

This film is the story of my father. In 1990, fleeing from a crumbling Soviet Armenia, my family moved to Los Angeles. My father did not know a single word of English and could not find any work to make ends meet. The only place willing to hire him was an underground factory manufacturing counterfeit ripoffs of designer bags and dresses. So, he took the job. While certain elements from his story have been changed, this film is quite truthful to how things happened, including the over-friendly loan shark and the discovery that even retailers such as Macy's were carrying their fakes. We were very lucky in finding the perfect candidate to play the lead role in Karren Karagulian (known for his work in Sean Baker's films such as "Tangerine" and "The Florida Project"), who even shares my father's name.

Coming from a family of proud immigrants and seeing the current climate of hostility towards immigrants in our country, I felt the need to tell this story now, exploring themes of identity, loneliness in a foreign land, and all the pitfalls and fine print of the American Dream. This is the story of my family and thousands of others who continue to be persecuted for the hope of a better life.

-Michael Aloyan (Writer/Director)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MA' with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.