

Rendition 2

(anw)

(
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Anwar

Hello? There's been some kind of mistake. Why have my clothes been taken from me? I want my clothes. No one has told me why I'm here or what I've done. This is crazy! I want my clothes. And I want to speak to a lawyer immediately!

Interrogator

Yes, of course you do. I have just a few questions. If you answer them honestly, we can send you home.

Anwar

I've lived in the United States for twenty years. I am married to an American citizen.

Interrogator

You are Egyptian, are you not? You are Egyptian.

Anwar

Yes, I was born in Egypt. But I came to the states when I was fourteen years old. I studied at NYU. I got my masters...

Interrogator

Yes, yes, yes. I have it all here. Your English is beautiful. What language do you speak with Rashid?

Anwar

I don't know who that is. I've never talked to anyone named Rashid.

Interrogator

So, how do you explain these calls?

Anwar

What? It must be a mistake. Maybe it's a mix-up. My name is "El-Ibrahim-ee." But sometimes people call me "El-Ibrahim." But it's "Ibrahim-ee" with an "I."

Interrogator

With an "I" "Ibrahim-ee." Yes, very good. Phone records, Rashid Salimi and one El-Ibrahimi, with an "I." Don't tell me he didn't call you. All this info, it's lies.

Anwar

I don't know.

Interrogator

You never get calls from Egypt?

Anwar

No. yes, I mean, yes. My family is in Egypt.

Interrogator

Then, they call you.

Anwar

Of course, they call me.

Interrogator

Of course. About what?

Anwar

Little things. Family things.

Interrogator

Like what? Like...

Anwar

Like... my Uncle Yusef. He called, asking if NYU is a good school for his... for my cousin.

Interrogator

Yusef who?

(BEAT)

Yusef Abdul Hamid?

Anwar

Yes.

Interrogator

Where is he?

Anwar

What?

Interrogator

Your uncle. Where is your uncle?

Anwar

Why? Why do you want to talk to my uncle?

Interrogator

My friend, put yourself in our position. A criminal named Rashid has been on a bombing campaign for two years. In the last few months, suddenly his explosives are more sophisticated, more deadly. You are an engineer. You have the chemical know-how. We have direct calls linking to you from a number linked to Rashid. What are we to think? You tell me. What are we thinking?

Anwar

It's a mistake. It's a mistake.

Interrogator

A mistake. What if I were to tell you that we have a signed confession from one of Rashid's lieutenants, that you have been aiding them for more than a year?

Anwar

Then I'd say you were lying.