

Shima & Shiva

They fight to have a happy life though happy life is hard to be achieved. Shima and Shiva are twins. They are 23. They were born in Masal in Guilan province, Iran. When they were 1, their convulsions started because of genetic problems. They were unable to walk since then. At the same time, they lost their father in an accident. As they became older, their mother was unable to look after them so they were delivered to a nursing house for elderly and disabled. Shima and Shiva are very welcoming and friendly with the visitors because they need their help to leave the nursing home temporarily as the visitors' guest and to see more of this world. These twins are not friendly with the staff of the nursing home because they can't understand one and other. The nurses and the other patients can't understand these twins because they are always planning to have fun. In addition, these twins don't neglect their wishes and they try to fulfill them. They don't understand the rules of the nursing home. They like sleeping late at nights and they believe this is their right to fall in love, travel, swim and ride their wheelchairs around the city in bazaars and streets. Authorities in Iran only pay attention to the basic needs of the handicaps such as food, clothing and shelter. This is the reason why these children and other handicapped babies are reluctant to think about their future. They can't dream or enjoy their lives. Shima and Shiva are in that critical period of their lives that people become emotionally sensitive and they look for love all the time. They know that living is their obvious right and because they are twins they resist more severely not to let others topple their right. They are a combination of loneliness and togetherness. They are a combination of happiness and sadness...

1) On the beach

Shima and Shiva love the sea and swimming. They feel happy when they are in water, they fight for simple rights to be like the normal people .

2) documents

Since 5, Shima and Shiva are kept in the nursing home. These two folders are their dossiers in the nursing home

3) love story

Shima and Shiva are in that period of their lives when they need love and affection more than any other time. They have friendly social behavior but some men have betrayed them emotionally. The man carrying one of them in this picture had proposed to one of them. A proposal which was never serious

4) At Grandfather's house

Grandfather's house is the only place they go when they want to leave behind the sadness of their world. However the grandfather is old and ill these days.

5) Toothbrush

The twins think it's normal to use one toothbrush. Bad habits are not due to lack of money, they have a lot of friends to help them buy a lot of toothbrushes, but they think it's normal and one toothbrush is enough. The location is grandpa's bathroom

6) their friend's BIRTHDAY in nursing-house

Ali, one of the nursing home children, plays Daf and sings a song for Golshan's birthday. The other children sing with him

7) 22th Birthday

Birthday party. All the time they are planning to have a celebration for their birthday. This day is really important for them. Sometimes at the nursing room, sometimes at the friend's house or at the coffee shop. In this photo, at the end of celebration the nurses told: the time is out and all the guests quickly went to the yard of nursing room, I think they are always alone even at their birthday party between more than 200 guests. But right to the nurses too.. The nursing room is for all patients

8) 23'th Birthday

In 23'th Birthday, they were confused with signs of convulsion.

9) memories

The only thing that they have from the past is this album!

10) Shima

Shima and Shiva like to look like a queen on their birthday.

11) suicide

Shima and Shiva have tried many times to commit suicide with razor blade, sometimes they would like to say their dissatisfaction with life to others

12) The Room

Shima in the nursing room. Azita, Fateme and Zeinab are 3 other girls in this room.

13) handwriting

Shima and Shiva decided to quite school. They are able to write

14) The mirror

Shima and Shiva in Rasht nursing house, They are as a mirror of each other

15) DreamLand

Shima suddenly went to sleep in the middle of the night talks.

16)

In the yard of nursing-home

17) on the way to grandfather's house

Shima on the way to her grandfather's house in Masal, a small city in Guilan

18) Mother

At the age of fifteen, Leyla gave birth to twins, after one year, in a short, she lost his wife in an accident and also her twins convulsions started. Now, she is mom for 4 children, wife of the other man. A man who don't like the twins. He does not like Leila to give them a lot of time, however Leyla is forced to move like a shadow in her current life and her previous life.

19) Father

The twins told me: after their first convulsion when they were 1, their father leaves the house sad and confused and he died in an accident. When I went to the cemetery with a family friend of them, she told me that if their father was alive, they wouldn't have such a hard life

20) Grandpa

Dad puts the washed dishes in their place, Grandpa is above 70 years old and he is sick these days. He is alone just like Shima and Shiva. He has lost his wife few years ago and he has to accompany.

21) In the Bathroom

A portrait of Shima In the bathroom in Their Mother's friend's house in Masal .

22) The eyes

They always have a mirror next to them. Shima and Shiva usually likes to look beautiful and do make up.

23) Bocia

Some times Shima and Shiva play Bocia. They have become champions in the competitions for few times. Recently, they couldn't go to gym due to the transport difficulty from the nursing home

24) The yard of nursing-home

nursing house in Rasht (north of iran)

25) On the beach

One of the most beautiful moments in Shima and Shiva's life is when they go to the beach. They love swimming. When they are in water they don't think about anything except happiness and enjoying