

Barbie dolls cover the wall. Pop music streams through the speakers. A title card indicates the time: May 28, 2014.

ASAL SHOJAPOUR (5, Iranian) beams at the fancy dolls on the shelves. Her mother MARYAM NASSIR (23, Iranian) watches her.

MARYAM (IN FARSI)

Pick only one! You hear me, Asal?

Asal picks a blonde Barbie doll.

ASAL (IN FARSI)

I can't wait to take her home.

Maryam kneels and waits until she has Asal's attention.

MARYAM (IN FARSI)

Asal, listen, we stay, we're not going back.

ASAL (IN FARSI)

What?

MARYAM (IN FARSI)

We won't go back.

ASAL (IN FARSI)

I don't understand.

MARYAM (IN FARSI)

I know. It's not easy.

ASAL (IN FARSI)

I wanna go home!

MARYAM (IN FARSI)

This is your home.

ASAL (IN FARSI)

We're here for vacation.

MARYAM (IN FARSI)

No.

ASAL (IN FARSI)

But that's what you said.

MARYAM (IN FARSI)

Just look at how much fun you have since we're here.

ASAL (IN FARSI)
What? No! What about Dad?

They stare at each other for a beat.

MARYAM (IN FARSI)
No, Asal. Now it's just me and you.

Asal drops the doll and steps back to reject Maryam's hug.

CUT TO:

Title card: SEVEN YEARS LATER