has started, the dancers are on the stage.

AKILA (V.O.)
Where are you?

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
I'm with the other dancers.

It doesn't take long for Farida to take center stage.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I'm taking center stage now, and I'm having a blast.

AKILA (V.O.)
What are you doing now, Samantha?

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
I'm belly dancing.

The spectators are wildly cheering and applauding Farida. They're never seen anything like her dancing before.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They love me. I'm stealing the show.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Samantha abruptly comes out of the hypnotic state. Her eyes wide open, she tries to catch her breath.

AKILA

It's all right, Samantha. You're in my living room. You're back in the present day. Just breathe, nice and slow.

Samantha calms down somewhat, then she looks at Akila.

SAMANTHA

I can't believe it, I was there. I was actually there, back in 1893...as Farida Mazar Spyropoulos. Is this real?

AKILA

As real as it can be, Samantha. You seem almost out of breath. You want some more apple juice?

Samantha catches her breath, then she actually smiles at Akila.

SAMANTHA

I'm fine, Akila.
(beat)
In fact, I haven't felt more alive than I am right now.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

It is a new morning, and Samantha gets up from bed. She's in a really good mood, still thinking about the eye-opening hypnosis session she had with Akila the other night.

She's about to go to the bathroom to take her shower when she stops to look in the mirror.

Samantha starts to do Farida's bellydance moves, this time fully conscious of it. She is having a ball dancing as she looks at herself moving to the rhythm of the music inside her head.

She looks at the clock, and she quickly realizes that it's time for her shower. She hurriedly goes to the bathroom.

INT. DUKE UNIVERSITY - HALLWAY - DAY

Classes have just been dismissed, and the students are entering the hallway.

Jenny is walking towards the exit doors when Samantha sees her.

SAMANTHA

Jenny! Jenny, wait up!

Jenny sees Samantha, and she stops in her tracks until Samantha catches up with her.

JENNY

Hey Sam, what's going on?

There's a huge smile on Samantha's face.

JENNY (CONT'D)

What's up with you, Sam?

SAMANTHA

I had the most amazing experience with Akila last night.

A beat.

JENNY

Okay, what did I miss?

EXT. DUKE UNIVERSITY - DAY

Samantha and Jenny are sitting on a bench as they talk.

JENNY

This is unbelievable. You're telling me you're the reincarnation of Farida Mazar Spyropoulos?

SAMANTHA

Sounds crazy, doesn't it? But how else can I explain the things I saw while I was under hypnosis?

(pauses)

It was like I was actually there.

JENNY

In the windy city, in the late nineteenth century?

Samantha nods her head, and Jenny momentarily looks away from her.

SAMANTHA
You know what this is?

Jenny looks back at Samantha.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
This is a sign. This is a
representation of what I was
destined to do.

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I'd like to sign up for bellydance
class for the rest of the season.

JENNY
Are you serious, Sam? Now don't
get me wrong, it's great that
you've quickly embraced the class,
but do you know how much it cost
for an entire season of classes?

SAMANTHA
How much?

JENNY
Ten dollars, every Tuesday and
Thursday, for six weeks.

SAMANTHA
I can afford that. In fact, money
doesn't matter to me.
(pauses)
What I experienced last night,
Jenny, was nothing short of
amazing. Akila showed me the door
to a previous life I didn't think
existed. I'm the one who walked
through that door.

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
It's time for me to take a leap of
faith. It's time for me to enter
that exciting new world. Sign me
up for the belly dance classes.

Jenny takes a moment to think about what Samantha is saying,
then she looks at her.

JENNY

Well, in that case, I think you and I have some shopping to do.

INT. BELLY DANCE STORE - DAY

Samantha and Jenny enter the local belly dance store. The many costumes, headwear, finger cymbals, and other belly dance paraphernalia quickly piques the interest of the girls.

SAMANTHA

Wow, this is something else!

JENNY

This is the Shangri-La of shops for the modern-day belly dancer, Sam!

SAMANTHA

Well, what are we waiting for?

MONTAGE

1. Samantha and Jenny check out the rack of belly dance costumes.
2. Jenny picks out her favorite costume: a two-piece colored black with silver coins.
3. Samantha picks out her favorite costume: a two-piece colored pink with gold coins.
4. Jenny tries on her costume while Samantha sits on a chair. Samantha gives an approving smile.
5. Samantha tries on her costume while Jenny sits. Jenny applauds her friend's look with the costume.
6. Samantha and Jenny look at the many accessories on display.
7. The girls try on finger cymbals.
8. The girls try on coin belts.
9. The girls try on head pieces.

END MONTAGE

INT. BELLY DANCE STORE - DAY

Samantha and Jenny have a bag full of costumes and accessories.

Jenny gets her credit card and gives it to the CASHIER (late-20s). After the credit card is processed, Jenny takes back the credit card and gives the bag to Samantha.

JENNY
Here you go, Sam.

SAMANTHA
Thanks, Jenny.

JENNY
(to the cashier)
Thanks a lot.

CASHIER
You girls have a nice day.

The girls wave goodbye to the friendly cashier before they exit the store.

INT. CAR - DAY

Samantha and Jenny are joyous and excited, giving themselves a high-five as Jenny drives.

SAMANTHA
I didn't think we had a belly dance store in our town. I thought it'd be far away in some distant land.

JENNY
Sam, there's more to Durham than just the places in Ninth Street.

SAMANTHA
You got that right! Thanks for talking me into meeting Akila and joining the class.

JENNY
Don't thank me just yet. This is only the beginning, my friend.

A beat.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Why don't you and I go to my place and put on the costumes. We can practice our moves. I got some bellydance CDs at home.

Samantha shrugs her shoulders.

SAMANTHA
Why not? I'm game!

INT. JENNY'S ROOM - DAY

With their belly dance costumes on, Samantha and Jenny practice their dance moves together as Arabic belly dance music is playing on Jenny's CD player.

Jenny is showing Samantha the figure eights and mayas, and it doesn't take too long for Samantha to get it down pat.

Before long, the two girls are dancing in perfect synchronicity.

JENNY
Woo-hoo! Way to go, Samantha!

SAMANTHA
Not bad for a beginner, eh?

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - DAY

It's the middle of the class, and Samantha has quickly fit right in with the rest of the students.

Akila leads her dancing proteges with the basic moves, and she adds some hip circling to the mix.

Samantha and Jenny are having a ball following Akila's every move.

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - LATER

Samantha and Jenny talk with Akila after class.

AKILA
I have to say, Samantha, for someone who's never done belly dancing, you are a quick learner.

SAMANTHA
Of course, being the reincarnation of a nineteenth century belly dancer does have its advantages.

AKILA
You're still thinking about your past life regression from last night, I see.

JENNY

That's incredible, Akila.
(looks at Samantha)
Didn't I tell you she was amazing,
Sam?

SAMANTHA

Yeah, Jenny, you were right on the
money.

AKILA

Listen, Samantha, I got an offer
I'd like to share with you.

SAMANTHA

Really? What is it?

AKILA

I don't usually do this, but when I
first laid my eyes on you and your
dancing, I knew in my heart that
you were someone special.

A beat.

JENNY

Where is this headed, Akila?

AKILA

Where this is headed, Jenny, is
giving my services to be your
friend's personal belly dance
mentor.

Samantha is surprised beyond imagination.

SAMANTHA

What? Are you saying what I think
you're saying?

AKILA

That's right, Samantha. I would be
honored to show you all the moves
to make you one of the best belly
dancers in the world.

SAMANTHA

In the world?

Samantha looks at Jenny.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

This is surreal. I've been doing
this for only a few days.

AKILA

Do you accept the offer?

Samantha thinks about it for a moment, then she looks at Akila with a big smile on her face.

SAMANTHA

It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I'm not about to let it pass me by. Yes, I accept the offer!

Akila hugs Samantha, and Jenny joins in. This is something that Samantha wouldn't have dreamed in a million years.

AKILA

Now listen, Samantha, this isn't going to be an overnight thing. This is going to take time. Meet me at my place at eight o'clock.

SAMANTHA

That's the same time as last night.

AKILA

Exactly.

A beat.

SAMANTHA

I'll be there.

Jenny smiles as she looks on.

INT. LEONARD RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Samantha, Linda, and ARNOLD (late-40s), Samantha's father and a man with a gentle soul, are at the dinner table. Fried chicken, macaroni & cheese, and cole slaw are the order of the night.

SAMANTHA

So how was work, Dad?

ARNOLD

It was fine, sweetheart. Quite busy.

A beat.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Linda tells me that you had quite an afternoon.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, I did. Went to this awesome dance class.

LINDA

What else happened, Samantha? Tell your father.

Samantha takes a deep breath before she tells her father.

SAMANTHA

The dance instructor was so taken by my moves that she's volunteered to be my personal trainer.

Arnold cannot help but smile at his daughter.

ARNOLD

Why am I not surprised? There's always been something special about you.

LINDA

Dancing's been in our daughter's blood from the very beginning. It was only a matter of time before someone saw the great potential she possesses.

Linda looks at Samantha, and she offers a smile as well. Samantha checks her watch.

LINDA (CONT'D)

What is it?

SAMANTHA

I'm supposed to meet her at her house at eight o'clock.

ARNOLD

If you don't mind us asking, what's your instructor's name?

Samantha hesitates.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

You don't have to be embarrassed, Samantha, just tell us her name.

SAMANTHA

Akila.

LINDA

Akila? That's an interesting name.

SAMANTHA

She's really cool, and she doesn't usually single out the students in her class.

LINDA

Must be an honor for you.

SAMANTHA

It is.

Samantha finishes her plate.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Can I be excused?

Linda sees her daughter's plate, and she's quite impressed.

LINDA

Wow, you must've been real hungry.

ARNOLD

Sam's in a real good mood, Linda. When she's in a good mood, she eats heartily.

LINDA

You're excused, honey.

Samantha gets up and takes her plate to the trash can; she rakes out what's left on her plate, then she takes the plate and puts it in the sink.

Samantha walks out of the kitchen without missing a beat. Arnold and Linda notice the excitement on their daughter's face.

ARNOLD

I guess she's really anxious to go see Akila.

LINDA

Just another step in her pursuit of a career in dancing.

EXT. AKILA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Samantha, already in her belly dance wear, has just rung the doorbell. It doesn't take long for Akila to open the door.

AKILA

Samantha, nice to see you again.

The two of them hug.

AKILA (CONT'D)
Ready to do some dancing?

SAMANTHA
Oh yeah!

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Swaying to Middle Eastern music, Samantha follows Akila's every move without any problem.

AKILA
You're doing great, Samantha.

SAMANTHA
I had no idea belly dancing could be this much fun.

AKILA
It's also a lot of work. With that in mind, I want to teach you a new move.

SAMANTHA
What's that?

AKILA
The belly roll.

SAMANTHA
The belly roll? What on earth is that?

AKILA
Why don't you sit over there on the couch. Let me show you how it's done.

Samantha sits on the couch as she's about to see Akila teach her how to do the belly roll.

AKILA (CONT'D)
Keep your knees bent, chest lifted. You contract just the upper abs so you can contract just the lower abs, to have a super tight belly.
(pauses)
Push up the upper abs, then push up the lower abs. Contract in and in, then out and out. Now watch my belly, Samantha.

Akila starts belly rolling to the music.

Akila belly rolls continuously, wave after wave. Samantha sees Akila do her thing when suddenly she sees a vision of her past life as Farida Mazar Spyropoulos.

FLASHBACK - INT. STAGE - DAY (1898)

Farida is doing her belly roll as part of her going through the paces. Unbeknownst to her a man in his early-50s named MARK TWAIN, the creator of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, is watching the dance and suffers a near fatal heart attack.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Samantha's face shows a look of genuine fright. Akila stops what she's doing when she sees Samantha; she turns the music off and runs to check Samantha.

AKILA

Samantha, are you all right?
Samantha?

Samantha looks at Akila, and she slowly gets her senses back.

AKILA (CONT'D)

Tell me what happened. Did you
have a vision of your past life?

Samantha nods her head.

AKILA (CONT'D)

What did you see?

A beat.

SAMANTHA

I saw Farida doing the belly roll,
like the one you were showing me
just now. There was a man watching
her, and he had a heart attack. I
don't think he died, though.

AKILA

More of your past life is coming
back to you. I could hypnotize you
again--

SAMANTHA

I gotta go, Akila. I'm sorry.

Samantha runs out of the house while a concerned Akila looks on.

INT. LEONARD RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Arnold and Linda are watching TV when they hear Samantha come in.

LINDA
Hi, sweetheart. How did the
dancing go tonight?

Samantha is too upset to talk, and she goes past her parents without stopping.

ARNOLD
Is everything all right, Samantha?

Arnold and Linda look at each other, concerned about their daughter.

LINDA
Must've been an off night for her.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Samantha closes the door behind her and jumps into bed. She starts to cry. The tears stream down her face quickly.

She buries her face in the soft pillow, hiding herself from the world.

There is a knock on the door.

LINDA (O.S.)
Samantha?

Samantha lifts her face from the pillow and focuses her attention on the door.

SAMANTHA
I'm okay.

LINDA (O.S.)
You don't sound okay. You wanna
talk about it?

A beat.

LINDA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You may feel better if you talked
about whatever's bothering you.
May I come in?

Samantha gives it some thought, then she gets herself
together. She wipes the tears from her eyes.

SAMANTHA
Of course.

Linda opens the door, and she immediately walks to Samantha's
bed.

LINDA
Can I sit?

Samantha makes room for her mother, who sits next to her
daughter.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Okay, tell me what happened. Did
Akila say something to hurt you?

SAMANTHA
(shakes her head)
It's definitely not her. She's
great to me.

LINDA
Then what is it, Samantha?

Samantha sighs.

SAMANTHA
I've been having the dreams again,
and they're getting weirder and
weirder.
(pauses)
I don't know what I'm gonna do.

Linda hugs Samantha to comfort her.

LINDA
Everything's going to be fine,
honey.

INT. DUKE UNIVERSITY - PHILOSOPHY CLASS - DAY

The class has just been dismissed, and the students are
exiting the room.

Samantha and Jenny are still in their seats. Jenny looks at Samantha, who obviously has her mind occupied by something other than Philosophy.

JENNY

You okay, Sam? It's like you were in another world the whole time.

Samantha turns and looks at Jenny.

SAMANTHA

Still thinking about last night.

JENNY

With Akila?

SAMANTHA

Yeah, but I don't feel comfortable talking about it here.

JENNY

Wanna catch some fresh air?

Samantha shrugs her shoulders.

SAMANTHA

Why not?

EXT. DUKE UNIVERSITY - DAY

Samantha and Jenny sit on a bench as they talk.

SAMANTHA

May I ask you something?

JENNY

Ask away.

SAMANTHA

Do you believe in reincarnation?

A beat.

JENNY

I guess that Philosophy class has rubbed off on you.

SAMANTHA

I'm serious, Jenny. Do you believe in past lives?

JENNY

Yeah, I believe they're possible.
Did you have another dream about
your past life?

Samantha shakes her head.

SAMANTHA

I had a vision while I was at
Akila's. It was so real, a bit too
real if you ask me.

JENNY

What'd you see?

SAMANTHA

There's no need telling you about
it. It's just too personal.

(pauses)

Is it possible to go to the library
and google Farida Mazar
Spyropoulos?

JENNY

Yeah, no problem. Are you sure
Farida's the one you lived as
before?

SAMANTHA

I don't know, Jenny, but I need to
find out more about her. It's the
only way I can find out if the
dreams I've had of her are indeed
memories of a previous life.

Jenny gives it some thought.

JENNY

Let's find out about her together.

The two of them shake hands.

INT. LIBRARY - INTERNET ROOM - DAY

Samantha and Jenny are on one of the computers. They're on
the "Google" website, and Samantha is typing the name "Farida
Mazar Spyropoulos".

She clicks on the search button, and for the first time
Samantha sees photos of her previous life. To say that
Samantha is shocked is a major understatement.

SAMANTHA

Oh, my God! This is so surreal.

JENNY

Holy moley, Sam! Is that you...in your previous life?

SAMANTHA

As Farida Mazar Spyropoulos.

Below a couple of headlines is a video still; just above it is a headline.

JENNY

(reads)

"Little Egypt dances for Edison".
That must've been her nickname.

SAMANTHA

Who's Edison?

JENNY

That's Thomas Edison, the guy who created the light bulb, and a little thing we call the motion picture.

Jenny sees the year next to the headline.

JENNY (CONT'D)

1896?

Jenny looks at Samantha.

JENNY (CONT'D)

We're talking about a few years before the turn of the century, Sam.

Samantha is just as shocked about the year as Jenny, perhaps even more so.

SAMANTHA

This is so bizarre.

JENNY

Let's click on the headline and see our girl in action.

SAMANTHA

I don't know, Jenny, it could trigger another repressed memory.

JENNY

You wanted to know more about Farida, right? What harm can come from watching a video of her?

SAMANTHA

(sighs)

Well, I guess there's only one way to find out.

Jenny clicks on "Little Egypt dances for Edison". The YouTube website flashes on instantly, and the video starts.

Farida, performing under her stage name "Fatima", spins and whirls and shimmies in a Middle Eastern top and flashy striped skirt.

JENNY

Wow, that lady can get down. Just look at her go!

As Samantha watches the video, she's got a spooked look in her eyes as she suddenly has another vision.

FLASHBACK - INT. RESTAURANT - DAY (1896)

It is Samantha in the exact same costume as Farida, doing the exact same dance Farida is doing. She is shimmying, and giving a mesmerizing performance in the process.

INT. LIBRARY - INTERNET ROOM - DAY (BACK TO PRESENT)

Jenny watches the video with delight.

JENNY

Look at her go, Sam!

She turns and sees a spooked Samantha.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Sam? You okay, Sam?

Jenny immediately pauses the video.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Earth to Sam.

Jenny snaps her fingers to wake Samantha from the trance.

JENNY (CONT'D)

You okay?

SAMANTHA

(sighs)
Oh, my God! It happened again.

JENNY

What happened again? Had another vision?

It takes a while for Samantha to catch her breath, then she looks at Jenny.

SAMANTHA

I saw Farida, yet it wasn't her.

JENNY

You're not making any sense, Sam.
What do you mean it wasn't Farida?

SAMANTHA

That's what I mean, Jenny, it wasn't Farida I saw in my vision.
(beat)
It was me.

Samantha gets up from her seat and starts staring out into space. Jenny clicks back to the computer's home page, and she gets up from her chair.

JENNY

You saw yourself in 1896?

SAMANTHA

Akila was right, I have lived a past life. There's no doubt about it now, Jenny. I'm the reincarnation of Farida Mazar Spyropoulos.

INT. CAR - DAY

Samantha, still in a state of shock, is driving. She's headed towards Akila's house.

EXT. AKILA'S HOUSE - DAY

Samantha is at the door, and she doesn't waste time ringing the doorbell. She even knocks on the door a couple of times. The door opens, and Samantha sees Akila.

AKILA

Samantha?

SAMANTHA

Yeah, it's me. I didn't catch you at a bad time, did I?

AKILA

No, not at all. What seems to be the matter?

SAMANTHA

You were right all along.

AKILA

Right about what?

SAMANTHA

Can I come in?

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Akila is sitting across from Samantha as she listens to her.

SAMANTHA

I owe you a big time apology for last night. I was spooked by my vision and I abruptly walked out on you. That was very rude of me, and I'm sorry.

AKILA

Water under the bridge. So tell me about this vision you had at the library.

SAMANTHA

It's crazy. It's like I'd been transported back in time, only I was someone else...in another life.

Samantha pauses.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Can I come back here tonight so we can continue our belly dance time together?

AKILA

Pick up where we left off?
(smiles)
I was hoping you'd say that.

SAMANTHA

And one more thing. I want you to hypnotize me again.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I want to remember more of my past
life as Farida.

AKILA
Consider it done.

INT. LEONARD RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Samantha opens the door and enters the house.

SAMANTHA
Mom, Dad, I'm home.

Linda enters the living room and greets her daughter.

LINDA
Welcome home, Samantha. Did you
have a good day?

SAMANTHA
Yes, Mom. So much so that I'm
going to my room, because I got
some dancing to do.

Samantha kisses her mother, and she races upstairs to her
room. Linda cannot help but smile.

LINDA
That's my daughter.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

Samantha is on the computer, and she goes directly to the
YouTube website. She looks up "belly dance" and clicks on
the Search button.

There is a variety of videos for Samantha to choose from, but
she winds up getting intrigued by "How to do the 3/4 Shimmy
(Hagalla)".

Samantha clicks on the video and TIAZZA, the video
instructor, starts the "lesson".

She listens as Tiazza shows her the first move.

TIAZZA
(on video)
Lift the hip, by using the toes.

Samantha follows Tiazza without any problems.

TIAZZA (CONT'D)

(on video)

If you are used to doing this, on your toes, it's that motion that we're doing...

Tiazza show the basic shimmy moves, shaking her hips while up on her toes.

Samantha pauses the video, and she makes the shimmy moves while raising her heels to the tips of her toes. She's surprised that she can make that move with no complications.

She hits the back button, and the video selections are on display again. This time, she decides to let Linda Riyad show her some moves.

Linda shows knee movements, which allows the hips to sway side to side. Samantha feels good doing these moves, and there's a smile on her face.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Linda is watching some TV when Samantha comes downstairs.

LINDA

How's your dancing coming along?

SAMANTHA

It's going great. In fact, I'm going to see Akila again this evening.

LINDA

Same time?

SAMANTHA

Yeah.

LINDA

She's not charging you for the lessons, is she?

SAMANTHA

Absolutely not.

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

She sees something in me. Something she hasn't seen in a long time.

LINDA
Are you learning something about
yourself?

Samantha gives her mother's question some thought before she
looks at her.

SAMANTHA
Every day, Mom. Every day.

LINDA
I know something about you,
Samantha.

Linda puts her loving arm around Samantha.

LINDA (CONT'D)
You're a very special girl with a
very special gift. And I think
it's wonderful that someone has
taken the time to help you harness
that gift.

SAMANTHA
She's harnessing a lot more than
just my gift.

INT. AKILA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Akila and Samantha are learning from one another as they do
their dance moves.

Two have indeed become one.

MONTAGE

1. Akila shows Samantha how to do a proper belly roll.
2. Akila shows her how to do hip slides.
3. Akila shows her how to do the basic Egyptian.

END MONTAGE

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha and Akila sit on the floor as they talk.

AKILA
You've come a long way in a very
short amount of time, Samantha.
(MORE)

AKILA (CONT'D)

You really do have the gift of belly dancing.

SAMANTHA

I'm believing in myself more and more.

AKILA

That's the key to any and every success.

A beat.

AKILA (CONT'D)

So, are you ready to be regressed again?

Samantha sighs.

SAMANTHA

Let's go for it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Akila is putting Samantha under hypnosis with her Egyptian medallion. As before, she speaks to her in a genuinely soothing tone.

AKILA

You're about to enter that wonderful state of relaxation. All you have to do is watch the swaying of the medallion, back and forth, back and forth. Are you focusing all your energy on the medallion, Samantha?

SAMANTHA

Yes.

AKILA

Your eyelids are getting heavy now, Samantha. You're drifting, drifting, drifting into a deep relaxing sleep. You must go to sleep, sleep, sleep.

Samantha's eyes are now completely closed, and Akila puts the medallion aside.

AKILA (CONT'D)

Can you hear the sound of my voice, Samantha?

SAMANTHA

Yes.

AKILA

And do you trust this voice?

SAMANTHA

Yes.

AKILA

Then let this voice start you on another journey through the mist of time, to your past life as Farida Mazar Spyropoulos.

FLASHBACK - INT. RESTAURANT - DAY (1896)

Farida is dancing in front of a motion picture camera.

AKILA (V.O.)

Where are you now?

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

I'm in a restaurant.

AKILA (V.O.)

What year is it?

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

1896.

AKILA (V.O.)

What's going on?

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

I'm dancing, happy as I can be. Spinning, shimmying, twirling. And there's a man with some sort of camera. He's filming me.

AKILA (V.O.)

What's his name?

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

Thomas Alva Edison. That camera was his creation. He would change the world with it, and he would change my life.

THE SCENE SUDDENLY SHIFTS TO:

FLASHBACK - EXT. CENTURY OF PROGRESS - DAY (1933)

An older Farida, performing as "Little Egypt", dances in front of spectators.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
Oh, my God!

AKILA (V.O.)
What is it, Samantha?

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
Now I'm older. The years pass by so quickly.

AKILA (V.O.)
What's the year?

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
1933. I can't believe I'm still dancing after all these years. I'm sixty-two now.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Samantha, still in her hypnotic state, starts to breathe heavily.

AKILA
Calm down, Samantha, breathe. Just breathe, nice and slow.

Samantha calms down.

AKILA (CONT'D)
Now when I count to three and snap my fingers, you will awaken to the present time. You will feel relaxed. And you will feel refreshed, refreshed, refreshed. One, two, three.

Akila snaps her fingers, and Samantha comes out of the hypnotic state.

AKILA (CONT'D)
Are you all right, Samantha?

SAMANTHA
Yeah, I'm fine.

AKILA
What did you see?

SAMANTHA

I saw Farida dancing past her 60s.
Can't believe she's able to dance
that long.

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I hate to ask this question, but
when did she die?

AKILA

No one knows for sure.

(pauses)

What I do know is this, Samantha.
You now know that you've lived
before, and you need to make the
most of this life.

Samantha thinks about what Akila is saying to her.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

Linda opens the door to see if Samantha is up.

LINDA

Samantha, where are you? It's time
for breakfast.

Linda hears the sprinkling waters, meaning that Samantha is
taking a shower. She's about to close the door behind her
when she sees a strange costume on the front of Samantha's
bed.

She walks to the bed and picks up the costume. It doesn't
take long for Linda to realize that the costume isn't suited
for the ADF.

LINDA (CONT'D)

What on earth?

Linda can only sigh. She puts the belly dance costume back
where she found it and leaves the room.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Samantha, Linda and Arnold are at the table having breakfast.
Samantha notices the long faces of her parents.

SAMANTHA

Is something the matter?

Arnold and Linda hesitate without looking at their daughter.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Could one of you please tell me
what's going on?

Linda finally looks at Samantha.

LINDA
Maybe we should ask you the same
question.

SAMANTHA
What are you talking about, Mom?

LINDA
(sighs)
I saw your belly dance costume on
the front of your bed as I was
calling you.

Samantha is shocked at her mother's last sentence.

SAMANTHA
You were in my room?

LINDA
You know how I feel about that kind
of dancing. I don't like the idea
of my daughter showing off her
navel.

SAMANTHA
Mom, I'm not taking stripping
classes if that's what you're
worried about.

ARNOLD
Why would you spend money on
classes you know you can't afford?

SAMANTHA
For your information, Dad, my best
friend Jenny paid for the classes.
She's the one who talked me into
taking them.

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I'm taking another class after
school today.

LINDA

No, you're not.

Samantha gets up.

SAMANTHA

Now you're telling me what I can and cannot do? I'm not doing anything illegal! I'm going after my dream.

LINDA

And your father and I want you to pursue your dream. We just don't want you to do it by exposing your body.

ARNOLD

There are a lot of guys out there who are into scantily clad girls, and they're thinking of one thing only: having sex with them.

(pauses)

We just don't want people to take advantage of you.

SAMANTHA

Look, I appreciate your concern, I truly do. But belly dancing has helped me learn more about myself than I could possibly imagine. I'm not going to let either one of you stop me from pursuing this further!

Samantha excuses herself from the table, much to the chagrin of her parents.

LINDA

Don't walk away from us, young lady!

ARNOLD

Get back to the table!

Linda and Arnold try unsuccessfully to talk their daughter into staying at the kitchen table. They can only sigh.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Our daughter taking belly dance classes?

LINDA

Why on earth would she keep that from us?

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - DAY

It's the middle of the belly dance class, and Akila is leading the students in a lesson on hip shakes. Everyone is having fun, especially Samantha and Jenny.

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - LATER

The students are sitting down on the floor, and so is Akila. She is about to make a very special announcement.

AKILA

I think you ladies are doing a wonderful job in my class. That's why I want to make a special announcement.

A pause.

AKILA (CONT'D)

There is a special event going on tomorrow afternoon at Duke Auditorium, and they want one of you to be the entertainment.

The students are catching their breath, waiting anxiously to see who will be chosen.

AKILA (CONT'D)

I think all of you deserve to go but, alas, I can only choose one.

Samantha and Jenny hold each other's hand.

AKILA (CONT'D)

After careful consideration, I have decided...

Akila looks at Samantha with a warm smile.

AKILA (CONT'D)

...to choose our new student, Samantha Leonard.

Samantha cannot believe it. She has a stunned look on her face as the other students applaud. Jenny gives Samantha a big hug.

JENNY

Oh, I'm so happy for you, Sam!

When she looks at Samantha, she sees a look of shock.

JENNY (CONT'D)

What's wrong, Sam? You should be thrilled. You're going to perform in front of an actual audience at Duke Auditorium!

Samantha runs out of the studio, and Akila goes after her.

AKILA

Samantha!

INT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Akila stops Samantha just before she hits the exit door.

AKILA

Samantha, it's nothing to be afraid of. You've shown me that you're ready to take the next step.

SAMANTHA

But it's so soon. This is only my second class, Akila. I've never performed in front of an audience. It's been my dream to do so, but it's way too soon for me.

AKILA

Have you forgotten what I told you at my house last night? You have to make the most of the life you have. Opportunities like this don't come unless you've earned them. As far as I'm concerned, Samantha, you've earned this opportunity. Don't let it slip away.

Samantha hesitates.

AKILA (CONT'D)

Don't tell me you're going to deny yourself of your destiny.

Samantha looks at Akila with tears in her eyes.

SAMANTHA

Akila, I greatly appreciate everything you've done for me, and I cannot thank you enough. I thought I was ready, but I don't think I'm cut out for this. I'm sorry.

Samantha walks out of the studio while a disappointed Akila can only look on.

EXT. WORLD IN MOTION DANCE STUDIO - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Samantha gets in her car, and she immediately turns on the ignition without giving it a second thought.

Jenny tries to catch her, but it's too late. She sadly sighs.

INT. LEONARD RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Samantha, back in her street clothes, is sitting by herself. Linda enters the living room.

LINDA
You okay, honey? I can fix you something to eat if you like.

SAMANTHA
I'm really not hungry right now, Mom, but I'm fine.

Linda sees Samantha in a depressed mood.

LINDA
I don't think you're fine.

Linda comes to sit next to her daughter.

LINDA (CONT'D)
You wanna talk about it?

A beat.

SAMANTHA
You and Dad were right. Belly dancing's not for me.

LINDA
I hope your father and I didn't influence your decision in any way.

SAMANTHA
No, you didn't.

Linda sighs.

LINDA
Samantha, your father and I owe you an apology.
(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

We acted a bit overprotective this morning. I don't mind admitting that.

SAMANTHA

I know you and Dad are just looking out for me.

LINDA

That's true, but I think you're at the age in which you're old enough to make your own decisions.

(pause)

Whatever you decide to do with your dancing ambitions, we're gonna be behind you one hundred percent. That's not a promise, honey, it's a guarantee.

Samantha shows off a smile.

SAMANTHA

Thanks, Mom.

Linda and Samantha hug.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I think I'll have something to eat now.

LINDA

That's my girl.

Linda gets up and walks her way to the kitchen while Samantha remains seated.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

Samantha enters the room, and the first thing she sees are the ADF posters on the wall.

After some hesitation, she starts the process of taking down the posters one by one.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - LATER

After taking down all the posters, Samantha opens her closet and puts the posters inside. She takes a long look at the posters standing there, then she closes the door.

She's closing the chapter of her life with dancing...for now.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha is on the computer as she googles "Farida Mazar Spyropoulos". She clicks on a short profile of her, and she's surprised to see that some of the stuff that took place are representations of Samantha's previous life as Farida.

Samantha can only shake her head.

She turns the computer off. She takes off her bathrobe and slippers, and she prepares for bedtime.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - LATER

Samantha is trying to sleep peacefully, but her head starts to toss and turn. She is having another dream about Farida, but this one is different than all the other dreams she's had.

DREAM MONTAGE

1. Farida's birth.
2. Farida's first dance performance.
3. Farida's dancing in a tent in front of a small group.
4. Farida's marriage to a Greek man.
5. Farida performing at the Chicago World's Fair.
6. Farida being escorted out of a restaurant by New York police.
7. Farida dancing while a man (Mark Twain) suffers a heart attack watching her perform.
8. Farida dancing as "Little Egypt" at the Century of Progress.

END DREAM MONTAGE

INT. SPYROPOULOS RESIDENCE - DAY (1937)

Farida, at age sixty-six, is on her deathbed surrounded by family. She is holding the hand of one of her children, looking her in the eyes. She somehow finds the strength to say her dying words to the child.

FARIDA
Fulfill...your...destiny.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - NIGHT (BACK TO REALITY)

Samantha wakes up in a sweat. She tries to catch her breath.

SAMANTHA

Oh, my God!

After she gets herself together, she turns the nightlight on. Samantha hesitates, then she gets on the phone and calls Jenny.

INT. JENNY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jenny is asleep when the phone rings. She reluctantly gets up and picks up the phone.

JENNY

H-Hello.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

SAMANTHA

Jenny, it's Sam.

JENNY

Sam?

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry to call you so late, but I have to tell you something.

JENNY

Yeah, what is it?

SAMANTHA

I just had another dream about Farida, but not just any dream.

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

It was the MTV version of her entire life, from birth to death.

JENNY

Wow, that's wild.

SAMANTHA

Tell me about it. It was my entire past life...in sixty seconds or less.

(pauses)

I gotta see Akila tomorrow morning.

JENNY
The next class isn't until next
Tuesday.

SAMANTHA
No, I gotta see her!

JENNY
Why the urgency?

Samantha hesitates.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Why, Sam?

END INTERCUT

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Samantha has a confident smile on her face.

SAMANTHA
I got a destiny to fulfill.

INT. CAR - DAY

Samantha, in her belly dance costume, is driving towards
Akila's house; she's got a determined look on her face.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
I've learned something about myself
that I never thought was possible.
I've lived a past life as the girl
who introduced belly dancing to
America, but I've learned something
even more important these past few
days.

A beat.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
You can try to run away from your
destiny but, sooner or later, it
will catch up with you and take you
places you never thought you could
go.

INT. AKILA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Samantha is sitting across from Akila as she talks.

SAMANTHA

It was like everything came back to me in one swoop.

AKILA

Must've been some dream you had.

SAMANTHA

It was more than a dream, Akila.

(pauses)

In the end, I saw Farida on her deathbed. She was looking straight into the eyes of one of her kids, and she said in a weak voice "Fulfill your destiny".

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

When I woke up from the dream, I realized one thing.

AKILA

What was that, Samantha?

SAMANTHA

I can't run away from who I truly am. I can't run away from what I was destined to be.

Samantha turns on the warmest of smiles.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

To be one of the best belly dancers in the world.

Akila cannot help but smile at Samantha's last revelation.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Akila, if the offer's still good, I would be honored to perform at Duke Auditorium this afternoon.

AKILA

That is music to my ears.

Akila gets up, walks toward Samantha, and gives her a special hug.

AKILA (CONT'D)

You've just made the best decision of your life, Samantha.

(MORE)

AKILA (CONT'D)

You're starting on the road to your destiny, and I'm going to help you get there.

SAMANTHA

How?

Akila gets up and stands in front of Samantha.

AKILA

I figured you would need help in starting your new adventure, so I brought some friends along who will make sure you don't go at it alone.

Akila claps her hands twice, and she moves out of the way to make room for the BELLYDANCE SUPERSTARS.

First up is drummer ISSAM HOUSHAN, playing the Doumbek with passion. He stands next to Akila, who's dancing to the rhythm of the Doumbek.

Then four of the superstars shimmy their way into the room:

STEFANYA

SABRINA

NATHALIE

and APRIL ROSE.

The four ladies are strutting their stuff in front of Samantha, who's all smiles.

When the short performance is over, Issam and the ladies stand next to Akila.

Samantha applauds them.

SAMANTHA

Awesome! Just plain awesome!

AKILA

Samantha, these are the Bellydance Superstars from Los Angeles. They have singlehandedly taken this wonderful art form into the mainstream of international entertainment.

(to the superstars)

My friends, this is Samantha Leonard.

(MORE)

AKILA (CONT'D)

She is a very special girl who's become very adept at bellydance in a short amount of time. Why don't you each introduce yourself to her.

ISSAM

I'm Issam, the drummer.

STEFANYA

I'm Stefanya from L.A.

SABRINA

I'm Sabrina from San Diego.

NATHALIE

I'm Nathalie from L.A.

APRIL ROSE

And I'm April Rose from Sacramento.

SAMANTHA

Very nice to meet you all.

Samantha shakes the hands of each of the superstars.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

How did you get here so fast?

AKILA

They were just finishing a world tour with a stop in Charlotte. I took the liberty of giving them a call last night, and I told them about you.

STEFANYA

Your story of you being the reincarnation of Farida Mazar Spyropoulos intrigued us all.

NATHALIE

You see, Samantha, the soul never dies. It got transferred from Farida to you. It's a continuing cycle of life.

SABRINA

And like Farida, you were born to be a fantastic belly dancer.

APRIL ROSE

And it would be an honor to perform with you at Duke Auditorium this afternoon.

ISSAM

It will be a performance people
will never forget.

Samantha is flabbergasted by the outpouring of support by the
Bellydance Superstars.

AKILA

You see, Samantha, I'm not the only
one who believes in you. In fact,
the reason I asked the Bellydance
Superstars here is because Durham
is their next stop on the tour.
And I chose you to be part of their
next performance.

Samantha is stunned beyond imagination.

SAMANTHA

Wait a minute! Are you kidding me?
I get to go on stage with the
Bellydance Superstars...as part of
their world tour?

Akila nods her head.

AKILA

It's the launch pad of fulfilling
your destiny.

Samantha gets up and hugs Akila, while the Bellydance
Superstars watch in delight. Samantha quickly gets anxious.

ISSAM

It's okay, Samantha, just take some
nice, deep breaths.

STEFANYA

We'll take them with you.

The ladies help Samantha get into a relaxed state. Samantha
is completely calm now.

AKILA

We got a lot of work to do,
Samantha, and we all want you at
your best for your public debut.

SAMANTHA

Well, what are we waiting for?
Let's do some dancing together.

MONTAGE

1. Samantha and Akila show the ladies their dance moves.
2. The ladies show Samantha and Akila their dance moves.
3. The six females, with Issam on the Doumbek, shimmy in unison.

END MONTAGE

INT. JENNY'S ROOM - DAY

Jenny is on the phone with someone.

JENNY

This is something Sam's been waiting for all her life, and you being there would take the thing to a whole other level.

(pauses)

You'll be there?

(pauses)

Awesome! I'll meet you tonight at the auditorium.

She gets off the phone, and she is jittery as a juniebug.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Tonight's gonna be awesome!

INT. DUKE AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

People are filling the auditorium and immediately taking their seats. The show they're about to be treated to is completely sold out.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Samantha is putting the final touches on her makeup when a good friend enters the dressing room.

JENNY

How're you doing, Sam?

Samantha turns around and is delighted to see Jenny. The two of them hug.

SAMANTHA

Jenny, thanks for coming!

JENNY

I'm so glad you decided to do this
after all.

SAMANTHA

I'm facing my fear head on. And
I'm glad you'll see me do that.

JENNY

You and the girls ready to knock
people's socks off?

SAMANTHA

Ready for anything, I guess.

Jenny sighs.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

What is it, Jenny?

JENNY

You're not gonna believe this, but
I convinced two very special people
to come with me tonight. I think
you know them very well.

Samantha is surprised to see Arnold and Linda.

SAMANTHA

Mom! Dad!

Samantha gets up from her chair and hugs both her parents.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I can't believe the both of you
came to see me perform.

LINDA

I wanted to see my girl make her
belly dancing debut.

ARNOLD

It's gonna be a real sight to see.
We're proud of you, sweetheart.
Show the world what you're made of!

INT. DUKE AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

The show has just begun, and the dancing is nothing short of
stunning.

MONTAGE

1. Sabrina shows off her moves in a burgundy costume.
2. Nathalie shows off her moves in a two-piece lime green costume.
3. Stefanya, nicknamed the "exotic flower", shows off her moves in her three-piece black costume with white designs.
4. April Rose shows off her moves in a two-piece dark brown costume.
5. The four ladies are joined by Samantha as they shimmy and shake in front of a very appreciative audience.
6. Samantha does her first solo in her two-piece pink costume and simply wows the audience, as well as the ladies. The fear she once had has dissipated.

END MONTAGE

INT. DUKE AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

When the show is over, the audience gives the belly dancers a standing ovation. As the Bellydance Superstars take their bow, the people in the audience save their loudest cheers for Samantha.

Samantha picks up a bouquet of red roses from an audience member. She shows the brightest smile she has ever shown. She looks at the other dancers (and Issam), and they applaud her as well.

Akila walks onto the stage and hugs Samantha. The two of them wave to the audience.

Jenny is cheering her heart out, while Arnold and Linda are beaming with pride.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

There are hugs all around as the ladies congratulate each other on another successful show. Samantha is in the middle of the joyous celebration when Jenny, Arnold, and Linda arrive.

Jenny rushes to hug Samantha.

JENNY

You rocked out there tonight, Sam!
The people love you.

SAMANTHA

This is beyond my wildest dreams.

Samantha gets hugs from both her parents.

ARNOLD

We shouldn't have tried to stop you from doing this.

LINDA

You were amazing tonight, honey.

SAMANTHA

Thank you, Mom. Thank you, Dad. You coming here means a lot to me.

A beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Hey, let me introduce you to the ladies.

Samantha walks over to the ladies.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Mom, Dad, Jenny, these are my new friends the Bellydance Superstars. That's Sabrina, Nathalie, Stefanya, and April Rose. And that's their drummer Issam.

Handshakes are shared by everyone. Akila comes in.

AKILA

You mind if I joined the celebration?

Samantha is delighted to see Akila, and she hugs her.

SAMANTHA

Akila, this is my mom and dad. And you know my friend Jenny.

LINDA

Nice to finally meet you, Akila.

ARNOLD

Great to see you, ma'am.

AKILA

It's an honor to meet you, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard. You have a wonderful daughter who's been blessed with the tremendous gift of dance.

Alika raises her hand to get everyone's attention.

AKILA (CONT'D)
Everyone listen up.

The room quickly quiets down.

AKILA (CONT'D)
It was an extraordinary performance
you all put on tonight.

She turns to Samantha.

AKILA (CONT'D)
I was especially impressed with
you, Samantha. We all were.

ISSAM
That is why we would like to make
you our newest member.

Samantha is stunned by the unexpected offer.

SAMANTHA
What? You want me to join your
group?

She looks at her parents.

LINDA
It's entirely up to you,
sweetheart.

JENNY
Go for it, Sam!

Samantha hesitates, then she looks at Issam.

SAMANTHA
Count me in!

The ladies and Issam applaud, and Akila hugs Samantha.
Jenny, Arnold and Linda look on with delight.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

Samantha's wall is now filled with autographed photos of each
of the Bellydance Superstars.

Samantha puts a large poster of Issam and all the ladies in
the group in the middle. She stands back, and she is
awestruck by the pictures of her new friends -- and partners
in dance.

INT. RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL - NIGHT

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

The Bellydance Superstars are watching backstage while Samantha does her thing in front of a large audience.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

Like I said before, destiny can help you discover talents you never thought were possible and take you places you never dreamed of. I always believed I could dance, but this is well beyond my imagination.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

With Akila watching, Samantha is using hypnosis on CATHY, a fellow belly dancer in her mid-20s; she's putting Cathy under with Akila's medallion.

SAMANTHA

Your eyelids are getting heavy, Cathy, and you can't keep them open. You're going down, down, down.

(pauses)

You feel yourself falling, falling, falling into a peaceful state of relaxation. Close your eyes now and sleep, sleep, sleep.

Cathy's eyes close, and Samantha has a smile on her face. She puts the medallion aside and looks at Akila, who gives Samantha an approving smile and winks at her.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

I was given an unlikely second chance, or should I say second dance, and I have made the most of it. Now, with Akila's help, I can help others find out about their past lives. And perhaps, like me, they can make the most of their second dance.

Samantha looks back at Cathy, who's now under a peaceful state of hypnosis.

SAMANTHA

Can you hear my voice, Cathy?

CATHY

Yes.

SAMANTHA

And do you trust this voice?

CATHY

Yes.

SAMANTHA

Then let this voice guide you on a
journey through the mist of time.
Let my voice take you back to the
life you once had, the life you
had...in 1896, as Ashea Wabe.

Samantha smiles as she starts Cathy on the journey into her
past life.

FADE OUT

THE END