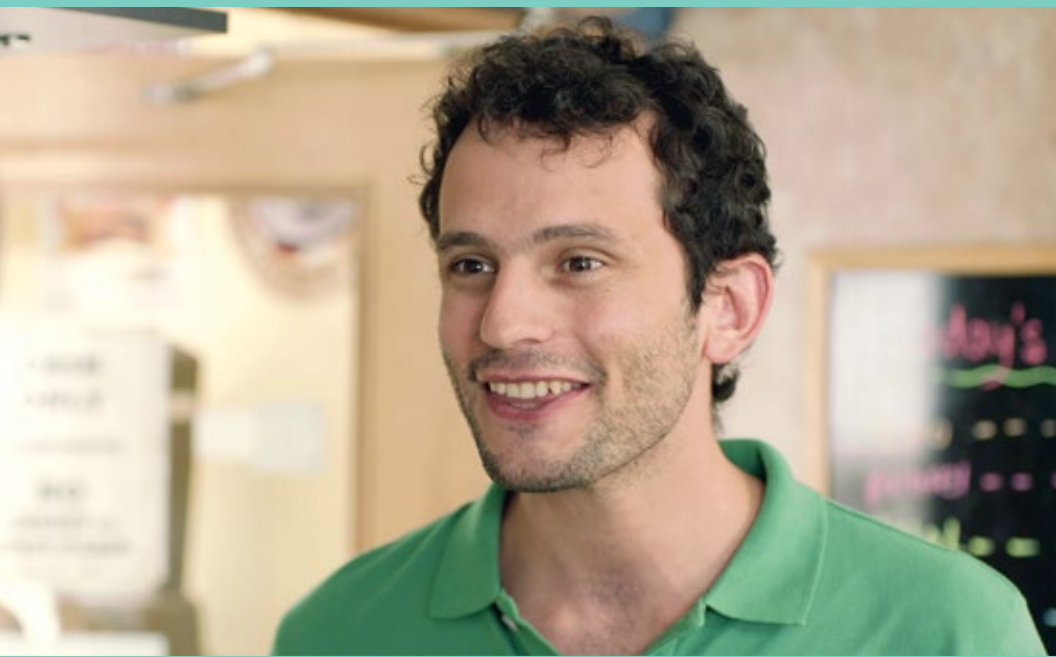




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# My Name is Giddel



Short story based on “Sonam’s Mom”

We Speak NYC • Season 2

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## SEASON 1

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### Corresponding Episodes

*My Name Is Anya*

No Smoking

*My Name Is Fatima*

Welcome Parents

*My Name Is Lupe*

Stay in School

*My Name Is Sue*

Love and Money

*My Name Is Eddie*

New Life Café

*My Name Is María*

Asthma: The Soap Opera

*My Name Is Lucía*

The Wedding

*My Name Is Yumi*

Respond to Domestic Violence

*My Name Is Daniel*

The Hospital

*My Name Is Aku*

The Storm

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## SEASON 2

### Short Stories

### Corresponding Episodes

*My Name Is Umme*

Shumi's Pantry

*My Name Is Gabriela*

The Seed for a Good Life

*My Name Is Silvia*

Rolando's Rights

*My Name Is Irina*

Making New Friends

*My Name Is Giddel*

Sonam's Mom

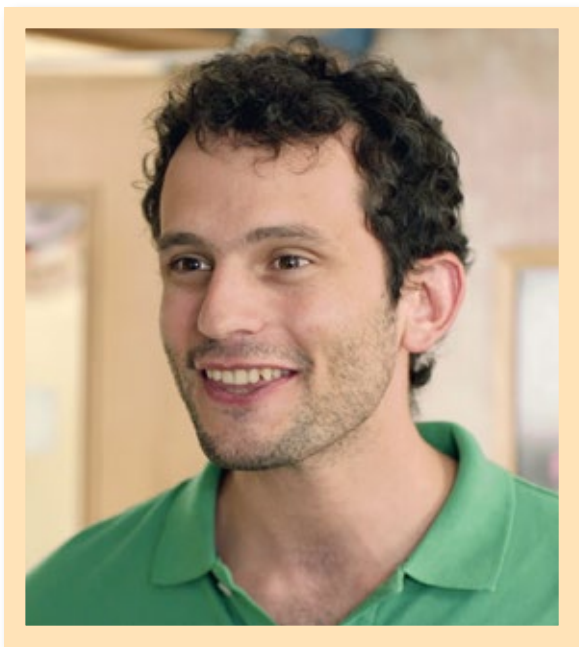
*My Name Is Martin*

Crossing the Street

*My Name Is Alicia*

Rafaela's Test

# My Name is Giddel



**My name is Giddel.**

**I came to the U.S. from Chile five years ago.**

**I am a taxi driver.**



**This is my friend, Sonam.**

**He is a taxi driver too.**

**We met during training,  
getting our taxi licenses.**

**Today is Sonam's birthday!**



**This is Sonam's mom.**

**Her name is Samten.**

**Sonam misses his mom.**

**He hasn't seen her for seven years.**

**But, he is happy because she is coming  
to New York next week!**



**Sonam and I have lunch together every day.  
But today, I have an appointment with a notary.**

**The notary says he can help me  
to sponsor my family to come to the U.S.**

**The notary says he can help me  
with the paperwork.**



**I'm at the notary's office right now.**

**Sonam calls me on the cellphone.**

**"Are you free for lunch?" he asks.**

**"I have very important information to give you."**



**I tell Sonam, “I am at the notary’s.**

**Let’s meet afterwards.”**

**Sonam is concerned.**

**“Don’t go in there!” he shouts.**





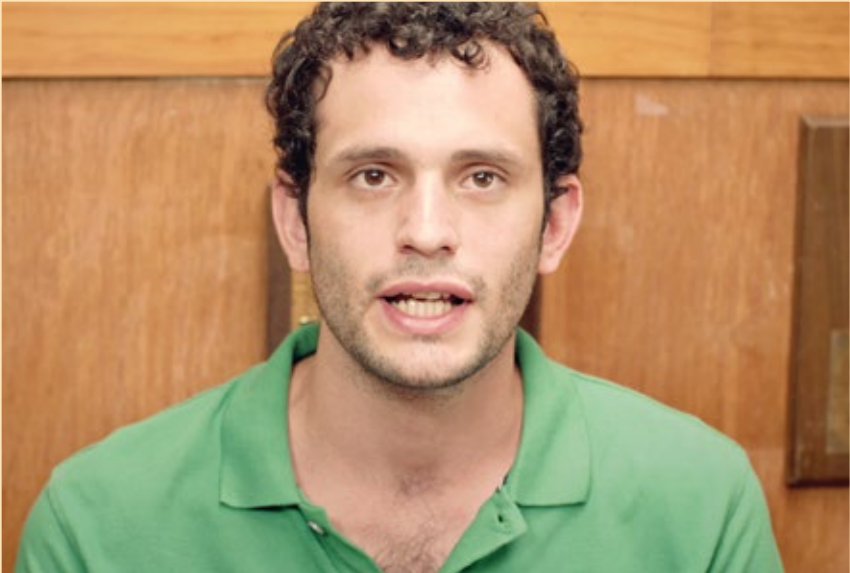
**The secretary talks to me.  
“The notary is ready for you,” she says.  
“I can’t talk now,” I tell Sonam.  
I hang up the phone.**



**The secretary asks me to pay  
*before* I meet with the notary.**

**She says that today's meeting is  
one thousand dollars.**

***\$1000!***



**One thousand dollars is a lot of money.**

**It makes me uncomfortable.**

**But, I want to see my family.**

**I decide to write a check.**



**The secretary says,  
“For this visit, the notary requires cash.”**

**Cash! I am surprised.**

**I give the notary money every time I meet him.**

**Usually, I pay by check.**

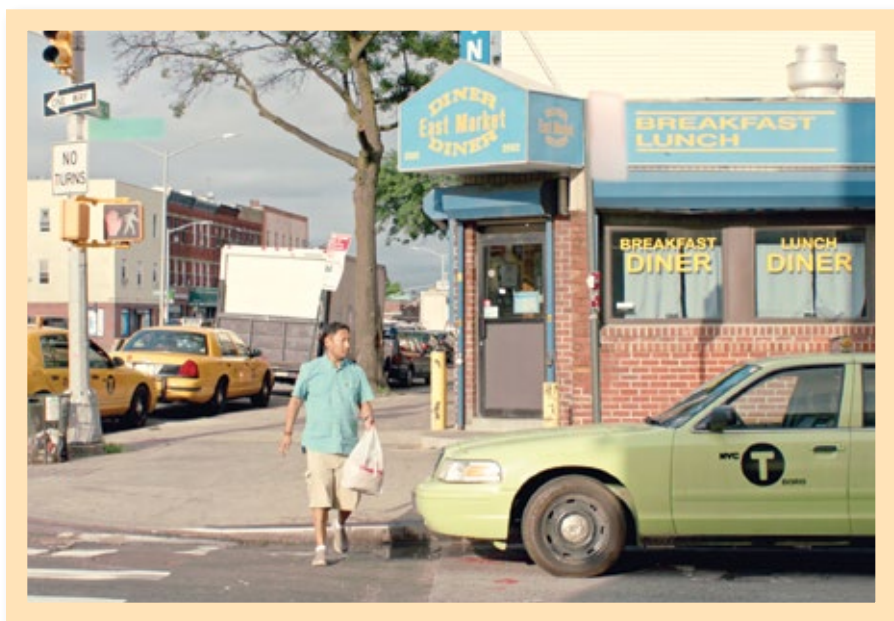


**I decide to go to the bank to get the cash.**

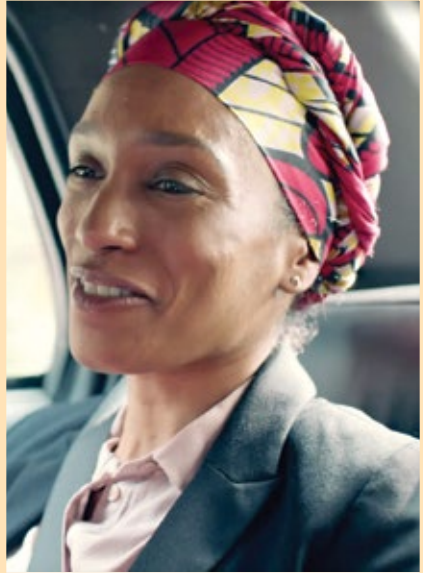
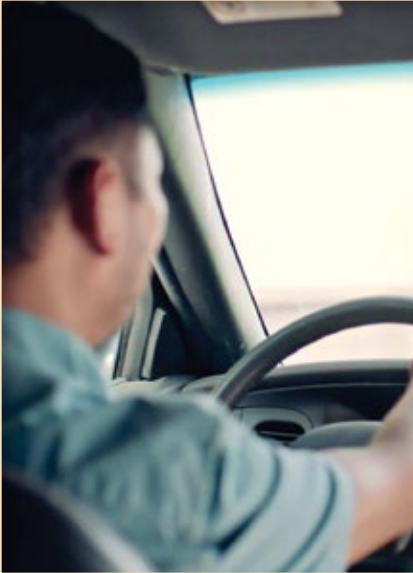
**When I leave the notary's office,  
Sonam calls me again.**

**“You can get free immigration legal help,” he says.**

**That sounds great. *But is it true?***



**I cancel my meeting with the notary.  
Sonam will meet me in the park for lunch.  
He will give me the information about  
free immigration legal help.  
Maybe I can save a lot of money!**



**At lunch, Sonam tells me about a passenger  
in his car today.**

**She is a lawyer.**

**She volunteers in the community.**

**She tells immigrants about their rights.**



**The lawyer forgot her purse in his taxi.  
That was lucky for me.**





**Sonam went back to return the lawyer’s purse.  
She was talking to immigrants about free services.  
Sonam learned about free immigration legal help.  
He also learned that in the United States,  
a notary is not the same as a lawyer.**



**I ask Sonam, “How do I get free immigration legal help?”**

**Sonam tells me to call 311 and ask for *Action NYC*.**

***Action NYC* is the name of the service for free immigration legal help.**

**Sonam says, “You can get help in your language too.”**



**“Are you sure?” I ask him.**

**Sonam says he is sure.**

**But, he has a problem.**



**Sonam's lunch is missing.**

**I offer to share my food.**

**Sonam is my friend.**

**We help each other.**



**But, Sonam is very hungry today.**

**He says my lunch is not enough for two people.**

**He goes back to the restaurant.**

**I stay in the park and call 311.**



**At the restaurant, the manager helps Sonam.  
On the phone, 311 helps me with my question.  
It is true. I can get free legal help from *Action NYC!***



**I hurry to the restaurant to tell Sonam.**

**He saved me \$1000!**



**At the restaurant, Sonam is waiting for his food.**

**I tell Sonam the good news.**

**“You saved me a thousand dollars!” I say.**

**Sonam is happy for me.**





**Sonam's food is still not ready.**

**I go to the bathroom.**

**On my way, I find a piece of paper on the floor.**

**I give it to a man eating lunch.**



**When I come out of the bathroom,  
Sonam is hugging someone.**

**It's Sonam's mom!**



**Sonam introduces me to her.**

**Her name is Samten.**

**She came to New York today!**

**She came one week early.**

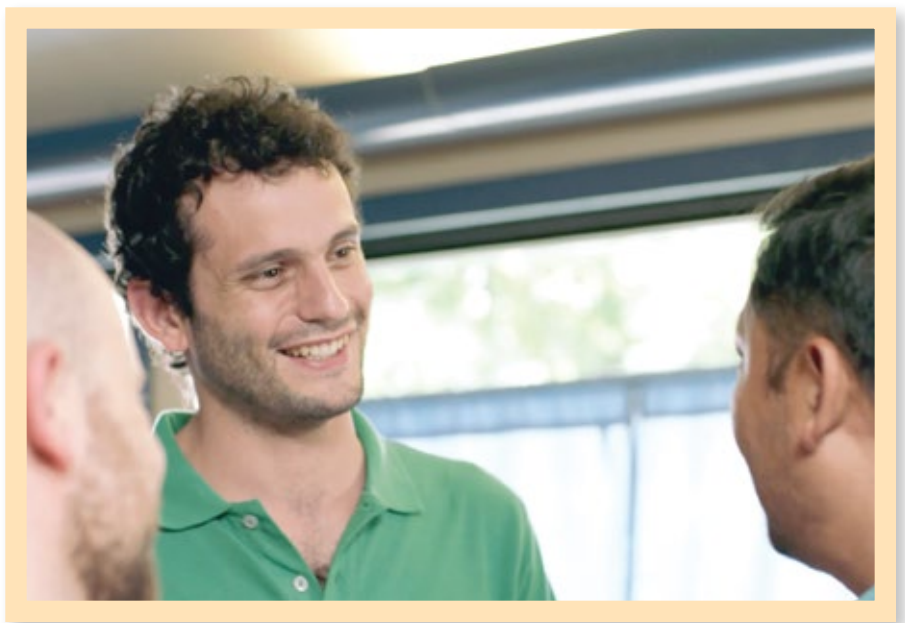
**It's a birthday surprise for Sonam.**



**Another taxi driver brought Samten  
to the same restaurant for lunch  
because Sonam was not at home.**

**Sonam is reunited with his mother.**

**Soon, I will be reunited with my family.**



**It's great to have friends who help you.**

**And, it's great to know  
we can get free immigration legal help  
from real lawyers.**

# Words used in this story

---

- 311
- am, is, are, was (be)
- *Action NYC*
- afterwards
- appointment
- bank
- bathroom
- because
- birthday
- brought (bring)
- calls (call)
- came (come)
- can, can't
- cancel
- car
- cash (*n*)
- cellphone
- check (*n*)
- Chile
- community
- concerned
- decide
- dollars
- during
- each other
- early
- eat
- enough, not enough
- family
- find
- floor
- food
- forgot (forget)
- free
- friend
- give
- great
- hang up
- help
- hugging (hug)
- hungry
- immigrants
- immigration
- important
- information
- introduces (introduce)
- language
- lawyer
- legal
- license
- lucky
- lunch
- manager
- meet
- meeting (*n*)
- missing
- money
- mother
- news
- next, next week
- notary
- offer
- office
- paperwork
- park (*n*)
- passenger
- pay
- people
- piece, piece of paper
- problem
- purse

- 
- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> question           | <input type="checkbox"/> shouts (shout)           | <input type="checkbox"/> visit ( <i>n</i> )     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ready, not ready   | <input type="checkbox"/> soon                     | <input type="checkbox"/> volunteers (volunteer) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> real               | <input type="checkbox"/> sponsor                  | <input type="checkbox"/> waiting (wait)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> requires (require) | <input type="checkbox"/> stay                     | <input type="checkbox"/> week                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> return             | <input type="checkbox"/> sure                     | <input type="checkbox"/> went (go)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reunited (reunite) | <input type="checkbox"/> surprised ( <i>adj</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> will                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> right now          | <input type="checkbox"/> taxi, taxi driver        | <input type="checkbox"/> write                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rights             | <input type="checkbox"/> thousand                 | <input type="checkbox"/> year                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> saved (save)       | <input type="checkbox"/> together                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> secretary          | <input type="checkbox"/> tells (tell)             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> seen (see)         | <input type="checkbox"/> training                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> services           | <input type="checkbox"/> true                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> share              | <input type="checkbox"/> uncomfortable            |   |

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