

# Jaffa

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## Discussion Guide

1. Director Keren Yedaya has stated that popular Egyptian melodrama was both an aesthetic and political influence for her while creating **JAFFA**.
  - a. Discuss the element of melodrama in this film. When, if ever, does it feel melodramatic? When, if ever, does it feel more realistic?
  - b. How is cinematography and music used to help create this “popular cinema” or “low art” aesthetic?
2. Why do you think Yedaya chose to set the film in the coastal city of Jaffa? Why do you think the title, **JAFFA**, was chosen?
3. In an interview about the film, Yedaya said, “In my mind, Meir’s parents are as responsible for his death as Toufik is.” What do you make of this statement? Do you agree or disagree?
4. After Meir’s death, Mali is forced to make several important life decisions (about Toufik, her pregnancy, her living situation, etc). How is each decision affected by her brother’s death?
5. What do you think finally motivates Mali to contact Toufik again? If you were in her position, what would you do?