



Witness Card for Investigator #3 – Nala, Age 22

Welcome to the cloves plantation. I am happy to take visitors through such an important part of the history and culture of this island – and all the islands of the archipelago that makes up Zanzibar. I have studied history and can answer any questions you might have.

Oh, you don't want to go on the full tour right now? But you have some questions about an American visitor? I don't really remember. We have many foreign visitors – not so many local people, since they already know the history and what clove trees look like! Do you have a photo? I think I remember him a little bit. Was he here with a local man? Oh yes, and was he writing a book about Oman and Zanzibar? I remember a man asking a lot of questions about our history and life. I'm not good at remembering faces, but I am very good at remembering people's personalities and interests.

No, I never saw him except for that one tour. It's not as if we tour guides normally see people socially that we meet while working. I've never heard of such a thing happening. My father wouldn't let me work here if that were the case! You can see from my head-scarf that I've been brought up properly.

I'm sorry, but I don't believe that someone would want to kill him – or anyone – because of what he was learning about the spice trade and about Zanzibar's inclusion in the world slave trade in the 19th century especially. Indeed, it is an unhappy time in our history, but it's hardly something new and unknown. Even Omanis recognize that it happened – just as you Americans know about your own history of slavery. So I don't have any answers for you. Are you sure it has anything to do with Zanzibar? We are a rather relaxed and friendly people. Hakuna matata – no worries – as we say in Swahili.

Are you sure that you don't want to go on the tour anyway? It may not help you with your murder investigation, but it's such an interesting and important story.