

TONI. We shook on it. If I met my stats, no more easy pitches.

SYD. We're done with this Toni.

TONI. (*Frustrated beyond words.*) Syd, if you were not my boss I would say go to hell. But I have been told that that is not a thing you can say to your boss. So I'm not gonna say it.

(*SYD exits as TONI goes to MILLIE.*)

MILLIE. You didn't say that.

(*TONI nods.*)

I'm trying to help your Black ass...but you won't sit on your thoughts. What I keep telling you?

TONI. Watch what I say... But I'm just saying, why Syd think keepin' me on the road like he do, I'd have time to lay on back long enough to get in a family way.

MILLIE. It don't take long Toni.

TONI. Stop all that now.

MILLIE. And it don't have to be on your back.

(*Beat.*)

But you do have to have relations with the man.

TONI. We jus' engaged. We aren't even married yet.

MILLIE. Of course. 'Cause that's what grown-ass people do. Wait 'til they get married.

(*TONI moves to the bus. It's as though she's been there the whole time. KING's mid-story.*)

TONI. ...So you come home an' the house all quiet?

WOODY. Jesus King, why you always gotta drag out a story?

Start ELZIE. You got somewhere you need to be?

KING. I'm jess tryin' to tell you fools what happened. In the 'mount of time you talkin' 'bout how long I'm talkin', we coulda been got to Pittsfield, won the game, and be back on the bus.

TONI. So you come home and...

KING. An' the house all quiet an' dark, an' I hear my old lady scream, "Oh Lord you's 'bout to kill me with that

thing..." An' I go runnin' to find her...'cause I thinkin' she need my help... An' it's comin' from the pantry... The pantry of all things... And if it wasn't that boy what brings by the groceries, 'cause her ass too lazy to walk to the corner for a loaf of bread...got my wife bent over, ridin' her like he's gone ride her to Timbaktu an' back... Thing is, I always thought if you was gone see somethin' like that, that rage just supposed to take over an' you see red, no countin' for wachu might do. And I'm standing there, thinkin', "Damn, now I gots to beat this nigga's ass and throw him in the street..." But it's been a long day, and all I wanta do is get my feet soaking in some Epsom salts. And suddenly, that shit seems funny.

SPEC. You full of shit...

KING. Serious, you would too...picture Wilomena's big ol' ass just jiggling an' that skinny kid lookin' like he done found heaven with his britches down at his knees an' his eyes rollin' back...an' he's got his hand up, 'bout to slap it good, an' they see me, an' he just stop...just freeze...like this. *(He gets up, shows it...)* Jus' like this... an' I'm laughin' harder, 'cause you know under the best circumstances when people be goin' at it, it's funny... Thank God we don't be seein' ourselves doin' all that mess 'cause it look stupid...

SPEC. I don't look stupid... Hell, people'd pay to see me do it.

KING. An' I'm laughing so hard I cain't stand up...an' that's scarin' them more...an' she commence to cryin'...loud howls..."Lord Jesus, I don't know what's got into me lately King, must be 'the change' comin' on... I's so sorry..." An' still I cain't stop myself laughing...

TONI. For real King?

KING. Dyin' if I'ma Lyin'. Finally I says, "Boy, pull up them britches an' cover that little thing." Then I say, "Meena... I'ma need you to cook me a meal what's bigger'n Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas all together." An' the boy's so scared he cain't move, just standin' there eyes bucked out and shakin' an' his pants all down by his