FOUR SCENES
A COMIC BY BISHAKH SOM
Da’ara City, 18.45

Maya won’t answer her phone. I’ve been trying to reach her for hours!
She knows how to handle herself. Don’t worry, Ma.

“Don’t worry?” Don’t tell me don’t worry! I know where she is! Does she want to be part of a MASSACRE?!

Have you seen what’s happening, Laila? Has everyone become crazy?

I know, Auntie — it’s horrid. We’re going to find Maya and bring her home.
Don't worry, Maya—the world will see what these bastards are doing to us.

I'm not worried, Sister—we have God on our side.
Masha’s temples throb. Brian had spent most of Friday telling her he was bored and needed newness in his life. Masha transferred $1000 from the joint account and made for the coast on a commuter train.

Room 3b  Vikram
No Ma, the interview went very well... I think they liked my portfolio. What?
No, I’m staying over tonight, I’ll go home in the morning, yes, yes... I had some vegetable tempura.
Room 2f  Cloilde & Sam
- Cheerios
- Baby wipes
- Garbage bags
- Power Bars
- Batteries
- Aspirin
- Flashlight
- Toilet paper
- Blanket
- Can opener

Room 2h  Mr. Ashraf
Listen to me, Aliya—you cannot let Maya out of the house! No college, no cinema, no shopping! God knows she will be swept up in all the madness!

Room 2g  Anya & Pablo
Pablo, what are you doing?
Students continue to hold peaceful protests throughout the city. Local police have so far shown restraint but have threatened retaliation.

- Rice, 1/2 cup.
- Milk, 3 cups.
- Cardamom pods.
- Almonds, 2 tbsp.
- Saffron threads.
- Pistachio nuts
- Sugar

Well, if they don’t like your portfolio, Vikram my poppet, then they don’t deserve you. Come home quickly once your interview is over.
No, please send over the blond one—Philippe, is it? Yes, with the nice dimples. And tell him to bring a bottle of Bordeaux.

I made some kheer, Philippe—would you like some? What is that, Madame?

Are, silly! It's rice pudding!
A: You are the stars and bars, you're a hieroglyph.
B: No, I'm a diaphanous sheet, a ghost-child.
A: What you are is a lie.

It is the right duty of every student to refuse to participate in the same state-sponsored social enterprise that—