

AMIR - Prepare Amir-Salwa scene in Arabic & Amir-Seif scene in English

SALWA - prepare Amir-Salwa scene in Arabic. English translation for information only.

MEN ON THE MOON
AMIR & SALWA SCENE
CASTING CALL

Written by

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June 2025

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

AMIR (20s) walks into the half-furnished apartment. He and his mom moved in a week ago, and are still struggling to find work, buy furniture, and find their way around the city. Amir has been on a job-hunt for a while, and has finally landed something. SALWA (50s), his mother, is not so lucky. She is by the sink doing dishes. The conversation is in Arabic.

AMIR

Mama!

SALWA

3omra lal mama.

AMIR

I got it! I got a job at the coffee shop!

He puts down his backpack, and some groceries.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Mom, did you hear? I got a job.

SALWA

7kine 3arabe, bsharaf rabbak.

AMIR

Yi, okay. L2it sheghel bel cafe 3a awwal l shere3.

SALWA

Hayda l ma fi ma2a3ed?

Amir is confused.

AMIR

Shu?

SALWA

Wlek hayda l me3tem, l bidallo fade.

AMIR

Shu ostik?

She is taken aback.

SALWA

Shu elet?

AMIR

Eltellik la2et sheghel, bet2elile hayda l me3tem? Eh w eza me3tem?

SALWA
Ma byejik zbounet.

AMIR
Mama, baramt l dene ana w nabbesh.
Baramet l manta2a kella! Fekrik
7ada 3am biwazzef? Ekher bar shefto
aloule jem3t l made ejehon 200 CV!

SALWA
7ader, dabber rasak.

AMIR
Shu beke? Wlek shu beke? Shu fi?
Shu sayerlik?

SALWA
Ba3ed kelme, Amir, wa7yet Allah.

AMIR
Kelme. W tnen. W 3ashra.

She remains silent.

AMIR (CONT'D)
Ma fhemet? Shu elet shi ghalat? Men
wa2ta ma wsolne w ma fi shi 3ejbik!
A3de bel beit mettekke 3leyye, w
bidallo mish 3ejbik. Kis e5t hal
3ishe. She77ad w msharat.

SALWA
7ekene l mou7ame. Al ta yemsho l
wra2...

The whole mood shifts.

AMIR
Eh...?

SALWA
Al baddo madye menne.

AMIR
La shu?

SALWA
Al baddo 7elef enno ba3ref...
Ennak...

AMIR
Mama mish mazbout!

SALWA
Wla kif mish mazbout?

AMIR
Mama..

SALWA
Amir..

They lock eyes. The words are caught in her throat. She cannot say the word 'gay'.

Amir shakes his head, trying so hard to deny the truth in front of his mother - out of fear of her freaking out.

She wasn't supposed to know the details of his refugee case, even though it was their only option to stay in Canada - and it is based on him being a queer refugee. For years, he had convinced her that he had finally 'changed'. Now, they must address the elephant in the room.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

AMIR (20s) walks into the half-furnished apartment. He and his mom moved in a week ago, and are still struggling to find work, buy furniture, and find their way around the city. Amir has been on a job-hunt for a while, and has finally landed something. SALWA (50s), his mother, is not so lucky. She is by the sink doing dishes. The conversation is in Arabic.

AMIR
Mother!

SALWA
Yes, my soul?

AMIR
I got it! I got a job at the coffee shop!

He puts down his backpack, and some groceries.

AMIR (CONT'D)
Mom, did you hear? I got a job.

SALWA
Speak in Arabic, for God's sake.
(switches to Arabic moving forward)

AMIR
Umm, okay. I found work in the coffee shop down the street.

SALWA
The one with no seating?

Amir is confused.

AMIR
What?

SALWA
The really dark one that is always empty?

AMIR
What's your deal?

She is taken aback.

SALWA
Excuse me?

AMIR

I tell you I got a job, and your response is 'oh is it the dark shop?' So what if it's dark?

SALWA

There would be no customers.

AMIR

Mother, I scoured the entire neighborhood searching! You think people are hiring? Last bar I visited said that they received 200 CVs last week!

SALWA

As you say. It's your problem now.

AMIR

What's your deal? I swear, what's the deal with you? What is up with you?

SALWA

One more word Amir, and I swear to God.

AMIR

One more word. And two. And ten more.

She remains silent.

AMIR (CONT'D)

I don't get it? What did I say wrong? Ever since we got here, nothing pleases you! Sitting at home, counting on me to handle everything! And still nothing pleases you! Screw this! Beggars can't be choosers!

SALWA

The lawyer called me. He said for the papers to be submitted..

The whole mood shifts.

AMIR

Yes...?

SALWA

He said he needs my signature.

AMIR

What for?

SALWA

He wants me to corroborate the claim that.. you are..

AMAR

Mother, that's not true!

SALWA

How is it not true, child?

AMIR

Mother..

SALWA

Amir..

They lock eyes. The words are caught in her throat. She cannot say the word 'gay'.

Amir shakes his head, trying so hard to deny the truth in front of his mother - out of fear of her freaking out.

She wasn't supposed to know the details of his refugee case, even though it was their only option to stay in Canada - and it is based on him being a queer refugee. For years, he had convinced her that he had finally 'changed'. Now, they must address the elephant in the room.

MEN ON THE MOON
AMIR-SEIF SCENE
CASTING CALL SIDES

Written by

RAGHED CHARABATY

June 2025

EXT. TORONTO, HIGH PARK - DAY

AMIR (20s, Arab) leans against a tree by the pond in High Park.

In silence, he observes a gathering of people at a distance.

There is a young man in the center of that gathering speaking to the small crowd. He is SEIF (20s, mixed Arab-Canadian), leading the meeting.

SEIF

It has never been easy making such a big change. Please know that you are not alone. Know that you have support. And after today, you also have each other, so don't be shy to connect. Thank you again for coming out today. This is our monthly Newcomer Networking Picnic, see you at the next one! And please take some fruits home, all food must go!

A round of applause.

Amir turns around, shaking his head.

SEIF (CONT'D)

Hey!

Seif pops out of nowhere, startling him. He offers him fruit.

SEIF (CONT'D)

Why'd you stand so far away?

Amir says nothing.

SEIF (CONT'D)

Sorry, do you speak English?

AMIR

I was tired of sitting.

Amir is fluent, even though English is not his first language.

SEIF

Can I stand with you?

AMIR

Why?

Seif smiles at Amir's combativeness.

SEIF
What's your name?

AMIR
I need help.

SEIF
You hate answering questions.

AMIR
You organize this event?

SEIF
No, my dad runs the newcomer NGO. I
just volunteer now and then.

AMIR
I need a lawyer.

SEIF
(joking)
Oh boy, what did you do?

Amir doesn't respond.

SEIF (CONT'D)
(Gasp) Did you you commit murder?

AMIR
No.

SEIF
Are you a thief? Did you steal
someone's heart?

AMIR
I need an immigration lawyer.

SEIF
(flustered)
Right, yes, of course - sorry.
Sorry, I was just trying to - you
were just distant so I was trying
to break the ice - yes I know
someone - just email us. Okay let's
start over. (he reaches out for a
handshake)
My name is Seif.

AMIR
(finally, relaxed) Thank you.

Amir grabs an orange and walks away. Stay on Seif, confused
and amused.