

Professional (Interlude)

Marlon Craft

They say it's time to be professional
I'm graduatin, time to progress
They wanna know my prospects
I tell em it's a process and all I really want is a voice with
which to protest
I just wanna be heard, I'm tryna learn how to project
Cause there's a lotta shit up on my mind I need to profess
I'm tryin be proactive, I ain't got time for no rest when arres-
ts made daily by those meant to serve and protect based on prof-
iling up in your local projects
But still they tell me, I should be professional
These ain't your problems, you need to do what's best for you
To them, I'm nothing but another white pronoun who needn't worr-
y bout the side of town where it goes down
They tell me "Be a pro, why you searchin for what's profound?
We wrote your story for you, why you worried bout your prose no-
w?
We gave you this privilege to cherish it and have it
This world is fucked, but who cares? You got the prophylactic
You're white, your world is beautiful
Just be a pro, and you'll quickly go from a cubicle to an offic-
e more suitable
Why you bein unusual? Out here spittin propane, writin words th-
at's profane
You need to stay in yo lane, afterall, we spent centuries pavin-
it, look at what we produced for you on the backs of slave lab-
or and on the land of the natives and now you want misbehaving,
be all ungrateful, not invite us to the party that we catered?
" Shit
I thought about this proposal
It's true, the prologue to my existence set the world at my dis-
posal but the next chapter is mine
And as the protagonist, epilogues redefine with every step of m-
y actions and so as long as I got thoughts to give, I'd rather
be provocative as long as I breathe oxygen then sit up in an of-
fice and contribute to the maintenance of systems that wanna bo-
x me in just to keep me sittin in this stratified position I'm
postured in
I'mma try to do better
Get up on these Protools
Say fuck all these old rules
My mom ain't raised no fool, nah
I know I must promote the real and let the truth run its course
til it provokes appeal
So sorry to the powers that be, I can't be with it
I know what you did and I know how you did it
I got what you've given me but I'll use it to damage ya
Cause before I'd be your type of pro, I'd rather be an amateur