



RADIX

WRITTEN &
CREATED BY **IAN MASTERS & JON SMITH**

DIRECTED BY **KAOUTHER BEN HANIA**

CRISTALDIPICS



ecchorights



RADIX

Drama Series: 8x52'
French, Arabic, Italian and English
language

A terrorist and a secret agent. One looking for revenge, the other for redemption. Enemies bound by blood. Two sisters at the centre of a global conspiracy...

THE SERIES

RADIX is the story of two sisters, Neda and Amal Mansour. Twins, two sides of the same coin, inseparable. Until a cruel twist of fate splits them apart, and they find themselves pitted against one another, on the opposing sides of a conflict which risks escalating beyond anyone's wildest fears.

In the aftermath of Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution, twin sisters, AMAL and NEDA MANSOUR (27) take radically different paths. Amal is a secret agent working for the DGSE in Lybia, while Neda is radicalised and joins the ranks of ISIS commander, Abou-Sahkr.



Beneath both sisters' exceptional abilities, simmers a shared sense of betrayal that Western powers have failed North Africa and are now washing their hands of the consequences.

Amal tracks her estranged sister down, and discovers Neda's plans to use a migrant route to smuggle a nerve agent into Europe. In an attempt to stop her, Amal infiltrates the migrant route herself, but as events unfold, she washes ashore in Otranto with scores of half-dead migrants... her sister having vanished into thin air.

Amal finds herself in the middle of the crossfire between far-right politicians wanting to exploit the drowning; DGSE's internal conflicts which seek to bring her down; and the panic which ensues in the sleepy Apulian town when the nerve agent is discovered. Neda, meanwhile, fights to make her way into the unforgiving world of extremism, determined to carry out a secret act of revenge.

Neither is going to bow down. As their chase continues all the way to St Peter's Square in Rome, it becomes clear that the two sisters are just two pawns in a conspiracy much bigger than either of them or the story that they share. Amal is determined to expose the truth and bring her sister back from the brink, while Neda takes a path of vengeance in what she sees as an irreparably broken world.

If Amal is on the side of hope for humanity, justice and human values, Neda is on the side of darker nihilism, resentment and revengeful hatred. They are each other's antagonists, bonded by blood, love and the guilt of their own trauma. A fracture relationship that drives the narrative through multiple seasons.



RADIX: AMAL & NEDA MANSOUR

While Carrie Mathison in *Homeland* suffers from bipolarity, Amal and Neda suffer from a more serious problem: they are literally split in two.

Like many Tunisian teens, Amal and Neda had their political awakening during the Jasmine Revolution in 2011. The 17-year-old girls witnessed Al-Bouazizi, a fruit seller, humiliated by the police, set himself on fire in protest in Sidi Bouzid. Rebellious against their mother, a civil servant for the state, and their father who left them to work for the French Intelligence in Paris, they take to the streets.

Amal persuades Neda to join a peaceful daytime protest only for them both to be arrested. But it is Neda who is chosen by a drunk officer and raped, while Amal is spared. In the struggle, Neda shoots and kills her police attacker.

This devastating trauma is a turning point in their lives.

Sent to prison, Neda wears her crime as a badge of pride against a corrupt broken system, and soon falls under the influence of Islamic extremists. Eventually released through the intervention of the Muslim Brotherhood, Neda finds herself indebted to their cause. And Amal, overcome with survivor's guilt, finds herself powerless to save her twin from radicalisation.

But would Amal have ended up the same way if she had been taken instead of Neda? And can Neda ever be saved after what she has been through?



RADIX: SEASON 1 – OTRANTO

TUNIS 2015: A terrorist attack unfolds at a museum in Tunis. Behind it is Neda and her Islamist cell. As the security services prepare to storm the museum, Amal tries to stop her sister. Events degenerate into a bloodshed and the two sisters come head to head. But Amal isn't able to stop Neda; in fact, she allows her to escape. A decision born out of guilt and her desperation to give her sister another chance. A decision that will haunt her thereafter.

As Neda flees across the border, Amal is arrested as an accomplice and held on terror charges. It takes the intervention of GILES COTTIN (30s), an operative with the DGSE to secure her release – on the condition that she works for the DGSE as an intelligence asset.

LIBYA 2021: Embedded as a humanitarian administrator in a refugee camp, Amal runs HUMINT on ISIS cells returning from Syria for the DGSE. But she is appalled by what she witnesses – the refugees, the trafficking of migrants, the slave auctions – and finds a sympathetic ear in DR TARIQ, a senior medical officer at the camp and the target she is supposed to be observing. Through Tariq, she learns that ISIS is active in the trafficking of migrants out of North Africa – not just for financial reasons, but as a route into the heart of Europe for returning Jihadists from Syria.





Determined to bring her findings to light, and unable to get the interest of her superiors in Paris, Amal travels to an NGO conference in Bari, Italy, where she makes an impassioned plea for Western governments to do more. But much to her frustration, the only ear she finds is that of SOFIA VOLFATORE, a local lawyer with political ambitions, who stokes fears that this region of Puglia could easily become the new Lampedusa, an entry point for migrants and terrorists. Not the outcome Amal was hoping for.

But as she returns to Libya, events take an unexpected turn: Amal and Neda's paths cross once again. An injured cadre is brought to the refugee camp hospital. His cell is led by Abou Bakhr, a senior ISIS Commander, supposedly killed in Syria five years earlier. And with him is Neda, now his wife. Amal discovers they plan to smuggle a nerve agent into Europe through an ISIS backed migrant trafficking route. She takes the information to her handler Giles. Abou Bakhr is a big DGSE prize.

Giles, however, does not take the intel to the DGSE, but rather to a Russian agent, COL TURGENEV. It is Turgenev who runs the terror cell which Abou Bakhr heads. The Russians are behind it all and the nerve agent – Iraqi made Novichok – was a tool they provided ISIS with. Their plan? To use it on the migrants as a means of further dividing Europe over the issue of migration. Turgenev orders Giles to terminate his source.

With nowhere else to turn and fearing for her life, Amal takes her intelligence to the Americans, who order an airstrike on Abou Bakhr's location. But once again, Amal tries to extract Neda first. She begs her sister to leave that world and come back. Both sisters share a passionate belief that North Africa has been abandoned by the world, and destroyed by the West, but Amal appeals to Neda as a sister.

For a moment it looks like Amal has pulled Neda back from the brink.

But while Amal's faith that the system can change is faltering, Neda's belief it should be destroyed is all-consuming. Neda overpowers Amal and rushes back to warn her cell. In the airstrike, Abou Bakhr is killed. Before he dies, he entrusts Neda with the nerve agent and the identity of his real target.

As the Americans celebrate their victory, Neda and the surviving cell members regroup. Neda's privileged position as Abou Bakhr's widow is now much more precarious. The Cell cadres resent her connection with their former leader and want to teach her a lesson. But Neda has taken charge of the nerve agent and persuades them to continue as planned.



With Giles and the Russians now wanting her dead, Amal must leave Libya. In desperation she decides to smuggle herself out on a migrant boat. At the dock, she spots Neda and her cell onboard an Albanian fishing trawler with a cargo of migrants heading to Otranto. Amal smuggles herself aboard. During the perilous crossing, she tries to stop the Islamist cell using the nerve agent on the migrants. It culminates in an explosive showdown off the Puglian coast.

Amal washes ashore in Otranto with scores of half-dead migrants. The tragedy becomes a flashpoint of anti-migrant tensions and Sofia Volfatore exploits the situation – especially when some of the migrant arrivals are identified as terrorists. With a lockdown enforced as the overwhelmed local authorities try to contain both the nerve agent and rising tensions, Amal discovers that the Russians are behind a dangerous double strategy: supporting Sofia’s rise to the leadership of a Far-Right party, and simultaneously supporting terrorists like her sister’s cell.

But neither Amal, nor the Russians, know Neda’s real endgame...

Having survived the crossing, and with a second container of nerve agent, Neda is determined to continue with her secret mission, and heads to Rome. She’s armed with enough Novichok not just to kill alarming numbers, but to shut down the Vatican for years.

But Amal is just as determined to bring her sister back. She is able to escape the lockdown and makes a head start for Rome. Little does he know however, that she is not alone in her mission. Sofia and Turgenev are right behind her.

Amal rescues and saves her sister, stopping the attack just in time. It’s a final act of love - a triumph over Neda’s radicalised hate. But as the two sisters are reunited, Sofia and her Russian backers emerge, exposing the two sisters and “their” plot on St Peter’s to catapult Sofia into the leadership of Alba Futura, the national far-right party.

Now, in an ironic twist of fate, Amal will need Neda’s help to stop Sofia and infiltrate a rising cabal of transnational white-supremacists in Europe.

RADIX: FURTHER SEASONS

In season one, RADIX follows Amal and Neda from the Jasmine Revolution, through the humanitarian chaos of Libya, to the quaint tourist town of Otranto and on towards Rome. The plot sucks in intelligence agencies, political leaders and returning terrorists from the collapsed Islamic State.

At the end of Season One, Amal and Neda are apparently reunited against a common enemy. In Season Two and Three, we will finally see them working together.

Amal will persuade Neda to infiltrate the far-right firstly in Belgium (Season 2) and then in Paris (Season 3). Together they discover that Russia's interference is being eclipsed by a far more dangerous home-grown terror; an ultranationalist alliance which has outgrown its Russian sponsors, and with a groundswell of popular support, uses the migrant crisis to legitimize its white supremacist ideology.



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COMPANY PROFILES

CRISTALDI PICS

Massimo Cristaldi began his career in film production in 1976 as a production assistant for his father, legendary Italian producer Franco Cristaldi. Since 1983 he worked as Production Manager as well as Executive Producer on numerous features involving renowned Italian and international directors, including Federico Fellini, Giuseppe Tornatore, Francesco Rosi, Gillo Pontecorvo, Giuliano Montaldo, Sergio Corbucci, Carlo Carlei, Sergei Bondarchuk, Michael Anderson and Alexandre Arcady.

Following Franco Cristaldi's death in 1992, Massimo Cristaldi took over CRISTALDIFILM and oversees the sales of its film library of classic titles. Besides countless Italian and European awards, CRISTALDIFILM is a three-time Oscar winner with Pietro Germi's Divorce Italian Style, Federico Fellini's Amarcord and Giuseppe Tornatore's Cinema Paradiso. (www.cristaldifilm.com)

In 1993 Massimo Cristaldi founded CRISTALDI PICTURES (currently CRISTALDI PICS). After many productions, including feature films, TV miniseries and short films, CRISTALDI PICTURES and CRISTALDI PICS latest productions are Sicilian Ghost Story, Salvo, Tiberio Mitri - The Boxer and the Beauty Queen (TV miniseries), Rita (short film), L'Amour caché.



BlackBox Multimedia is a brand new international production company designed to spearhead the contemporary global scripted content revolution. Founded in 2017 by Guy Avshalom, former COO of Lionsgate UK, Giuliano Papadia, former programming director at Fox Network Groups Europe, Roberta Cardarelli, former MD of Italian prodco Paypermoon, and Guido Maria Brera, founder of Kairos Group and author, BlackBox focuses on high end international scripted content, developing and producing in more than five languages returnable and limited event content for the global market, based on award-winning IPs with A-list talent and partners.

eccho rights

Eccho Rights is a global rights management company with offices in Stockholm, Istanbul, Madrid and Manila, with the aim to work with independent producers to empower creativity worldwide. As of 2018, Eccho Rights is a part of CJ ENM, one of Asia's largest media and entertainment companies.

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