

Recordings of Mayor Joe Stark

Ah have been uh understandin man, uh fair and just mayor. But if ah didn't near lose muh damn mind tuhday at de store. It's no lie. It musta taken all muh strength tuh stay calm. That dere Walter reckoned he would have 'imself some fun and touching Janie's braid wit her not knowing. Nearly rushed forward and chopped off dat hand right dere. Probably woulda fought him wit muh bare hands, 'im too scrawny compared to me, wouldnta put up much a fight. But even though ah wanted to crush 'im into duh dirt ah had tuh be respectable cause ah am de Mayor. So ah done told Janie she had tuh keep 'er hair up now in duh store. Don't need nobody sniffin around 'er. Not tuh mention she shouldnta been swinging 'er hair round anyway. Just ain't decent. So that'll be dah end o it. She can keep 'er hair down in duh house if she laks. And if ah asks 'her to. But dos no good townsfolk wit dere pea sized brains and poor standin ain't getting another look at 'er never again if ah have something to do bout it.

Joe Stark, Eatonville Mayor

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By now ah know ah only supposed to record mayoral stuff in dis here recording, but sometimes it can be hard cause ah can't talk tuh da other mensfolk about Janie, can't tell dem dat ah ain't take 'er to bed in months, maybe years. Dey would laugh in muh face, marrying a beautiful woman and den tuh not bed 'er. But Janie can be duh most frustrating of womankind. Tuhday she burnt one part of supper, undercooked another part, and then the bread didn't rise. She couldn't get one part right, and ah am a hardworking man, ah just wanna to come home tuh some warm food. She has all day tuh get dis right. Den she gets mad at ME fuh givin 'er a slap. All ah am tryna do is remind 'er of huh responsibilities. Don't ah provide for us? Didn't ah build us a house, a store, a life? Ah don't want 'er mad at me do. She looks at me lak ah am barely even dere. She should be apologizing to ME. Stupid woman, to dumb to know whin even she's in da wrong. She see ten things and don't understand one.

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People keep coming tuh me and asking me bout da schoolhouse, or otherwise bout da store or da tow's road or da other towns stuff. But ah just don't has the times. Ah havtuh git da bad spirits outta da house. Havtuh make sure ain't nobody coming in to see me dat ain't coming wit kindness. And by dat, I mean Janie. She ain't never been no good foh me. She ain't a good wife, she ain't got uh good head on 'er shoulders, she ain't got no respectability, no damn beauty, no sympathy for someone whose just feelin uh lil under de weather. Youse know years ago, ah wouldn'ta thought twice about 'er. But ah thinks she could be da one making me feel so ill. It been years since she looked at me wit da proper respect ah done earned. She jealous, conniving, trying tuh make 'erself a wealthy widow. Well ah ain't done with mah part yet. She ain't gonna git the best of me. No sir. Ah got people givin me meds, givin me prayers, cookin my sweet unpoisoned food. She can't git me yet, and when ah git her curse off me, she gonna pay.

Joe Stark, Eatonville Mayor

Joe Stark