

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