

A woman with long, dark, wavy hair is shown from the chest up, looking towards a large, weathered stone head in the background. The stone head is partially submerged in a body of water and has a small object on its forehead. The setting is tropical, with palm trees and reeds visible. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the scene, containing dialogue.

I DO NOT
JEST, MY
QUEEN.

SERVING
YOU HAS
BEEN THE
GREATEST JOY
OF MY YOUNG
LIFE.

BUT I'M
NOT YOUR
QUEEN!




THIS IS JUST A STUPID COSTUME I STOLE FROM MY SISTER.

AND THIS... IT ISN'T ME, OKAY?

I'M NOT ROYALTY... I'M JUST A WRITER.

YES, YOUR POEMS ARE GENUINELY INSPIRING.

POEMS?



NO, I WRITE
STUPID SHORT
STORIES ABOUT
SPACE.

SPECULATIVE
FICTION, YOU
KNOW?

NOTHING
IMPORTANT...

NOT IMPORTANT?



YOU INSPIRE
OUR PEOPLE!


YOUR WORDS
GIVE THEM THE
STRENGTH TO WORK
TOGETHER TO MAKE
THIS A MIGHTY
KINGDOM!

DO NOT
DOUBT
YOURSELF, MY
QUEEN... YOU
ARE TRULY
GIFTED.

I'M
REALLY
NOT.

I'M NOT
EVEN THE BEST
WRITER IN MY
CLASS.

I SHOULD HAVE
STAYED IN THE
BUSINESS PROGRAM
LIKE MY DAD
WANTED.



DO NOT
ABANDON YOUR
DREAMS, MY
QUEEN.

THE WORDS
YOU WRITE... THE
WORDS YOU
WHISPER TO ME
WHEN WE LIE
TOGETHER...

I WOULD
NOT WISH TO
SEE ANOTHER
SUNRISE IF I
COULD NOT
HEAR THEM.

YOUR
WORDS
MEAN THE
WORLD TO
ME.

I'M NOT...



I'M NOT THE PERSON YOU'RE SPEAKING OF.



NO ONE IS
INSPIRED BY MY
WRITING...



HELL, THE LAST
TIME I TRIED TO WRITE
A PERSUASIVE ESSAY,
THE GIRL PROOFING IT
LAUGHED OUT LOUD WHILE
READING IT... BUT IT
WASN'T MEANT TO BE
FUNNY.



HOW CAN I
WRITE FICTION THAT
WILL INSPIRE THE
NEXT GENERATION OF
READERS IF I CAN'T
PERSUADE A
CLASSMATE TO
SUPPORT ME?



NO...
I'M NO
QUEEN.



A QUEEN
WOULD BE ABLE
TO INSPIRE HER
FOLLOWERS...

BUT YOU DO!

NO, I DON'T!

GOD, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M TALKING TO YOU!

YOU'RE NOT REAL... YOU'RE JUST A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION.

DO NOT SAY SUCH THINGS.

YOU TRULY DO INSPIRE ME.





YOU...

THE DAY YOU FOUND ME LYING WITH RANEN... I THOUGHT YOU WOULD THROW US OUT OF YOUR HOUSE.

OTHERS WOULD SEE WHAT WE DID AS WRONG, BUT YOU DIDN'T.

YOU ACCEPTED US... YOU INSPIRED ME TO EMBRACE MY LONGINGS.

YOU DID THAT, MY QUEEN.

I...
I'M...

I'M NOT THIS PERSON YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

YOU ARE MISTAKING ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE...

...SOMEONE WHO'S A WOMAN, AND I'M CLEARLY A MAN.

IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE SIZE OF YOUR BOSOM, I WILL REMIND YOU IT'S LARGER THAN MINE.

WHAT!?





LOOK AT ME FOR FUCK'S SAKE!

IT'S A GODDAMN COSTUME!

I'M OBVIOUSLY A MAN!

MY QUEEN, YOU ARE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN... THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN ALL THE LAND.



FUCK!

I KNOW I
COULD GET IN
TROUBLE FOR
THIS...

...BUT I
CAN PROVE
I'M A
FUCKING
MAN.



MY
QUEEN...
YOU'RE
SO...

I'M A
DUDE.

THERE,
OKAY?



...ENGORGED.

WHAT!?



YOUR
SPROUT IS
BEAUTIFUL, MY
QUEEN...

BUT IT IS A
PENIS, SO I'M
OBVIOUSLY A
MAN.

SPROUT?

THIS IS A
COCK!

I'M... I'M
A MAN!

IT'S NOT
HARD!

IT'S NOT EN-



I'M NO
QUEEN...

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a pen. The hand is dark-skinned and is positioned in the center of the frame, with the pen held between the thumb and index finger. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of light blue and yellow. In the top right corner, there is a white speech bubble with a black outline, containing the text "I CAN'T DO WHAT YOU SAY I CAN." in a simple, black, sans-serif font.

I CAN'T DO
WHAT YOU SAY I
CAN.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand resting on their hip. The person's skin is dark, and the lighting is soft, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The background is a blurred, warm-toned sky with horizontal bands of light and shadow. A speech bubble is overlaid in the top right corner.

I'M JUST A
MAN...

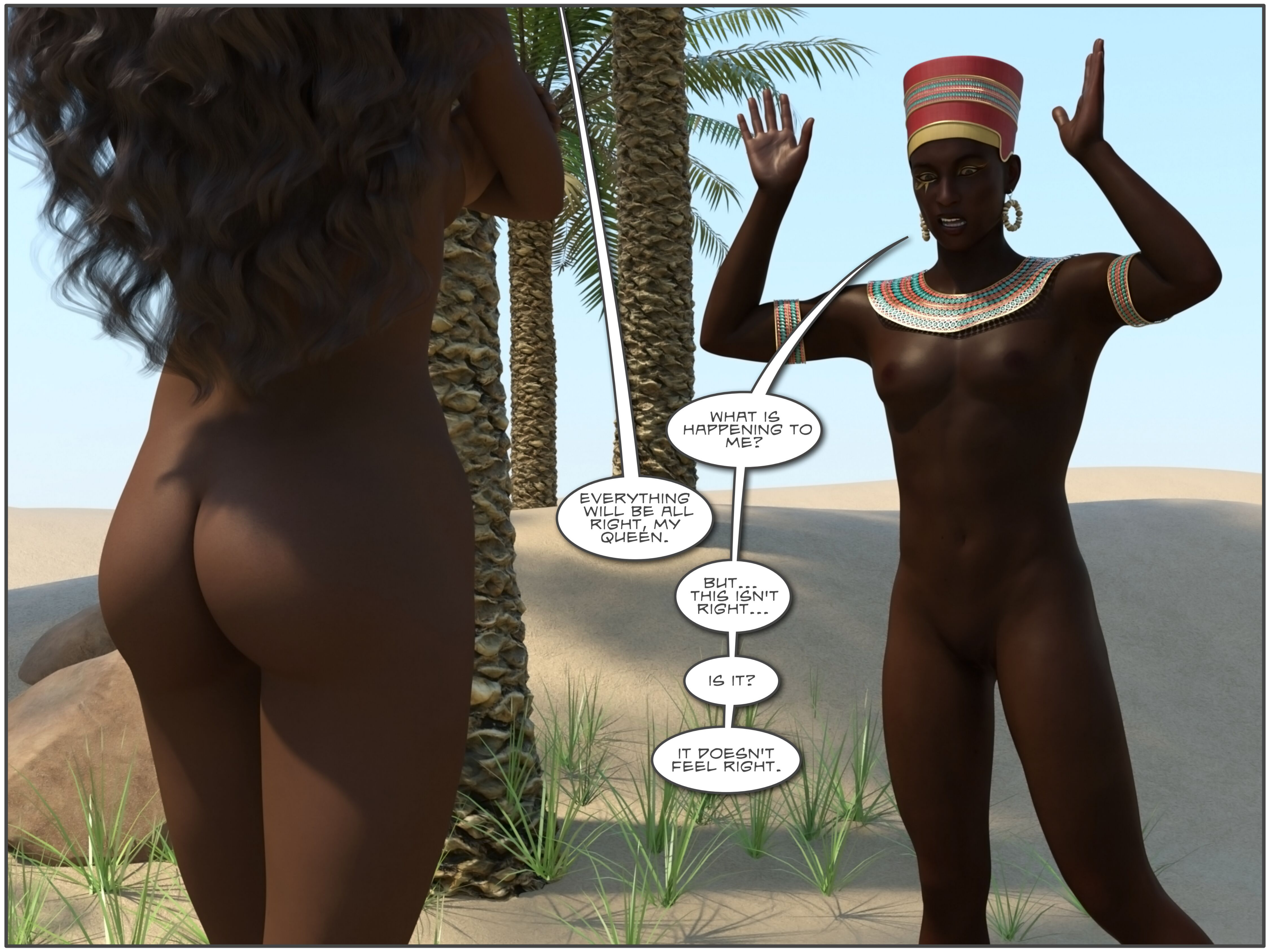
A MAN WHO
ISN'T...

A WOMAN
WHO...

NO... I'M A
WOMAN...



I'M NOT...
A MAN... A
WOMAN...



WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT, MY QUEEN.

BUT... THIS ISN'T RIGHT...

IS IT?

IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.



LOOK INTO MY EYES, MY QUEEN.

FOCUS ON ME...

EVERYTHING IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

I AM ARA, AND YOU ARE QUEEN SAMIRA.

SAMIRA?
ARA?



ARA... I
FEEL LIKE
I'M BEING
PULLED IN
TWO.

I... I
CAN'T
TELL...

BREATHE...

YOU'VE HAD
EPISODES LIKE THIS
BEFORE, MY QUEEN.
BUT DO NOT WORRY.
THIS ONE SHALL PASS
AS THE OTHERS
DID.

I'M...
SCARED,
ARA.

MY QUEEN...
CLOSE YOUR EYES
AND LISTEN TO MY
VOICE.



OKAY, ARA...
PLEASE HELP
ME.

YOU ARE A
WISE QUEEN...
YOU KNOW THIS IN
YOUR HEART, SO
PLEASE TELL
ME!



YOU ARE
A KIND
RULER.

I AM A WISE
QUEEN.



YOU ARE AN
INSPIRATION TO
YOUR PEOPLE.

I... AM
A KIND
RULER.



I AM AN
INSPIRATION TO
MY PEOPLE.

YOU ARE
GOOD TO
THOSE WHO
SERVE YOU.



I AM... I
CARE FOR
THOSE WHO
SERVE ME.

AND YOU ARE
BEAUTIFUL,
LOVELY, AND
DESIRABLE, MY
QUEEN.

I AM BEAUTIFUL.

I AM LOVELY.

I AM DESIRABLE.

AND YOU ARE
THE MOST GIFTED
LOVER IN ALL THE
LANDS...

TO BE CONTINUED