

FUNDED

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

VANESSA, a 20 year old attractive pregnant female, views a newspaper ad, "For 24 hours only, Fund Me contributions granted to causes deemed worthy by this writer, see asterisk."

Vanessa writes and reads aloud as tears pour down her face.

VANESSA

To whom it may concern. I'm setting up this Fund Me page because I desperately need money. I will do anything to get this money and I promise to pay it back within 6 months.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM-DAY

MAURICE, a 19 year old 6'2" black teen.

He completes his assignment then reaches in his backpack for a newspaper clipping. "For 24 hours only, Fund Me contributions granted to causes deemed worthy by this writer, see asterisk."

He lowers his head in depression.

MAURICE

I knew we should have stopped, I knew it! I had a chance to go pro, now a baby on the way.

INT. CORNER DELI RESTAURANT-DAY

Maurice stands chatting with MS. CHERRY on a ladder as he installs security equipment, a cheerful robust woman (70's)

MAURICE

Ms. Cherry, we can never be too careful, this system will be our extra eyes and ears when we're here and when we're not.

MS. CHERRY

Oh, Maurice, you're such a Jewel, what would I do without you. You really look out for me.

INT. CONFESSION BOOTH-DAY

VANESSA

Father, I need to ask for forgiveness. One night my boyfriend and I were ahnging out and one thing led to another..

She starts to sob.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Now I'm pregnant.

FATHER PETERSON

My dear, yes, you have made a terrible mistake.. but I pray that your child will be blessed, be healthy.

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

CORTEZ, a 17 year old hip-hop teen.

CORTEZ

I'm about to get paid! They givin everybody else money, let me get some of that "FUND ME" shit too.

Cortez writes.

CORTEZ (CONT'D)

I'm setting up this thang, 'cause I'm tryin to start my own business

Cortez stops writing.

CORTEZ (CONT'D)

Lying my ass off but this shit gon get me into the drug game deep! Look out Scareface!

Writing again.

CORTEZ (CONT'D)

I am trying to start this lawn service thang and I need the cash to get my equipment and building lease.

He walks away from the computer.

CORTEZ (CONT'D)

Yeah let's get that paper "G"

INT. CHURCH OFFICE-DAY

FATHER PETERSON, a white middle-aged priest.

He knells beside his desk.

Father Peterson rises and sits at his computer and begins to type:

FATHER PETERSON
I just read your ad in the
newspapers. Normally, I would seek
funds from my congregation but I am
in a predicament. I can't bare to
share it with them.

He finishes writing, places a letter in the envelope for mailing.

EXT CATHOLIC CHURCH-DAY

Subject, shakes Father Peterson's hand.

SUBJECT
What a great sermon father, we
should all do unto others..

FATHER PETERSON
as we would have them do unto us?

SUBJECT
Yes..exactly father.

EXT. DRUG INVESTED POOR NEIGBORHOOD-NIGHT

Cortez struts up quickly to a battered looking frail woman, makes quick money for drug exchange. She rushes away happy for the moment.

INT. BEDROOM-DAY

Cortez checks his phone for emails.

CORTEZ
That's what up! He came through.
Damn \$25000? \$5000 g's more than I
asked for. This shit really do
work. No more street corner shit,
dudes gon be workin' for me.

INT. CORNER DELI RESTAURANT-DAY

Father Peterson seated in a booth nervously. Maurice walks in and joins him.

FATHER PETERSON

Thank you for agreeing to meet me.

MAURICE

No problem.

FATHER PETERSON

When all this first started, I meant you well. I know what I did that you can never be forgiven me..or forget what happened..

Maurice abruptly interrupts.

MAURICE

We don't need to keep talking about this shit..I told you I just want to get on with my life. Im an athlete, a mam, you think I what to keep thinking about the shot you did?

FATHER PETERSON

Well ok, but please just take this.

Father Peterson hands Maurice an envelope, Maurice shoves in his jacket without opening it.

FATHER PETERSON (CONT'D)

You can use it to help out when you start Purdue University

MAURICE

I may not be going.

Father Peterson looking perplexed.

FATHER PETERSON

Really? What's the problem

MAURICE

Nothing you can solve, something came up with me and my girl.

Maurice stands to exit.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

This is the last time we're going to talk about you molesting me, ok?

Father Peterson nods agreeably.

MAURICE EXITS.

INT. GARAGE-NIGHT

Cortez prepping large drug packages for distribution.

CORTEZ

100's make thousands, thousands
make 10 t's, a couple of months I
have got millis.

Maurice laughs loudly.

MAURICE

A damn lawn service..yea, its gon
be a grass business, with a lil bit
of crack and herion too.

INT. KITCHEN-DAY

Vanessa sits at the kitchen table counting money.

VANESSA

Now I can go on with my life,
California here I come. Maurice has
a big athletic career ahead of him,
and I won't be the one to destroy
his hopes and dreams. When my baby
is born, it will be me and her. And
mom, you don't have to embarrassed
any longer, I'll be miles a way, me
and my baby.

INT. CLOSE UP OF FUND ME WITH AD WITH ASTERICK DETAILS. YOU
CONSENT TO BE RECORDED AND VIDEO FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE I DEEM
NECESSARY.

INT. KITCHEN-DAY

A miniature video cam and mic are revealed on the top of the
kitchen cabinet.

INT. GARAGE-NIGHT

A miniature video cam and mic are revealed underneath the
table next to stacks of drug packages.

INT. CORNER DELI RESTAURANT-DAY

A miniature video cam and mic are revealed on the top of the door entrance peering directly down to where Father Peterson and Maurice were seated.

INT. LOCAL GYM-NIGHT

Maurice works out to capacity speed jumping..then breaks down to his knees. Bastard! Thinks he can give me me a couple hundred dollars each month and I'm cool. Hell no,your ass is going to pay!

INT. GARAGE-NIGHT

Several Narcotics agents bust in on Cortez and confiscate his huge quantity of drugs

CORTEZ

What the hell! Who ratted me out?

INT. POLICE CAR-NIGHT

DETECTIVE pulls out a letter and reads aloud.

DETECTIVE

YOU CONSENT TO BE RECORDED AND
VIDEOd FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE I DEEM
NECESSARY. You know anything about
that?

Maurice handcuffed,bends forward and looks closer.

MAURICE

Damn!

DETECTIVE

A concerned citizen said that he
was tired of his community being
infested with drugs and drug
dealers. He knew if he helped catch
you, a mid level dealer, you could
lead us to the man at the top.

INT. CHURCH OFFICE-DAY

Father Peterson is led away by two policemen as Maurice stares in disgust.

INT. KITCHEN-NIGHT

Maurice and Vanessa at the table.

MAURICE

After we broke up, I was skeptical about whether it was really mine..besides that, I was selfishly thinking only about me and my athletic future...but you Vanessa has shown me what's really important in life. That's why I finally opened up to you about Father Peterson after all those years. I'm glad you understand Vanessa.

VANESSA

That was terrible what Father Peterson did..but he won't be doing it to anyone else.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

And for you Mr. Bond, no more spy stuff

MAURICE

I promise, and you always pay attention to the asterisk.

They both laugh briefly.

Maurice pauses

MAURICE (CONT'D)

Vanessa, I really love you, I want to be there for you and our baby.

Maurice knells on one knee.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

Will you marry me?

Maurice reaches up with sparkling diamond ring.

Vanessa starts to shed tears of joy.

VANESSA

Of course I will, of course I will,
YES!

They both hug and kiss, tears streaming from both.

