Jack pounds at a punching bag which is steadied from behind by Tick. Jack is in his zone...

TICK
Slow it up, slow it up-

JACK
Whut-?

TICK
Slow it, let dat sweat out-

Tick sings, as Jack pounds the bag to his rhythm.

Jack delivers a last impatient slam and turns away from it.

TICK (CONT’D)
Enough?

JACK (CONT’D)
Yeah, Ah’m pushin.

Jack goes and sit on a stool, and Tick massages his shoulders.

Ellie walks in holding a tray of food.

ELLIE
I wish they would feed their dogs around here.

JACK
You feedin yours here, aintya?

Tick tries to unwind Jack with a little chatter.

JACK (CONT’D)
Done try and unwind me, man, juss rub!

Beat.

ELLIE
Why don’t you come back and wash now, Jack?

JACK
Smelling pretty strong, huh.

ELLIE
You know that’s not what I-

JACK
Das inuff, man.
ELLIE
Jack, will you talk to me?

JACK
Tick gawn ovah on erran, you kin go walk round dere widdim. Maebbe git a ice-cream soda, or somethin.

TICK
Not wid me, boss. Ah aint strollin round no Texas wit a white gal. Ya’ll hold the fort down.

Tick leaves.

JACK
Take dem goddamn specs off. Ah can hardly see ya.

ELLIE
I didn’t think you wanted to.

JACK
You readin mah mine now?

ELLIE
Jack-

JACK
Ah toleya keep outta dis, din ah?

ELLIE
I can’t. Please, let them, you have to.

JACK
Finely battin fo da home team, huh? Finely come roun to it-

ELLIE
Cable them tonight. Please, Jack, and don’t bitch me now.

JACK
Ah toleya-

ELLIE
No, I don’t care! Forget what you told me! Say yes and get it over with for God’s sake! You’re letting them do this to you, it’s worse-

JACK
Worse fo you, mebbe-
ELLIE
Jack, it’s slow poison here, there’s nothing else to wait for, just more of it. You’ve had enough, please, you’re being paralyzed-

JACK
Wid you mebbe-

ELLIE
All right, yes, with me too, with everything but hammering that stupid bag there! You’re not your own man any more-

JACK
Now you rollin-

ELLIE
How can you be your own man? They have you! They do and you know it, you’re theirs. At least you can buy yourself back from them-

JACK
Sold! One buck nigger fo de lady!

ELLIE
Let it sound the way it is! Run when they push you and back when they pull you, work yourself sick in this hell-hoe for nothing, and tell me you’re not theirs--Here, look at the grease you swallow for them, look at the bedbug bites on your arms, and the change in your pockets and the blotches in your eyes-

JACK
Doan leave de smell out-

ELLIE
The two of us smell! Whatever turns people into niggers...(showing her neck)there...it’s happening to both of us-

JACK
Wish comin true, huh-
ELLIE
No, never this, it wasn’t this. I want you there fighting them again, that’s what I wish now. I want to watch when you’re knocking them down for this, dozens of them. God help them, wipe it off on all of them-

JACK
How about rooster-fightin? Plenty right here. I oughta look inta dat--

ELLIE
You’d fight them and be with your friends, Jack--

Jack crows like a rooster.

JACK
Somebody wanna sign me?

ELLIE
Maybe we could live then, damn you!

JACK
Lik frame house, tree in front?

ELLIE
Anything!

JACK
Nice quiet street?

ELLIE
Anywhere! A place!

JACK
Lil cozy?!

ELLIE
A kitchen!

JACK
Put de cat out? Tuck in de kids?

ELLIE
Oh, you’re just hateful!

Jack grabs her from behind on the neck. Swings her around and pushes her against a table/wall.
JACK
Well, ah gonna tellya whut de livin like, baby, as far as Ah concern.

ELLIE
Get away from me--!

JACK
Ima put ya straight on it! Ah went inta a fair once and dere wuz dis old pug, see, give anybody two buck who stan up a round widdim--perfessional set-up, reggerlation ring an all, cep dey had rope juss on 3 sides, dass right, de back side wuz de tent. So Ah watches a couple get laid out real quick, but he doan look dat red hot ta me, see, so Ah climbs in widdim. An Ah doin alright fo a youngster, when all it once he bulls me up againss dat tent-side a de ring an SLAM, WHAM, somebody behine dere conks me, right through de canvas, musta used a 2 by 4. An evvy time Ah stans up he shove me back agin, an SLAM, dere's anuddder, down she come.

ELLIE
Jack--

JACK
Dass how it go like Ah knows it, baby--

ELLIE
Sometimes, sometimes--

JACK
All de way now! Dass where Ah is and dass whut I’m gittin, gonna git it de same sayin Yessuh, Nossuh, doan mattah whut Ah does! Ah in dere, understan? An Ah doan wan you watchin, or helpin, or waitin, or askin, or hannin me you jive about livin or anything fromya but OUT, Ah mean OUT!

ELLIE
What?
JACK
How goddam plain Ah gotta make it for you!

ELLIE
Jack...if you want other girls-

JACK
Git you stuff ready, train out 10 aclock.

ELLIE
No, no, I won’t, no-

JACK
When Tick come back Ah send hi ovah-

ELLIE
Jack, no-

JACK
Bettah start movin-

ELLIE
Stop it!

JACK
Ah apologize fo actin so yellah up ta-

ELLIE
Wait, you have to stop it--

JACK
All Ah has to is be black an die, lady-

ELLIE
(goes to Jack)
I want to stay, even if we-

JACK
Stay wit you own, lady-

ELLIE
What are you doing! I won’t go!

JACK
Quit dat! Short an sweet. You knowed it comin, start movin-

ELLIE
Wait, Jack!
JACK
Doan cross me now-

ELLIE
Jack, I thought we’d save something, please-

JACK
Ah said move! you through widdit now-

ELLIE
Please, Jack, I only--

JACK
No mo lousy grub you gotta puke up, no more a ya lookin like a wash out rag here, wid you eye twitchin alla time-

ELLIE
Don’t--I don’t care—I’ll take better care-

JACK
Hangin on me, dead weight-

ELLIE
Jack, I’ll find a job, please-

JACK
Ah toleya when man momma die, leave me be a while, now-

ELLIE
Jack, I can’t run any more, not by myself-

JACK
You got you own people, an you a young woman-

ELLIE
No, listen. Please, I’d never-

JACK
You gonna fine you a nice-

ELLIE
No one else, I’d-

JACK
Tough titty!
ELLIE
Why can’t you wait at least! Wait
till you’ve given me a chance to
make you happy—one chance, only one—
I swear I’ve never had one—

JACK
Too big an order all around! You
wanna drag it out, huh?

ELLIE
No, I won’t go! I can’t!

JACK
Den Ah gonna wise you up good now,
you gray bitch—

Jack grabs a towel and starts whipping Ellie with the towel.

ELLIE
You can’t make me go, stop doing
this. Stop it!

JACK
Why you think Ah ain’t put a han to
ya for how long, why ya think it
turn me off juss lookin atya!

ELLIE
Stop it!

JACK
You stayin, stay fo it all...ya
know why? Does you honeybunch?
Cause evvy time you pushes dat
pinch up face in fronna me, Ah sees
where it done got me, dass whut Ah
lookin at, the whey, the wherefore
an de Numbah One Who, right down de
line, girl, an Ah mean YOU...an Ah
doan wanna give you NOTHIN,
understand? Ah cut it off first!

ELLIE
Oh, I despise you—

JACK
Right, like alla resta ya—

ELLIE
Oh, I’d like to smash you—
JACK
Me an evvy udder dumb nigger who’d let ya! Now go on home an huste one up who doan know it yet. Oughta hang a bell on so dey hear you comin.

ELLIE
You mean this?

JACK
Look into my purple eyes.

ELLIE
You win, “daddy”.

Ellie leaves.