

Common Feat. Cee-Lo "A Song For Assata"

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In the Spirit of God, in the spirit of the ancestors
In the spirit of the Black Panthers, in the spirit of Assata
Shakur

We make this movement towards freedom
For all those who have been oppressed
And all those in the struggle, yeah, ya, check it

There were lights and sirens, gunshots firin'
Cover your eyes as I describe a scene so violent
Seemed like a bad dream, she laid in a blood puddle
Blood bubbled in her chest, cold air brushed against
open flesh

No room to rest, pain consumed each breath
Shot twice wit her hands up
Police questioned but shot before she answered
One Panther lost his life, the other ran for his

Scandalous the police were, as they kicked and beat
her
Comprehension she was beyond, tryna hold on to life
She thought she'd live with no arm, that's what it felt
like
Got to the hospital, eyes held tight

They moved her room to room, she could tell by the
light
Handcuffed tight to the bed, through her skin it bit
Put guns to her head, every word she got hit
"Who shot the trooper?", they asked her

Put mace in her eyes, threatened to blast her
Her mind raced till things got still
Opened her eyes, realized she's next to her best friend
who got killed
She got chills, they told her, that's where she would be
next

Hurt mixed wit anger, survival was a reflex
They lied and denied visits from her lawyer
But she was buildin' as they tried to destroy her
If it wasn't for this German nurse they woulda served

her worse

I read this sister's story, knew that it deserved a verse
I wonder what would happen if that woulda been me?
All this shit so we could be free, so dig it, y'all

I'm thinkin' of Assata, yes
Listen to my love, Assata, yes
Your power and pride is beautiful
May God bless your soul

It seemed like the middle of the night when the law
awakened her
Walkie-talkies cracklin', I see 'em when they takin' her
Though she kinda knew what made the ride peaceful
Was the trees and the sky was blue

Arrived to Middlesex prison about six inna morning
Uneasy as they pushed her to the second floor in a cell
One cot, no window, facing hell
Put in the basement of a prison wit all males

And the smell of misery, seatless toilets and
centipedes
She'd exercise, paint and begin to read
Two years in a hole, her soul grew weak
Away from people so long she forgot how to speak

She discovered freedom is a unspoken sound
And a wall is a wall and can be broken down
Found peace in the Panthers she went on trial with
One of the brothers she had a child with

The foulness they would feed her, hopin' she'd lose her
seed
Held tight, knowing the fight would live through this
seed
In need of a doctor, from her stomach she'd bleed
Out of this situation, a girl was conceived

Separated from her, left to mother the revolution
And lactated to attack hate
'Cause federal and state was built for a black fate
Her emptiness was filled with beatings and court dates

They fabricated cases, hoping one would stick
And said she robbed places that didn't exist
In the midst of threats on her life and being caged with
Aryan whites
Through dark halls of hate, she carried the light

I wonder what would happen if that woulda been me?
All of this shit so we could be free
Yeah, I often wonder what would happen if that woulda
been me?
All of this shit so we could be free, so dig it, people

I'm thinkin' of Assata, yeah
Listen to my love, Assata, yeah
Your power and pride, so beautiful
May God bless your soul, ooh

Yo, from North Carolina her grandmother would bring
news
That she had had a dream
Her dreams always meant what they needed them to
mean
What made them real was the action in between

She dreamt that Assata was free in they old house in
Queens
The fact that they always came true was the thing
Assata had been convicted of a murder she couldna
done
Medical evidence shown she couldna shot the gun

It's time for her to see the sun from the other side
Time for her daughter to be by her mother's side
Time for this beautiful woman to become soft again
Time for her to breathe and not be told how or when

She untangled the chains and escaped the pain
How she broke out of prison I could never explain
And even to this day they try to get to her
But she's free with political asylum in Cuba

I'm thinkin' of Assata, yeah
Listen to my love, Assata, yeah
We're molded from the same mud, Assata
We share the same blood, Assata, yeah

Your power and pride, so beautiful
May God bless your soul
Your power and pride, so beautiful
May God bless your soul, ooh

{Freedom, you're askin' me about freedom
You're askin' me about freedom?
I'll be honest with you, I know a whole lot more about
what freedom isn't
Than about what it is, 'cause I've never been free}

{I can only share my vision with you of the future,
about what freedom is
The way I see it, freedom is, is the right to grow
Is the right to blossom
Freedom is, is the right to be yourself, to be who you
are
To be who you wanna be, to do}

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