

FINDING GRACE

MUSIC: 'CORPORATE CANNIBAL' BY GRACE JONES (low rumbling tense bass, "Pleased to meet you, pleased to have you on my plate")

MUSIC: 'NIGHTCLUBBING' SUNG BY GRACE JONES ("It's much louder than before man, can you hear me? We're nightclubbing, bright-white clubbing, oh isn't it wild? Nightclubbing, nightclubbing, we're walking through town. Nightclubbing, nightclubbing, we walk like a ghost")

Grace: Well, let me tell you, I get to feeling so powerful up there, so strong, and they give me such energy back you know, that it just leaves me, er, like you say, you know, do whatever, do what you want with me"

Azara: Well I don't quite share the feeling of do whatever,
But I do feel like I could be up here forever,
Because there is a confidence, where I feel powerful and strong,
That the crowd is with you so nothing can go wrong,
Because the energy exchange is so vibrant and free,
Who knew that there were so many similarities between Grace and me.

Interviewer: When did you decide to be this exotic figure Grace Jones, this androgynous macho attractive, when did you decide to be larger than life?

Grace: When did I decide to be myself, really, I think that's what it comes down to.

Azara: So not only are we non-conforming women who share the same heritage and race,
We also strive to be our true and authentic selves,
Demanding the right to take up space,
I had to find out more about our legendary Black icon that is Grace,
That along my journey left more than one trace,
Of her excellence and courage, her fearlessness to be bold,
That unknowingly corrupted my sister at fifteen years old,
A sample of her song has been immortalised into musical porn for RnB.

MUSIC: 'DOIN IT' BY LL COOL J ("Uh, Mmmm yeah (mmm) check it out baby, Make it hot, then we drop it, yeah, Uh, yeah, Def Jam, you know how we do it, Yeah, uh, word to mother. You make 'em rise, It's our first time together and I'm feeling kinda horny, Conventional methods of makin' love kinda bore me, I wanna knock your block off, get my rocks off, Blow your socks off make sure your G spots soft")

Azara: Listening through the walls, the song reverberates through my skin,
Triggering something deeper within, only knowledge and understanding can provide the meaning,
That there were more layers to thinking it was LL's affection I was feelin',
That actually his masculinity was more desirable than his lips,
The question turned reality when I became the one holding her hips.

Interviewer: You once, I read a quote, you once said that you er, that you look better dressed as a man than you do as a woman?

Grace: Well don't you think so?

MUSIC: 'MY JAMAICAN GUY' BY GRACE JONES ("Oh my Jamaican guy, my Jamaican guy. My Jamaican guy, oh, my Jamaican guy. Take a toke from the smoke, never standing by the door, just stretching out pan de floor, Laid back, not laying back, Laid back, not worried back, Laid back not thinking back, Laid back never holding back, I said my Jamaican guy, my Jamaican guy")

Grace: My family was very religious, very strict Jamaican family you know, with a very English colonial type of upbringing and school and all of that, and I realised after I left home that I was not myself, that was not me, I was living their life, what they wanted. And I wanted to discover first about life and then decide what I wanted from life.

Azara: Just like me her roots kept her feet planted on the ground,
And despite strict up bringing we found ways to reach the dancehall parties or the garage scene underground,
Grace was so progressive for her time,
Navigating a hostile career, but a punch saw them step back in line,
She never denied her heritage and also found opportunities to evolve,
Her music, her style, heads were always on the revolve.

(continuing under the next piece of music)
What I discovered was the Vauxhall Arches,
Where I could whine up myself with no cares in the world,
Find a girl and stick together like glue.

MUSIC: 'PULL UP TO MI BUMPER' BY KONSHENS & J CAPRI

Yeah Konshens
Me know how fi pop it
Pull up to mi bumper (yeah)
Pull up to mi, pull up to mi, pull up to mi bumper (Russian)
Me know how fi pop it
Pull up to mi bumper (yo)
Pull up to mi, pull up to mi, pull up to mi bumper (J Capri)
Me know how fi pop it, me know how fi pop it (behave yourself)
Me know how fi pop it, yeah, me know how fi pop it (behave yourself)
Me know how fi pop yeah, me know how fi pop it (ay)
Me know how fi pop it, yeah me know how fi
Just pull up to mi bumper
Pull up to mi bumper
Come inna yuh long black limousine
And just bend mi over
Pull up to mi bumper
Pop out yuh key an' shove it in
When mi pull up to yuh bumper
Pull up to yuh bumper
Cocky mek yuh bawl and mek you scream
When mi bend you over
Big fat machine we ah clap, extension magazine (ay)
When me see dat fat pussy deh
Weh you have ah work wit'
I wan' good get 'til you drop down dead
Then mi fling more cocky to yuh pussy
Mek you raise up, shake up, drop off a bed (ay gyal)

Grace: I almost took my clothes off, if I had one more night, maybe!

Azara: So we went from a sample with a different take to a cover using a different sound,
To be honest that's just like Grace,
Never the same and loves to get around,
I guess me and her both,
We have so much variety to give,
Pushing boundaries and creating waves gives us reason to live,
Because she showed it was about sharing inner beauty and truth,
Something that can't simply be taught,
And it resides in us both,
So Finding Grace was a lot easier than I thought.

MUSIC: 'PULL UP TO THE BUMPER' BY GRACE JONES

*Driving down those city streets
Waiting to get down
Won't you get your big machine
Somewhere in this town?
Now in the parking lot garage
You'll find the proper place
Just follow all the written rules
You'll fit into the space
Pull up to my bumper baby
In your long black limousine
Pull up to my bumper baby
And drive it in between
Pull up
To it
Don't drive
Through it
Back it
Up twice
Now that
Fit's nice
Race it
Straighten it
Let me
Lubricate
(Pull up to my bumper baby)
Pull up to my bumper
(Pull up)
Pull up to my bumper
(Pull up to my bumper baby)
(Pull up)
Pull up to my bumper
(Pull up to my bumper baby)
Pull up to my bumper baby
(Pull up)
Pull up to my bumper
(Pull up to my bumper baby)
Pull up to my bumper
(Pull up)*

*Pull up to my
(Pull up to my bumper baby)*