

## Counterclockwise

Billy Woods

Two milligrams of oral triazolam every seven hours induces a safe sleep state at a minimal metabolic rate  
I know we weren't having this conversation the first time through, so you don't know who we lost  
At this continued state of breath, the human body breathes point three liters of oxygen a minute  
It really could not have been much  
It doesn't matter how much, it just matters that it's changed  
Or roughly two thousand liters in four days  
Look, Abe, I know what you're saying  
The class E oxygen tank holds six hundred and twenty-five liters  
To maintain hydration, the body cycles through a minimum of two and a half liters of oxygen a day  
A small tank of medical-grade nitrous oxide would be needed on the other side

I didn't get but a little bit, but still dreamt  
After I wake up, I wake up again  
It's not easy to bend time how I do it  
I had the knack I suppose, knee full of fluid  
She had me running back, X's and O's, she know what she doing  
Daylight crack under curtains, we lay spooning  
Bodies wrapped up, cups swollen, belly a serpent moving  
Counterclockwise, counterclockwise  
One city sleep, durag tied  
The other bare its teeth as it opens its eyes  
Never the twain shall meet  
I know she was a pro how she slid out the bedsheets  
Grasping, gasping fish I slide 'em in the fresh grease  
Spattering, sputtering epithets  
I dance out and niggas reach like Swee'Pea giggling  
Like it's sweet in the streets  
Maybe it is, I just speak for me  
Scalding water, the wash basin fogged the mirrors  
Start my day but the other place still feel realer  
Turn of phrase, just a bit, I got power steering  
The woods gave way to a clearing  
Where I knew they were waiting for my appearance  
With knives ancient, faceless, but I know who they are

That's because he was the only human being they had captured, the CIA had captured  
He was also the only human being that they had available to torture  
And they created a fictitious person described previously as an Al Qaeda representative—  
As the CIA cables showed, for seventeen straight days (A leader

and so on, and passed that on through the Department of Justice)

They cycled through each one of these techniques, the walling, the waterboarding, the confined spaces (The Department of Justice said, "We're giving permission to torture him, assuming these facts are true")

The-the-the detention hand and knees locked together so they can't move- (In fact, the CIA knew they weren't true, and as I said earlier, had been told by the FBI-)