

JASMINE

Jasmine. Nice to meet you too.  
What's tonight's event? Are you  
Muslim?

A beat passes.

JOHN

Yes, I'm Muslim. It's a social  
night. Should be interesting. After  
the dinner, we're going to watch an  
improv sketch.

~~JASMINE~~

(surprised)

~~Improv? Really? I hope you don't  
mind me asking. Born or convert?~~

JOHN

I don't mind at all. I converted  
back in 1978. I was born a  
Catholic, but after I graduated  
Catholic school it didn't stick. I  
lost religion for many years.

~~JASMINE~~

~~I'm a convert too. And also a  
former Catholic. I didn't ever  
think my mom would accept me, but  
she's finally coming around to who  
I am inside and outside of Islam.~~

JOHN

Yeah, I get it. My parents weren't  
shocked. I would have taken that  
any day of the week. They  
were...umm appalled. It was a rough  
10 plus years. The way they were  
raised, they had an issue with  
Protestants, and Islam wasn't on  
their radar before they had a son  
who came home and told them he  
converted. What little they knew  
wasn't accurate and they weren't  
looking to learn any different.

~~JASMINE~~

~~Wow. A lot of what you went through  
feels so relevant. It's 2023. I'm  
still making my way through some  
similar things.~~

(MORE)

~~JASMINE (CONT'D)~~

~~Not as much with my immediate family, but a lot of people who I go to school or work with seemed really surprised, trying their best to contain their shock. And yes, a few were definitely appalled. (Chuckles) They have so many misconceptions. Rather than educate I'm defending my faith. But I'm also struggling with my fellow Muslim brothers and sisters too. There's a lot of judgement and not a lot of conversations around the topics we may disagree on. It's why I've stopped going to the masjid. I've become a bit of a hermit.~~

JOHN

People in general have a hard time with change. Muslims are no different. Are you familiar with the African American proverb, "Each one, teach one." As a retired teacher it's one of my favorites. We may not be able to teach and change every person in our lives, but I believe we make progress when we teach others, even if it is just one person.

~~JASMINE~~

~~That's a positive outlook. I can appreciate it.~~

Jasmine stops in front of the Masjid.

~~JASMINE (CONT'D)~~

~~You're here. It's been a nice conversation.~~

JOHN

Indeed it has been. Thank you for getting me here safely sister Jasmine. I'm all about trying to find ways to help people. One person, once conversation, and one day a time.

John exits the car.