

Sir, Do You Know What I'm Stopping You For? by Jeffrey Lo

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By Jeffrey Lo

Written as Part of THE 2018 PROJECT

To read the 365 plays in THE 2018 PROJECT, visit:

<http://www.jeffreywritesaplay.com/the-2018-project-365-plays>

CHARACTERS:

Civilian

Police Officer

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CIVILIAN sits in their car, pulled over.

They are not happy.

After a moment POLICE OFFICER appears and knocks on the window.

CIVILIAN rolls the window down and looks at POLICE OFFICER.

POLICE OFFICER: Hi there.

CIVILIAN: Hi.

POLICE OFFICER: How're you doing?

CIVILIAN: I don't know. You tell me.

POLICE OFFICER: Excuse me?

CIVILIAN: I think how I am doing depends on what happens here.

Pause.

POLICE OFFICER clears their throat.

POLICE OFFICER: Um. Sir, do you know what I'm stopping you for?

Quick pause.

CIVILIAN looks at POLICE OFFICER.

CIVILIAN (*as smart ass as can be*): Cause I'm young and I'm black and my hat's real low? Do I look like a mind reader, sir? I don't know. Am I under arrest or should I guess some more?

Pause.

POLICE OFFICER: Well you was doing fifty-five in the fifty-four.

Pause.

CIVILIAN: Uh huh

POLICE OFFICER: License and registration and step out of the car. Are you carrying a weapon on you? I know a lot of you are.

CIVILIAN realizes what's happening.

CIVILIAN: I ain't stepping out of shit, all my papers legit.

POLICE OFFICER smiles

POLICE OFFICER: Well do you mind if I look around the car a little bit?

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CIVILIAN: Well my glove compartment is locked, so is the trunk in the back and I know my rights so you goin' need a warrant for that.

POLICE OFFICER: Aren't you sharp as a tack? You some type of lawyer or something? Somebody important or something?

CIVILIAN: I ain't passed the bar, but I know a little bit. Enough that you won't illegally search my shit.

POLICE OFFICER: Well we'll see how smart you are when the K-9 come.

CIVILIAN AND POLICE OFFICER: I GOT 99 PROBLEMS BUT A BITCH AIN'T ONE!

CIVILIAN and POLICE OFFICER laugh.

CIVILIAN: Haha, nice!

POLICE OFFICER: A fellow Jay fan! Consider this a warning.

CIVILIAN: Really? I thought for sure I'd get it even worse for being a smart ass and quoting the lyric!

POLICE OFFICER: Hah. Well it's not something I'd recommend,

POLICE OFFICER puts his notepad away and starts to exit.

POLICE OFFICER stops and turns around.

POLICE OFFICER: I mean... also, you aren't black and your hat isn't real low so... Have a nice day!

POLICE OFFICER exits.

CIVILIAN slowly rolls up their window.

Lights fade.

END OF PLAY.