

**Encore**

By: Tylie Shider

Pages: 4

Characters: Asiyah, American pop-singer of color  
Rick, Manager

Synopsis: An American pop-singer of color must choose betwixt salvaging the remnants of her career or speaking out for her community.

**Writers Guild of America Registered.**

**PERMISSION FOR USE: You have Permission to use this script for Educational use only. All live performances and or film are permissible for the sole purpose of demonstration (e.g. reel and or workshop showcase) And must fully credit the author.**

A CROWD roars over BLACK and,

ASIYAH (O.S.)  
Thank you. Thank you all.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - EVENING

Back stage. We hear the audience applause in the distance.

The DOOR opens.

We hear the audience applause through the open door as ASIYAH, an American pop-singer of color, storms into the room apparently coming down from a show high. Spent. Asiyah grabs a bottle of WATER.

Asiyah shuts the door, but not before, RICK, her Manager anxiously bursts through the door.

When Rick shuts the door Asiyah makes her way to the VANITY.

The applause continues in the distance.

RICK  
What do you THINK you're doing?

ASIYAH  
The gig is over. I'm going back to Jersey.

At last, Asiyah takes her seat at the Vanity and starts to remove her make-up.

RICK  
Do you hear that noise out there? *That* is good noise. *That* is encore noise!

Asiyah continues to remove her make-up.

ASIYAH  
It's noise.

RICK  
You don't want this.

ASIYAH  
Maybe it don't fit anymore.

When Rick moves into the mirror with Asiyah:

RICK  
Your career has a shelf life.

Asiyah angrily snatches her face away from her reflection.

RICK (CONT'D)  
You're not the same girl.

ASIYAH	RICK (CONT'D)
I'm not. I'm uh woman!	WE ARE AGING OUT!

RICK (CONT'D)  
You wanna be a bad ass? Then make bad ass decisions. Get out there and do your job.

Asiyah gets up.

ASIYAH  
Fine. I'll go.  
But I'm gonna talk.

RICK  
Oh no. You'll say thank you. Then you will sing. You will ONLY sing.

ASIYAH  
There's sumthn I wanna say.

RICK  
Your career is too fragile for political statements.

ASIYAH  
This is moral.

RICK  
Speaking out against law enforcement is political. Take N.W.A with *Fuck tha Police*.

ASIYAH	RICK (CONT'D)
They had motive. They had message.	They had trouble. We DON'T need trouble!

ASIYAH

Butchu said *all* press-

RICK

Is BAD press. The label will drop you if this album doesn't sell. Your behavior *has* to be as marketable as the product.

ASIYAH

Product? I MAKE *music*! Products are made in factories. I make this stuff in my *heart*.

Asiyah sits.

RICK

Kill the acceptance speech. This isn't about the *music*. This is about you wanting to get involved with THAT goddamn *rally*!

ASIYAH

You people have such interesting names for it. Call it what it is. It's war!

RICK

Your *fans* DON'T want war. They are in uh relationship with you. You coddle their wounds. You're an American idol.

ASIYAH

America is in a really bad place.

RICK

America pays you very well.

ASIYAH

I want my career to matter.

RICK

I don't get it. You people complain about segregation but don't know how to be included. Your fans don't see color. You're an American musician.

ASIYAH

You're right. They don't see me.

When Asiyah removes her wig to reveal her natural hair:

RICK

Give up the civil rights act, Asiyah.

ASIYAH

If they don't see color/ they don't see me.

RICK

You all fought for this.

ASIYAH

We fought to be equal/ NOT invisible.

Asiyah combs out her natural hair:

ASIYAH (CONT'D)

Alton Sterling. Philando Castile. Two men. Dead. In two weeks.

RICK

We'll send uh generous gift to both families.

ASIYAH

That don't make it okay.

RICK

You are-

ASIYAH

I AM everybody in my skin. Money don't change that.

At last, Asiyah makes her way to the door.

RICK

What the hell are you doing?

ASIYAH

Keeping it real, Rick.

Asiyah turns to Rick. Then back to the door.

And when she opens the DOOR Rick violently grabs her arm and they wrestle until she is free as we hear a thunderous applause.

Asiyah walks into a stage light: the beginning of sumthn.

Rick looks on: the end of sumthn.

BLACKOUT

