

Fetch Clay Make Man

Ali is finishing his workout as Sonja walks in seeing him and begins to dance with him as "SHOTGUN by Junior Walker plays.

Sonji: Cassius I love you so much. More than anyone I've been with.

Ali: How many men have you been with? How many have you been with before me?

Sonji: What?

Ali: How many men—

Sonji: I don't know...what is it? What's wrong now?

Ali: What's wrong? I'll tell you what's wrong. A woman lyin' to her husband, that's a sin Sonji. "Cause you told me, you say "I've been on some dates, and I used to work at this club," but you told me that you never been with a man. Now did you not tell me that?

Sonji: Yeah but, well I knew the's what you needed to hear. I was trying to comfort you.

Ali: I don't need you to comfort me, I was the Champion of the world, what I need you to comfort me for?

Sonji: Because you were nervous. I could tell just by the way you moved on the dance floor that you didn't know too much about being with a woman.

Ali: So you decided it was better to hide your past from me?

Sonji: No, I just didn't think it necessary to tell you my whole life story on our first date.

Ali: But we not on our first date, we're married now. And you have yet to—when were you going to tell me this?

Sonji: It was non a' your business Cassius. My daddy and momma died when I was young, and I had to fend for myself and that's the way I did it, I had boyfriends and they took care of me—so what?

Ali: Sonji baby, how could you not tell me that?

Sonji: Cause you didn't wanna hear about it. No man does. Yeah, now you say you wanted me to be me, but would you really have asked me out again if you knew all that? I'm not stupid Cassius, I know how things work. Every man wants to be the first one, the only one. And you ain't no different than the rest of 'em.

Ali: (Pause) Sonji...listen, I can't be with no trifling' woman.

Sonji: Cassius—

Ali: You're an embarrassment to me. First with that outfit lookin' like a whore, and now I find out you been with every man on the south side of Chicago, just spreading' your legs around town like some black slut. Is that what you are Sonji? A black slut?

Sonji: No I'm not. A slut Cassius, I'm your wife.

Ali: My name is Muhammad Ali. The nation of Islam is one nation—

Sonji: They aren't here Cassius! Talk to me...talk to me like it's just you and me in here.

Ali: Allah is with me and hears everything.

Sonji: Cassius—

Ali: My brothers and sisters, we are one nation. And a nation can only rise as high as it's women. And you with your lyin', wicked ways, Sonji what you doing's holdin' us back.

Sonji: What do you mean?

Ali: You know exactly what I mean?

Sonji: Oh so, if I would've just put on the Muslim's dress and kept my mouth shut, then everything woulda been alright? Cassius baby, I'm so much more than that. There are so many parts of me that I want to share with you. And I can't go back, I can't pretend to be just. Part of me no more. I gotta bring the parts of my life together baby. And I can do it, I can be smart and sexy, and a good wife, and a good mother, and I can do it, I can do it under one roof. But you say we can't even buy a house 'cause in five years the Motherships' gonna come down and take people away. Well what about your honorable prophet? Elijah Muhammad has a, have you seen the size of his house? Oh so what they ain't gonn' take Elijah? Why does he get to have a house and we don't?

Ali: Sonji how many times have I told you not to ask those kinds a' questions.

Sonji: You told me you wonder if it's true your damn self.

Ali: I never said that!

Sonji: You never—? Who are you Cassius Clay? Huh? Because if you really are Muhammad Ali, then you would live what you believe, and not do one thing for them, and another when you're with me, like God can't see what you doin'...

Ali: Sonji, I'm a Muslim. And it don't feel right 'less I'm married to a woman who's in the Nation of Islam, really in the nation. And that ain't you...

Sonji: Alright...so you want me to leave?

Ali: No I...well can you leave after the fight? 'Cause it'd be an embarrassment to the nation if you left now.

Sonji goes to leave

Sonji? Salam Alaikum...sister.

Sonji: Fuck you...Cassius.