

LE PASSEUR - Character descriptions

ALI, 18-25 male, Farsi and/or Dari speaker (minimum age of applicant 18 years)

Ali has a youthful face, a lively gaze and a delicate demeanour, yet he exudes strength. He is determined and quick on his feet. A young Afghan orphan born in Iran, he speaks Persian *(so a young Iranian, who learns the lines in Dari could perfectly well play this role, although speaking Dari as well would be an advantage in order to stay as true as possible to the character)*. Ali works as a hairdresser in Tari's salon in Athens to pay for his brother Azad's (18) passage, as Azad is stuck in Turkey. Throughout the film, he must show courage and will take on a greater role than he could ever have imagined following the disappearance of his boss, Tari.

AZAD (18-25) male, Farsi and/or Dari speaker (minimum age of applicant 18 years)

Although a little older than Ali, Azad seems more fragile than his younger brother. He has a handsome face, obscured by thick, patched-up glasses, and his gaze seems sadder. Nevertheless, the two boys resemble one another. He is stranded in Istanbul, waiting to make his crossing. There, he leads the dangerous life of a migrant in transit and tries to find ways to cross on his own, but falls victim to a brutal scam.

TARI (55–65), native Farsi speaker

Originally from Iranian Kurdistan and a long-time resident of Athens, Tari runs his people-smuggling operation under the guise of his hairdressing salon, located in a working-class neighbourhood. Meticulous and efficient, he excels at his trade. He is direct, charismatic and possesses a natural authority/ the air of a guru. Although he takes Ali under his wing at the salon, he does not hesitate to exploit him and abandon him to save his own skin.

HASSAN (35–50), native Farsi speaker A large (or at least imposing) man with a scruffy appearance and a gentle, glassy gaze. Tari's nephew and former colleague, Hassan now works in a wool mill or at markets. Disgusted by the way his uncle let him languish in prison for five years, Hassan has severed all ties with him. Gradually, he has withdrawn into himself, living in a state of isolation. A loner, he divides his days between his work, his small flat and the stray cats in the neighbourhood which he feeds. Through Ali, he rediscovers a part of himself, a sense of humanity he thought he had lost.

FARAH (20–30), native farsi speaker

Farah, a 21-year-old well-groomed Iranian woman from a middle-class background, is awaiting her departure for France, where she hopes to complete her studies. She possesses strong leadership qualities and, without showing it, 'directs' those around her. Although she is moved by Ali, she subtly manipulates him, playing on the attraction she arouses in the young boy. A certain bond gradually develops between them, as Farah recognises Ali's potential and encourages him, despite the fact that they do not belong to the same world.

REZA (30) An Iranian with a smart, hipster look, Reza is married to a Greek woman and is the father of a young child. He projects a flashy image and has a reputation as a trickster, whilst remaining a rival to Tari. A pragmatist, he acts out of self-interest and will even collaborate with Ali when he sees an opportunity to do so.

HAMID (30) An Iranian who speaks Farsi with an accent. He grew up in Germany. He wears small round glasses and is very well dressed.

HAMID'S COUSIN (25) An Iranian who has recently left the country.