

FAMILY HONOR

SYNOPSIS

In the midst of a celebration for his daughter, **Sharif** (45), a former police investigator and lawyer, receives a call from the station about a murder. Reluctantly, he must disappoint his daughter **Lina** (18) and the rest of his family, and leave the party to head to the crime scene of a young girl whose missing persons case he had once handled. The murdered girl, **Wajud** (18), hails from the same village as Sharif—a village he left against his parents' wishes, choosing instead to settle with his family in Nazareth. Sharif arrives at the crime scene, not far from the village where he grew up, already crowded with police units investigating the area. Sharif stands in front of the body and immediately recognizes her—it is indeed Wajud, the girl whose disappearance he had investigated after a viral sex tape of her surfaced on social media, in which she appeared half-naked. This raises the suspicion for Sharif that this may be an honor killing.

Ofer (47), the head of the homicide unit, who has taken over the case since it is a murder investigation, pulls Sharif aside and offers him to join their team, to work alongside **Yuval** (35), the lead investigator from the unit. After all, who knows the village and the mentality of its people better than Sharif?. Sharif respects the offer but declines. It seems that he rejects the offer for the same reason that prevented him from acting earlier in Wajud's missing persons case—his fear of returning to the village he fled, to confront the people from his past. He worries that doing so would only anger his parents and family, who already disapprove of his career as a police officer after he left behind his respectable job as a lawyer. Ofer, disappointed, asks Sharif at least to accompany Yuval to the forensic institute, where Wajud's brothers and other relatives are waiting. On the drive to the institute, Sharif receives pictures from his wife of the party for Lina. He sadly texts her back, telling her he can't return. It pains him deeply to have missed the celebration marking his daughter's acceptance to study abroad, an achievement he is prouder of than anything else.

Sharif and Yuval arrive at the forensic institute, where they meet Wajud's brothers. Sharif expresses his condolences, but the older brother, **Salah** (45), pushes him away. There is palpable tension between them. Sharif and Salah grew up together and know each other well. In the morgue, Salah accompanies Sharif to identify the body. Sharif doesn't take his eyes off Salah, who confirms that it is indeed his sister. As they exit the body identification room, tensions begin to escalate between Wajud's family and the police forces. With the help of **Farouk** (26), Wajud's calm and composed cousin, Sharif manages to disperse the family from the scene.

Although there was nothing overtly suspicious about the brothers' behavior, Sharif believes that they are trying to clear the family name after their sister's honor was tarnished by the viral sex tape—an act that could have even harmed Salah's successful hummus restaurant business. Yuval understands Sharif's hesitation to join the investigation but still believes that Sharif could be a valuable asset to their work. He asks him to reconsider the matter.

As Sharif attends Wajud's funeral, alongside his father, something within him begins to change. He watches as Wajud's brothers bury her in front of the villagers, who look the other way in silence. Sharif is horrified, unable to be part of this hypocrisy. He also feels a deep sense of guilt for having been afraid to act until now. Something inside him has shifted. He now feels driven to fight against the phenomenon of honor killings, and in that moment, he decides to join the homicide unit (YAMAR) with full commitment.

Very quickly, Sharif identifies his main suspect in the investigation: Salah, Wajud's older brother. Together with the YAMAR team, he enters the village to conduct a search of the Wajud family home. As they approach the village, Sharif, surrounded by a large police force, feels an odd sense of discomfort. This is a difficult situation for him, as he is returning to the village he left behind. He enters the mourning household of Wajud's family, filled with relatives, neighbors, and villagers. Sharif feels uneasy confronting them. During the search, chaos erupts in the house and the village. Fearing an escalation, Sharif orders the forces to retreat from the house. Yuval doesn't understand the decision Sharif made, and the conflict between them deepens as they hold differing views on how to handle the complex situation.

After the search yields no evidence and the interrogations with the brothers fail to produce any new information, Sharif becomes increasingly convinced that they are hiding the truth, but Sharif remains sure that they are concealing something. Despite their efforts to keep Salah in custody, his lawyer, **Fuad** (60), who knows Sharif from the past as a lawyer, confronts them in court and successfully secures Salah's release. Yuval begins to blame Sharif for the situation they find themselves in, and it becomes clear that they are divided on how to proceed with the investigation.

In Sharif's personal life, things begin to unravel. His father, **Ayman** (71), is embarrassed by Sharif's behavior in the village and pleads with him to drop the case to protect their family's good name. But Sharif is resolute in his decision to continue, convinced that his path is the right one. Sharif's wife, **Nora** (40), also fears his involvement in the case. She is afraid that someone from the village or from Wajud's family will seek revenge against them. She is also growing tired of his work in the police force. He constantly promises her that this is only temporary and that he will return to practicing law, but she no longer believes him. Even his beloved daughter, Lina, begins to distance herself from him. He tries to help her prepare for her studies abroad, but she constantly pushes him away. He also starts to suspect that she is hiding things from him. One day, he follows her and discovers that she is secretly meeting with a boy. This deeply hurts him, but he doesn't confront her about it.

As part of the investigation, Sharif meets **Reem** (35), a social worker who had worked with Wajud after the sex tape was leaked. Sharif tries to get information from her that might help him make progress in the case. However, Reem is very cautious during their meeting. Despite her guardedness, Sharif manages to connect with her on some level. He feels they are quite similar—she's a woman who doesn't follow the norms of society, a strong, single woman with sharp criticism of the village and a society that oppresses women. But Reem does not trust the police, so she reveals nothing of interest regarding Wajud's brothers.

Sharif joins Yuval, who heads to the home of Wajud's boyfriend, the one who spread the video. During the visit, Sharif loses control and accuses the frightened young man of being responsible for Wajud's murder because he was the one who shared the video she had sent him in her innocence. Yuval is forced to end the meeting, furious with Sharif, and starts to lose faith in the case altogether.

Murders and violence continue to plague the Arab community. It is an incredibly busy period for YAMAR, and the lack of evidence, the lack of cooperation, and the overwhelming caseload cause Ofer begin questioning the Wajud case. He decides to transfer Yuval to another case and suggests freezing the Wajud investigation. However, Sharif is not willing to give up. He presses Ofer to allow him to continue investigating the murder, even if he has to do it alone. Sharif believes he can solve this case, seeing it as an opportunity to send a strong message to the Arab community—cases like this often remain unsolved, and he is determined to prove that it doesn't have to be this way. Ofer is eventually persuaded and gives him a little more time to continue investigating on his own.

Sharif presses on, looking for new leads and directions. He visits Farouk, after learning how close he was to Wajud. Sharif uses Farouk's grief over Wajud's loss to manipulate him into cooperating, hoping to get him to turn on her brothers. Sharif's words seem to reach him emotionally, but in the end, Farouk does not truly help Sharif in his investigation.

Sharif, desperate and seeking answers, visits Reem once again, knowing she might be the key to unlocking the case. He manages to make her realize that they are ultimately on the same side. They are both fighting for the same cause, both feeling guilty for Wajud's murder, and both equally determined to hold the brothers accountable. Reem decides to share new, suspicious details about the youngest brother, **Fadi** (27), which shifts Sharif's focus. Until now, he had been solely focused on Salah, but Reem's information leads him to reconsider and change direction. Sharif leaves the meeting with renewed hope for the investigation.

That evening, Sharif returns home and is surprised to find his parents waiting for him at the dinner table. His wife had invited them to talk about the investigation. They beg him, with all their hearts, to quit the case and leave the police force, as his involvement is destroying their lives. Sharif announces to everyone that he has no intention of leaving his job as an investigator or returning to his law career. He confronts

his father to stop interfering in his life. His father is hurt and leaves the house. One by one, the rest of the family follows, leaving Sharif alone at the table. Sharif is left by himself, knowing that solving this case is the only thing that can save him.

Sharif continues to monitor Fadi, and uncovers that Fadi had been in contact, before the murder, with a man linked to a crime family. Sharif decides to arrest the guy and interrogate him, hoping to extract information about Fadi. During the interrogation, Sharif learns that Fadi had borrowed a gun from him. Finally, Sharif has a solid lead in the investigation. He returns home feeling encouraged, but when he arrives, he is met with an unpleasant twist. Lina informs him that she has decided to give up her studies abroad and plans to get engaged to the boy she has been secretly seeing. Sharif loses control. He cannot accept this decision and confronts her, unwilling to let her sacrifice her dreams and career. In the midst of the argument with his daughter, he receives more bad news—his father's car has been set on fire by the villagers. Sharif storms out of the house, driving with his wife, Nora, to his parents' village. His mental state deteriorates; he cannot believe how much things have escalated. During the drive, Nora, clearly frightened, tells him that she can't continue living with him like this. Upon reaching the village, Sharif sees the damage to his parents' home, the fire burning in their yard, and begins to break down emotionally. He contemplates walking away from the case, questioning if it's all worth it. But then, unexpectedly, his father—furious at the villagers—surprises Sharif and urges him not to give up. His father's words provide a powerful emotional boost, strengthening Sharif and reaffirming his resolve.

Meanwhile, at YAMAR, they manage to confirm that the gun Fadi borrowed from the guy is the same gun that killed Wajud. Ofer and Yuval begin preparing an indictment against Fadi, but Sharif feels that Fadi is not the true killer. That same day, Sharif returns home, feeling conflicted, and to his surprise, he discovers that Nora and the children have left the house. He is left alone. Sharif doesn't know what to do. He drives to the village to the house his parents built for him, where his family is staying. As he parks by the house, debating whether to approach or not, he notices Lina's boyfriend's car arriving. Not willing to lose his daughter, Sharif storms out of his car, enraged, and attacks Lina's boyfriend. He can't bear to see what is happening to Lina, whom he loves so much. However, Lina, witnessing her father hitting her boyfriend, explodes at him in a burst of anger. When he tries to calm her down, she pushes him away and storms back into the house. Sharif is in an incredibly difficult emotional state, utterly shattered.

In his despair, Sharif seeks comfort from Reem, the only one who has understood him along the way. He arrives at her house in the village, late at night. It is not acceptable in their conservative village, especially since she lives near her parents. Reem is initially shocked by his visit, but when she sees how broken and hurt he is, she decides to let him in. Sharif opens up to her, sharing his pain, and in the heat of the moment, Sharif gets close to her, attempting to kiss her, but Reem pushes him away, asking him to leave her house. Sharif, heartbroken, leaves her home, feeling even more lost than before.

The trial of Fadi approaches, and Sharif, with the last of his strength, attempts one final interrogation tactic to uncover the true murderer. Eventually, he succeeds in getting Fadi to confess the truth. It turns out that the killer of Wajud is Farouk, Wajud's cousin. Farouk had secretly been in love with Wajud. Fadi was "just" an accomplice in the murder. Farouk, it turns out, couldn't bear what she had done, nor the video she had posted, which, in his eyes, was a betrayal both of him and of the cultural tradition. He loved her and wanted to marry her.

Sharif arrests Farouk, and Wajud's case is finally solved. The story of Wajud makes headlines in the media. While Sharif is praised by the police, he has lost his wife. Yet, he is unwilling to lose his daughter. He meets Lina again, hoping to reconcile with her and convince her that he only tried to protect her future. Sharif seems torn, standing at the crossroads of whether to enter the house of his family in the village, where his wife and children are, and live the life his parents envisioned for him. But instead, he walks away, alone, continuing his path.