

ZAHRA PICTURES LLC  
A FATHER TAKEN

00:00:32  
NURI (V.O.) My father was abducted by aliens.

00:00:36  
(cont'd)  
NURI (V.O.) A couple of months ago, they took him from our house.

00:00:40  
FBI AGENTS Don't move... Don't Move... Get down... Stop resisting...

00:00:52  
DAHLIA Stop...

00:01:38  
CASHIER How did you want to pay?

00:01:41  
(cont'd)  
CASHIER Excuse me.

00:01:43  
DAHLIA Oh... Sorry!

00:01:44  
CASHIER How did you want to pay for that?

00:01:45  
DAHLIA Credit card!

00:01:46  
NURI When they walked in, they walked past me with these big buckets. And then they all went out the front door and took my dad...

00:01:54  
ADIB Come on, Nuri. Stop bothering this guy. He's trying to work.

00:01:56  
(cont'd)  
ADIB Sorry about my brother. He's crazy. You can ignore him.

00:02:00  
NURI (V.O.) It looked just like how the books describe abductions...

00:02:04:16  
NURI With men in black suits and large one-eyed creatures.

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00:02:09

NURI

At first our mom -- well, really she's our step-mom since she married my dad after our real mom died -- didn't want me and Adib go to school after our dad was taken. But, a couple days later, my aunts told my mom that we should go back to school.

00:02:28

NURI'S AUNT

Maybe you should let me take the boys to stay with the rest of the family.

00:02:31

DAHLIA

No. No. Absolutely not! They are staying here with me.

00:02:36

NURI'S AUNT

But, Dahlia, you have way too much to deal with just

00:02:39

DAHLIA

I've been raising them in our household since they were toddlers. They are my responsibility. I am taking care of them.

00:02:47

NURI (V.O.)

I guess I was glad to go back to school.

00:02:50

NURI

I really wanted my dad back, but people weren't really telling me or Adib anything about where he had gone and I was getting bored sitting at home all the time.

00:02:58

NURI'S AUNT

Yes, we already found somebody to help us with the case. And I'm here in the house with the children, and Dahlia too, so it's ok if you don't find a flight until next week even... Yes--la'a (Arabic). Stop, please. We can't have this conversation over the phone. You know...

00:03:16

NURI (V.O.)

I wanted to see my friends. And I didn't want to see people crying anymore, especially our mom.

00:03:30

NURI

Plus I wanted to do more research at the library, since I didn't believe my aunts when they told me it was bad men who took Baba.

00:03:37

NURI

I already know a lot about aliens since I've read almost every book in the library about them.

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00:03:44

(cont'd)

NURI

Like, did you know that some researchers believe that they come to earth all the time, and they've been coming since before even the pyramids were built?

00:03:52

NURI

But even though my mom has always called me the space expert of the family, I felt like none of the adults trusted that I knew enough to help.

00:04:01

NURI

Especially since there's some guy, Mr. Robertson, who's been at the house a lot, who they say is going to get my dad back.

00:04:14

NURI

I don't know, though. To me, Mr. Robertson didn't seem to know anything.

00:04:25

NURI'S AUNT(O.S.) So we have to submit this document here.

00:04:26

MR.ROBERTSON(O.S.) Yes, and here. And there are two copies for each of you to fill...

00:04:28:08

NURI (O.S.)

Mr. Robertson? Mr. Robertson?

00:04:31

Mr. Robertson

Hey, Nuri. What can I help you with?

00:04:34

DAHLIA

Nuri! You're supposed to be at the park playing with your brother. I don't want to tell you again to not interrupt when we're having adult-only meetings.

00:04:41

MR. ROBERTSON

It's Ok, Mrs. Salaam, It's Ok. Nuri, How can I help you?

00:04:45

NURI

Mr. Robertson, do you think it's possible for aliens to take the form of humans?

00:04:50

DAHLIA

That's it. Back to the park!

00:04:53

MR. ROBERTSON

Well...

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00:04:58  
DAHLIA Mr. Robertson has too much work to do for these games.

00:05:03  
DAHLIA And I've told you three times now to move your sandals out of the front door's way.

00:05:07  
DAHLIA If I see you or your brother back in this house before I tell you to come back in, there'll be some serious trouble. You got me, mister?

00:05:14  
NURI But, Mom, I don't think Mr. Robertson knows what he's doing--

00:05:18  
DAHLIA Out. Yalla yalla (Arabic)!

00:05:38  
ADIB Hey, guys, wait up. I see my brother.

00:05:42  
ADIB Where did you go? You're supposed to stay here at the park with me until Dahlia gets us.

00:05:45  
NURI Shut up. I was doing stuff.

00:05:46  
ADIB Don't tell me to shut up.

00:05:49  
NEW KID 1 Hey, let us play.

00:05:50  
ADIB'S FRIEND Sorry, we're waiting for them over there.

00:05:50  
NEW KID 1 Those kids, what do you need them for?

00:05:56  
ADIB Go play on the slide or something. I'm still playing soccer.

00:05:58  
NURI I want to play too.

00:06:01  
ADIB All right, don't make us lose, though.

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00:06:04  
ADIB Hey guys, I'm still playing. And Nuri's playing too.

00:06:04  
NEW KID 1 look, the teams are even now. We don't need any more players, all right.

00:06:12  
ADIB I was playing before you guys. You took my spot.

00:06:14  
ADIB'S FRIEND Sorry, Adib, It looks like you're out of the game.

00:06:17  
ADIB But, I was playing before these guys even got here.

00:06:19  
NEW KID 2 It looks like there's not a spot for you guys anymore.

00:06:21  
ADIB Well, whatever, we can just play with more players, I guess.

00:06:24  
ADIB'S FRIEND Sorry, Adib...

00:06:26  
ADIB What? What's going on?

00:06:26  
NURI Hey!

00:06:27  
NEW KID 1 Look, even if we needed more players, noone wants you on their team. Right?

00:06:30  
ADIB What? What's going on?

00:06:32  
NEW KID 2 Yeah, we don't want to play with terrorists.

00:06:34  
NEW KID 1 Yeah, Get out of here, you Bin Ladens!

00:06:36  
NURI Hey, don't push Adib! This is community property. We all get to play here--

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00:06:39  
ADIB                   Come on...

00:06:40  
NURI                   But, I want to play in the game.

00:06:41  
ADIB                   Nuri, c'mon!

00:06:43  
NEW KID 1             Oh no! Is the terrorist family going to blow us  
up?!

00:06:46  
NURI                   What are they talking about, Adib?

00:06:50  
(con't)  
NURI                   Huh? What are they talking about?

00:06:51  
ADIB                   Just be quiet and read your stupid book.

00:07:05  
NURI (v.O.)           I've seen what terrorists do.

00:07:08  
NURI                   They come from the sky. And blow up buildings.

00:07:16  
NURI                   Sometimes I wish I could fly.

00:07:20  
NURI                   But, I wouldn't run into buildings or people or  
anything.

00:07:28  
NURI                   I would fly around and save people, and everyone  
would say I was a hero.

00:07:33  
NURI                   No one would call me and Adib terrorists.

00:07:38  
NURI                   Or yell at our mom to go back to where she came  
from.

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00:07:44  
NURI She says life was different for us when I was a little kid.

00:07:48  
NURI No one thought we were different.

00:07:50  
NURI No one used to notice us at all, she said.

00:07:53  
NURI Our mom liked that better.

00:07:55  
DAHLIA Adib! Nuri! Come on.

00:07:58  
NURI Mom!

00:08:23  
NURI (O.S.) Mom, can we go to the beach?

00:08:25  
DAHLIA What?

00:08:27  
NURI Can we go to the beach tomorrow?

00:08:29  
DAHLIA No there's no time tomorrow. I have to pick up your brother after his soccer practice.

00:08:33  
NURI What about after his soccer practice?

00:08:35  
DAHLIA No. It will be too late.

00:08:36  
NURI Then, when can we go?

00:08:38  
DAHLIA Nuri, I don't know. Now stop asking.

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00:08:42  
(con't)  
DAHLIA                   Where is that baking pan?

00:08:43  
NURI                      Can't we go this week?

00:08:45  
DAHLIA                   We are not going until I say we are, and that is  
that.

00:08:51  
DAHLIA                   How'd it get all the way up there?

00:08:55  
DAHLIA                   Where's that husband of mine when I need him?

00:08:57  
NURI                      But, why?

00:08:58  
DAHLIA                   Because I said so.

00:09:00  
NURI                      But, what if--

00:09:01  
DAHLIA                   Nuri!

00:09:03  
NURI                      Our real mom would want to take us if she were  
here.

00:09:08  
DAHLIA                   Yel'an aboutk! (Arabic)

00:09:10  
(con't)  
DAHLIA                   Khalas! (Arabic) I'm the one here with you and  
I'm not taking you to the beach!

00:09:15  
DAHLIA                   We are not going anywhere until your father comes  
back, alright!

00:09:20  
DAHLIA                   And when he does, the only place we are going is  
back to Syria. Now don't ask me again. Do you  
understand?

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00:09:27  
DAHLIA Do you understand me?!

00:09:30  
NURI Yes.

00:09:36  
DAHLIA Go get your brother and both of you wash your hands. It's time for dinner.

00:10:10  
NURI Adib. Adib. Adib.

00:10:17  
ADIB What?

00:10:18  
NURI Are you awake?

00:10:19  
ADIB Maybe... Why?

00:10:21  
NURI I think I know how we can get Baba back.

00:10:24  
ADIB Alright, I'm not awake.

00:10:37  
NURI I think I know where he is.

00:10:39  
ADIB Mr. Robertson already told us. He's in Jamaica.

00:10:42  
NURI No. He said Cuba, not Jamaica. I think he's wrong though.

00:10:46  
ADIB Alright, where do you think he is?

00:10:48  
NURI At the beach.

00:10:49  
ADIB What?

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00:10:50  
NURI In the ocean. Nearby, I think.

00:10:53  
ADIB That's crazy.

00:10:56  
NURI Turn on your light.

00:10:58  
ADIB We're not supposed to be awake. And don't you think you've already made Dahlia mad enough for one day?

00:11:03  
NURI It'll be quick. I just need to show you this one thing.

00:11:12  
ADIB Put the blanket over your head.

00:11:18  
NURI Look.

00:11:24  
NURI (V.O.) Remember how we used to go the beach all the time before Baba disappeared?

00:11:30  
ADIB Yeah, so.

00:12:04  
NURI (V.O.) And remember how he used to tell us not to go into the water too deep or the sea monsters would get us?

00:12:12  
ADIB Come on Nuri. He was just telling us that to keep us from going in too deep.

00:12:15  
NURI That's what you think.

00:12:17  
(con't)  
NURI According to this, there was a woman right here in California who was contacted by aliens through brain waves.

00:12:25  
NURI The aliens told her that some of them live here on Earth. In ships under the ocean.

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00:12:30

(con't)

NURI

So we need to go to the beach and we'll find the aliens.

00:12:34

ADIB

That's ridiculous.

00:12:36

NURI

I knew you were going to say that. Fine then, I'll get him myself.

00:12:46

ADIB

You know you're not allowed to go to the beach by yourself.

00:12:50

ADIB

Nuri.

00:12:51

NURI

What?

00:12:53

ADIB

Just go to bed.

00:13:10

NURI (V.O.)

The next day, after school, I made my plan to go to the beach anyways.

00:13:20

NURI'S AUNT

Nuri? Is that you? Hi Baby...

00:13:23

NURI (V.O.)

I just had to get around my aunt, who I guess, was supposed to baby sit me while my mom was out this afternoon.

00:13:29

NURI'S AUNT

Your step-mother told me to get you started on your homework until she gets back in a couple hours.

00:13:34

(con't)

NURI'S AUNT

But...I made some cookies for you and your brother.

00:13:39

(con't)

NURI'S AUNT

So, if you want you can hang around with me in the kitchen while I get started on your dinner, and, you can have a couple of cookies and a glass of milk. We won't tell Dahlia.

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00:13:51  
NURI Ummm...thank you auntie, but I got to get started on my homework. I've sort of got a lot to do.

00:13:55  
NURI'S AUNT Oh...Alright. But, I will set aside two cookies just for you, just in case you decide to take a break from all that work you have to do.

00:14:05  
NURI OK. Well, I'll go get started on my work now.

00:14:09  
NURI'S AUNT OK.

00:14:51  
NURI (V.O.) So, according to the plan, when I got to the beach, I would go in the water. I'd swim past the point my father told me not to, where the waves break. And I'd find the spacecraft.

00:15:05  
DAHLIA Nuri! We are home.

00:15:08  
(con't)  
DAHLIA Thank you for finally getting your sandals out of the front door's way!

00:15:15  
(con't)  
DAHLIA Nuri! Sho, wenkom? (Arabic)

00:15:18  
NURI'S AUNT Nuri's in his room. He was in a big rush to get started on his homework.

00:15:34  
DAHLIA Nuri?

00:15:42  
NURI (V.O.) And after I found the aliens, I could come get people to help me rescue my father.

00:15:55  
DAHLIA Nuri!

00:15:57  
NURI'S AUNT He has to be here. I've been in the house all afternoon.

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00:16:01  
DAHLIA Adib, check your room again. I'll look out back.

00:16:04  
NURI (V.O.) All I had to do to get started... Was swim out  
into the ocean by myself.

00:16:17  
ADIB Dahlia!

00:17:28  
NURI'S FATHER It's alright, relax...

00:17:31  
LIFEGAURD Relax, I got you. I got you.

00:17:35  
NURI Baba?

00:17:37  
LIFEGUARD Huh? You alright, little buddy?

00:17:42  
LIFEGUARD You speak English?

00:17:43  
NURI You're not my father.

00:17:46  
LIFEGUARD (OS) Sorry, Dude. I'm definitely not your dad.

00:17:50  
(con't)  
LIFEGUARD It'll be OK, guy. Your mom or dad will be here  
soon.

00:17:55  
NURI My dad's not coming.

00:17:58  
DAHLIA Nuri! Nuri!

00:18:02  
LIFEGUARD It's all right.

00:18:04  
DAHLIA Nuri!

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00:18:07  
(con't)  
DAHLIA Alhamdulillah, Alhamdulillah (Arabic)

00:18:10  
(con't)  
DAHLIA What were you thinking coming here and almost drowning yourself. I could kill you for this!

00:18:15  
ADIB Yeah, that was really stupid, Nuri.

00:18:17  
NURI I thought I saw him, Mom.

00:18:17  
DAHLIA What?

00:18:20  
NURI I thought I saw Baba.

00:18:23  
DAHLIA Great. You're alive, but now you're brain-damaged.

00:18:26  
NURI It wasn't him, though. He's not coming back, is he?

00:18:31  
DAHLIA He's coming back, Nuri. He will come back.

00:18:51  
NURI (v.O.) A couple days later, my Mom and Mr. Robertson met with us for a "kids meeting," where he talked to us about what's happened to our father.

00:19:00  
NURI (v.O.) He told us that the men that came to our house to take our dad were people from our government.

00:19:20  
NURI (v.O.) And he told us that people were keeping him locked up because they believed he was involved with terrorists.

00:19:26  
MR. ROBERTSON ...he shouldn't have been ever suspected...

00:19:30  
NURI (V.O.) People who wanted to hurt more Americans.

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00:19:34

MR. ROBERTSON There is no way in the world that your father is a terrorist!

00:19:35

NURI (V.O.) The last thing I read in my library book was that there's this guy named Carl Jung who had this weird idea that aliens may not really come from outer space,

00:19:44

(con't)

NURI (V.O.) but are actually created by people all over the world imagining that they exist.

00:19:50

NURI (V.O.) That makes me worry, though.

00:19:52

MR. ROBERTSON I'll make sure to give the Judge a call in the morning and give him the documents and everything should be ok. We should have your husband back in a few days.

00:19:59

DAHLIA Thank you very much for--

00:20:01

MR. ROBERTSON No, no. Please don't worry about it, Mrs. Salaam.

00:20:02

(con't)

MR. ROBERTSON I just want us all to share the same faith that we'll get your husband and your father back very soon.

00:20:08

DAHLIA Well, I really appreciate everything...

00:20:09

NURI (V.O.) I mean, I know Baba would never want to hurt anyone. But if there are millions of people wanting to believe he's a terrorist...would that mean he is one?

00:20:18

MR. ROBERTSON You're the man while Father is gone. Ok, take care of things...

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00:20:22  
NURI (V.O.) I don't know anymore. Maybe aliens exist. Maybe they don't.

00:20:25  
DAHLIA Thank you again.

00:20:26  
MR. ROBERTSON You're welcome.

00:20:30  
NURI (OS) Wait! Wait!

00:20:35  
MR. ROBERTSON Wow, what's this?

00:20:37  
NURI It's for my dad.

00:20:38  
MR. ROBERTSON It's for you're dad?

00:20:39  
NURI Uh hum!

00:20:40  
MR. ROBERTSON I guess you want me to give it to him.

00:20:41  
NURI Yes.

00:20:42  
MR. ROBERTSON Deal!

00:20:44  
MR. ROBERTSON Hey, hey, it's ok. I'm going to get your dad back...

00:20:49  
NURI (V.O.) All I know is that if anyone in the government is actually reading this letter and looking at these paintings, I hope you realize that our family is incomplete without our dad.

00:21:01  
NURI (V.O.) And let him come home as soon as possible.

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00:21:05

NURI (V.O.)      And when you see our father, please tell him that  
we're waiting for him.

00:21:10

NURI (V.O.)      Please... tell him that.

**END.**