

Scene: We're just following orders.

Setting: A plain waiting room with two chairs. White walls. Fluorescent light.

Characters:

- LENA: calm, sharp, detached. Wears bureaucracy like armor.

- JAMAL: sarcastic, fiery, masked by a dry sense of humor. His patience is almost up, but he's playing it cool.

Premise: Jamal has been summoned for a mysterious 'citizenship eligibility interview'. The conversation starts polite and turns into a Kafkaesque interrogation. The irony builds as Lena defends "neutral" policy with cold, coded phrases while Jamal pokes holes in the system.

LENA: Mr. Jamal Hassan? Thank you for waiting and being ready. This will just take a moment.

JAMAL: Of course. I was born ready. Just not born in the right country! Ha, ha!

LENA: (polite smile) We appreciate your punctuality. Let's begin with a few formalities. Have you ever committed an act which may be considered... unpatriotic?

JAMAL: (moment in disbelief) Unpatriotic? Like not reading 'Die Bild' religiously in the morning?

LENA: I mean... any activity that may signal ideological divergence.

JAMAL: Ideological divergence?? ... well I once called the Chancellor a Pretzel with fascist tendencies. Does that count?

LENA: (typing) Satirical remarks made in public forums are logged, yes.

JAMAL: So you've got my tweets. Cute.

LENA: We archive for security continuity.

JAMAL: You mean historical revision.

LENA: (pause) Words have consequences, Mr. Hassan.

JAMAL: Yes, and yet here I am, being judged by someone who speaks like a Terms & Conditions page.

LENA: Let's proceed. Do you hold any affiliations with groups critical of the State?

JAMAL: (Disbelief) Define "group."

LENA: Organizations, collectives, book clubs, online circles—

JAMAL: Ah. Well, my Oma's (i.e. grandmother in German) WhatsApp group discusses overpriced mangoes, the state of the U8 and the genocides in Palestine, Congo and Sudan. Does that qualify?

LENA: Possibly.

JAMAL: Well then. Lock my bubba up.

LENA: We don't incarcerate. We observe patterns.

JAMAL: So my purchasing of a free Palestine hat or t-shirt or wearing a Kiffeyeh is logged somewhere in your system?

LENA: Everything is context-dependent.

JAMAL: And whose context wins?

LENA: (pauses) The prevailing one.

JAMAL: Right. The one with uniforms and logos and press conferences.

LENA: Mr. Hassan, this is not a debate.

JAMAL: It never is, is it? It's a formality. A nice, civil, bureaucratic exorcism.

LENA: Your sarcasm is noted.

JAMAL: (a bit frustrated) Good. That's the most recognition I've had in months.

LENA: (slightly softened) Look, I don't write the questions. I just process the answers.

JAMAL: Yes, you follow orders, you just follow in the footsteps of every single person following orders, all of history's misfortunes are because of people who just follow orders even when they knew something was fundamentally wrong. Thank you for your time. I hope you will see that this country is repeating the same mistakes and that only people like you have the power to change its course. Ciao.