

Bin Hortons
by
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A (hopefully) Comedic Sketch

A Canuck in Silver Lake

INT. KANDAHAR AIRBASE, HALLWAY - DAY

THREE AFGHANIS in simple long tunics sit on chairs against the walls in a sterile hallway. LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BRIGGS (40s), stern with a mustache, marches down a hallway towards the group. His arm, which has a Canadian flag badge on, is holding onto AHMED (20s). Briggs places Ahmed by a vacant chair.

LCOL. BRIGGS

You're to wait here bud. I'll go see if it's ready for you and be right back eh.

Briggs passes the Men to march on through the hallway until it turns. The Men all watch him go before they turn to stare at Ahmed.

AHMED

(sitting)

Salaam. Uh, so you are all here for the job for the Americans?

They stare. The one closest to him leans in.

MAN 1

American? You're with the Canadians you lucky son of a dog.

MAN 2

Job? That's how they got you? Stupid boy.

MAN 3

Not so stupid, the Canadians might be not so rough.

AHMED

Rough? What are you talking about? I just heard about a job.

MAN 2

No job. Just torture. They need the information for who you've been speaking to.

Ahmed looks at the Men blankly.

MAN 3

(whispering)

In the Talib.

AHMED

Taliban!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The men all SHHH him while Man 1 grabs at Ahmed's mouth to silence him physically.

AHMED

(quieter)

I know no Talib!

MAN 3

That's right. You keep that story.

AHMED

No, this is a mistake. I am here for a job.

MAN 1

(winking)

We all are. Just keep your mouth shut and you'll have one when you get out.

BOOTS are heard and the Men all straighten, looking forward.

LCol Briggs appears from around the corner once more and comes back to Ahmed.

LCOL. BRIGGS

All ready for you.

Ahmed fearfully clutches the legs of the chair. Briggs CHUCKLES and grabs onto him, hoisting him up easily.

LCOL. BRIGGS

No need to be nervous. Every one gets worried about this part.

Briggs escorts him away from the Men as Ahmed swivels his head to look back around.

MAN 2

(whispering)

Don't tell them anything!

MAN 1

Avoid eye contact during the waterboarding!

LCol Briggs brings Ahmed around a corner and stops in front of a door.

LCOL. BRIGGS

Here you are. Best of luck then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AHMED

Sir. This is for a job, yes?

LCOL. BRIGGS

Oh, yeah, no yeah.

Briggs slaps Ahmed on the back causing him to shudder. Briggs walks back the way he came, leaving Ahmed, mouth agape, shaking in front of the door.

He looks around, takes a breath and then opens it.

INT. KANDAHAR AIRBASE, TRAINING ROOM - DAY, CONTINUOUS

A camo dressed SGT. DAVIDSON (30s) with a noticeable Canadian flag badge on his shoulder smiles up at him from his position kneeling in front of a roll-up TV. He gets up.

Ahmed looks wide-eyed around at the room as Davidson indicates the chair.

SGT. DAVIDSON

He's the big man himself.
Congratulations. Ready?

Ahmed SWALLOWS hard.

SGT. DAVIDSON

Got a set of the jitters, huh?

Davidson takes Ahmed by the shoulders and gently sits him in the chair. Ahmed looks at the walls of the room.

AHMED

Where are the cameras?

SGT. DAVIDSON

Cameras? No, no, yeah. No need for cameras in here.

Davidson claps him on the shoulder, goes to the TV to press a button and smiles at Ahmed. To Ahmed, the smile looks sinister.

SGT. DAVIDSON

Have fun.

Ahmed GULPS as Davidson exits the room and shuts the door firm behind him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AHMED
(looking around
panicked)
Uh hello? I did not do anything, I
swear!

STATIC on the TV starts and Ahmed swivels to face it.

AHMED
(holding ears)
Oh lord, Allah, please no.
Torture? Propaganda?

The static cuts off and a smiling woman (30s) appears in a 'TIM HORTONS' uniform, in front of a quaint TIM HORTONS coffee shop in the woods. Her name tag reads "BECKY."

BECKY
Well hello there!

Ahmed looks around and then back at the TV.

AHMED
(to himself)
A trap? A prostitute? Allah, save
me.

BECKY
Welcome to Tim Horton's Training
program!

Becky smiles broadly and Ahmed shivers away.

BECKY
If you're here, that means you've
decided to join the right side!

Ahmed gets up and runs to the door, he THUMPS on it.

AHMED
Excuse me! I think there's a
mistake. I am just local farmer!
Not Taliban. Hello? I don't like
this Timmy Whore-tons.

BECKY
Today, we'll look at a few lessons
you'll need to know to serve our
loyal customers in one of our
state-of the art Tim Hortons.

An image of a banged up and rusted shipping container comes on screen. It's bomber out with a counter built at the end of it and a banner naming it, draped sadly over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AHMED

(banging door)

I don't want to serve! Please. I'm no soldier.

BECKY

First thing you need to know is Canadian customers love to talk about the weather.

The hot, dusty and dry air base is shown.

BECKY

Asking if they've shoveled their driveways or gotten the ice off their car is always a good place to start.

Ahmed gives up on the door and walks wearily back in front of the TV.

BECKY

Sports is also a common conversation that can get you closer to the customer.

An image of two hockey players mid-fight on the ice and drops of blood around them. Another player raises his stick above them.

BECKY

"How bout' them Leafs?" "We'll get those Jets next year!" And "Damn French," are all popular comments to get conversation going.

A steaming cup of black coffee is placed on a counter before hands pour a healthy dose of milk then packets of sugar in.

BECKY

Double double, single single, double single and single double are all common requests.

A bearded large CANADIAN in full denim orders from Becky at a counter.

BECKY

Will that be all sir?

CANADIAN

Yeah, no, yeah.

(CONTINUED)

BECKY

Excellent.

Ahmed's mouth opens as he stares at the screen.

BECKY

And always remember, the employee
always needs to say sorry more
than the customer. Eh!

Becky smiles and nods before the screen goes black. The
door opens as Davidson re-enters.

SGT. DAVIDSON

Sorry to come in so soon. But all
set Ahmed?

Ahmed runs to him.

AHMED

No! I am sorry, soo sorry.

SGT. DAVIDSON

Was that torture of what eh?

AHMED

Better than watching the Leafs.

SGT. DAVIDSON

(chuckling)
Think you're all set to serve the
troops of the base?

AHMED

No, yeah, no, fuck the Jets bud.