

THE LOGIC OF YOO

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He tried to imagine himself naked,
perhaps while dancing to Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance,"
perhaps while drinking an Ensure,
which would make for "nutritionally complete meals,"
perhaps while hooded in the phosphorous glare
of 24-hour lighting
since interrogators could "exploit the detainee's fear
of being seen naked," Yoo said, though not the fear of sex,
since interrogators had been taught to avoid "sexual degradation,"
for fear perhaps, it might turn Zubaydah on, there being
no women in CIA custody, though evidently
on the payroll since being "seen naked by females"
was & is always a permissible threat.

She sings, "I want your horror. I want your design.
Cause you're a criminal
as long as you're mine." He knew they were different, he & Yoo,
but when he went to bed at night & thought no one
would ever touch him again like she had,
he remembered the facial hold
"one open palm placed
on either side of the face"⁶
how she held him immobile, enduring the indelible dark between
her fingertips.
It was always a threat to him.

⁶ Department of Justice, Office of Legal Counsel, memorandum for John Rizzo, Central Intelligence Agency, "Interrogation of al Qaeda Operative," 1 August 2002, and "Application of 18 U.S.C. . . .," 10 May 2005; available from <<http://documents.nytimes.com/justice-department-memos-on-interrogation-techniques>>.