

THE BROTHERS SIZE

To my brothers; all

PRODUCTION HISTORY

The Brothers Size has been produced as part of *The Brother/Sister Plays* in numerous productions starting in 2009 (see *In the Red and Brown Water*). *The Brothers Size* was first produced at the Yale School of Drama in 2006. It was then produced in October 2007 as part of the Under the Radar festival at The Public Theater in New York City, in association with The Foundry Theatre (Melanie Joseph, Artistic Producer). It was directed by Tea Alagic; the production design was by Tea Alagic and Zane Pihlstrom, the lighting design was by Burke Brown, the live music was by Vincent Olivieri; the stage manager was Sarah Hodges. The cast was as follows:

OGUN SIZE

Gilbert Owuor

OSHOOSI SIZE

Brian Tyree Henry

ELEGBA

Elliot Villar

The Brothers Size was produced in November 2007 at the Young Vic in London. It was directed by Bijan Sheibani; the design was by Patrick Burnier, the lighting was by Mike Gunning, the choreography was by Aline David; the music advisor was Elspeth Brooke, the company stage manager was Anthony Newton. The cast was as follows:

OGUN SIZE
OSHOOSI SIZE
ELEGBA

Nyasha Hatendi
Obi Abili
Nathaniel Martello-White

The Brothers Size was produced in November 2008 at City-Theatre Company (Tracy Brigden, Artistic Director; Greg Quinlan, Managing Director) in Pittsburgh. It was directed by Robert O'Hara; the set design was by Tony Ferrieri, the costume design was by Angela M. Vesco, the lighting design was by Christian DeAngelis, the sound design was by Joe Pino; the production stage manager was Patti Kelly. The cast was as follows:

CHARACTERS

OGUN HENRI SIZE
OSHOOSI SIZE

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TIME

Distant present

PLACE

San Pere, Louisiana, near the Bayou

*A man that hath friends must show himself friendly:
and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*

—PROVERBS 18, VERSE 24

PROLOGUE

The Opening Song

The lights come up on three men standing onstage. This is the opening invocation and should be repeated for as long as needed to complete the ritual.

ELEGBA, OSHOOSI SIZE AND OGUN SIZE
(Breath out!)

ELEGBA

'This road is rough

OSHOOSI SIZE
Mmmmm . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh!

ELEGBA

This road is rough

OSHOOSI SIZE

Mmm . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh!

ELEGBA

This road is rough and

OGUN SIZE

Good God!

ELEGBA

It's rough and hard

OGUN SIZE

Lord God!

ELEGBA

It's rough

OSHOOSI SIZE

Mmm . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh!

ELEGBA

Lord God
It's rough

OSHOOSI SIZE

Mmm . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh!

ELEGBA

This road is rough
Yeah, this road is rough.

OGUN SIZE

(Breath out!)

ACT 1

SCENE 1

OGUN SIZE

Ogun Size enters.
Osi!

OGUN SIZE

Calling for his brother.
Osi . . .
Oshoosi!

OSHOOSI SIZE

What man, what?

OGUN SIZE

Get up.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nigga comin in here turning on lights!

OGUN SIZE

That's the sun.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Kissing his teeth

OGUN SIZE

Oshoosi!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Do you get tired of going through this?
Every morning we go through this.

OGUN SIZE

Get yo ass up!

OSHOOSI SIZE

This hard?
Early in the morning you gotta be this hard?

OGUN SIZE

Man don't bring me that . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

That's your job.
That car shop got your name, that's your job.

OGUN SIZE

Where your job?

OSHOOSI SIZE

I ain't got none.
I am currently seeking employment.

OGUN SIZE

Currently?

OSHOOSI SIZE

I'm tired!

OGUN SIZE

So, you just gon lay up here today?

OSHOOSI SIZE

I don't sleep good at night.
Tossed and turned all this morning.

OGUN SIZE

Kisses teeth.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Man you should stay home . . .

OGUN SIZE

The shop man . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

You own the car shop, yeah?
That car shop yours.
Say Ogun's Carshack right?

OGUN SIZE

Yeah . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Get somebody to work it for you.

OGUN SIZE

Deal.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What?

OGUN SIZE

You hired.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nigga!

OGUN SIZE

You ain't got no job right . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

You know . . .

OGUN SIZE

You "currently seeking employment . . ."

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ogun . . .

OGUN SIZE

Seek yo ass into that truck in five minutes.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nah man, nah I'm turning this shit down.
I don't want your job.

OGUN SIZE

Wait a minute . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oh shit . . .

OGUN SIZE

You turning down work?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Shit.

OGUN SIZE

Oh man you turning down a lot of shit.
First off you forfeit your living here rights . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Fuck that!
I'll stay with Aunt Ele!

OGUN SIZE

Gua ain't gon put up with your shit!
Elegua ain't never like us and fo sure not you.
You also forcing me to tell your parole officer
You won't work.
Smiles.
Ogun Size exits.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Are you . . .
Fo real . . .
This nigga!

OGUN SIZE

From outside
Beep.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I swear fore God . . .
 I swear this nigga . . .
 Got the working love, man.
 Shit.
 Know a nigga don't feel like no
 Getting up he come in here.
 "Oshoosi . . ."
 Like my name slave,
 Like my name on that damn car shop . . .
 "Oshoosi . . ."
 Nigga need to get up and build me a damn car.
 A nigga need to get around.
 How I'm supposed to get a girl,
 Pick up, walk round on my feet?
 Feet already flat.

OGUN SIZE

Beep!

OSHOOSI SIZE

You hold the hell on!
 Black bastard.
 If I am going to work I'ma smell G double O D good.
 Can't be workin and smelling like yo ass . . .
 Always funky.
 Nigga stay dirty!
 He ain't even that black.
 I was always darker than him.
 Everybody know that . . .
 Damn shoe . . .

OGUN SIZE

Beep.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Keep on Og!
 Keep on Ogun.
 Keep on the way you do.
 Every beep I'ma take even longer to get dressed.
 Going in there to get oil all on me n shit.
 You think I'm gon hurry up for that.
 That nigga threaten to tell my parole!
 He supposed to be my brother . . .
 That . . .
 He . . .
 Boy I swear you can't win . . .
 Not round here . . .
 Huh!

OGUN SIZE

Coming back in.
 Osi!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Eh man . . .

OGUN SIZE

Boy! Put that damn cologne down!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Look!

OGUN SIZE

Getcha ass in the car!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Laughing
 Something to myself 'cause I don't want you to hear 'cause it's for me.

OGUN SIZE

Whatcha say?
Say it again.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Mumbling man.
I don't want to hurt your feelings.

OGUN SIZE

Huh.
Ey!
Don't slam my truck . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Slam!

OGUN SIZE

Bastard!

SCENE 2

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi Size on lunch break,
Drinking a Coke cola
Singing a song.

(He sings.)

ELEGBA

Elegba enters . . .
Sang that song nigga!



OSHOOSI SIZE

Huh? Ey Legba!

ELEGBA

You sing nigga and the angels stop humming . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

You crazy.

ELEGBA

It's true, brother!
Where you get a voice like that?
I been wondering since lockup,
"How Oshoosi get his voice?"

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ah hell Legba you got a voice.

ELEGBA

But my voice clear,
I know that, I was born a choirboy.
But you? You a siren.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What?

ELEGBA

A siren!
You ope up your mouth an everybody know where the pain at.
Your voice come out and say, "The pain right here.
It's here, see it? See?"

OSHOOSI SIZE

C'mon man . . .

ELEGBA

You don't like nobody to brag on you . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nah man.

ELEGBA

That's all right I ain't scared to,
 Everybody needs somebody to brag on him.
 You like my brother man . . . I ain't scared to brag on you.
 Ain't embarrassed about my brother.
 Nah, too cool to be embarrassed.

OSHOOSI SIZE

My man Legba!

ELEGBA

I see Og got you round here workin.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Lookin like a grease monkey.

ELEGBA

You shouldn'ta told him.

OSHOOSI SIZE

He ask what we do in the pen.
 I say, "Wait, mutha . . ."
 That's what we do.
 Man sometimes he ask dumb-ass questions. He ask me
 what we do in the pen.
 "Wait.
 Cry.
 Wait."

ELEGBA

You right.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I say, "Work and wait."
 He say, "Work?"
 I say, "Work . . .
 Cry,
 Shit,
 Pray nigga.
 What you think?"

ELEGBA

What he say to that?

OSHOOSI SIZE

He look at me and say, "Work huh?"

ELEGBA

You shouldn'ta told him everything.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I spoke it all man.

ELEGBA

You say it all?
 All about the pen?

OSHOOSI SIZE

ELEGBA

OSHOOSI SIZE
 Nah I ain't tell him all that.

ELEGBA

Yeah that shit ain't nothin.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nah. Hell nah.

The pen got me dreamin about pussy nightly.

ELEGBA

Man . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Had to hold your own self tight at night.

ELEGBA

You didn't want nobody to do it for you.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nah. Hell nah.

Nigga's always offerin.

ELEGBA

Or trying to take it.

OSHOOSI SIZE

That shit crazy, crazy shit.

I didn't think they would get like that.

ELEGBA

Man when you in need, your mind . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Man . . .

Sometimes I had to remind myself,
That I wouldn't gon be there that long.

ELEGBA

Yeah you only had a year,

OSHOOSI SIZE

Two.

Man . . .

ELEGBA

We was like brothers.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Yeah.

ELEGBA

Brothers in need.

OGUN SIZE

Ogun enters covered in oil!

ELEGBA

Og!

OGUN SIZE

Niggas!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Why you got to be so hard all the time?

OGUN SIZE

You need something Legba!

I didn't see no car?

ELEGBA

Nah Og, just came to see my brother.

OGUN SIZE

Where he at?

ELEGBA

Ah, Size Number One, you know how we call each other
brothers.

OGUN SIZE

Pissed at being called
Size Number One.
Yeah I know how.
Osi, get that part I asked you for?

ELEGBA

Well I guess I be going . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Take it easy Legba.

ELEGBA

Oh man you know . . .

OGUN SIZE

Yeah you be easy Legba.
Bring a car next time you come through.
Give me something to do while you brothers
Conversate . . .

ELEGBA

Converse.

OGUN SIZE

ELEGBA

Elegba exits the way he came.

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE
Why you always got to . . .

OGUN SIZE

I asked you for that part almost ten—

OSHOOSI SIZE

Man I took a break.

OGUN SIZE

Playin that's what you always doin.

OSHOOSI SIZE

That's my friend.

OGUN SIZE

Man you don't make no friends in the pen.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What you know?

OGUN SIZE

Bring the part Osi.

(*Ogun exits.*)

OSHOOSI SIZE

"Bring the part Osi."

ELEGBA

Elegba returns
By . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oh you back man.
I gotta get to work.

ELEGBA

Nah, nah, I know.
But um listen.
You got a ride?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nah, not yet.

ELEGBA

Your brotha the king a cars
And you ain't got no ride?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Yeah! Right.

ELEGBA

All that talk about how riding is the ultimate freedom.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I know . . .

ELEGBA

Brother you talked about cars so much,
I was scared for you to get out 'cause I swore
The first thing you was gon do was go out and steal you one.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Shut up Legba . . .

ELEGBA

I'm just saying man . . .
Remember all you talk about was a car.
I say that nigga gon get him a car.
And you ain't got no car yet.
Man please how that work?

OSHOOSI SIZE

I hear you Legba.

ELEGBA

I'm just saying man.
You know me. I don't mean nothing.
Talk too much and too slow.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nah you all right brother.

ELEGBA

Well I will let you get back to work
I gotta get to work too.

OSHOOSI SIZE

You got a job nigga!

ELEGBA

Working at the funeral home.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Legba man you working
On dead people.

ELEGBA

Better than working with live people.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I don't like the look of the dead.

ELEGBA

You gon be dead someday too. Laying somewhere.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Yeah but I don't need yo ass to remind me.

ELEGBA

It's good to remember . . .
 So you know you need to do now,
 So you know that you ain't got forever just right now,
 Good to remember death man.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I guess I hear you.

ELEGBA

Ey
 Osi man.
 I ain't mean to bring you down.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nah man I'm all right . . .

ELEGBA

Ey see about that car Oshoosi.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Yeah yeah . . .

ELEGBA

You my brother man.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ey man . . . I know that.

ELEGBA

Ey it down . . .
 Elegba offers his hand to Oshoosi.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi takes it, how could he not.
 You all right man.

SCENE 3

OGUN SIZE

Ogun goes under the car.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ogun . . .

OGUN SIZE

What?

OSHOOSI SIZE

I need a ca . . .

OGUN SIZE

Coming from under the car,
 Holding a part, irritated.
 What?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Um . . . What does that part do?

OGUN SIZE

Sighs . . . Ignoring his baby brother.
I'm trying to concentrate!
Goes back under car.

OSHOOSI SIZE

How long you think before you retire?

OGUN SIZE

I just started . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Yeah but shit you doing good brother.

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Hey Og . . .

OGUN SIZE

Ogun comes from under the car.
Nigga they let you talk this much in the pen?
Ogun goes back under the car.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi kicks at his brother.

OGUN SIZE

Ogun comes from under the car

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi smiles innocently.

OGUN SIZE

Ogun goes back under the car.

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

Man I need some pussy.

OGUN SIZE

Bang.
Shit!

OSHOOSI SIZE

And the way you running into shit you need some too.
When was the last time you had some coochie?

OGUN SIZE

Comes from the under the car.
Coo? Did you say "coochie"?
When was the last time *you* had some?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nigga you know the answer to that!
I ain't been out but a minute.
Shit, seen more you than I seen myself.
You know I ain't had nothing for a minute.
Man but when I do . . . Boy looka here.
WLOCKA!

OGUN SIZE

Looks at Oshoosi like,
“What the fuck?”

OSHOOSI SIZE

BLOCKA! BLOCKA!

OGUN SIZE

Shakes his head.

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

Ogun goes back under the car.

OSHOOSI SIZE

BLOCKA!

Ey Og . . .

Og whatever happened to Oya?
Huh. That girl had a thing for you.
Man she had a thing for you.
She loved her some Ogun Size.
She was so phyne, black as night

OGUN SIZE

She was wit my boy Shango.
She stop talking to me . . . started seeing him.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oh man I’m sorry, I didn’t know, that’s fucked-up . . .

OGUN SIZE

Yeah.
Yeah.

You know him right?

Go through women like draws . . . He in the Army now.

Guess he doing good.

Shango. Huh.

He say, “You should be with me.

Ogun ain’t going nowhere. He ain’t got no scholarship,
nobody, no recruiter ain’t looking at him . . . he just gon
be here all his life. Be with me.”

Guess it sound sweet to her.

She start seeing him, talking to him.

But he got other girls he seeing . . .

He come into town for furlough or whatever and he come
to see em one by one.

He pay Oya some attention sometimes . . .

And then he out. He gone.

I used to see her walking around, got this sad-ass look on
her face . . .

I wanna grab her, sometimes, when I would see her,
I wanna grab and hold her so bad.

But she ain’t mine no more.

She with that nigga . . . She with him.

I . . . just respect that that’s that man’s girl.

She grown she in her own situation. You know . . . She . . .
Shango had this other girl . . . Guess it’s his main girl.
Shun . . . She . . . man she beautiful . . . Shun. Beautiful.
All the niggas I know want her . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Yeah I know Shun.

OSHOOSI SIZE AND OGUN SIZE

Evil bitch . . .

OGUN SIZE

So she tells Oya she pregnant with Shango's baby. Just walked up to Oya with them hips you know and was like, "My name Shun, I got his baby so you ain't shit to him." And see Oya can't have no kids. Everybody know that. Something about when she was little, some accident. Now she scared she gon lose Shango. Which would be good if she left the nigga . . . But she can't see that, nah, she got to show him how much she willing to do for Shango. How far she willing to go for Shango. So she can't give him no child, she . . . she . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

What?

OGUN SIZE

Nothing, nothing.

Ogun goes back under the car.

SCENE 4

OGUN SIZE

Dinner

Unusually quiet

Eating.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Eating.

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

What you up to?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Eatin my dinner . . .

OGUN SIZE

I wanna know now, Os.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nigga?

OGUN SIZE

Tell me . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

What's wrong wit you?

OGUN SIZE

You ain't never this quiet.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I'm hungry . . . I'm tired . . .

OGUN SIZE

Hungry?

You eatin leftovers!

OSHOOSI SIZE

By I ain't ingrateful . . .

OGUN SIZE

That's the point you are.
 You don't do nothing quiet;
 You snore loud as hell,
 You moan when you piss,
 And when you eat you talk more
 Shit than you chew!
 You up to something I don't know what it is
 Oshoo but you better tell me now.
 'Cause if I find out you doing some—

OSHOOSI SIZE

Damn, boy I swear . . .

OGUN SIZE

I'm not gon run to your rescue . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Can't have no peace.

OGUN SIZE

You think, "Ogun gon get me outta this."
 You can forget that shit . . .
 Don't do something to put your ass back in the pen!

OSHOOSI SIZE

What?

OGUN SIZE

I said . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ey man you want to go to jail Og?

'Cause you mention that shit bout every five fucking minutes . . .

I swear you ain't let me forget once that I, at one time, was not free . . .

Why you got to be so hard all the goddamn time?

Damn . . . it's gon be like this?

Let me know . . .

Let me know now 'cause I will get my shit,
 Get my shit and go . . .

But while I am here . . .

Man you let me be free . . .

I got enough memories to wash out without you
 Putting in a fresh supply every five minutes . . .

That shit ain't right . . .

It ain't right man . . .

It ain't.

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

Ogun back to eating.

OGUN SIZE

Eating.

OGUN SIZE

Eating.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ey man I need a ride . . .

OGUN SIZE

I knew it!

Knew you were . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nigga you the king of cars . . .

OGUN SIZE

You lookin around here?

I ain't the king of shit.

Kings don't come home greased from
The knees down.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ey, every man's castle ain't in England man.

Every man's palace ain't made of sand

And gold and shit.

Your palace made out of them cars Og.

You put cars back together better than any nigga 'cross this
place.

You the regent to come to about a car.

OGUN SIZE

What you need a car for?

You ain't no job to go to.

OSHOOSI SIZE

That ain't what I'm talking about.

You know what I am talking about?

You pushing the conversation somewhere else!

We talking about cars, man.

I need a ride.

I want to drive somewhere . . .

OGUN SIZE

Where?

Yo ass still on probation.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Damnit son of a bitch!

OGUN SIZE

Watch your mouth.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Damm!

I know I was once in prison.

I am out and I am on probation.

Damnit man.

I ain't trying to drive to Fort Knox?

I ain't about to scale the capitol . . .

I want a ride.

I want to drive out to the Bayou . . .

Maybe take a lady down there . . .

And relax . . .

Shit what if I just wanted to go by myself?

What if I wanted to be there alone?

What difference it make?

You can't fathom that?

You can't fit that round yo big-ass head?

You trying to lock me up again?

You trying to make my feet stuck?

Stuck here in here . . .
 Well you just give me the word Og.
 Tell me now like a man you want me to be miserable.
 Fuck the car . . .
 Mention prison again . . .
 Make mention of it like you do . . .
 That shit stops now.
 I mean that.
 I done served my time Ogun.
 Sentence complete.
 Done.
 Done.
 You sleep good tonight.
 I won't.

SCENE 5

OSHOOSI SIZE
 Oshoosi Size is sleeping, that night, dreaming.
 And in his dream is his brother Ogun.
 Oshoosi can hear him, in this dream, working,
 On something, on what?

OGUN SIZE
 Huh!

OSHOOSI SIZE
 Oshoosi is sleeping dreaming.
 Dreaming a sad dream and in his dream, enters
 Elegba too. Singing a sweet song.

ELEGBA
(Singing)

Mmm-hmm.

OGUN SIZE
 Huh.

ELEGBA
(Singing)

Mmm-hmm.

OGUN SIZE
 Huh.

ELEGBA
 Oshoosi Size.

OGUN SIZE
 Huh.

ELEGBA
 Cell number . . .

OGUN SIZE
 Huh.

ELEGBA
 Inmate number.

OGUN SIZE
 Huh.

ELEGBA

Oshoosi,
Oshoosi Size.
You remember?
Don't you?
Those late nights . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

So hot.

OSHOOSI SIZE

So hot.

ELEGBA

When the walls come closer,
Closer . . .
At night.
Night . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

Deep night . . .
That's when it most dangerous . . .
'Cause sometimes in the night . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Night.

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

You don't know what come for you, wei?

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

You know not where the hand will lead you.

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

If it's the good guard lead you back to your cell . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

If it ain't . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

You remember?
Me your friend . . .
Like your brother?

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

I remember you . . . In there with me.
We were down in there sleep-walking together.

Got so I could tell when you wanted to eat without
 You saying it . . . tell when you wanted to piss or sleep
 Or . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Mmm.

ELEGBA

I know you scared . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Scared . . .

ELEGBA

I know you in that place.

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

Prison make grown men scared of the dark again.
 Put back the boogey monsters and the voodoo man
 We spend our whole life trying to forget . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

You scared.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Scared . . .

ELEGBA

I know you are . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Dark.

ELEGBA

But I am here in the dark . . .
 I come for you like I always do . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

In that night hour when you know nobody else
 Around . . . Legba come down and sing for you . . .

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

You sing with me?
(Singing)

Mmm . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

(Singing)

Mmm . . .

ELEGBA

Yeah we sing so we know we together . . .
 You and me make it so our harmony make a light . . .
 In the dark.
 I know you in that dark place . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

(Singing)

Mmm

ELEGBA

(Singing)

Mmm

ELEGBA AND OSHOOSI SIZE

(Singing)

Mmm

ELEGBA

Don't cry.
 Don't cry . . .
 I will walk you through
 Take you lightly into the night.
 Make you smile.
 Open your hand and smile.
 That M&M kind of smile.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Hah.

ELEGBA

It's funny ain't it Osi . . .
 Huh.
 Funny.
 Oshoosi Size . . .
 My brother . . .
 Can you walk with me?
 I am your taker.
 I am here to take you home.
 Just when you thought you walked alone.
 I am here.

OGUN SIZE

Osi . . .

ELEGBA

Here.

OGUN SIZE

Osi.

ELEGBA

Here.

OGUN SIZE AND ELEGBA

Osi!

SCENE 6

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi Size wakes from a nightmare
 Realizing, ah hell, he late for work.

SCENE 7

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi at the shop!
 Standing breathing hard
 From the walk.

OGUN SIZE

Glad you could make it.

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

Can you bring a box from the . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

You left me.

OGUN SIZE

You overslept.

OSHOOSI SIZE

You wake me up every morning . . .

OGUN SIZE

You . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

You left me there . . .
 I ain't come here to work.
 I quit.

OGUN SIZE

You fired.

OSHOOSI SIZE

All the better.

OGUN SIZE

You can stay.
 Find a job.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I planned to.

OGUN SIZE

Then we square brother.

OSHOOSI SIZE

You left me.

OGUN SIZE

I know.

OSHOOSI SIZE

That's fucked-up.

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

You don't want me to treat you like you locked up no mo.
 What you say last night Osi?

You say, "Don't tell me when to and what to do no more."
 I listen.

I'm listening . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

You left me?

OGUN SIZE

So you got to get up when you get up—

OSHOOSI SIZE

Interrupts.

I looked around and you was gone.



OGUN SIZE

Not when nobody else tell you.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I walked here . . .

OGUN SIZE

You can't get up lessen you want to, no way.

OSHOOSI SIZE

It was hot.

OGUN SIZE

I can't get up for you.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I'll see you at the house.

OGUN SIZE

Yeah

Realizing . . .

You walked?

ELEGBA

Elegba enters.

ELEGBA AND OSHOOSI

Hell yeah!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Hot as hell out there.

ELEGBA

Breathing hard . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

What's up Legba?

ELEGBA

I had to push her here . . .

OGUN SIZE

Push who?

ELEGBA

I had to push her most of the way . . .

She wouldn't go up on me . . .

OGUN SIZE

What you talking about?

OSHOOSI SIZE

A Realization.

A Gar.

A Gar.

ELEGBA

A Gar?

Where?

OGUN SIZE

ELEGBA

She down there.
A couldn't get her up that hill.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Hell I barely made it up that hill.

OGUN SIZE

But you made it.

ELEGBA

Me and no car wasn't gon make it.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Excited as hell!
A Car!

ELEGBA

Can you look at her Og?

OGUN SIZE

You got money?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ey!

OGUN SIZE

What?

ELEGBA

I can pay you tell me what's wrong.

OGUN SIZE

Down the hill?
Will it start?

ELEGBA

Yeah,

OGUN SIZE

Ogun exits.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Sorry about that.

ELEGBA

What?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Tim, man, he can be hard sometimes.

ELEGBA

It's all right.

You got a car?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nah,

ELEGBA

Take this one.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What you mean man?

ELEGBA

OSHOOSI SIZE

What you doing?

ELEGBA

Nothing!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Why you giving me a car?

ELEGBA

Well I ain't giving it to you . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Where it come from?

ELEGBA

I found it.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nigga!

C'mon, Legba you found a car?

ELEGBA

In my cousin's dump.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What I'ma do with a car that don't work?

OGUN SIZE

Excited breathing heavy.

It's fine . . .

ELEGBA

It's fine . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

It's fine?

OGUN SIZE

Better than fine.

That car in good shape.

The outside beat up . . .

But even that's a cool blue

All you got to do is polish that up.

You ain't have no problems with cars like that . . .

Yeah you got to tune it up sometimes . . .

Pop it when it's buckin on you

But those one of those American Classics.

Those "I will run longer and stronger than the human Body" cars. Man please that car got plenty run in it.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Why Legba couldn't get her to run?

ELEGBA

I ain't got no license.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nigga you don't know how to drive?

ELEGBA

I mean I do.

I think I do still remember.

But my license still suspended.

Gotta get a new one.

Beside I ran into the Law the other day.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oh shit.

OGUN SIZE

Ah nah.

ELEGBA

Yeah.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What he say?

OGUN SIZE

He say something to you?

ELEGBA

What he always say?

OSHOOSI SIZE, OGUN SIZE AND ELEGBA

“Eh Boy . . .

OGUN SIZE

“What you doing round here?”

OSHOOSI SIZE

“Stay out of the shit fore you start to stink.”

ELEGBA

“What you doing?

Where you going?

Better be quick.”

OGUN SIZE

I swear that man ain’t neva gon change.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Anytime he see another black man in
Town he act like he got to chase him out.

ELEGBA

Sheriff act like he the only nigga
Can be seen in the town.

OSHOOSI SIZE

He ask you questions too Og?

OGUN SIZE

Man you know he treat everybody like
We guilty till proven innocent.

ELEGBA

Cept them white folks.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nothing but, “How do sir.”

OGUN SIZE

“Morning.”

ELEGBA

“Morning, sir.

Yall might want take shed of this sun lessen
You want to get as dark as me today.
Ha ha ha!”

OSHOOSI SIZE

And they laugh too.

ELEGBA

Yeah they do.

OGUN SIZE

Laugh with the darkie play play sheriff.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Laugh nigga laugh.

OGUN SIZE

"Lessen you want to get as dark as me."

ELEGBA

He see me see him.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Huh?

ELEGBA

He see me look his way on the way to the Food Lion.
He look over his glasses.

OGUN SIZE

That smile just coming off his face I bet.

ELEGBA

The white people he talking to walk on by,
Some of the Witt boys.
They walk on by . . .
But he stay there looking at me.

OSHOOSI SIZE

He had you in sights.

OGUN SIZE

You caught him playing monkey.

OSHOOSI SIZE

That's a crime in itself.

OGUN SIZE

Punishable by death.

ELEGBA

He say, "Where you going Legba?"

OSHOOSI SIZE

He remember your name?

OGUN SIZE

He call me Size.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Call me Size too.

OGUN SIZE

Like we twins . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Or the same person.

OGUN SIZE

Like it's only one of us.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Like we the same.

ELEGBA

"Where you going Legba?"

"Nowhere, sir."

Huh.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Huh.

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

"When they let you out?"

OSHOOSI SIZE

"Let you"?

ELEGBA

"They didn't let me do nothing.
I served my time.
Did all of it.
Got a job work at the funeral home."

OGUN SIZE

Legba you work at the . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Leave it lone Ogun.

ELEGBA

"You got you a job huh boy.
You think you fully rehabilitated son?"

OGUN SIZE

What?

ELEGBA

You know "rehabilitated."

OSHOOSI SIZE

What the fuck is that?

ELEGBA

Ha, the nigga trying to say "rehabilitated."

OSHOOSI SIZE

Niggas.

OGUN SIZE

Stupid nigga.

ELEGBA

"You fully rehabilitated?"
"Yes, sir, I think I am."
"You should know shouldn't you?"
"I guess."
"There you go again son, guessing, thinking . . .
That's what got you in trouble in the first place, ain't it?
Thinking you was too fast.
Thinking you could get away . . .
If you was better, you would know better than to
Think or guess ever again."

OSHOOSI SIZE

What you say Legba?

OGUN SIZE

What you say?

ELEGBA

I say, "Maybe you right, sir."
"Maybe!"

OGUN SIZE

Oh no.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Shit Legba.

ELEGBA

"Maybe I'm right huh?

Well let's go see your parole officer see if he think
I'm right."

"What fo?"

"Well you bout to go back in ain't you?"

"Why?"

"You standing here loitering."

"No, sir."

"You ain't, no?

Well you got a clear answer to that."

"Yes, sir."

"Don't let me catch you running Legba."

"Sir?"

"Don't stand still and don't run . . .

Don't wanna see you riding or flying . . .

Every time I see you I better see you

Getting where you need to go,

Where you should be going,

The way God intended for you to get there,

Before the modern inventions of life made it

Easier for the scum of the earth to transport they evil deeds.

Back when all you had was your feet to the earth . . .

Don't let your transgressions vine up around you son . . ."

OSHOOSI SIZE

"Don't let the weeds of the world strangle you."

OGUN SIZE

"The mud . . ."

ELEGBA

"Don't let it stick you and choke you."

OSHOOSI SIZE, OGUN SIZE AND ELEGBA

"Don't play in the shit you'll start to stink."

ELEGBA

"Yes, sir."

OSHOOSI SIZE

"Yes, sir."

OGUN SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

That's when the Witt boys came back.

Asked him if they could have a ride half back to the house.
They say they taken his advice trying not to catch sunstroke
Walking back home.

"You good boys come on catch a ride."

Smiling.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Beaming huh.

OGUN SIZE

Big smile.

ELEGBA

That M&M kind of smile.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi stares at Elegba
Like someone who just heard
A ghost or remembered a dream.

ELEGBA

You know, like they just asked to blow sunshine up his ass.

OGUN SIZE

Might do.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Huh.

ELEGBA

So I decided to push her over rather than risk getting
caught riding?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nigga you crazy.

ELEGBA

How much you want for looking at her Size Number One?

OGUN SIZE

Nothing man.
It's cool.

ELEGBA

Ey thanks Ogun, man, that's nice of you.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Yeah man.

OGUN SIZE

Yeah well enjoy your car Legba.
Get somebody teach you how to drive it.
Don't see how you can with the
Law pressin you . . .

ELEGBA

It ain't mine.

OGUN SIZE

I thought you just said . . .

ELEGBA

I brought it here for Osi.

OGUN SIZE

A Car?

OSHOOSI SIZE

A Car.

ELEGBA

Yeah. Man.
Here.
Here.

ACT 2

SCENE 1

Oshoosi Size and Elegba follow the action described by Ogun Size.

OGUN SIZE

A week later . . .
Ogun Size is sleeping,
Dreaming.

OGUN SIZE

OGUN SIZE

And in his dream
Is his brother Oshoosi
And his friend Legba.

OSHOOSI SIZE

ELEGBA

OGUN SIZE

In this dream of Ogun's
 There is something strange
 Happening.
 His brother Oshoosi and Legba
 Are bound together.
 And they seem to want to part ways,
 To separate.
 But they can't.

OSHOOSI SIZE

ELEGBA

OGUN SIZE

They can't seem to get loose of one another,

OSHOOSI SIZE

ELEGBA

For a moment
 In this dream of Ogun's
 It seems that Elegba has changed
 His heart.
 And now stead of trying to get away from
 Shoosi he staying with him,
 Doing everything he can to be next to him.
 And now Shoosi looking confused . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

ELEGBA

OGUN SIZE

Not knowing what to do,
 Where to go, how to move,
 Just feeling trapped.

Ogun wants to tell his brother
 To call him . . .
 Call me Shoosi I will help you.

But it's too late.
 Ogun's dream ends
 And Elegba is dragging
 His brother Oshoosi along with him
 And there ain't nothing he can do about it!

SCENE 2

OGUN SIZE

Ogun waking up.
 OSI!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Coming in.
 What?

OGUN SIZE

Oshoosi?
 You, you still here?

OSHOOSI SIZE

What's wrong Og?
 Man you sweatin.

OGUN SIZE

Yeah I was just . . .
Sleeping . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

You sleeping that's some shit.
Ey man listen thank you for the car man.

OGUN SIZE

Well see that's . . .
The thing . . . I mean I fixed it for you.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I know, I know . . . I need a job.
I think the Food Lion is gon be my best bet.

OGUN SIZE

That's . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Man I damn sure don't want to . . .
But ey, wouldn't be called work if I wanted
To do it.

OGUN SIZE

Lil brother . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

But you got a career in the cars man . . .

OGUN SIZE

Yeah I love fixing . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

I need to find something like that for myself.

OGUN SIZE

Like? You can . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

I was thinking about going to school.

OGUN SIZE

Oh, Oh yeah?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Yeah man take some classes take one of them aptitude tests
or something . . .

I took something like that in the pen . . .

You know it said something like I should work in social work.

I'm supposed to be sensitive to other people's needs and
shit . . .

OGUN SIZE

Nigga . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ha I'm serious.

I just want to find something like you got . . .

But with lots of vacations time man . . .

In the pen I would sit in the library . . .

OGUN SIZE

Oschoosi . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

They had this one book was this big-ass book full of pictures
of Madagascar.

I mean just the people, the places, the water, the eating, the ground the earth, the fucking, fecundity!

OGUN SIZE

Fe . . .

“Fecundity”?

OSHOOSI SIZE

You like that!

OGUN SIZE

Ha, yeah!

OSHOOSI SIZE

All these black-and-white and color pictures no words.
One of the reasons why I picked it up probably . . .
I'ma start reading more!
I ain't no idiot, I mean I should read about this world . . .
I wanna go.

OGUN SIZE

Osi.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I want to go to Madagascar!
Hell I wanna go to Mexico man it's right there!
Right there and I ain't ever been.

OGUN SIZE

What?

OSHOOSI SIZE

You know what fucked me up Og?
This what got me man . . .

I am looking at this book and I am thinking wow this place look far away, far as hell . . .
This place out there, these people ain't even got on no clothes hardly and then I see it.

OGUN SIZE

What?

OSHOOSI SIZE

This man . . .
This nigga . . .
This man . . .
He look just like me!
I swear somebody trying to fuck with me . . .
Legba or the warden done got a picture of me and stuck it in this book about Madagascar with me half naked n shit . . .
But it ain't!
Him and me could've been twins man!
He standing and you know what he saying . . .
What it look like he saying?
“Come on let's go.”
I can see it in his eyes!
I need to be out there looking for the me's.
He got something to tell me man.
Something about me that I don't know 'cause I am living here and all I see here are faces telling me what's wrong with me.
Maybe the me in China can tell me why I can't sleep at night.
Shit man who knows . . .
Man!
Ha. Ha.
I smoked too much today. Talking shit, right?

OGUN SIZE

Nah man you not talking . . .

Wait you smoked?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Yeah just a lil bit . . .

OGUN SIZE

Osi . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Don't worry about it.

The Food Lion don't give drug tests, besides it's weed . . .

OGUN SIZE

I know . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

I love what you did to the ride man.

That shit is . . . it's beautiful.

I love you for it.

OGUN SIZE

It's yours but . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Man . . . I'm going be real careful in it.

OGUN SIZE

Please . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Me and Legba just going to the outlet . . .

Gon see what's playing at the pictures.

Mostly going to see the women that come out for the pictures.

Hell ain't nothing out really that I want to see.

Would like to see some thongs walk by.

And once they see me and Legba and that sparkling ride
they wanna show me they panny line.

I am down for inspection.

ELEGBA

From outside:

Beep.

OGUN SIZE

What the hell?

OSHOOSI SIZE

That must be Legba out there fucking around.

OGUN SIZE

Ey man . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Laughing. To Elegba:

By man!

Nigga.

OGUN SIZE

Osi . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

I got it Og.

ELEGBA

Beep.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ha ha!
 Ey nigga!
 Stop wearing out my horn I'm coming.
 They arrest niggas just for that these days . . .
 Get your arm out my window.

OGUN SIZE

Osi.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Yeah Og?

ELEGBA

Beep.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Keep on Crazy Kat.

OGUN SIZE

Ey.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I'ma be fine . . .
 Fo sho.
 Go back to sleep Og.
 Go head.
 Oshoosi exits.

SCENE 3

ELEGBA

Elegba standing the next morning, outside
 At Oshoosi's window.
 Oshoosi, calling . . .
 Oshoosi Size.
 You hear me . . .
 I know you do . . .
 If you in there I know you hear what Legba say.

OGUN SIZE

Ogun Size enters.
 He sees Elegba at his brother's window.

ELEGBA

Hey . . . Size Number One,
 How you doin?

OGUN SIZE

Morning Legba . . .
 Oshoosi still sleep, man.

ELEGBA

So he here . . .

OGUN SIZE

You need something?

ELEGBA

You saw him? He here?

OGUN SIZE

Legba.

ELEGBA

I just want to tell him something.

OGUN SIZE

What, it can't wait till . . .

ELEGBA

OGUN SIZE

ELEGBA

OGUN SIZE

What you . . .

ELEGBA

Why you up so early?

OGUN SIZE

What you come to tell my brother?

ELEGBA

Ask him.

OGUN SIZE

So you got riddles for me this day
Legba.

ELEGBA

You should be sleeping or something . . .
It's still night it's so early.

OGUN SIZE

You got something to say . . .

ELEGBA

I told you who I come for

OGUN SIZE

Well he in my house and I say he sleep.

ELEGBA

Keep him there . . . locked up in your spot

Size Number One

'Cause if the Law catch him . . .

OGUN SIZE

ELEGBA

Go in the house Ogun.

You don't know who you run into this late at night,
This early in the morning.

OGUN SIZE

I run into you Legba.

I run into you.

ELEGBA

How come you never like me Size Number One?

OGUN SIZE

Legba

ELEGBA

Where Oshoosi get his voice? Your mama had
A voice?

OGUN SIZE

You trying to pull some bullshit?

You trying something else?

ELEGBA

I been wondering since lockup how Oshoosi get
His voice.

OGUN SIZE

You got something going on
Man.

ELEGBA

Nigga can sang!

OGUN SIZE

I swear if I find out later and you
Could have told me when I see you
I'm put my foot through you clean!

ELEGBA

First time I heard it he was hollering for you.

OGUN SIZE

ELEGBA
Yeah didn't know that; wouldn't know that.
He had just got in there good.
He hadn't been in there that long 't all
But he was strong.
Quiet to hisself.
To hisself always, but everybody break somewhere.

And one night, one night, he . . . call for you . . .
One night he just say, "I want my brother
Somebody call my brother . . ."
This grown man this man,

Crying for his brother . . .

Sobbing into the night,
"Og come for Shoosi now . . ."

At first I thought they gon get him for that
They gon hurt him for being so soft
But nah, there was a wail in that call,
And he just singing your name. Growling it
Like from somewhere I can't see but I can feel it
'Cause it's killing me. You hear dat? Killing me.

Calling for his brother. Crying for his brother.

Can't do nothing but grieve for a man who miss his brother
like that

Sound like a bear trapped, sanging
Can't mock no man in that much earthly pain.

We make us all miss our brothers,
The ones we ain't neva even have
All the jailhouse quiet,
The guards stop like a funeral coming down the halls
In respect, respect of this man mourning the loss of his
brother

And you just hear the clanging of that voice, like a trumpet
shot

Out o God's Heaven
Bouncing on the cement and the steel . . . chiming like a bell
Tell he calm down . . . tell he just whispering your name
now . . .

My brother . . . my brother . . . where my brother . . .
Gurgling it up out from under the tears . . .

My brother . . .
I can't never be his brother like you his brother.
Never.
You know that right.

No need to hate Legba.
I can't stop you from being his brother.

OGUN SIZE

ELEGBA

The Law might come round this morning.
He might come round here looking for a Size.
I ain't saying which one.
Not sure if he know which Size he want.
But seeing as how he ain't got you . . .
Must be another Size he want try on.
Must be another Size he ain't catch up with yet.
Always a way to go.
Gon head to work Ogun.
Gon to your shop.

OGUN SIZE

ELEGBA

Go on.

OGUN SIZE

Ogun exits.

SCENE 4

OGUN SIZE

Slam.
Since day one . . .
Day one . . .

You been fucking-up . . .
Not just the other day when you was standing here,
Looking all lost and stupid; all high on life
And the little bit of weed that Food Lion won't find in your
piss.

Nah hell nah.

FROM DAY ONE

Aunt Elegua stopped taking us to church.
I stopped going 'cause I ain't want to go in the first place.
But you kept getting up in the morning, you kept getting
up every Sabbath,
And going down to the river to wash your fucking sins
away . . .
And everybody say, "Look at Little Size taking up the cross
with Jesus."

"Look at him he only nine."

"Look at that devotion for Jesus!"

"You should do like your brother Ogun . . . You should go to
church like Shoosi!"

You know what I wanted to say? "Fuck that nigga and the
church."

I was jealous.

I wanted to be you for a moment, Little Size, I wanted to be
just like my Little Brother until me and Elegua found
you using the money you was stealing from collection in
a crap game.

Yeah. Yeah.

And then everything turned.

Everything turned. Spun right round. Landed on me.

Everybody like, "He only nine."

"If you would have been a better role model for him Ogun
he wouldn't acted like this."

"If I would've . . . If I . . ."

Aunt Elegua sealed it though . . . that miserable old-ass lady . . .

She say, "Your mama would have been so disappointed in you . . . Letting your brother go like that. Yemoja would have hated you failing her Ogun. Letting Your Brother Go." Letting you go . . . I let you go? I let you go. I got one image of my mama in my mind, one . . . and it fucks with me at night . . .

She standing near the water, my mama standing out looking out, looking out towards the gulf, belly full of you and she standing there holding my hand.

Tight

Tight

Tight

Just her and the water.

Us. That's all I got left of my mama, and you in that picture.

You a part of all I got left nigga.

So I held on from that day ...

I gripped onto your ass and pushed you through school.

I forced you up and out.

Whatever the fuck you . . . I did it . . . I burned my chance at anything so that I didn't leave you behind . . . I would run after you and ahead of you always hoping that I could keep my grip on you or at least catch you before anyone else did.

But no matter what I did . . . No matter if I thought you were fine . . . I thought you were gonna be okay somehow you would slip through and fuck up and fuck up and fuck up and when you fucked up somehow I fucked up! Some how there is no escaping you! You say I ain't never been in the pen? Nigga whenever you fall everyone look at me like I fucking pushed you . . . That's my fucking life sentence . . .

That's my lockdown . . . All my life I carry your sins on my back . . . And now you out there riding around in a car that I suped up and popped off only so they could find you in it with a fucking pound of powder! Cocaine!
What the fuck?

OSHOOSI SIZE

It wasn't mine Ogun . . .

OGUN SIZI

You fucked up!

OSHOOSI SIZE

1

OGUN SIZI

You fucked up

OSHOOSI SIZE

He

OCUN SIZ

You fucked up

OSHOOSI SIZE

I fucked up

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

So what you doin in here, hiding out?

OSHOOSI SIZE

I ain't did nothing.

OGUN SIZE

What he lying?

Say he lying.

I swear . . . please tell me how?

If you convince me he lying I'm with you . . .

Tell me how he lying Oshoosi!

The Law running around here . . .

Looking for you . . .

I . . . don't wanna know . . .

Yeah I do . . .

But . . . I . . .

You gotta . . .

You have to . . .

Please . . .

You have to . . . C'mon . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Legba and me was going to the outlet. He had a gym bag out there said he had to spend the night near the Bayou.

Said his Cousin Nia was gon let him stay with her for a while out by the water.

The night was going good Ogun you know . . .

It was right . . .

We left the pictures, we look at the girls for a minute, few of em smiling . . . few of em laughing. But you know he want me to drive out there, wanted me to go out there . . . And drop him off.

So I say okay.

What laws I break?

I drove too fast out to Nia's. Yeah that I did do. 'Cause I remembered how phyne . . . I wanted to see if I could get at her. I had sin on my mind but not in my heart. So I was racing . . . And I'm just going and I got the wind coming in the car and the songs playing and Legba laughing, 'cause we having a good time . . . It's nice out . . . ain't too hot yet . . . And . . . and I'm driving and singing.

(Sings)

Just feel right that they played it.

(Sings)

I can feel Nia singing it to me you know. Inviting me to spend the night too. I'm singing and I caught a breeze right in my nose, that brackish water breeze right in my fucking nose and I sneezed . . . and the car spun right round. And I stopped and snot was hanging out my nose, I was laughing my ass off, it was so funny. Legba was laughing and it was dark and shit . . . It was real dark and laughing and then . . . And then felt like a fucking dream. Music still playing.

ELEGBA

Legba enters, singing.

(Sings)

Ogun stands watching.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I felt like I had been there before.

(*Elegba sings.*)

OSHOOSI SIZE

Just us out there . . . Just the car sitting and chillin hearing that ol music . . . hearing it say something but really just telling me that I'm free and everything all right . . . Legba say, Legba say,

ELEGBA

This nice man.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I say yeah man.

Yeah it is.

He say let's . . .

ELEGBA

Let's just sit for a minute . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

I say all right man

But no too long gotta get to your cousin.

ELEGBA

Yeah but this nice, right?

OSHOOSI SIZE

He say this nice . . .

I say yeah man you right. It was Ogun. I ain't gon lie. I never felt like that. I smell that Gulf air. Just making me think more of Nia. Remember her body. Music making me sleepy.

(*Elegba sings.*)

OSHOOSI SIZE

Making me sleepy and hard at the same time . . . Why that happen Ogun, why when you get sleepy yo dick hard? Guess that mystery to be solved by scientist and astrologers or people who got plenty of time to study dick . . . All this a dream it was so quiet out there . . .

(*Elegba sings.*)

Elegba and Oshoosi Size sing.

Oshoosi Size sings.)

ELEGBA

Elegba touches Oshoosi head.

OSHOOSI SIZE

It couldn't been happening.

ELEGBA

Let's, let's stay for a second.

Legba's hand rests on Shoosi shoulder.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Not for real . . .

(*Elegba sings.*)

ELEGBA

His hand slides down . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Not like that.

(*Elegba sings.*)

ELEGBA

Slides down onto his thigh.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What you doin?

ELEGBA

Elegba smiling.
Nothing brother . . .
Just singing to you like I used to.
This nice ain't it?

OSHOOSI SIZE

ELEGBA

Right?

(Elegba sings.)

OSHOOSI SIZE

And then I heard sirens.
Come out nowhere lights and sirens.
Music playing.
The Law come up on us looking like he happy bout some-
thing.
With that gotcha face on.
Shining his light.
“You got anything in the trunk son?”
“No, sir.”
Nothing was in there as far as I know.
“No, sir.”
“Well what in the shit is this?”
I hate how some niggas don’t know how to cuss right.

Who say, “What in the shit”?

“What in the shit is this?”

He standing hold this bag wide open.

He ain’t supposed to search the car unless he got provocation.

But damnit if the sheriff ain’t standing there holding
Legba’s bag

It’s pouring white out onto the asphalt.

I wish you could’ve seen my face . . .

I like to jump over and kill Legba

But the Law say get out that car.

I say, “Legba what the fuck he holding man?

What you doing?”

He just looking.

Almost like he smiling.

And I see where he at already . . . I see where Legba at.

He in jail. He already sitting in his cell singing.

(Elegba sings.)

OSHOOSI SIZE

He back there just that fast.

(Elegba sings.)

OSHOOSI SIZE

And I see him go there . . .
I see them walls around him . . .

(Elegba sings.)

OSHOOSI SIZE

I see them dark-ass halls and the midnights with no sleep.
I swear I see em Ogun as you my brother I see em.

(*Elegba sings.*)

OSHOOSI SIZE

And I can't.
I just can't.
So I ran.
I can't tell you what I ran like, how I ran . . . what I saw
when I ran . . .
I ran . . .
I run all the way till I get here.
And I come in here and I close the door and I say I ain't
going back . . .
I ain't going back.

OGUN SIZE

Ogun Size stares at his brother.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi Size his younger brother.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I am here now . . . Brother Size . . .
I'm here. What we gon do?

SCENE 5

OGUN SIZE

That same night.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Later on.

OGUN SIZE

Nigga you lying!

OSHOOSI SIZE

You trying to tell me you ain't say it?

OGUN SIZE

I ain't neva said no shit like . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

I remember it like it was yesterday.
Roon had just came round the house and told us that
Mama finally passed.
I was little but I wasn't that damn little.
He say, "She gone Ele. Yemoja finally let go."
Roon turn around and see us standing there and walk over
to us.
And he said, "Lil men yo mama ain't coming here to get you.
She went to be a part of the number.
She went on with the father now.
Yall don't be sad or scared.
Yo mama ain't coming."
He say, "You understand, lil man?"
Getting all close in my face breath smelling like snuff . . .
All Loud:
"YOU UNDERSTAND, LIL MAN?"
I say, "Yeah I hear you.
Anything to get yo ass out my face.
I gotcha."
He look at you he say, "You be strong Ogun."
And I swear you could see the tremor start in your face . . .

OGUN SIZE

Ha-hah!
Shut up . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Like the Mississippi swelling up.
You so ugly when you cry.
If you cried today I still bet it's ugly . . .
You say . . .

OGUN SIZE

Go on now.

OSHOOSI SIZE

You say,
“LORD GOD . . . WILL THIS PAIN . . . EVER GO AWAY?”
Knees buckled from under you.
Falling on the ground grabbing up the carpet underneath you.
Convulsing and weeping and wailing like Mary.
I like to cried ’cause I thought you was finna die.
I say, “Lord you done took my mama not my brother too.”

OGUN SIZE

Ha-hah!
It ain’t funny Oshoosi
I was in grief.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Your ass was overdramatic!

OGUN SIZE

Hah!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Then Aunt Ele kept calling you carpet boy for so long after.

OGUN SIZE

That woman don’t got a sympathetic bone in her Body.

OSHOOSI SIZE

But damn sure got a lotta body.

OGUN SIZE

You ain’t neva lied.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Then gon have the nerve to have a fainting spell at mama’s funeral.
Fat ass . . .

OGUN SIZE

Like somebody could hold her big ass up.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Thank God for O Li Roon
Because I wasn’t about to try and revive her nothing.
Her big ass passed out,
I say, “Let her stay out that teach her ass for fainting.”
I wasn’t going nowhere near her.

OGUN SIZE

Hateful Aunt Elegua.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Sitting over there old as she wanna be.
Like she ain’t never gon die.
Walking Negro spiritual.
Just keep rolling along.

OGUN SIZE

Seem like she never liked us,
Liked she resented Mama for getting sick
And having to take us in.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Wasn't like we didn't come with two nice welfare checks
To go long with us.
Hell the government might as well put money clips round
us and handed us to her.

OGUN SIZE

And she still gypped us at Christmas.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ain't that some shit?
Thank God for Santa Claus.

OGUN SIZE

You believe in Santa?

OSHOOSI SIZE

My big brother leaving me presents under the tree . . .
Yeah I believe.

OGUN SIZE

You knew it was me?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Who else it gon be?
Nobody else care.
You act like you don't care . . .
You act like you so tough but I would catch it . . .

I catch you looking at me sometimes like you wanna beat
my ass you so mad.
Then I see this smile crack.
I see it and I see you . . .

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE
What you do in prison?

OSHOOSI SIZE
Man why you always ask that?

OGUN SIZE
You know what I do when you was gone . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE
Think about what you was doing right then.
Sometimes I see you in there smiling big.
That's one thing about you I do know . . .
You kind to everybody.

You give everybody a chance and yeah you fuck up but
that's how the world balance you out.

All that niceness you pass to everybody they take it and it
comes back so that when you do fuck up you paying for
it ain't so bad.

You good to everybody you meet.
Only thing prison made you was tired.

OSHOOSI SIZE

You right Og, I'm tired man. So tired.
Tired. Too tired to fight it off.

OGUN SIZE

Ogun staring at his brother not knowing what to say.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi looking at the ground thinking of all he done said . . .

OGUN SIZE

Nothing more to say . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Weary of saying anything.

OGUN SIZE

Weary of talking.

OSHOOSI SIZE AND OGUN SIZE

Weary.

(Ogun Size sings.)

OSHOOSI SIZE

Aw hell nah.
I'm already on the cusp of crazy you trying to push me over.

OGUN SIZE

What?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nigga you know you can't sing.

OGUN SIZE

Ey, the song just popped into my head.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Pop it out.

OGUN SIZE

Ey, I use to sing you to sleep.

OSHOOSI SIZE

No I use to close my ears until I passed out.

OGUN SIZE

Ha.

You the singer.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nah man you crazy.

OGUN SIZE

Sing that song for me I want to hear it.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Nah c'mon Og.

OGUN SIZE

You ain't sleeping no time soon.

Me neither.

C'mon sing for me.

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

I tell you what . . .

OGUN SIZE

What?

Play backup for me.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What!

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

Don't act like you ain't never done it before.

OGUN SIZE

Where you going?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Hold the hell on.

Coming.

I'll be right there.

Turns on music.

OGUN SIZE

That sweet song start playing.

I didn't know you had this song.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Every man need a copy of this song.

OGUN SIZE

Man you use to sing the hell out of this song.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Still do.

But I need a piano man.

OGUN SIZE

You mean a organ man.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Ah nigga just play whatever but in the back.

OGUN SIZE

All right Ike I'm getting.

(Oshoosi Size sings with the music...)

OGUN SIZE

I think I'ma switch to drums.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Good work brother.

OGUN SIZE

I thought you would enjoy that brother.

I'mon sing the song.

(Oshoosi Size sings.)

OGUN SIZE

Yeah!

(Oshoosi Size sings.)

OGUN SIZE

What you got do?

(*Oshoosi Size sings. Then Ogun Size and Oshoosi Size sing together.*)

OSHOOSI SIZE

Laughing.

Eh you kinda overstepping your boundaries piano/sax man.

OGUN SIZE

Having a good time . . .

Eh man I am just backing you up.
Just sing the song Anna Mae.

(*Oshoosi Size sings.*)

OGUN SIZE

Now you getting into it!
But don't turn into a Temptation.
Keep it cool.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Let me do this!

OGUN SIZE

You got it.

(*Oshoosi Size sings.*)

OGUN SIZE

Playing backup and
Doing Temptation moves.

(*Oshoosi Size sings. Laughs!*
Ogun Size cracks up!

Oshoosi Size sings.
Ogun Size smiles.
Oshoosi Size sings.)

ELEGBA

Elegba appears at the window,
Like a glimmer of moonlight,
For a moment is gone.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi sees it.
How could he not?
He stops singing.

OGUN SIZE

What happened?

OSHOOSI SIZE

Tired.
Voice tired.

OGUN SIZE

C'mon man finish.

OSHOOSI SIZE

I can't man.

OGUN SIZE

Eh brother just try to . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Eh man I'm done . . .

OGUN SIZE

But Oshoo you . . .
 C'mon man you the star.
 Shine little brother . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

I don't want to play no more.

OGUN SIZE

Brother . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Eh, stop pushing me Og.
 I said I am done man.
 I'm going to bed.

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi Size exits to bed.

OGUN SIZE

Ogun Size is left alone.
 Without his brother.
 The music plays in the background.

The music turns off.
 Just the sound of night, now.

Okay man.
 Okay.
 Good night.

Ogun Size stands alone in the night.
 Staring.

OGUN SIZE

OGUN SIZE

OGUN SIZE

OGUN SIZE

OGUN SIZE

OGUN SIZE

And the next morning . . .

SCENE 6

OGUN SIZE

Ogun Size enters.
 Osi!
 Calling for his brother.
 Osi . . .
 Oshoosi Size!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Waking up.
 Og man
 Why you calling!

OGUN SIZE

Get up.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What time is it!

OGUN SIZE

Time to go.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What you talking about man!

OSHOOSI SIZE

What you doin . . .

OGUN SIZE

THROW!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Eh man that's all my shit!

OGUN SIZE

Get it together . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Brother . . . Brother Size man . . .

OGUN SIZE

You got to get outta here.

OSHOOSI SIZE

You just . . .

You upset!

What you mad at?

What, you don't believe me?

Og!

Ogun!

Man . . . don't do me like this!

OGUN SIZE

Get your shit.

Get in the truck.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Og.

OGUN SIZE

Don't come back.

Don't call here.

Don't write . . .

When they come here . . .

When the Law comes here for you . . .

I'm going to deny you . . .

They gon ask for my brother . . .

I'm going to say I ain't got none . . .

He gon say there two Size,

I'm gon say nah, just one. Only one . . .

I'ma deny you . . .

Up to three times . . .

That's all I can take.

That's how many times I can do it . . .

Don't cry when you hear about it . . .

Don't think I don't know you . . .

Don't believe it . . . Hear me . . .

You here with me . . .

Always . . .

But you gotta go fore you get caught . . .

Get in the truck, all your shit brother . . .

Everything you need . . .

Need Shoosi need . . .
 Only stop when you need . . .
 So don't stop till you free . . .
 Don't stop . . .
 Open your hand.

OSHOOSI SIZE

What!

OGUN SIZE

Open your hand!

OSHOOSI SIZE

Okay . . .

OGUN SIZE

This it . . .
 This everything . . .
 All I got it's yours.
 Here Oshoosi.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Og man don't do this . . .

OGUN SIZE

It's done . . .
 Get in the truck . . .
 Take it . . .
 Go south . . .
 See Mexico.

OSHOOSI SIZE

Mexico . . .

OGUN SIZE

It's right there and you ain't never been . . . right?

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

What you waiting on man?

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

Man don't let them put you back in there.
 I wanna know you still my brother somewhere . . .
 Anywhere in the world.
 You still my brother . . .
 I swear.
 Out there you will still be a Size, Oshoosi Size
 Brother to Ogun.

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

I fixed the truck for you.
 If it act up on you,
 If it start bucking don't stop,
 Hit it and call my name.
 The truck know me . . .
 It'll carry you on . . .

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi Size breaking down . . .

OGUN SIZE

Ogun trying to hold it.
It's all right . . .
It's all right brother.
It's gon be all right.
I believe you.
I do.
Just go.
Go find you.
When you meet him,
Ask him if he remember me.
Ask him.
Ask.

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

OGUN SIZE

OSHOOSI SIZE

Oshoosi Size leaves his brother Ogun Size
Standing in the early morning . . .

OGUN SIZE

Ogun Size sees it, how can he not, and is left alone in the
Early fore day in the morning mist. End of play.

(Blackout.)

MARCUS;

Or the Secret of Sweet