

A Note from the Director...

Over four years ago, I was challenged by Chivy Sok to produce a documentary on honor crimes. A former child slave from the “Killing Fields” of Cambodia, Chivy appealed to me to use the medium of film to shine a light on the dark side of our human nature. “Honor crimes”, she explained “are secret sufferings that need to be exposed.”

I began writing various women’s rights groups around the world for help, and the tragic tale of Hatun Aynur Sürücü was one of the first to surface. It touched me immediately. Hatun was a Kurdish woman, living in Berlin, who was murdered by her youngest brother, Ayhan. Hatun and Ayhan were close, but somehow on February 7, 2005 Ayhan felt compelled to shoot his sister three times in the head. The murder was quickly classified as an honor killing.

In Hatun’s story I saw a woman caught between two cultures. Ironically, had she broke free from her family, I believe she would have lived. Had she not questioned her family and culture, she likely would have been kept safe. (Though oppressed) It was having a foot in both worlds that sealed her fate.

Choosing to tell Hatun’s story was one of the most illogical decisions I have ever made. I had never been out of the country, don’t speak a word of German, and knew nothing about the culture and psychology behind this horrendous act. My objective was just as naïve: that by somehow telling one woman’s story, I could give a face to countless others. While the jury is still out on my abilities as a filmmaker, my journey to give Hatun a “voice” is over. Now armed with her story, the next step yours...



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