

You Gotta Be Woke!

by

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1. EXT. CAMPUS COURTYARD - MORNING

We see Malik and his friends; Neff, X, and Pharoah sitting in the courtyard of their university. Neff is the only girl in the group and the most vocal. She is leading a group discussion on Malcolm X's Bullet vs the Ballot discussion.

NEFF

We should reserve our right as a people until the right candidate comes along. The white folk ain't really tyrin to help us.

PHAROAH

Word is bond sis. I was readin up on some shit on the internet last night.

X

What that knowledge was on bruh?

PHAROAH

Peep game. I was readin how even if a nigga was rich

Neff and X groan at Pharoah using the word "Nigga"

NEFF

Yo my brotha! We have got to stop usin' that word.

PHAROAH

My bad man. I just get so hype when I share my knowledge. I can't contain it sometimes.

NEFF

It's alright. We gon get you together.

Neff notices Malik hasn't been participating in the group's discussion.

NEFF

What you over there thinkin' bout Malik?

MALIK

Nothin' much man.

NEFF

It would be nice if you had somethin to share with us. You know, a contribution to the discussion.

MALIK

What we talkin' about?

NEFF

The Ballot vs the Bullet. How Brotha Malcolm was sayin' we as black people have to pay more attention to the sytem we're voting in and how we can effectively change it.

MALIK

I mean we did change it. We got the right to vote and we voted Obama in didn't we?

Neff and X laugh. Pharoah also laughs desperately trying to fit in.

NEFF

Man that brotha a sheep. He just doin' they bdding. You think a brotha really gon have that much power? Wake me up when B.E.T. Owned by US again.

X gives Neff a strong dap

X

Right my sista.

Malik rolls his eyes. As Malik stares off into space he notices TATIYANA walking across the courtyard. Malik is instantly smitten. He gets up from the table he and his friends are sitting at to go talk to Tatiyana.

NEFF

Ay yo Malik! Where you goin?

X

I think he goin to talk to that fine lil thang right over there.

The group turn their heads in that direction.

NEFF

Who her? With the Jay's on? She can't have knowledge of self.

2 INT. STUDENT CENTER - MORNING

Malik is casually follwoing Tatiyana as she goes into the student center. He stops when he sees her sit down and pull out a text book. Malik fixes himself up before going over to talk to her.

MALIK

What's up with you?

TATIYANA

Who me?

MALIK

Yeah you.

Tatiana rolls her eyes.

MALIK CONTD.

I just wanted to say hi.

TATIYANA

You said it, now be gone.

MALIK

Damn. I can't introduce myself?

TATIYANA

You should've did that before you came over here thinkin you was gon game me.

MALIK

(sucks his teeth)

I wan't tryin to game you. I'm Malik by the way. Nice to meet you.

Malik puts his hand out for a handshake. Tatiana ignores him and continues to read her text book.

Tatiana looks up at Malik.

TATIYANA

Oh I'm sorry. Did you need something?

MALIK

Actually I did. I wanted to know if we could go out tonight. Nothing too-

Tatiana lets out a loud laugh mocking Malik's attempt to woo her.

TATIYANA

Boy ain't nobody got time for you and your BS. Now gone. I got a BIO exam to study for.

Malik looks defeated. He sucks his teeth before walking away.

MALIK

I'll see you around...

Malik waits for Tatiana to tell him her name. She continues to look over her notes.

MALIK CONTD.

Right.

Before Malik walks waya Tatiana looks up at him.

TATIYANA
My name is Tatiyana.

Malik turns around.

MALIK
Well Tatiyana, can I take you out
this evening? For a coffee, a sub,
somethin'?

TATIYANA
Sure.

Tatiyana rips a piece of paper out of her notebook. She
scribbles her number on it and hands it to Malik.

TATIYANA CONTD.
Now can I please get back to
studying?

MALIK
Go right ahead.

3 INT. MALIK'S DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

Malik and his friends are in his dorm room. His friends are
clowning him about his date.

NEFF
You supposed to find you a goddess
man. Not that tired ass vision of
Eurocentric beauty.

MALIK
What are you even talkin' about
right now?

X
I gotta side with my mans on this
one Neff. Shorty was fine.

NEFF
Is she still fine walkin around
with a full credit hour worth of
money on her feet?

MALIK
Look man. You lettin' Instagram and
those Black Studies courses get to
yo head.

NEFF
Tell me this then. What if Malcolm
never linked up with Betty? What if
Martin never met Coretta?

PHAROAH
Look what happened when Kanye met
Kim.

NEFF

Exactly. If freshman get it why can't you? I thought you was down for the cause Malik.

MALIK

Since when did bein "Down" mean I had to only date natural women in dashikis?

NEFF

It's all aesthetics to you huh?

MALIK

Can I just get ready for my date?

Neff gets up from her seat.

NEFF

Go ahead and do you then fam. C'mon yall. We outta here. Let the sheep and his herder be.

Before leaving the room Neff turns around to adress Malik.

NEFF CONTD.

Have fun with Little Bo Peep.

Neff walks out of the room closing the door behind her.

4.INT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

Malik and Tatiyana are on their date. They are drinking smoothies and look to be enjoying themselves.

TATIYANA

So what's your major?

MALIK

It was histroy but I changed it to business.

TATIYANA

What do you want to do?

MALIK

I want to be a stylist to the stars. Get them together for tours or appearances. Stuff like that.

TATIYANA

What do your new black nubian friends think about that?

Malik chuckles.

MALIK

I don't even know if those are my real friends. Well X cool but Neff and that freshman get on my nerves. How you know who my friends are anyway?

TATIYANA

Everybody knows your girl. I thought yall was dating for a minute.

MALIK

Me and Neff? Naw man. That's just sis.

TATIYANA

All I know is she at every protest or rally on campus. Ain't she the one who tried to get the student salon shut down?

MALIK

Yeah that's her.

TATIYANA

What's her problem?

MALIK

The same thing that happens to all of us. She came to a predominantly white school and the environment changed her.

TATIYANA

We all experience that. She just needs to learn how to not let it affect her.

MALIK

Yeah, but it's Neff. That's easier said than done.

5. INT. NEFF'S DORM ROOM - EVENING

Neff, X, and Pharoah are all sitting around talking. Neff has a copy of "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" in the middle of the table along with several other books about African American history.

NEFF

This right here is our Holy Bible. Our Quaran. This is what we lve by. The words of Malcolm X.

X

Yo Neff is this almost over? I got some more research to do for my paper.

NEFF

What research is more important than that of your own history?

X

The kind that cost \$300 per credit hour.

Neff folds her hands and looks at X.

NEFF

My brother, I understand that you need to go and study the white man's words as do I. But if we do not seek the truth of our own, how can we differentiate between the two.

X takes a moment to think about what he should do next.

X

Alright. I got you. So what's up?

NEFF

Our brother has been lured away from us by a the blind sheep. His dick is making all of his decisions. We need to figure out how we should get him back.

PHAROAH

Let's crash the date. Campus is only but so big. We can rescue him.

NEFF

Word. Straight Harriet Tubman style.

PHAROAH AND X

Word is bond!

NEFF

(Shouting)

Let's go free our brother and show him the real!

6 INT. COFFEE HOUSE - EVENING

Malik and Tatiyana are enjoying their date. In the distance we can see Neff, X, and Pharoah making their way towards the table where Malik and Tatiyana are sitting.

The group makes it over to Malik and Tatiyana's table.

NEFF

What up Malik?

Malik is shocked to see his crew at the coffee house.

MALIK
What yall doin here?

NEFF
Nothin. Just checkin up on you.

TATIYANA
I think I'm going to leave.

NEFF
Nah nah. Stay, I insist.

Pharoah is standind behind X. He accidentally yells into Pharoah's ear.

PHAROAH
Yeah! We here to rescue our brotha!

X
Dawg! You too loud in my ear man.

PHAROAH
My fault.

MALIK
So Malik, you gon sleep with the sheep? Or step with us?

Tatiyana looks at Malik as she awaits his answer.

MALIK
Yo Neff why you gotta be like that.

PHAROAH
Cause we tryin to enlight-

Malik interrupts Pharoah by giving him the hand.

NEFF
Look. She got on Jay's, and that hair is definitely not hers.

TATIYANA
I am sitting right here.

Neff gives Tatiyana a disdainful look.

TATIYANA
You know what? I ain't got the time.

Tatiyana gets up from the table and proceeds to walk away.

MALIK
Yo Neff what you do that for?

NEFF

You deserev a real soul sista. She had no knowledge of self Malik. She was masking her blackness. Don't become a sheep.

MALIK

I'm really starting to wonder who the sheep really is. You walk around like you some superior and enlightened being when all you is is a nigga with Google. You know what, I'm good on y'all for a minute.

Malik gets up from the table and leaves. The group watches Malik walk away.

PHAROAH

He's a loss to the cause sis.

NEFF

We can't save 'em all.

7. EXT. CAMPUS COURTYARD - MORNING

Malik is sitting at a table all alone. He sees Tatiyana walking through the courtyard prompting him to go flag her down.

MALIK

Tatiyana! Can I just talk to you real quick?

TATIYANA

If that's who you hang around with and that's how you think then this is not going to work.

MALIK

But I'm not like that.

TATIYANA

Prove it.

MALIK

You have to give me a chance to prove it.

TATIYANA

I really like you but I can't be your Afro-queen. I can't recite Malcolm X and James Baldwin-

MALIK

You don't have to. Just be you. I like you just how you are.

TATIYANA

What about Neff and the soul
brothas?

MALIK

I told them give me some space for
a minute. This ain't the first time
Neff over stepped her boundaries.

TATIYANA

Then why you keep hangin' around
her then?

MALIK

Cause that's sis. We been friends
since elementary.

TATIYANA

Seems like it was more than that
once upon a time.

MALIK

Nah. We ain't each other's types.

TATIYANA

So what is your type?

MALIK

Something like you.

TATIYANA

Boy you is so corny.

Tatiyana chuckles forcing Malik to smile.

MALIK

So can we hangout tomorrow? I got
class all morning but I'll be free
after noon.

TATIYANA

I'd like that.

MALIK

Cool. See you tomorrow then.

Tatiyana gives Malik a kiss on the cheek before going off to
class.

Malik smiles and walks away.

FADE TO BLACK