

MARIANNE CALLBACK #2

MARIANNE:

I'm just saying that nobody wants to be *told* what to feel.

OLYMPE:

I'm not *telling* them what to feel, I'm *forcing* them.

MARIANNE:

Look. You've got too many ideas, too much in your head. Calm down, listen to yourself. What's does your heart need to say?

OLYMPE:

I don't know. What does your heart need to say?

MARIANNE:

It's like... these letters I send overseas to Vincent every day? News, surveillance, anything about abolition, the Assmebly's changing mind, he needs this information fast and clear so the cause stays strong. I know that. I do my part. But what I want every sentence to say is "I love you, be safe. I love you, be safe." Politics is what's happening *around* everyone's real lives. Most people don't have time for the grand dramas, it's the intimate ones that matter. So write your political theatre but remember that for most people it's not about being righteous, it's about being real. Find the heart. Not the... art.

OLYMPE:

Why are you better at this than me? I've been trying to come up with a cute couplet like that for days, but I keep dreaming of guillotines and resorting to puppets. I have to write something! This is a revolution! Everyone is making history without me!

MARIANNE:

Listen –

OLYMPE:

I can't listen when I'm whining.

MARIANNE:

You're just blocked. Writers get blocked. It's not a tragedy. Being ripped from your country, stuffed in the belly of a ship, carted across the world, and forced to break your back to make sugar for French pastries is a tragedy. The French are fighting a revolution for *freedom* while running a *slave colony* in the West. It's immoral and hypocritical and that's –

OLYMPE:

Oh my god I can write about you!

MARIANNE:

- not the point I was going for.

OLYMPE:

Yes! You're gorgeous, and empowered, and seem to have a very clear character motivation.

MARIANNE:

We're not gonna stay friends if you write a play about me.

OLYMPE:

Marianne Angelle: Activist for freedom from slavery in the Caribbean, lover of cheeses and universal human rights, strong yet sardonically sympathetic.

MARIANNE:

No, she said, sardonically.

OLYMPE:

But this could be the play I'm supposed to write! What you're doing is bold and important. You're a goddamn spy for freedom! That's box office gold! Come on. You make me believe that a better world is possible. If people listen to you. And a lot of me.

MARIANNE:

Ok they say write what you know, right? But what if you write what you *want*. That's what we're really fighting for isn't it? Women's agency over their own lives.

OLYMPE:

Yes.

MARIANNE:

The abolition of slavery across the planet.

OLYMPE:

Yes.

MARIANNE:

Maybe you don't need to dress your ideas in drama. You can write a monologue? Why don't you write a manifesto.

OLYMPE:

A declaration?

MARIANNE:

Sure, yeah. Like the Americans.

OLYMPE:

Like the Americans! "We hold these truths and-the-fact-that-women-are-people to be self-evident."

MARIANNE:

That sounds pretty revolutionary to me.
Also no risk of puppets. Everybody wins.