

Conversation

By

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FADES IN

INT.INTERROGATION ROOM.NIGHT

Pitch black

CLOSE ON OF BRIGHT CEILING LIGHT TURNS ON.

CUT TO:

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF DETECTIVE PLACING HIS BADGE AND GUN ON HIS SIDE OF THE TABLE.

An unnamed African-American suspect and unnamed African-American detective are staring at each other intensely. Suspect is in contemporary streetwear with his left wrist handcuffed to his chair while his right hand is free.

The detective has on a dress shirt and dress pants.

DETECTIVE

Are you ready to talk?

SUSPECT

What's there to talk about?

(Beat)

Nothing except you're releasing me.

DETECTIVE

Not quite yet.

SUSPECT

What am I being charged with?

DETECTIVE

Watch First 48 and a few cop shows and a nigga think they're a T14 law grad... Don't worry... You know what you did.

SUSPECT

Bruh, I don't know what's going and why I'm here... I have a family and loved ones to get to.

(Beat)

Lucky, I'm alive since I was black and unarmed.

DETECTIVE chuckles.

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE
You're a funny nigga.

SUSPECT
I ain't cha nigga.

DETECTIVE
You're whatever I want you to be,
boy... Listen here.

(Beat)

I'm bluer than the motherfucking
smurfs, cuh... But let's have a
conversation.

SUSPECT
I'm done talking. I want to speak
to my lawyer.

DETECTIVE
Your lawyer! Nigga, you look like
you can't afford a public defender.

(Beat)

Besides you haven't been charged
with anything... Yet!

(Beat)

Simply questioning.

SUSPECT drops his head back in disbelief.

SUSPECT
What you wanna know?

DETECTIVE
Why you niggas the way you are?

SUSPECT
The way we are... You're fucking
joking, right?

DETECTIVE
No I'm not. I just don't get y'all.

SUSPECT
You're aware of slavery?

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE

Niggas always resorting to slavery... You're far removed from that shit.

SUSPECT

You're aware of Willie Lynch?

(Beat)

That was one diabolical cracker... One of his many brilliant mind fucks was to... I'm paraphrasing. Was to bring mothers and children slaves to watch the murder and emasculation of an alleged defiant male slave.

DETECTIVE

Why?

SUSPECT

Simple... So, the mothers will raise their sons to be docile and never defy or stand up to the slaveowners and the dudes who ran the plantations.

DETECTIVE

What the fuck does that have to do with why y'all are the way y'all are?

SUSPECT

Doesn't this sound like how black males are taught and expected to interact with police?

(Beat)

Look at what Rudy Guiliani said on Fox News about black kids need to behave and respect cops. However, you can watch YouTube or an episode of COPS and see anglos act up with police... Their odds are still better to make it home.

DETECTIVE

What's the correlation, smart nigga?

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

SUSPECT is in a business suit still handcuffed to the chair. SUSPECT sounds more like an intellectual. SUSPECT leans forward to DETECTIVE and DETECTIVE's right hand moves towards his gun.

SUSPECT

(Whispers)

We can't be ourselves. We're susceptible to emotional eruptions from suppressing our natural feelings from systemic oppression.

SUSPECT goes back to sitting normal in his seat.

SUSPECT

I have an important meeting in the morning... Are you finished with your questions, Detective?

DETECTIVE

No, we're just getting started. You sharp, college niggas make me sick.

SUSPECT

Detective, you're a detective so obviously you graduated from college.

DETECTIVE

A community college. Hardly a university.

SUSPECT

Technically, a state... Know what never mind. What are your questions, sir? And why am I here?

DETECTIVE

Don't get it confused, I ask the questions.

(Beat)

You fit the description of this thing but you're not charged yet so chill... Let me rap to you for a bit. That people like you don't understand.

SUSPECT slouches in his seat but is attentive.

DETECTIVE

Most law enforcement officers are just trying to get home. Collecting a fucking check and benefits. Four out of five. That's a lot of broken dreams.

(Beat)

So, they don't give a fuck about breaking some dreams while protecting and serving.

(Beat)

You have no idea how much it hurts that black people are EASY FUCKING TARGETS! Y'all niggas have no idea how infuriating it is to watch white CHILD MOLESTERS GET FIVE FUCKING YEARS and live to do it again. Only to have to arrest an 18 year old nigga for murder over some trivial FaceBook shit the next day.

DETECTIVE pauses and picks up his gun and taps the tip of his gun on the side of his head. The SUSPECT is terrified.

DETECTIVE

And we refuse to say anything about it. There's no bullshit code of silence like the liberal media perpetuates. It's self-interest.

DETECTIVE stands up and paces back and forth with the gun in his hand.

DETECTIVE

There's division in this place. It's like fucking high school and we coexist. We have families that depend on us and opinions aren't welcomed.

(Beat)

If we get terminated what else you think most of these motherfuckers are going to do? Security? Investment banking? Rap? Play ball?

DETECTIVE taps table with gun.

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE

This is it for most of us.
Especially the legacy
motherfuckers.

(Beat)

So, tell your little friends
they-don't-know-shit!

SUSPECT

Detective, may I?

DETECTIVE

Go 'head.

SUSPECT

You get a check and a pension. I'm
a mid-level manager at a company
and subordinates hate taking orders
from me because I'm black. I teach
economics at the community college
as an adjunct professor. I go
through hell everyday.

(Beat)

I didn't secure a full-time
position worth a damn until four
years after graduating from
college... I'm no fool sir and
understand I'm more fortunate than
other black men, however, every
time I go to the office I know I'm
on borrowed time.

DETECTIVE

What you think is the cause of
that?

SUSPECT

Simple... Black people suppose to
be docile and happy being
second-class citizens. Our bread
and water suppose to come solely
from white-owned entities. All the
power and control is in dependency.
Since the Proclamation of
Emancipation "the powers that be"
found clever ways to keep black
people under control and dependent.
From the black codes during
Reconstruction, sharecropping, Jim

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SUSPECT (cont'd)
Crow, social programs and now
private prison systems that law
enforcement agencies serve as
feeders.

DETECTIVE
You're a smart nigga.

(Beat)

Since you're so smart explain why
niggas are running wild.

SUSPECT sighs.

SUSPECT
After this may I be released, sir?

DETECTIVE
I promise to get on it.

SUSPECT
White people have a disdain for
prosperous black communities
completely autonomous and
independent of them. Read about
Tulsa, Oklahoma's Black Wall Street
and Miami's Overtown and
Brownsville neighborhoods. Black
people were taking white people's
money and having it circulate in
their own neighborhoods out of
necessity because of segregation.
However, it was gradually growing
their economies and integration
undid all of it.

DETECTIVE
What the fuck does this have to do
with today?

SUSPECT
Let me summarize because I'm ready
to go home.

(Beat)

Black people have to depend on
people who do not see them as
equals to feed them. Myself
included. Whites are not going to
pay enough of us to alleviate out

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SUSPECT (cont'd)
of poverty, raise independence, and
decrease crime. Black people
especially black men want nice
things and to upgrade their
situations. I guarantee that's
partly why you became a detective,
sir.

DETECTIVE
Don't talk like you know me.

(Beat)

However, an interesting point...
Are you tired?

CUT TO:

SUSPECT is in a manual, low-income job outfit (Kitchen).
Sounds like an everyday man. Left hand handcuffed to chair.

SUSPECT
Hell yeah, I'm tired. I been in
that hot ass kitchen all day and
now I'm jammed up with y'all ass.

(Beat)

I don't know why I'm here, can't
see a lawyer, and I'm answering
questions that have nothing to do
with a crime... I missed about 3
buses. Y'all better get me a Uber.

DETECTIVE laughs.

DETECTIVE
You'sa funny nigga.

SUSPECT
Like I said earlier. I'M NOT YOUR
NIGGA.

(Beat)

And I'm not Robin Harris.

DETECTIVE starts reaching for gun.

DETECTIVE
I suggest you calm down.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE (cont'd)

(BEAT)

You're making me nervous and
fearful for my life.

SUSPECT

(Disbelief)

Are you fucking serious? I'm
handcuffed to the fucking chair in
a police station... That's like
asking for the lethal injection.

SUSPECT sits back into his seat.

SUSPECT

Wouldn't like it if the shoe was on
the other foot.

CUT TO:

Actors switch roles, N.DET is standing with a foot on the
chair leaning forward. N.SUS is seated with his left hand
handcuffed to the chair.

N.DET

Say it one more time, officer.

N.DET laughs

N.SUS

I'm a detective like you.

N.DET

Like me?

N.SUS

Yeah... I tried to tell the
arresting officer. He tried to bait
me into going into my bag for my
badge... I know how the game goes.

(Beat)

He's a fucking cowboy.

N.DET

If you're really a cop as you say
then you should be sympathetic to
our precautions.

(Beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

N.DET (cont'd)
Tumultuous times... Kill a nigga
and make the news.

N.SUS
I don't appreciate your tone. I did
nothing wrong.

N.DET
You know for such a violent and
fucked up world, 99.5 percent of
people. Male, female, black, white,
latino, the few asians and arabs we
get done nothing wrong.

(Beat)

So, alleged detective, wait until
we get all the facts. Why are you
in my town anyways?

N.SUS
I was passing through on my way to
visit my mother.

N.DET
(Sarcastically)
Such a good son she has.

(Beat)

N.DET slams hand on table.

N.DET
BULLSHIT!

(Beat)

This is one of the top routes to
transport drugs.

N.SUS
Are you fucking serious?

(Beat)

I am the law and soon as I am
exonerated, I'm filing a formal
complaint and will make sure to
follow through on it.

(CONTINUED)

N.DET

(Yells towards someone out the room)

We got ourselves an uppity nigga.
Restart the verification for this
alleged cop.

(Beat)

Making extra money for your kid's
cancer treatments?

(Beat)

Maybe for a golden toilet. I always
wanted one of those.

N.SUS sits back and looks up at the ceiling.

CUT TO:

SUSPECT is in streetwear. DETECTIVE stands and walks to a
corner with his back turned away from the table leaving his
gun and badge sitting. SUSPECT looks to the DETECTIVE.

SUSPECT

Am I about to go home?

DETECTIVE

Don't you see I'm here thinking?

SUSPECT

(Talks low)

Fuck this shit.

DETECTIVE hears SUSPECT turns around and then SUSPECT jumps
to grab DETECTIVE's gun. DETECTIVE jumps for the gun.

CUT TO:

INTERCUT of the other two SUSPECT characters and DETECTIVE
jumping for the gun.

CUT TO:

Screen fades black and you can hear SUSPECT and DETECTIVE
tussling then a shot goes off.

CREDITS START