

COLLEGE FRIEND 2

We would appreciate it if you can just redo the order and please tell the kitchen she has an allergy to pork? Can you also send your manager over?

INT. THEATER STAGE - DAY

We're back with Izza on stage.

IZZAZ

It was nice that my friends had my back, because that server wasn't trying to listen to me. Another difficult area I had to navigate growing up was romantic relationships with the opposite sex. In American/Western culture, you'll start seeing your friends dating your classmates. Becki has a boyfriend. Michael is going steady with Michelle. Duane is kickin' it with Lashanda. In most cases, Muslim kids aren't doing that. It's taboo in the religion. Does it happen on occasion, yeah, but it's definitely not the norm. It's either you're intended to be married or you're not.

Jasmine has joined Izza on stage. They are sitting in chairs.

JASMINE

I like Islam's focus on the family unit. I'm not a fan of how relationships play out in our culture. I agree with you, navigating relationships in your teenage years is rough, but not dating has some benefits too. This surah helps guide me, "And of his signs is that he created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them, and he placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed, that are signs for people who give thought(Surah Ar-Rum 30:21)." I've have my personal struggles with my practice, my heritage, and my cultural traditions.

(MORE)

JASMINE (CONT'D)

When I converted I was worried about being able to listen to music. It is a big part of my life. Puerto Ricans and Haitians love their music.

~~IZZA~~

~~I've been there too. Some people in our religion want to tell others it's haram (bad) and dancing will lead you to the hellfire. Dancing has always been a part of my life. And I have used it to help others. I don't know about you, but I always feel like I'm fighting. Fighting different religious belief systems. Fighting cultural differences. I'm glad my parent's raised a fighter.~~

JASMINE

I never thought of myself as a fighter, but I definitely see the value in having some thick skin. I wish there was more love and acceptance from outside the faith and within.

~~IZZA~~

~~You have to live your best life. I'm trying to live mine, while not worrying about how others will judge me. That's for Allah.~~

JASMINE AND IZZA

The struggle continues.

Fade to black.

EXT. MAIN ON THE STREET - DAY

Another INDIVIDUAL looks at the audience.

INDIVIDUAL

What do Muslims really believe in?

INT. MASJID - COMMUNITY ROOM - DAY

Rafi is standing at a podium. He looks out at the audience.