



Witness Card for Investigator #4 – Amira, age 24

Thank you for meeting me here at the Panorama Mall. I didn't know if they would send a male or female investigator, and it's not appropriate for me (a woman) to talk to a man in a private place. You'll have to come back here for *iftar*, the breaking of the Ramadan fast, some evening. The food at the Savannah Restaurant is really good. But, of course, it – and all the other restaurants – are closed now. In Oman we don't serve food during the daylight hours in Ramadan. Non-Muslims can eat, but they do so privately.

That reminds me (since that restaurant I mentioned has African cuisine): Did you know that a big part of John's book – the one he was writing – is about Oman's relationship with Zanzibar? He was a businessman but also someone with a passion for history. I know because I share that interest, and he often talked to me about it. John was always pursuing our history – I know that he made some trips into the interior of the country (around Nizwa, the site of our religious caliphate) and to Salalah and even all the way down to Zanzibar. He spoke Arabic well, and, I think, he was learning Swahili too. I always admired his facility with languages.

I've known John for about 2 years since I teach Arabic and do Arabic-English translation work for his company. However, I can't say that I knew him extremely well because I never saw him outside of the office. That wouldn't have been appropriate. But we would talk about history sometimes, at work. My father worried that I was in too close contact with a foreign man, but it wasn't like that. My father knew that too, deep down, but he worried about my honor, so I made extra efforts not to be alone with John. But I liked talking with him....

I spent more time with his sister, who would come to visit sometimes and who would stop by the office. Cara – that's his sister – and I would sometimes go shopping together. She's a bit flighty – used to spending a lot of money even when she doesn't have it, but she's a kind person. She and her brother are – were – close. They were the only ones left in the family after their parents died in a car accident a few years ago. I think it was just before John came to Oman. Maybe that's *why* he came – to recover from grief.

Anyway, I don't know if any of this is helpful to you. I don't know why someone would want to kill him. John was a really wonderful person, and we'll all miss him. And I'm not sure what will become of the company now. I mean, his business partner, Harish, is a great manager, but he's more interested in the business end of things. John did the day-to-day running of the teaching programs (staffing, educational oversight, etc.). I hope that all of us will have jobs in the future – though I myself don't know how I can stand to remain there when John's absence will be felt so strongly.