AIN'T NOBODY BUSINESS IF I DO: A VAUDEVILLE ACT

[THE GIRL takes the stage. YOU joins the audience, the only one paying her any attention. she gives the performance her all.]

THE GIRL

all the time disaster impending, yet it matters to you / if I'm sucking on peaches in summer sunlight / titties perking at the smooth jazz of Megan Thee Stallion / shorts short on my own lawn

all the time the government plottin, yet it matters to you / if I love myself so much my baby's like me—well-read / & well-fed. what if I said *my* god said *your* god is restrained / from coming within 15 feet of my person? would you then

tend to your own listless lawn? my bushes lush / & my water is plenty. if I feast on flowers & fruits / if I want her take-long lover to be mine, too, it really ain't / nobody business if I do.

all the time we're grindin to dust, yet it matters to you / if my hair's my own prerogative, my private party. / maybe I want somebody's daughter running her hands on through / maybe I want her getting stuck

maybe I decide, maybe I finally decide & it burns you up black & red. / *you're* the mislead, baby. what if I said my god said / in her version of the story, E-V-E eats the snake instead.

[YOU stands, whistles, & claps. no one else shows interest.]

[YOU approaches the stage.]

YOU
I think we should move in together

THE GIRL
I'm already packed



[from the back of the stage, DEBT launches a paper airplane at YOU. as THE GIRL exits, YOU picks it up & opens it to find:]

BANK BANK *PAGE: 1 of 1*

308 Money Valley
Townsend, LA
bankbank@com.com

PURCHASE HISTORY:
NEW RELATIONSHIP

CUSTOMER NAME	ADDRESS	PERIOD
YOU	*between heartaches*	*a summer*
BRANCH NAME	**CARD NUMBER**	**ACCOUNT NUMBER**
Townsend	*8547-95692-2541-2094*	*112345678*

OPENING BALANCE	TOTAL CREDIT	TOTAL DEBIT	CLOSING BALANCE
986.82	1,692.00	1,827.52	851.30

Date	Reference	Transaction Description	Credit	Debit	Balance
06/20	*0203577*	*eve eats the snake because the apple was*		*8.99*	*977.83*
06/20	*0203578*	*for two, You spends like You has it like that*		*30.00*	*947.83*
06/24	*0203579*	*here & there, appetizers & the sorbet*		*46.57*	*901.26*
06/26	*0203580*	*the park! (free!) the boba after*		*6.55*	*894.71*
07/01	*0203581*	*You works during a holiday for Your*	*560.00*		*1,454.71*
07/05	*0203582*	*cleaning supplies, candles, two cups, wine*		*29.95*	*1,424.76*
07/05	*0203583*	*& if she stays for breakfast*		*12.40*	*1,412.36*
07/05	*0203584*	*You hopes she'll stay for breakfast*		*15.12*	*1,397.24*
07/12	*0203585*	*good seats to the good show*		*47.34*	*1,349.90*
07/12	*0203586*	*where you split the popcorn & reese's*	*12.00*		*1,361.90*
07/14	*0203587*	*the shirt she liked at the bougie thrift store*		*21.00*	*1,340.90*
07/15	*0203588*	*yet the bills*		*1,560.00*	*-219.10*
07/24	*0203589*	*on sale lingerie, for if the occasion arises*		*24.85*	*-243.95*
07/29	*0203590*	*the car needs ___ & You has had less than*		*9.95*	*-253.90*
08/01	*0203591*	*to Your name before. You'll be paid again*	*1,120.00*		*886.10*
08/01	*0203592*	*get her the cake, the tulips*		*8.80*	*857.30*
08/01	*0203593*	*the champagne from trader joe's*		*6.00*	*851.30*
08/01	*0203594*	*now You is googling the cost of the world*			
		Total:	***1,692.00***	***1,827.52***	***851.30***

Not shown: klarna debt, student loans, a nagging feeling that there's something You is forgetting to buy

YOU

pocket list full of endless to-dos
options ain't options when they all a lose-lose
dead dead dying say the grownfolk news

I got the grownfolk blues
I got the grownfolk blues

GROWNFOLK

If the trip across town cost a dollar, you wouldn't make it out yo front door

[DEBT bombards YOU with more papers—past due bills. YOU rips them up & arranges them as fast as they come.]