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# La mia vita al 4 stelle | Il Diario di Dalila

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Feat.

Dalila

Miriam: Dalila's sister

Karim: Dalila's brother

Giulia: Dalila's mother

Abdul: Dalila's father

[00:03] **Dalila:** So it's 10:53 pm,

[00:08] it's evening and I'm starting this recording  
by telling you that my name is Dalila Djakmime,

[00:15] I am half Arab and half Italian and I live  
in a squat.

[00:21] We have been living here for 6 years...  
but it seems we've now become a bit of a problem  
for everyone, over the last year...

[00:35] and there are many people here, many families  
with lots of children...

[00:42] we are a family of five, 2 small children,  
my siblings who are 12 and 8 years old

[00:51] I am 20 years old... I don't work because  
I can't find work, it is very difficult now but I am trying  
my best to help my family.

[01:05] I hope to find it soon... Let's hope...

### **Sound of alarm going off**

[01:18] **Giulia:** Dalila!!

[01:19] Eh???

[01:20] ... go and get your brother...

## **Kitchen sounds, stove sparking**

[01:37] **Dalila:** Good morning, it's half past eleven, it's Tuesday, it's cloudy, it's a very bad day.

[01:51] How I miss my old house. My gosh, I miss it so much

[01:57] Six years ago we used to live - that is before coming here - we lived in a house in Casilina Nord Road and we lived in this building, with the garden...

[02:12] but then it happened, over the years my father lost his job and we couldn't afford to pay the rent, the bills, lots of expenses, my little sister was born as well, so...

[02:39] let's say she was an added expense too because being little, she needed more attention and then my little brother came.

[02:51] But my house was big before...

[02:55] It was big, at the entrance there was a large corridor, there were three bedrooms,

[03:02] mine was very large, now I live in a hole, the walls are made of plasterboard that my father built, because basically these walls didn't exist before.

[03:14] Dad had to put them up with all the tools, and things, so he fixed it all, he made the door, and I have to say that he's been very good at it!

## ***Coffee machine murmuring softly Television in the background***

[03:35] **Dalila:** Leave this thing here,

[03:37] ... Need to record

[03:39] **Abdul**: What needs to rec'?

[03:40] Needs to rec'!

[03:43] Dad, do ya know what Alice said!  
That she wants your voice!

[03:47] My voice?

[03:48] Yes, your voice!

Ahahha

[03:50] Come on dad... Don't be a... Mmhh come on...

[03:51] Here's my voice... ahahahhaha... 4

[03:53] Com'on dad, I am not joking... Come on...  
You're so wicked, I swear...

[03:59] **Giulia**: Dalila, pack up your socks

[04:01] Yes mum, just a minute, just calm down...

[04:02] **Abdul**: Oh, Dalila!

[04:03] Uuh this is what I forgot, the talcum powder

### ***Television, newscast***

[04:07] *The commission asks that the amendments  
to the budget law be made in writing.*

*Salvini opens to negotiations but on condition  
- he said in front of the lega supporters - the rules  
in Europe must change.*

[04:20]: **(Matteo Salvini's voice)** *I ask you  
for the mandate, not as a minister,  
not as party secretary, but in the name of 60 million  
Italians who want to return to cultivate hope...*

### ***Sounds of people gathered for dinner***

[04:35] **Giulia:** Tell me how can you rest easy?!  
Did ya hear what he said, Salvini?

[04:41] That from next week he will evict all squatters?!

[04:44] Ya got?? (to the father)

[04:46] He doesn't even listen to you

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[04:48] **Abdul:** He will not, he will not...

[04:49] **Giulia:** But he said that...

[04:53] I am scared, he is saying that next week  
he is kicking everyone out...

[04:55] **Dalila:** Eh, I know...

[04:57] What shall we do?

[04:58] I don't know

[04:59] Where will we go, we are broke,  
we don't have a roof over our heads.

[05:03] You are mad

[05:05] I am mad? Or your father is mad?

[05:06] Ooh the both of you are mad!!!

What have you done in your life?

You haven't saved a penny, you're totally mad!!!

[05:12] I understand but now he is unemployed,  
how can we afford to pay rent if they evict us?...

[05:19] ok, just drop it now... come on

[05:24] What's wrong with you???

[05:27] I'm nervous, come on <sup>6</sup>

### **Phone ringing**

[05:29] So what?? so what!!! ???

[05:31] Run Abdul, your brother's on the phone...

[05:33] **Abdul:** Hello hello Ahmed...

[05:35] **Giulia:** Answer Abdul, come on...

[05:38] **Abdul:** Hello!  
Giulia told me that you phoned...  
If everything goes well, inshallah,  
the next time we speak I will be in France.

## Arabic voice on the phone

[06:00] He sends greetings and hugs to everyone

[06:03] lalla', salaam alaikum

[06:08] Take the phone

[06:09] **Giulia:** Oh, we're staying here,  
and she is going out in a bit

[06:12] **Dalila:** I'll be waiting in the square, take your time

[06:14] Do you have two euros?

[06:16] Nothing...

## Outside, traffic noise

[06:25] **Dalila:** What sandwich have you made?

[06:28] **Abdul:** A sandwich with fried potatoes  
and a piece of fish

[06:29] Yummy!

## Phone rings

[06:31] **Dalila:** God, Lubnaaaa?! oh hello! hey where  
are you? I am at Penny's, I am with my father  
and my mother...

[06:43] (turning to the father) Yes dad, go to Miriam's...

[06:46] (speaking on the phone) We are going to see Karim's school play...

[06:51] Yes I am well Lub' but' I'm so afraid...

[06:53] Listen, I wanted to ask you for something...

[06:55] ...of everything...

[06:56] Yesterday I have been crying all day but you won't believe what Ilaria has done for me... That girl is a saint... Anyway listen...

[07:03] I wanted to ask you, Ferial, yesterday, what the fuck did she tell you about this job? That she was going to leave in January?

[07:11] Did you understand what pastry was it? ...In Cento Celle? But you don't know where exactly, she didn't tell you?

[07:21] Anyways Lu, I don't know how she does it all the time she leaves a job and finds another straight away.

[07:28] Sure, yeah, she asked me too... However...

[07:32] (turning to her parents) Wait mum, dad...

[07:33] (speaking on the phone) I was telling you... In case could you go and see her? Are you in Tivoli now? ...to see that house?

[07:43] God, is it too far?

[07:49] Gosh... ah is it why you're saying it?

[07:55] ok ok bye bye...

## **Horn noises**

### **Noises from inside the house**

[08:11] **Giulia:** What is it?

[08:12] **Dalila:** The recorder

Dalila, what is it? God, is it on?

[08:16] She told me to do so...

[08:18] Who?

[08:19] Alice

[08:19] Ah Alice told you to do so?

[08:21] Of course, to leave it as if...  
So we don't even notice it, understand?

[08:26] However look mum I have to hurry  
and find a job as soon as possible

[08:28] I couldn't work at MacDonald's really...

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### **Phone ringing**

[08:34] **Dalila:** Hello? hello?

[08:37] **Woman:** I am calling you regarding a CV  
you sent us today at the beauty center

[08:41] yes

[08:42] I wanted to know if tomorrow  
you would be available for an interview

[08:46] yes, around what time?

[08:49] at 2.30 pm

[08:54] ok,

[08:57] can you text me the address?

[08:58] yes sure, I will send it to you

[09:00] ok thank you so much

[09:03] thank you, goodbye

[09:09] **Dalila:** So, thanks God someone called me now, who practically asked me to have an interview tomorrow,

[09:19] around Prenestina, yes... I have to check it on Google Maps, otherwise I'll get lost... fingers crossed.

[09:27] So far all the jobs I have done have been a real disaster... sometimes I wonder if I am the problem, nothing seems to be right for me, for example my first job was in Via Tuscolana,

[09:40] I was a beautician, it was very good but I was paid only 20 € on Saturdays, with 20 € per week you can't do anything.

[09:52] Then I started working with a friend in a restaurant, in Malatesta area, I had a lot of fun in that restaurant, they paid well, they were good.

[10:05] One day... I had an argument with the cook,

[10:10] he was Arab, and he was very, very bad tempered. I mean really, being Arab as well, half Algerian, I cannot understand why...I do not approve of their ways of thinking, this close-mindedness...

Why women must do this and that, must be so and so, covered here, covered there. Even if I am half Arab, I am also Italian, I was born here, I am an Italian citizen... Even my father, don't get me wrong, I listen to him, because he is always my father, but on many more things...

## **They are washing the dishes, running water noise**

[10:57] **Abdul:** Where is she?  
Do you know what you should do now?  
You go to the Tax Advice Centre and ask  
for the *citizenship income*.

[11:04] The citizenship income... If you have  
a regular job they take it away from you,

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[11:10] if they fire you, they pay you subsidy, they give  
you this bloody subsidy, this *reddito di cittadinanza*,

[11:18] but if you work illegally instead  
you go to jail for six or seven years.

[11:27] **Dalila:** Well, so now it depends on me if  
I work illegally or not?

[11:29] It depends on you!

[11:31] What are you talkin' about!

[11:32] You must report it, you must say "listen,  
I need a contract"

and then, as I understood, at the employment office,  
they prepare you for jobs.  
That's what they said, they prepare the youth  
to face the labour market.

[11:49] What youth, I'm 20 years old...

[11:51] **Abdul & Giulia:** But you're not old!

[11:52] **Giulia:** You are not my age...

[11:53] **Abdul:** You have just started living!

[11:54] But I just finished the beautician course

[11:58] **Abdul:** You have to go and find out

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[12:00] **Giulia:** he is telling you to go  
to the employment office,  
your father knows less than you...  
(turning to the father)  
she is always hanging out with her friends,  
sleeping at her friends...

[12:02] **Abdul:** you're always on the phone,  
until one, two at night with the phone

[12:06] **Dalila:** I am always searching...

[12:09] oh... do you want to see what I have been  
searching for?

[12:11] I am always on subito.it... no... so

[12:14] I want to do what I was trained for, otherwise

what for did I study for two years locked in that vocational training school...

[12:21] Listen, I am going to my other room...

[12:22] Dalila: And again, always with the thing that I need to search and search on *subito.it*, *portaportese.it* and here and there, print curriculums, going around, up and down with the bus...

[12:33] uff... I'm really tired, tired... I mean really, I've found the worst jobs and a series of bad luck.

[12:42] I don't really know, dunno. I am sad and disheartened, because if there is no money I don't even want to go out, do new things. Where shall I go with no money...

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[12:58] I do the trial period and then they let me go, or however they don't employ me. It sucks.

### **Kitchen noises** **Dalila's father yawns**

[13:12] **Dalila:** Anyways, have you received the unemployment money yet?

[13:15] **Abdul:** Not yet no, I called them and they told me that there has been a mistake. It will be a bit delayed.

[13:24] So the unemployment money is not coming in?

[13:26] Noooo, it is coming but later.

[13:28] And you're going to France after?

[13:30] Sure.

[13:31] Immediately?

[13:32] Immediately!

[13:33] What about us?!

[13:34] You what?

[13:35] How are we supposed to manage here?

[13:37] What should I do.  
Do I have to wait here forever?  
I have to go to France to find work immediately,  
I'll find the work straight away, I'll rent a house.  
Do you understand?

[13:48] But how do you know that you'll find it there?

[13:50] There is so much work there  
that people are tired of working. It's not Italy...

[13:58] Well, the money has not arrived yet...

[14:04] All my friends at the mosque tell me  
"what are you still doing here"?

[14:12] But sorry dad, I think that some things...don't you think that they (the government) are doing them?

[14:17] Who?

[14:18] Like the citizenship thing (reddito di cittadinanza)...

[14:20] Not really, it's only propaganda for the European elections, only to earn some votes... Not a chance.

[14:32] You will see what it will happen here in Italy. The war of the poor... Poor against poor

[14:39] You mean the war of the poor

[14:39] Yes

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[14:45] So, I wanted to vent a little... I had an argument with my father when mom told me that he wanted to go to France without worrying much about us being here alone,

[15:03] so I tried to convince him to take a house outside of Rome as well.

[15:10] Let's say that the problem, rightly, is that we don't have money for the deposit...

[15:17] My father and I... My father cannot work any more, mom neither, because... she cannot handle it with two children, she has her legs that hurt, it's only me but I still don't have a regular contract...Eh...

[15:34] I feel sorry for the children, so much, because I never imagined my siblings to go through this, all this distress...having the suitcase always ready, because

you never know when they are going to kick you out...  
having your clothes inside the suitcases. Every morning  
when they get ready for school, they open the suitcases  
and look for what to wear.

[16:01] I can't stand it.

### **Miriam singing**

[16:07] **Dalila:** Miriam! The recorder is on

[16:10] **Miriam:** (singing) So what ??... Sorry

[16:16] Ok, Miriam, come on, let's go over your  
homework for tomorrow?

[16:22] So you'll help me with all homeworks

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[16:24] No I won't help you with nothing

[16:25] Ok, essay...

[16:27] Essay... let's get on with these homeworks!

[16:33] So now I am going to put the books  
back in my rucksack,  
because mum wants to leave all my books  
at school for fear of eviction...

### **Miriam open the window**

[16:46] Now I am opening the window, I want to see...  
God, how cold! It's cold

[16:59] You got to do this essay, come on, let's do your homework now otherwise it's going to get dark later and we won't be able to see a thing without light...

[17:10] Well, I have to write an essay on "what do I expect from school?"

[17:17] So, I'll write in red... *What...do I expect...*

[17:22] Colon! You should have put a capital letter, shouldn't you?

[17:24] Title, period

[17:25] Colon!

[17:27] What do I expect from...

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[17:33] What a beautiful writing!

[17:34]...school.

[17:35] But you are not tidy, Gosh...

[17:39] get a normal notebook and write over it, you're not comfortable like this

[17:41] Yeah you're right

[17:43] Since you're doing your homework in my room, without a table...

[17:48] in the other room is dark already.

[17:50] So let's start

## Door closing

[17:52] **Dalila**: What do you expect from school?

[17:55] **Miriam**: Well, first of all, I expect to pass

[17:57] Here we go!

[17:59] Let's hope, because if you keep playing downstairs all day...

[18:02] Then I don't know.

[18:03] However you shouldn't make a list, you should start with an introduction. Which is the introduction?

[18:10] Dunno...

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[18:11] What do you mean dunno?

[18:12] I don't know!

[18:13] You should try...

[18:15] I don't know

[18:16] So, "hi everyone, my name is Miriam", so to say

[18:19] What are you on about?

[18:20] Sure Miriam, you should start an essay by introducing yourself!

[18:25] So write down: "I am Miriam..."

[18:298] So...I am Miriam and I am 12 years old...  
I attend Salvo D'Acquisto Secondary School.  
When I finished primary school, during summer,  
I was already trying to imagine how it would have been  
my first day of secondary school.  
When that moment arrived I was very nervous.  
I felt uneasy.

[18:45] That moment or that day?

[18:46] Yeah...

[18:52] When that day arrived! Gosh Miriam...

[18:54] When that day arrived I was very nervous  
and I felt uneasy because I did not know anyone...

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[19:00] **Miriam:** Hi, I am miram, I am 12 years old  
and I am Dalila's sister.

I live in a squat without light and water.  
I moved into here when I was six years old  
and now I am 12.

I have a small room which I share with my little brother.  
As soon as we return from school, we come back home,  
eat something and do the homeworks together.

[19:33] If they evict us, I would be very sad, on one hand,  
but on the other I would be happy if they settled us.  
And anyway... Nothing

## Door opening

[19:45] **Karim:** Dali'??

[19:46] **Dalila:** Tell me

[19:48] What does it mean *narrative text*?

[19:50] What?

[19:51] *Narrative text*

[19:52] A narrative text that narrates, I think...  
ah, that you tell something about your day...

[19:58] That is perfect

[19:59] but if you already knew why do you ask me?

[20:01] Because did not know

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[20:03] Eh, you got it, give me a kiss

[20:07] That's it...

[20:08] Really?

[20:09] This is what's written on the school diary

[20:11] So... and you studied all this, when did you read it?

[20:16] I have not studied it yet...

[20:18] What a goat, go on, read this, Article 3...  
(Italian Constitution)

[20:22] All citizens have equal social dignity and are equal before the law, without distinction of...

[20:33] sex

[20:34] sex, race, language, religion, political opinions, personal and social conditions. It is the task of the Republic to

[20:44] wait, it's the task...

[20:46] it is the task of the Republic to remove obstacles of economic and social order, which in fact by limiting the freedom and equality of citizens, prevent the full development of the human person and the act

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[21:03] the actual...

[21:04] the actual participation of all works to the economical social and political *orgazation* of the country.

[21:11] mmh... aah... wow!

[21:21] Miriaaam! Come here!

## **Door opening**

[21:25] Are you coming? Can you give me your hairbrush? Sit here

## Door closing

[21:28] Leave it open, I am drying my hair

## Hair Dryer Noise Dalila sings a Napolitan neomelodic song while drying her hair

[22:10] Ok then, so now I just took a shower,  
it's 7 o'clock...  
yes sure, seven, what time is it? it's 42 minutes past 9...  
Oh God, Carola!

[22:21] Hello Love? Love hi, love I am drying my hair

[22:30] **Abdul:** Dalila!

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[22:31] Oh, don't come in!

[22:32] Tell your friends

[22:34] What do you want?

[22:35] that this is the last time they call you  
at ten o'clock to ask you to go out

[22:39] Wait honey, I'll call you back...

[22:43] What's up???

[22:45] Who is this... who calls at 10 pm to go out?

[22:48] Oh God! we're just going to a bar  
to have a coffee...

[22:51] But it is not logical,  
who goes out at this time ??

[22:56] Dad! 3000 girls and boys go out until one o'clock in the morning and I am not going to be late, I'll be out an hour or so, the time for a coffee and I'll be back... What is the problem? Sorry, I don't understand. I am not going clubbing, having fun, taking drugs...

[23:09] I am just saying that it is not a good time

[23:11] I just had a shower, now I am meeting them, I'll have a coffee and then be back... They'll give me a lift, they've got a car, what is the problem? oh, I'll come back at midnight... Ok, I'll fall asleep at midnight...

[23:23] No, you won't fall asleep at midnight,  
you'll fall asleep at one!

[23:26] I don't get it, it's 10 pm not midnight  
or they pick me up at one.

[23:31] I get it but you know what a bad area this is

[23:34] I understand dad but they will bring me back here...

I'm not walking alone anyway,

[23:41] one day I will also have my own life... I mean...  
*What's wrong?*

[23:47] It's the first time I hear that someone  
goes out at 10 pm

[23:51] There are worse people who go out at midnight,  
or one

[23:54] **Miriam:** Dalila come here a second...

[23:56] I mean, I swear, I don't get it, God...

[23:59] let's go to my room because otherwise...

### **Door closing**

[24:03] **Dalila:** Here we are, so more or less you have  
understood... Have you?

[24:08] Coming here, seeing all these problems  
at home, I have had enough.

[24:14] The fact is that when I get out of the house  
I am ok, when I am around, because my head doesn't  
think about anything, and even if I think about it I say ok  
I can go on...

[24:27] don't get me wrong I miss my siblings...  
but I don't miss at all being inside this house.

[24:36] I don't miss it. I have had enough. Maybe  
because I have never had any peace, I mean, I have  
always had problems, one after the other.

[24:50] When I leave this place, the 4 Stars, this house...  
I feel good... I breathe, this place creeps me out,  
I am always scared, to be inside here, always scared  
of everything, of people, of rats, of the gas cylinders,  
of the disgusting filth around, of the mold.

[25:15] I am also scared that we will get evicted because obviously where will we go? We don't have any other place to go. So I am scared of many things...

[25:32] I think that I need money, I would like to help my mother but I can't, I would like her legs to feel better, but she can't manage...

[25:44] I would like my father to stay here with us, I don't want him to leave, but he has no other choice.

[25:52] I would like to work... Here I feel in a cage. Here is the right word: I feel in a cage.

[26:02] I pray to God for the day to come, the day when I will feel good with my family, with my brother and sister, I am tired.

## Door opening

[26:18] **Abdul:** Come on,

[26:19] **Miriam:** Gosh

[26:20] **Abdul:** Go to bed my love

[26:22] **Dalila:** Uffff this aerosol...God, I have to sweep the floor... I go...Bye...

[26:36] **Miriam:** So I'm in my sister's room  
with the aerosol...  
the aerosol is my best friend because I fall asleep  
with things that make noise:  
like the aerosol, the heater, the air conditioner...

[26:52] and then...the phone...all stuff that makes noises...and also with the lullaby.

So now I am starting to aerosol,  
and also checking instagram a little with  
my mother's phone, who doesn't even know I have it.  
[27:12] Now you will hear a little noise. So: 1... 2... 3...  
(*she turns on the aerosol*) Got it?  
I fall asleep with this noise.

[27:39] So I am done here and I say bye bye...  
And nothing, greeting... Byeeeeee