



# HEART OF THE CITY

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**Heart Of The City is the latest drama from Turkey's top producers Ay Yapim, brand new for 2017. The series stars Kerem Bürsin as the long lost son of a former boxing champ, unexpectedly reunited with a city, and a trauma, that he hoped to have left behind. The appearance of a new love interest may ease the transition back to life in the city however...**

Ali, a handsome sailor with a traumatic past, encounters the beautiful aspiring ballet dancer Derin. It's the start of a city adventure but most of all a love story against all odds.

Ali has been at sea since he was a little boy. When he was 4 years old, he witnessed his father murdering his mother. A cargo ship cook Rauf, was also witness to the incident and took little Ali, raising him as his own, out at sea. Ali has problems forgetting the past and channels his anger towards his father in to boxing. Fighting on the boat, he never loses a match. What Ali doesn't know is that the man that killed his mother isn't his biological father at all. In fact he was conceived following a forbidden affair between his mother and the former boxing champion, Şahin.

His grief over his mother's death prohibits him from disembarking the ship whenever it moors at his home city, Istanbul. However when Rauf one day makes up an elaborate excuse that forces Ali off the vessel, he meets Derin, an aspiring ballet dancer and daughter of the powerful ship-owner Metin. From the very first moment he lays eyes on Derin, Ali is mesmerised by her. When he sees her losing one of her ballet shoes he doesn't hesitate to set off to deliver it to her. Without enough money, Ali is forced to leave his ID to the cab driver as a deposit as he runs after Derin. He follows her in to an audition where he sees Derin dance and is spellbound by her. His efforts to bring her the shoe in turn make her infatuated with him. This is the beginning of Derin and Ali's adventure; to find the taxi driver with Ali's ID, to discover Istanbul, but most of all to fall in love with each other.

Genre

**Drama Series**

Length

**60 x 45 min**

Broadcaster

**ATV**

Rights holder

**Ay Yapim**

Available as

**Format and finished episodes**







# HEART OF THE CITY



## **Introduction**

Heart of the City's first episode was broadcast January 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 on ATV and went straight to the top. The show star world famous actors as Kerem Bursin in the role as the young handsome sailor, Ali and Leyla Lydia Tuğutlu as the enchanting and talented ballet dancer Derin.

## **Synopsis**

Ali works on the same Cargo ship as his father figure Rauf, the cook. Rauf takes care of everyone on the ship like a mother, hence the nickname, "Mom". Ali is a talented boxer and sometimes he participates in fights on the ship to earn some extra money.

The ship is to lay anchor in Istanbul and Ali hasn't been back to his home town for 24 years. It reminds him of the terrible event when he was a little boy and witnessed his mother getting murdered by his father.

Derin is the daughter of Tekin Mirkelamoglu, a wealthy ship owner. She is engaged to her childhood friend Yigit. As their wedding day is getting closer Derin is having doubts about the marriage. She feels that Yigit is not the right guy for her and it feels like he is keeping something secret from her. Derin has a hunch and follows Yigit with her friend in a cab. Her fiancé has told her that he is going to Ankara for business but instead she sees him entering a hotel in Istanbul. Derin leaves her friend outside the hotel and enters. Derin is convinced that she will find her fiancé with another woman but instead she ends up interrupting a business meeting. The young couple have a squabble making Yigit question their relationship. Struggling with "cold feet" she goes to her friend who is waiting for her outside the hotel. Derin confides in her friend that she is not sure about her love for Yigit.

Sahin, a former boxing champion owns a gym where he coaches boxers. He is trying to make ends meet but it is difficult after having spent 24 years in prison for having killed the love of his life's murderer. He got himself in to financial trouble before he was jailed and his debt of 7,000 Turkish Lira is long overdue and has to be paid – 24 years' worth of interest have accrued, making this a huge sum of money.

The guy Ali beat in a boxing match on the ship wants his money back and ambushes him with help of two friends. The whole thing goes terribly wrong and a fire accidentally starts on the ship, injuring Ali's opponent. Ali tries to help the guy by putting out the fire but the accident ends up causing a delay in the shipment.

Derin is having dinner with her family and asks her parents for a day alone with her friends, without any wedding plans. Her father allows it since Yigit is away on business and he hopes a day off with her friends might be good for Derin, making her come to her senses regarding the wedding. When mother and daughter are alone, her mother tells her that she knows the real reason why Derin wants the day off; so she can attend a dance audition. Her father overhears the conversation and uses his influence to make the dance agency take Derin's name off the audition list.

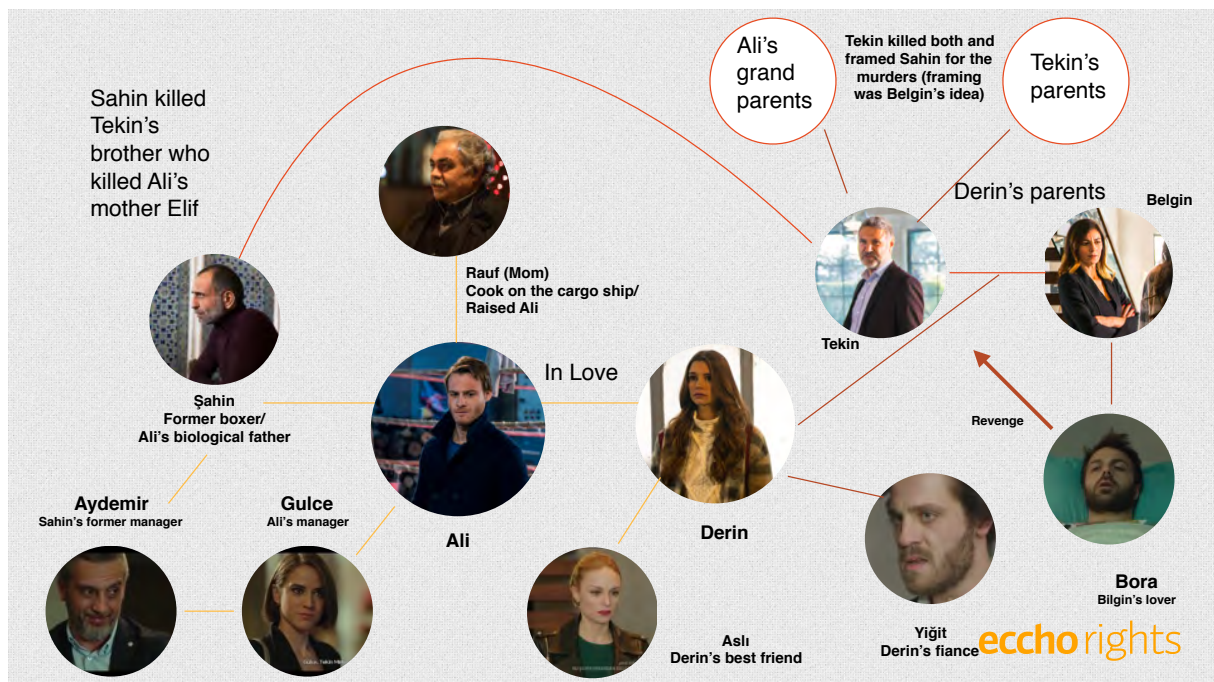


Rauf - "Mom" - texts Sahin telling him about a young talent he wants to introduce to him. When the two men meet Rauf tells Sahin that the talent is Ali, his son with Elif, the woman he loved. Sahin is shocked by the news.

When Derin gets to know about her father's interference with her upcoming audition she is furious with him and decides to live this day as only she wishes. Derin decides to dance one last time and rushes to make the audition, but on her way there she drops her ballet shoe. Ali sees her dropping the shoe and tries to catch up with her. His efforts to return the shoe to this beautiful woman takes him to the place where the audition is held. Since he hasn't enough money on him for the cab fare he leaves his passport as a deposit before running into the conservatory. In there he sees Derin dancing and is mesmerized by her talent and beauty. Afterwards he returns the shoe to her and Derin is flattered by his efforts to help. When she learns that the cab driver has driven off with Ali's passport she insists to help him retrieve it and the two end up spending the day together.

As the day passes Derin and Ali get to know more about each other and they fully enjoy each other's company. By the evening they have fallen in love and saying goodbye is heart breaking for both of them. Ali is to sail next morning but Rauf has other plans for him... Without Ali knowing, he has tampered with his passport making it impossible for him to return to the ship. Rauf tells Ali to go to Sahin and without Ali knowing it, father and son are reunited. But what about the girl, will fate reunite Ali with Derin or will it be too late....

## Relationship Chart



## Main characters



**Ali:** saw his mother getting shot by his father when he was a little child. Rauf, a chef on a cargo ship witnessed the horrible event and takes Ali under his wings. Rauf cares for the boy greatly and he is the person Ali values most. Despite a hard life growing up at sea, he is a well-educated young man and speaks several languages. Ali is a talented boxer and he sometimes fights for money on the ship.



**Derin:** is the daughter of the famous ship-owner, Tekin Mirkelamoğlu. She is engaged to Yiğit, whom she grew up with and he is considered to be the perfect match for her. When their upcoming wedding is getting closer, Derin starts to have doubts about Yiğit and questions what she wants out of life. Her big dream is to become a professional dancer but her family is against it.



**Şahin:** a former boxing Champion but nowadays he runs his own gym where he works as a coach. He was imprisoned after having killed the man who murdered the woman he loved, Ali's mother. He is struggling to get by in life but it isn't easy with a lot of debts. When he is about to give up on life, he meets Ali and suddenly life has a meaning again.

**Rauf:** works as a cook on cargo ships and is the only one that knows the truth about the murder of Ali's mother. Rauf's life changed when Ali came along and he became a dedicated parent to the boy. He loves Ali as if he was his own son and they have a close relationship. The cook is liked by the crew for his caring personality and goes under the nickname "Mother". Rauf is severely ill and he doesn't think he has much time left to live. This is the reason for returning to İstanbul with Ali - to bring back what was once entrusted to him.

**Tekin:** Derin's father and married to Belgin. When his older brother married, his life changed drastically. After Tekin's brother was killed by Şahin, he changed his surname and began a new life. He managed to become a rich and well known ship-owner. Tekin makes sure no one gets to know about his secret past.

**Yiğit:** Derin's fiancé. They have known each other since childhood. He is Süreyya's only child and his father lives abroad due to a lawsuit. Yiğit carries out international trade for Tekin but is also involved in illegal smuggling, using his future father in law's ships for his dirty business.

**Belgin:** Tekin Mirkelamoğlu's wife and Derin's mother. A beautiful and attractive woman. She is fond of her daughter, but is indifferent to her dreams. Belgin gives the impression of merely being an innocent housewife but it is all an act. Under the surface there is a cunning woman who was the cause of a lot of events that are now well kept secrets in the past.

**Aslı:** Derin's close ally, who protects and is concerned about her friend's well being. When Ali appears in Derin's life she is in the beginning opposed him, creating a friction between the two best friends. But as Derin's feelings for Ali get stronger Aslı comes to accept him and supports her friend's choice.

**Oğuz:** has known Derin and Yiğit since childhood and they went to the same school. He is Yiğit's close friend, who watches out for him all the time.

**Zeyno:** a friend in common to Yiğit and Derin. Her father is a famous lawyer and Tekin Mirkelamoğlu is one of his clients. Zeyno is a wealthy and sophisticated young woman. When it comes to taking sides in her friendship to the young couple, she always stands by Yiğit.

**Nesrin:** Ambulance nurse and Veysel's mother. She lost her husband at a young age and has raised her son singlehandedly. Nesrin lives in the same neighbourhood as Şahin but she always kept her distance from him since he is a convicted murderer. Nesrin doesn't want Veysel to get close to Şahin but as she gets to know him a new friendship develops and love starts to flourish between them.

**Veysel:** Nesrin's son, a smart 9-10 year old boy. He adores the former boxing champion Şahin Vargı and he is his best friend. Şahin is like a father figure for him and their friendship has a healing effect on both of them.

**Seyit:** Tekin's right hand man. He is the most important bridge between Tekin and Şahin Vargı.

**Elif:** Ali's mother, she died when he was only four years old. When Elif was pregnant with Ali, she was forced to marry Mithat, whom she didn't love. When the truth about her real love came out she was killed by her husband.

**Mithat:** Elif's husband and Tekin's older brother. Ali thinks that Mithat is his father, when he discovers the truth about his real father, this becomes a major turning point in the story.

**Süreyya:** Yiğit's mother. She is a young and beautiful mother. Süreyya gives the impression of being a sympathetic and kind person but underneath her façade there is a sly and cunning woman. Her husband lives abroad avoiding a lawsuit. While her husband is away, she has reorganized her life with her son and nothing is what it seems to be...

**Rüksan:** Derin's dance teacher at the conservatory. She is the woman who helps Derin in realizing her dreams of becoming a professional dancer.