

kNOw Justice, kNOw Peace

Written by

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Community leaders along with JJ, Regina, and Marcus sit in a conference room of the center. Philip walks in with snack and places them on the table.

PHILIP

Alright, y'all please feel free to dig in.

MRS. SMITH

Whatever we do, we have to do it right.

JJ

It has to make an impact.

MARCUS

What could we do that hasn't already been done?

REVEREND WARE

The last police shooting had this city on a curfew.

REGINA

That's because it turned into a deadly riot.

JJ

We do not and will not stand for violence. I don't know how much I can stress it.

MARCUS

Y'all know they're watching us- waiting for us to do something.

REGINA

It can't be *just* another march.

MRS. SMITH

But marches are powerful.

PHILIP

Only when they're done right.

JJ

It needs to be a massive statement.

PHILIP

Charlotte is a big ass city. We don't have the man power to take over.

REGINA

We don't want to take over.

MRS. SMITH

Chile, that is white folks biggest fear.

JJ

Who is the leader of the Black Lives Matter Charlotte chapter?

The room is silent. Everyone looks around the room at one another.

JJ (CONT'D)

Is there a Charlotte chapter?

PHILIP

Not that I'm aware of.

REGINA

I think the nearest BLM chapter is in Greensboro.

JJ

That's an hour away.

MARCUS

Do you think they'll make the drive?

JJ

We can ask, but I don't know.

Regina gets up. Frustrated she walks out of the office.  
 Marcus gets up and follows her.

58 INT. WEST CHARLOTTE REC CENTER- HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 58

REGINA

I just needed a moment.

MARCUS

Okay. You want to be alone?

REGINA

No.

She stops in front of a photograph of Fredrick Douglas. She examines it.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Did you know Frederick Douglas believed that photography would allow the world to see slaves as humans? Just beautiful humans?

She begins walking down hallway taking in all the photos and posters on the wall. We see paintings of Black iconic heroes throughout the centuries. James Baldwin. Harriet Tubman. MLK. Malcom X. Ida B. Wells. Toni Morrison. August Wilson. Lorraine Hansberry. Beyonce. Kendrick Lamar. Tupac. Nina Simone. Denzel Washington. Spike Lee. Whoopi Goldberg. Serena Williams. Barack Obama. At the end of the hallway she sees a painting and walks to it.

The painting shows a group of white men sitting playing a board game like monopoly. The game sits on the backs of naked black men. She stares at it- intrigued and inspired.

REGINA (CONT'D)

I wonder if they know what would happen if they just stood up.

Marcus walks up, he takes in the painting.

MARCUS

It'll disrupt the whole game.

Regina is taken aback by Marcus' statement. She looks at him for a moment coming to a realization.

REGINA

That's exactly what we need to do.

59

INT. WEST CHARLOTTE REC CENTER- CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME DAY 59  
MINUTES LATER

Community leaders still stand around talking and planning. Regina and Marcus comes back in the room.

REGINA

We need to disrupt everything.

MRS. SMITH

A few years ago, people laid out on highways. Stopping folks from getting to work.

PHILIP

That's disruptive.

REVEREND WARE

But very unsafe. How do we keep our community safe?

MARCUS

There's no such thing as safe for our community, Rev.

JJ

No matter what we do it will be dangerous.

MARCUS

Not if we're not in the streets.

REGINA

Yet.

Everyone in the room is silent but intrigued.

MARCUS

Have y'all ever heard of a play  
called "A Day of Absence?"