

Essay on episode 5 DEK

Resolutions and Signs

After the emotional crescendo at the end of episode 4 , the viewer , like Mehdi and Zeynep , experiences a slow release of breath during episode 5 . While episode 4 rounds out the introductory phase of the drama , the events experienced in this episode help the protagonists clarify the feelings they hold for each other and unite. The viewer discovers what complications , conflicts and character development to expect for the couple and for the secondary characters through several signs that are given. By the end of the episode , we see lost hope returning to Zeynep and Mehdi 's marriage ; lost hope returning to Kibrit . More importantly , we witness steady strides towards self assurance and confidence by Zeynep.

The charges brought against Mehdi by an unknown source for supposedly using minors to work in his shop , prove a great test for both Zeynep and Mehdi . Zeynep's actions during this crisis demonstrate to Kibrit and to Mehdi , as well as to herself , that she is made of the " right stuff " . After making her own decision not to fly off to London with Faruk but instead to sever all ties with him , she returns to Mehdi's home only to learn that he has been arrested. Zeynep sweeps aside the fact that she and Mehdi have signed a divorce agreement and she concentrates on finding ways to help Mehdi's lawyer with arguments from the law books in his defence and to keep Mehdi out of jail until his hearing . As well , she looks for ways that the legal system would allow Kibrit to be taken by Mehdi and her as their foster child until Kibrit reaches her 18th birthday in a year . Her studious efforts to help Mehdi are not the only selfless acts of Zeynep. Zeynep visits Kibrit at the shelter to try to give Kibrit support and hope that Mehdi and she are trying everything to take her out. Zeynep acts compassionately and altruistically not even giving a thought as to how she might be received by Kibrit. She faces an angry , desperate teenager who feels all alone and betrayed. Zeynep identifies with Kibrit and fully understands the emotional turmoil within her because there are so many similarities in their childhoods . Zeynep too did not " learn about love from stories " , as Kibrit shouts out. She is hurt by Kibrit's accusations that Zeynep leaves people and doesn't really care about them. Of course at this point Zeynep does not know that Kibrit has heard Faruk and Zeynep talking on the bus. Even though Zeynep receives these verbal attacks , she continues to show an unrelentless , genuine concern and determination to help . Zeynep returns again to visit Kibrit willing to accept any verbal abuse for Kibrit's sake . She feels that she needs to give Kibrit the same opportunity she has been given so many years before by Nermin.

Zeynep's mettle is not just tested by Kibrit. During a visit to Kibrit , Mehdi visits too. Their encounter on the basketball court is surprising to Mehdi who doesn't expect her presence. It is also emotionally charged . Although Mehdi understands why Zeynep is there he cannot resist telling her that she should not make promises she cannot keep. Furthermore , he asks her to self examine if she has ever kept a promise. Zeynep is able to return the volley of hurtful words served to her with dignity. She challenges him courageously when she declares that he too is like " everyone else now , " as she uses the sentiment expressed in a favorite poem of his about a lover , presumably , who no longer holds his love in a special regard .. Zeynep lets Mehdi know that he too has fallen in her eyes and let her down. Zeynep is able to defend her position and in a later conversation with him she is able to tell him not to translate what is in her heart into his language. Here we have a Zeynep who asks for an explanation instead of merely

accepting what is being handed to her without a word . Further into the episode , in their room , when he is getting his pyjamas , she asks him where he is going and makes it clear to him that she too has a right to ask for explanations . In the final minutes of the episode , Zeynep demonstrates her greatest resolve when she asks him why he did not ask her to stay.

This more decisive , assured Zeynep is also evident in her dealings with her birth parents and with Mujgan and Emine. The viewer is proud of Zeynep for finally speaking up to Mujgan and for not putting up with another of Emine's lectures on the golden opportunities Zeynep is missing by not choosing Faruk. She doesn't allow Sakine and Bayram to manipulate her into staying longer at Mehdi's house or to guilt her into changing her decision not to accept the apartment he rented for them. She concludes from her recent experiences that she must try to put her wishes and dreams first ; that happiness is not derived by pleasing others and forgetting about herself. Zeynep recognizes that by being more confident herself , others respond to this confidence and treat her differently too as if they have a new person to deal with.

The arrest and all the events following allow Mehdi to rethink his recent judgements about Zeynep and once again discover the Zeynep he thought he had glimpsed in front of his garage. Mehdi's recent conclusion that she is no different than any other woman he has known gets tested and the depth of his feelings for Zeynep surface with the events of this episode. When Mehdi discovers her selfless and sacrificial involvement (she doesn't go to write an important exam) in his court case and her concern for Kibrit , he undergoes quite a surprise but in his persistent pessimistic manner, he tells Nuh and himself that she is acting out of a sense of duty and responsibility .He is reluctant to allow himself to think her actions might be related to any feelings of love for him. He has taken her off a pedestal in his disappointment over her lie , the information about London and her quick signature on the divorce petition that he has decided that she is " now just like everyone else " , as one of his favorite poets has written. Afraid to let himself trust her , he asks her why she isn't pursuing her dreams in London . When she suggests they stay together in order to get custody of Kibrit , he tells her that she would just be delaying her departure by one year and inadvertently he reveals his true sentiments . He is thinking how much worse the situation would be for him if she were to leave after a year because there would be such false hope built and then dashed. He is so convinced that she does not want to be his wife . He is afraid to risk asking her to stay.

There is such a battle going on in Mehdi throughout the episode and up to the last minute he cannot resolve the inner conflict raging within. He is witness to her sacrifice for him and Kibrit , her genuine concern for Kibrit and other vulnerable children , her resolution to stand independently and not take his money , her pride and her strength. He remarks that she is such a lioness and he admires her efforts on all the issues she has to deal with. He does not want her to be hurt and he protects her from seeing Ekrem with another woman. As much as Ekrem deserves to be revealed for what he is , Mehdi shields Zeynep from this painful truth. In spite of Zeynep's reassuring actions during this episode , Mehdi cannot allow himself to believe that she will truly stay with him , stand with him and be his wife. Zeynep's words toll of finality in the last scene of the episode and shake him out of his defensive position .Mehdi asks her to stay . Her spontaneous hug and her declaration that being in his arms was the most wonderful feeling she had ever experienced signals what the viewers have suspected all along about Zeynep's feelings for him. Mehdi allows hope to take hold of him regarding his marriage in that split second .He reveals his deep feelings as he allows his arms to hug her back and his head to nestle into her neck .

This release of pent up feelings gives birth to hope not only for Zeynep and Mehdi but also to Kibrit . Observing their hug , Kibrit rekindles hope that there will be a positive resolution to her situation as well as renewing her trust in Zeynep .

Unfortunately , the episode is also a harbinger of events which will have significant impact on Zeynep and Mehdi's life and relationship. One such situation will be the pregnancy of Benal . This is an obstacle which will create far reaching vibrations among all members of Mehdi's family .Another major complication will arise from a potential conspiracy between Emine and Faruk to split up Zeynep and Mehdi. From a human side , how will the character of Nuh be affected by Emine's rejection ? If Kibrit moves into Mehdi's house , what impact will co habiting have on Jasemin, Kibrit , Mujgan ? These relationships will undergo change and conflict may ensue. Sakine and Bayram have not undergone any change in behaviour except a promise by Bayram to get a job. Sakine continues to deflect blame onto Nermin . Without a doubt , the discovery that Ekrem has led a double life for many, many years will upset and impact Nermin , Zeynep and Mehdi. Last but certainly not least , the whole theme of guilt and sacrifice at personal expense has not been resolved . In her monologue , Zeynep admits that she has made progress in this direction but that she will get buried under her sacrifices.

Episode 5 gives the viewer the first manifestation of the depth of feelings held by Zeynep and Mehdi for each other. Hope is born and a tableau is set for the drama to unfold.