

# إطار الليل

THE NARROW FRAME OF MIDNIGHT

a film by Tala Hadid



CENTRE CINÉMATOGRAPHIQUE MAROCAIN AND THE DOHA FILM INSTITUTE PRESENT,  
WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF LE FOND FRANCOPHONE DE PRODUCTION AUDIOVISUELLE DU SUD, HOKUS BOGUS AND THE FRAME  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH LOUVERTURE FILMS, A K FILMS, ASAP FILMS AND AUTONOMOUS  
CO-PRODUCTION THE NARROW FRAME OF MIDNIGHT KHALID ABDALLA, MARIE JOSÉE CROZE, FADWA BOUJOUANE,  
HOCINE CHOUTRI, MAJDOULINE IDRISSE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALEXANDER BUROV, EDITOR JOELLE HACHE,  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER DOMINIQUE LACLOCHE, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER LOUIS LEWARNE,  
SOUND RECORDIST SIMOU SI MOHAMED. SOUND DESIGNER JAMIE MCPHEE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ALI CHERKAoui, CO-PRODUCERS CEDOMIR KOLAR, MARC BASCHET, PHILIPPE GOLDFAIN, TALA HADID  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DANNY GLOVER, SAWSAN ASFARI, MAYA SANBAR JAMO, SOREN KLOCH, DILOY GULAN, ALEIM JOHNSON  
PRODUCED BY KHADIJA ALAMI, JOSLYN BARNES AND CAT VILLIERS, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY TALA HADID

**wide**

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Original language: Arabic, French  
DCP/HD 2014 Morocco/France/UK  
93 MIN DRAMA

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*"Some men say an army  
of horses*

*and some men say an army  
on foot*

*and some men say an army of ships is the  
most beautiful thing on the black earth.*

*But I say it is what you love."*











## SYNOPSIS

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A young orphan, Aïcha, is found alone in the forests of central Morocco. She has a personal history that reveals a courageous attempt at self-determination. Taken and sold from her home in the hills of the Atlas mountains, Aïcha finds herself at the mercy of a petty criminal, Abbas, and his conflicted girlfriend, Nadia. They soon cross paths with Zacaria, a Moroccan/Iraqi writer, who has left everything behind - including a passionate relationship with a teacher, Judith - to search for his missing brother. The group embarks on a journey that will lead them across Morocco, to Istanbul, the plains of Kurdistan and beyond.

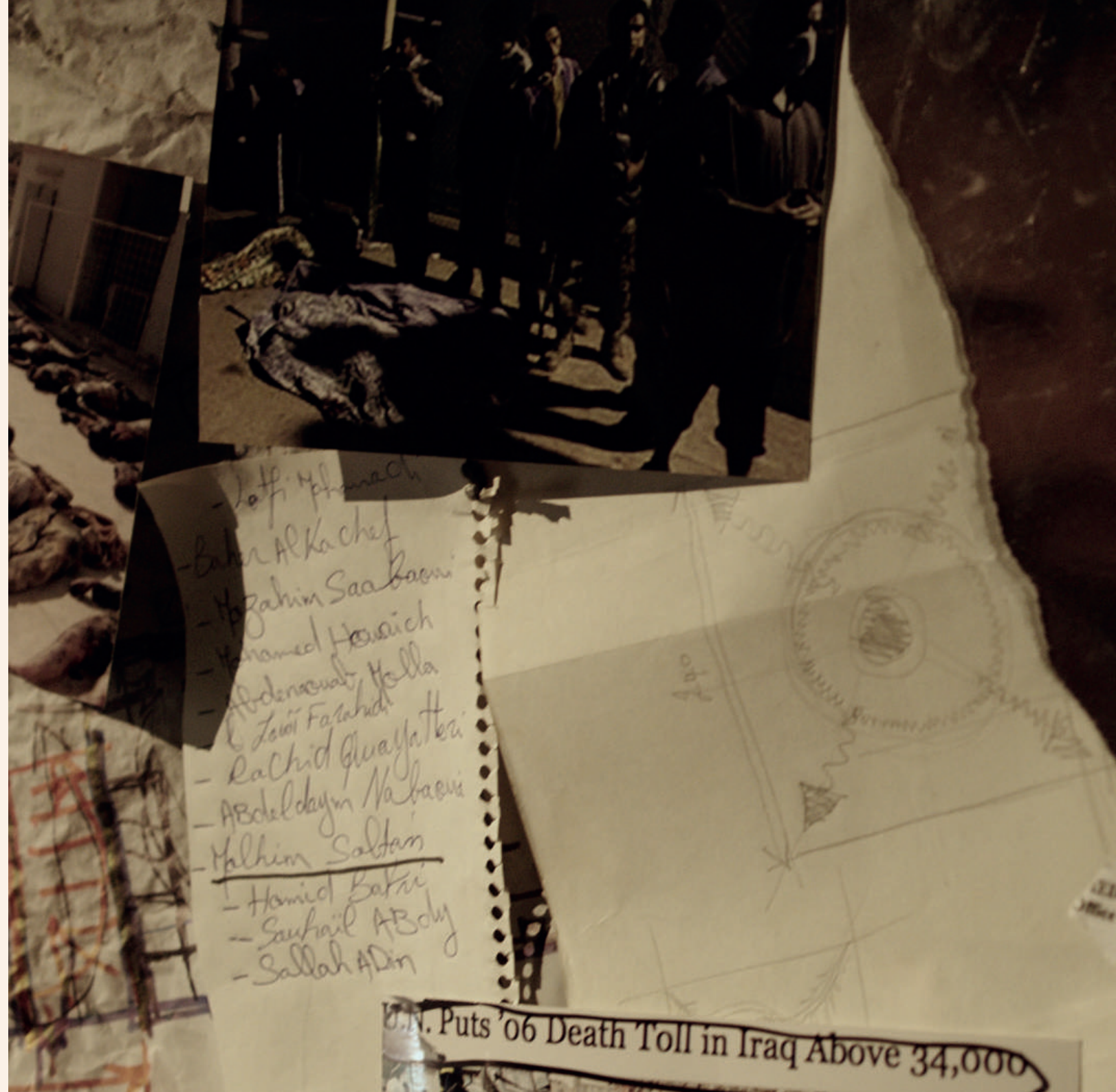




## TALA HADID (Director)

Writer/Director/Photographer TALA HADID made her first full-length documentary film *Sacred Poet* on Pier Paolo Pasolini. The author of several short films, she completed *Tes Cheveux Noirs Ihsan* which received an Academy Award, and won the Panorama Best Short Film Award at the Berlin Film Festival. It went on to win several prizes including the Kodak/Cinecolor Prize, Best film and Best actress award at the Tangiers National Film Festival and awards from the Global Film Initiative, the Milos Forman grant, and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. Hadid's work has screened, among other venues, at the MoMA in New York City, L'Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, the Goteberg Kunsthalle in Sweden, the Goethe Institute/Cairo, the Los Angeles County Museum, la Cinémathèque Française in Paris and the Photographer's Gallery in London.

In 2012 she was awarded the Peter S Reed Foundation Arts grant in support of her work, most specifically *House in the Fields*, a documentary film project of rural life in the Atlas mountains in Morocco. In the autumn of 2013, the Fine Art photography publisher *Stern* published a volume of a selection of Hadid's photographs as part of its *Stern Fotografie Portfolio* series of emerging photographers.





## FILM NOTES

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The Narrow Frame of Midnight charts the journeys of several characters as they struggle to find their place in the world; in search of the living and of the dead, of others and of themselves. The paths of these characters intersect at different points in the film and though their destinies eventually diverge, they are connected in profound ways. The arc of each respective journey reflects and informs the circuit of the other journeys. Three of the characters (Aïcha, Zacaria and Judith) are people who are searching; they are explorers who at different points decide to take the leap and embark on a voyage whose end is unknown. The Greeks believed, as writer Jeanette Winterson reminds us, that the hidden life demands invisible ink. And so in a way, the characters with whom we travel in The Narrow Frame of Midnight are people who have decided to discern the hidden story within themselves and to continue to write it at any cost.

The film explores, among other things, questions that deal with the state of 'non-belonging', the condition of countless peoples - migrants, refugees, exiles and nomads - all of whom share and inhabit a particular

space of displacement and transit that has come to define the 21st century in a profound way. What is this space of being 'inbetween' things? What is reflected in the mirror between the West and East? Or the North and South? What occurs on the frontier between memory and history? In the The Narrow Frame of Midnight borders are constantly shifting, things are lost, then re-found and lost again.

In the film there is perhaps only one character who exists apart from the others, who possesses real strength of character - it is the young child Aïcha. Her world, that of childhood, stands apart and inviolable. And though she faces the worst brutalities and desolation in the adult world, she remains the most powerful, courageous and free of all the characters. She, above all the others, sees. She is the one with the gift of real and untainted sight, despite the hardship and cruelty of the world around her.





## KHALID ABDALLA (Zacaria)

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Khalid Abdalla is a British born Egyptian actor, producer and film-maker. Credits as an actor include Paul Greengrass's Oscar nominated *United 93*, Marc Foster's *The Kite Runner* and *Green Zone*, which reunited him with Paul Greengrass and in which he starred opposite Matt Damon. Khalid recently appeared in the Academy Award nominated documentary *The Square*.

He is the co-founder of Zero Production, Mosireen and Cimatheque in Cairo, Egypt working respectively on independent film production, alternative citizen based media, and film education and screening. He is a fellow of the Serpentine Gallery's Edgware Road project, and on the board of the UK National Student Drama Festival, and no.w.here, an artist run organization combining film production with critical dialogue about image making. He lives and works in Cairo and London.



## MARIE-JOSÉE CROZE (Judith)

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Marie-Josée Croze began her career studying Fine Art before opting for the stage at La Veillée-Prospero Theatre workshop in Montréal. In 2000, she received both the Jutra and Genie best actress Awards for her performance in Denis Villeneuve's *Maelström*. She went on to work with Atom Egoyan in *Ararat* and in 2003 won the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival for her performance in Oscar winning film *The Barbarian Invasions* by Denys Arcand. She has subsequently gone on to star in numerous European and International film productions including *Munich* by Steven Spielberg, *Tell No one* by Guillaume Canet, *Mensonges et trahisons* by Laurent Tirard, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* by Julian Schnabel and most recently *Calvary* directed by John Michael McDonagh, *Le Regne de la Beaute* reuniting her with Denys Arcand and *Everything will be Fine* directed by Wim Wenders.





## FADWA BOUJOUANE (Aïcha)

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Fadwa Boujouane is a native of the “Cuba” neighborhood of Casablanca, Morocco. She is seven years old. This is her first film.

## CAST

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<b>Khalid Abdalla</b>	Zacaria
<b>Marie-Josée Croze</b>	Judith
<b>Fadwa Boujouane</b>	Aïcha
<b>Hocine Choutri</b>	Abbas
<b>Majdouline Idrissi</b>	Nadia
<b>Hindi Zahra</b>	Milouda
<b>Samir El Hakim</b>	the Stranger
<b>Nabil Maleh</b>	the Bookseller

## CREW

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<b>Tala Hadid</b>	Script
<b>Alexander Burov</b>	Director of Photography
<b>Joelle Hache</b>	Editor
<b>Dominique Lacloche</b>	Art Director
<b>Ali Cherkaoui</b>	1st Assistant Director
<b>Jamie McPhee</b>	Sound designer
<b>Jean Claude</b>	Color Grading









## ALEXANDER BUROV (Director of Photography)

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Alexander Burov was born on 2 August 1958 in Leningrad. In 1981 Alexander graduated from the Camera Department at the All-Union Institute for Cinematography (VGIK, Studio of T. Lobova). He has worked on over 40 films, notably for the Russian director Alexander Sokurov, with whom he has been a constant collaborator. His films as cinematographer include among many others: *And Nothing More*, *Evening Sacrifice*, *Moscow Elegy*, *Maria* and *Spiritual Voices*. In 1990 and 1992 respectively his films *The Second Circle* and *Stone* were listed by Susan Sontag in Art Forum as two of her favorite films of the decade. Burov went on to film Berlin Film Festival prized *The Italian* and award-winning *Father and Son* and *Alexandra*, both Cannes Film Festival nominees for the Palme d'Or.

## JOELLE HACHE (Editor)

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Joelle Hache is one of the leading film editors working in France. She has edited over 40 films including: multiple award-winning *Camille Claudel* (nominated for an Oscar and Golden Globe) with Isabelle Adjani, award-winning *The Hairdresser's Husband*, Golden Globe nominated *La Fille sur le Pont* with Daniel Auteuil, Oscar nominated *Urga: close to Eden* by Nikita Mikalkhov, Oscar nominated Farinelli winner of several prizes including Golden Globe for best foreign film, and Palme d'Or and Oscar nominated *Ridicule*. Joelle lives in Paris.



## CAT VILLIERS: Producer / AUTONOMOUS LIMITED

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Cat Villiers has produced, executive produced and co-produced many award winning films. Her first feature film was Milcho Manchevski's *BEFORE THE RAIN*, winner of the Venice Film Festival's Golden Lion and an Academy Award Nomination. Other credits include; Bernard Rose's *IVANS XTC* with Danny Huston; Golden Globe and Academy Award winner *NO MANS LAND*, directed by Danis Tanovic; acclaimed Western *THE PROPOSITION*, written by Nick Cave and directed by John Hillcoat; Danis Tanovic's *CIRKUS COLUMBIA* and Hanan Abdalla's award winning documentary *IN THE SHADOW OF A MAN*. She is currently in post-production on; *IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE CITY* directed by Tamer El Said, feature documentary *THE VOTE* directed by Hanan Abdalla and Cressida Trew, a new film by Danis Tanovic and Faruk Sabanovic's feature animation *BIRDS LIKE US*. Cat is a Trustee, with directors Mike Leigh and Simon McBurney of the Katrin Cartlidge Foundation, a charitable trust that supports new directorial talent. Recipients of the award include Cary Joji Fukunaga (*Sin Nombre/True Detective*), Academy nominated Juanita Wilson (*The Door/As if I am not There*), Hala Lotfy (*Coming Forth by Day*), Syrian film makers Orwa Nyrabia and Diana El Jeroudia, and Dyana Gaye (*Under the Starry Sky*).



## KHADIJA ALAMI: Producer / K FILMS

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Khadija Alami is a Moroccan Producer who has been working across all areas of production since the 1980s. Throughout her career she has been committed to developing the film industry in Morocco and in 1989 she launched K Films to providing crew and production services to international productions on the one hand and to foster and develop local talent on the other. Her credits include, *Captain Phillips*, *Complicit*, *Home of the Brave*, *Le thé ou l'électricité* and *The Narrow Frame of Midnight* amongst many other documentaries and shorts.

## JOSLYN BARNES: Producer / LOUVERTURE FILMS

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Joslyn Barnes is a writer and producer who together with actor Danny Glover co-founded Louverture Films, a company dedicated to the development and production of films of historical relevance, social purpose, commercial value and artistic integrity. Among the films Barnes has executive produced or produced are the César-nominated *BAMAKO*, Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner and Oscar nominated *TROUBLE THE WATER*, the award-winning *BLACK POWER MIXTAPE 1967-1975*, the Sundance Grand Jury Prize, Grierson and Peabody winner *THE HOUSE I LIVE IN*, the Berlinale prize-winning *CONCERNING VIOLENCE*, and the forthcoming *NARROW FRAME OF MIDNIGHT*. She associate produced Elia Suleiman's *THE TIME THAT REMAINS*, and the 2010 Cannes Palme d'Or winner *UNCLE BOONMEE WHO CAN RECALL HIS PAST LIVES* by Apichatpong Weerasethakul. She is currently producing *THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING* for Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein, and *SHADOW WORLD* for Johan Grimmonprez.

## CEDOMIR KOLAR and MARC BASCHET: Co- Producer / ASAP FILMS

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Cedomir and Mark have produced, among many other films, "Before the Rain" by Milcho Manchevskii, "Kini and Adams" and "Afrique mon Afrique" by Idrissa Ouedraogo, "Train de vie" by Radu Mihaileanu, "Heaven" by Tom Tykwer "The Adoptive Son" and "The Chimp" by Aktan Arym Kubat (a.k.a. Abdykalykov), "Il Tempo dell'Amore" by Giacomo Campiotti, "No Man's Land" by Danis Tanovic with whom they created the production company A.S.A.P. Films. The company went on to produce Tanovic's *Hell* written by Krzysztof Piesiewicz, *Triage*, with Colin Farrell, Christopher Lee and Paz Vega, *Cirkus Columbia*, *The Light Thief* by Aktan Arym Kubat, (Cannes Directors fortnight), Benjamin Filipovic's film *Well Tempered Corpses*, Serbian director Srdjan Karanovic's *Besa* as well as three films by Marion Hänsel: *The Sound of Sand*, *Black Ocean* and *La Tendresse*. The company recently produced *The Lunchbox* by Ritesh Batra (Cannes 2013 Critic's Week), as well as *A Day in the Life of an Iron Picker* (2 Silver Bears in Berlin). It is in production on Danis Tanovic's project, *White Lies* and in development of *Le Mystère Trannoy*, by Avril Tembouret and Vladimir Rodionoff, *Centaur*, Aktan Arym Kubat's latest feature film, Suha Arraf's *The Poster*, *Chingari – The Spark* by Rajesh Jala.





## CENTRE CINÉMATOGRAPHIQUE MAROCAIN

The Centre Cinématographique Marocain (CCM) established January 9, 1944 is the principle body in charge of organizing and promoting the film industry in Morocco. It oversees the application of the laws and regulations concerning all areas of the industry as well as supporting national cinema. The CCM also manages a Cinémathèque that works towards the conservation of a national and international film heritage.

*This film was made possible in part with support from the Sundance Institute Feature Film Program and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.*

*Developed with the Support of the British Film Institute, and produced with the support of Le Fonds Francophone Audiovisuelle du Sud, Hogus Bogus, The Frame, Alwan Foundation for the Arts and Karma Films.*

## DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation. It supports the growth of the local film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar. The Institute's platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal Youth Film Festival; and the Qumra Doha Film Festival. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

[DohaFilmInstitute.com](http://DohaFilmInstitute.com)





A man in a dark suit and carrying a large bag walks away from the camera on a paved road. The road is flanked by a dirt embankment with several concrete pillars. In the background, there are more pillars and a building under a sky with dramatic, cloudy light.

wide  
presents

# إطار الضيق

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