

## 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