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Yasmine Bassily

JRMC 4460

Script for Audio Documentary: "What's the Magic Word?"

December 13, 2016

Lead in: The main objective for this audio documentary is to portray the struggles that every fresh graduate or young individual passes through when transitioning to adult-life. Also, it is to show that it is very common for people between the ages 20-29 to experience a sense of uncertainty.

Script:

Music: "Witch Doctor- Ooh Eeh Ooh Ah Aah Ting Tang Walla Walla Bing Bang" (FADE IN) (00:06)

All our lives, we have been given these so-called magic words. (00:04)

Music: "Graduation Song" (FADE IN) (00:07)

Go to school, get a degree, find a good job, and get married! Ta-da! There you have it, the "perfect life." You finally made it! (00:10)

Music: "Graduation Song" (FADE OUT)

Music: "I'm the Man- Aloe Blacc" (FADE IN) (00:10)

Ramy Emad (RE): "Actually, I don't know..." (00:01)

That's Ramy Emad. An uncertain, 22-year-old Egyptian. He's a senior studying mechatronics engineering who loved student life abroad. (00:09)

Music: "I'm the Man- Aloe Blacc" (FADE OUT)

Nat Sound: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" from live concert (FADE IN) (00:08)

RE: "Just hanging out, whenever you want to travel you travel. We go to

parties, you enjoy life.” (00:08)

Nat Sound: “The Lion Sleeps Tonight from Concert” (FADE OUT)

RE: “And then you just come back to Cairo to the traffic, taking one hour to go to the classes, and then, it’s boring classes, and then it’s totally different.” (00:09)

Music: “The Lazy Song- Bruno Mars” (FADE IN) (00:17)

What a life! But soon, it’ll be over. As graduation approaches, Ramy’s idea of the future is...(00:06)

*Movie Clip: “Homer’s Scream” (FADE IN) (00:01)
(FADE OUT)*

kind of unclear. (00:02)

RE: “Do I want to do Masters’? Do I want to work? Do I want to work in Egypt? Do I want to work abroad? It’s blurry life.” (00:09)

Music: “The Lazy Song- Bruno Mars” (FADE OUT)

“Blurry life,” he’s walking towards the unknown future! As if we have the option of picking what to do! (00:07)

Music: “Egyptian Music” (FADE IN) (00:24)

In the Middle East, it’s very common for parents to enforce their idea of a perfect life on their children. And getting a Masters degree, is probably not the most appreciated choice. (00:07)

RE: “It’s all about tradition. People just go to school, they graduate, they go to university, then they graduate. They start to work to get money to get married, to get kids and that’s all. But to be honest, my family did not push me to do anything from this.” (00:16)

Music: “Egyptian Music” (FADE OUT)

Wait, seriously? (00:02)

Music: "Hallelujah Chorus" (FADE IN) (00:04)

Oh. My. God! We're moving forward! (00:04)

Music: "Hallelujah Chorus" (FADE OUT)

But this doesn't exactly put Ramy's struggles to an end. (00:04)

Music: "I'll make a Man out of you- Mulan" (FADE IN) (00:44)

RE: *"I will graduate in September, after that, I have to go to the Army, to military service. I don't know if I will go for army for one year, three years, I will not go at all. It's pausing every possible decision that I need to do."* (00:12)

Alexandra Robbins & Abby Wilner, authors of *Quarterlife Crisis: The Unique Challenges of Life in Your Twenties* claim that "The crisis is a response to overwhelming instability." For Ramy, military service contributes to this uncertainty as it's compulsory for Egyptian men who have brothers. Also, the crisis affects young people graduating as it's a period where "twenty somethings," feel doubtful about their lives, as Jennifer M. Thorspecken said in her study, *Quarterlife Crisis: The Unaddressed Phenomenon*. (00:33)

Music: "I'll make a Man out of you- Mulan" (FADE OUT)

Music: "Everything You do- Billy Bisset and his Orchestra" (FADE IN) (01:07)

Maya El Halteh (MH): *"So, after graduation, I am planning on doing a Master's in either Politics and International Relations, or Criminology, and basically, just sticking to what I already know, and uh just further researching about it. So those are my plans because I do feel like, at this moment, it is pretty early for me to find a job, and you know, start that proper adult life I guess."* (00:33)

That was Maya El Halteh, a 21-year-old Palestinian studying in the U.K., who is no exception to the rule. The quarter-life crisis brings on the stress of becoming an adult. (00:09)

MH: *"I'm thinking maybe doing a Master's isn't really an easy way out of responsibilities of adult life per say, but it is kind of a way to give yourself time and to give yourself a chance to kind of think about the kind of job you would want to have and to think about what you wanna be in the future. Um, because to be honest, right now, I*

don't know what I wanna be or I don't know what kind of job I want to apply for, especially with a degree in Criminology.” (00:32)

Music: “Everything You do- Billy Bisset and his Orchestra” (FADE OUT)

Music: “Shahrazad- Terez Suliman” (00:51)

In the Middle East, it can sometimes be tough for women to choose their own path, which can make the quarter-life crisis even tougher on them. Not only that, but in the Middle East, the crisis isn't widely recognized, unlike the situation in the United States, as Brian Joseph Tauzel stated in his honors thesis. (00:16)

MH: “I think that girls and women, do have the pressure to follow a certain pattern after they graduate, and I speak for girls and women in the Middle East in particular, because I feel that the Middle East has this stereotypical working sphere of um jobs being made available to mainly men.” (00:23)

“Resources to Recover,” a support website, the quarter-life crisis can be beneficial. It can also be overcome by speaking to trusted people, and focusing on your well-being. (00:11)

Sameh Bassily, shares his experience. (00:02)

Music: “Shahrazad- Terez Suliman” (FADE OUT)

Sameh Bassily (SB): *“I have um, many times I experience this.” (00:04)*

Music: “Inta Omri- Um Kalthum” (FADE IN) (00:52)

That is the series of choices leading to the confusion. (00:03)

SB: “But, what I want to share with you is when I decided to get married. When I decided to get married, I don't really know if I want to do this or not. When I met my wife, it was in, like 1985, or something like this. And I never know that I love her, I never know that I wanted to get married but we didn't meet for about one and a half months and when that happened, I feel like I need her and I'm looking always for her and that is something unusual in my life, and at that time, I discovered that I love her.” (00:39)

But just like the modern-day dilemmas everyone goes through, Sameh managed to overcome his confusion. (00:05)

Music: "Inta Omri- Um Kalthum" (FADE OUT)

SB: "But this it was not enough to decide to be involved in such a relationship. And this was a really uncertain time. But it ends, by taking a decision and now we are married for 26 years, and more, little bit more." (00:16)

*Music: "A Star is Born" (FADE IN) (00:01)
(FADE OUT)*

SB: "There are many things helped me to take that decision. First of all, I spent time in praying. Some friends give me a very good support. And by speaking with elders, they have experience- experience to share with us. Maybe we don't understand this, maybe we don't appreciate this, but this is true." (00:23)

The truth is, there are no magic words. Everyone will eventually figure things out, and will manage to find their own "magic words" as they say. So why can't people in the Middle East just accept that? This phenomenon is something everyone goes through, even I'm going through it right now. So hold your head up high, and walk straight into the future. (00:18)

Music: John Mayer- Why Georgia (FADE IN) (00:52)

This audio documentary was produced by Yasmine Bassily as part of the Audio Production course at the American University in Cairo, taught by Professor Kim Fox. Special thanks to the interviewees, Ramy Emad, Maya El Halteh and Sameh Bassily. (00:12)

Sound effects:

Tada Sound Effect

Homer's Scream

A Star is Born- Hercules

All from Youtube

Music by Witch Doctor- Ooh Eeh Ooh Ah Aah Graduation Song from Youtube

Graduation Song from Youtube

I'm the Man by Aloe Blacc

The Lazy Song by Bruno Mars

Egyptian Music from Youtube
Hallelujah Chorus by the Mormon Choir
I'll make a Man out of you by Mulan
Everything You do by Billy Bisset and his Orchestra
Shahrazad by Terez Suliman
Inta Omri by Um Kalthum
Why Georgia by John Mayer

And Nat Sound from Concert- Recorded by Ramy Emad

(00:37)

Music: John Mayer- Why Georgia (FADE OUT)

-End-