

FOREVER

BY

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FADE IN:

INT. NIGHT CLUB____NIGHT

In a night club, ADAM and JOHN are standing at the bar. ADAM
signals to get the bartender's attention.

ADAM
(To the bartender)
Two bottles of beer, please.

The bartender nods.

JOHN
What time is it?

ADAM
About eight fifteen.

ANGLE on a lady, she is walking to the bar. She is
incredibly sexy and dressed in a tight dress.

The bartender hands two bottles of beer to ADAM and JOHN.

The Lady reaches the bar, with gesture; she asks for a
bottle of beer and glances at JOHN and smiles.

ADAM
(Interrupting)
Grace, how are you doing?

GRACE
Good.

ADAM
I must admit you are looking quite
great and fit.

GRACE
I have been taking dancing
classes--

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

I see. You are getting thinner and
your eyes brighter.

GRACE

It is good to see you, Adam. So,
who are you with? Your cousin?

ADAM

No, no, John, he's married?

GRACE

Umm...How long have you guys been
married?

ADAM

Not long...but...

GRACE takes her beer from the bartender.

GRACE

(Walking away)
Pitiful.

She walks away.

ADAM

I have to tame that cat.
(With a gesture)
Look at her rump just ocean wide--

JOHN

--what was that for?

ADAM

Oh, am sorry, she used to be my
college crush.

JOHN

Okay.

ADAM

Her name is Grace. Her dad owns
this club and she drinks like a
duck.

JOHN

Really?

ADAM

She is so literally to alcohol.

JOHN
(Sarcastically)
--that noble for a lady.

ADAM
That shouldn't surprise you. Her brother, Francis is worse. He is a bareheaded, old fashioned kind of bully. This fellow makes Mugabe look like the finest guy in this world. Are you sure you haven't seen him before?

JOHN
No, but I..I think...the guy is behind you...

ADAM
(Between his teeth)
..seriously..

JOHN nods. ADAM turns. He sees FRANCIS. FRANCIS is a bald, monstrous of six plus, with huge arms and broad chests like barrels. FRANCIS is holding a bottle of whiskey.

ADAM
Aw..Mr. Frankenstein, um, sorry, Francis, right? I always forget your name.

FRANCIS
Why are you trembling? Were you talking about me?

ADAM
No, no. I am a Christian. I love Jesus. By the way, who dares talk 'bout a stallion like you?

BEAT.

FRANCIS
What's a stallion?

ADAM
Stallion? It is, um, another name for an extremely handsome person. You are definitely a fine, cute stallion, you know.
(To JOHN)
Johnny, doesn't he look like a fine stallion. with nice nose?

(CONTINUED)

FRANCIS
--sexier and much bigger.

ADAM
Dude, you should consider being a
model. You should.

FRANCIS
(To the bartender)
Beer for both of them.

ADAM
We are alright. Thanks anyway.

FRANCIS
Sure?

ADAM
Of course.

FRANCIS
Okay. See y'all later.

FRANCIS shakes ADAM and JOHN. He exits.

JOHN
What a man. Built like a tree..

ADAM
He looks so military. I almost had
a heart attack.

INT. NIGHT CLUB___NIGHT CLUB.

JOHN is sitting alone, drinking and staring blankly. ADAM is
sitting on a booth, talking to a lady.

ADAM
I know how you feel--

LADY
You do?

ADAM
Yeah. Two years ago I lost my
job...

LADY
It is terrible, isn't it? Finances
and stuffs like that?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

I understand...but you have to see
the other side of it. I love it
when I am out of cash, because
that's the only time I lose weight.

The Lady chuckles. ADAM laughs, too.

INT. NIGHT CLUB___CONTINUOUS

ADAM and the lady are dancing and drinking.

ADAM

This is fun.
(Drinks from his bottle)
Cheers...

LADY

Cheers.

ADAM

Absolutely.

The camera pans over on JOHN still staring blankly.

EXT. JOHN HOUSE___NIGHT

A car pulls over at JOHN'S driveway.

INT. JOHN HOUSE___CONTINUOUS

A handle of a door turns. JOHN steps in. He turns on the
light on. He sees MARY sitting on the couch.

JOHN

Mary?

MARY

Your dinner is on the dinning
table...

JOHN

You startled me...

MARY

Good evening.

JOHN

Good evening, dear. Sorry, I'm
late.

(CONTINUED)

MARY
I've been calling your phone.

JOHN
My phone battery was down.

He walks to her, cuddles her.

JOHN
How was your day?

MARY
It was okay.

INT. BEDROOM___MORNING

ANGLE on JOHN getting ready for work. MARY enters.

JOHN
Hello. dear..

MARY
Good morning. Your breakfast is ready.

JOHN
Thanks. I am sorry about last night, I asked you to come over and...

MARY
It's okay.

She smiles at him. He smiles reciprocally. He brings out two shirts from the wardrobe; A blue shirt and a white shirt.

JOHN
Okay. Which one should I wear?

MARY
I think the blue one.

JOHN
Sure.

INT. BEDROOM___CONTINUOUS.

JOHN is standing in front of the mirror. MARY is readjusting his tie around the collar of JOHN'S shirt.

JOHN
Thank you, babe.

She looks at him admirably.

(CONTINUED)

MARY
You look so handsome.

INT. ADAM OFFICE___DAY

It is a modern and well organized office. ADAM is rummaging his desk. The door opens. JOHN enters.

ADAM
Johnny, have you seen the Pepsi advertising files?

JOHN
No.

ADAM
Agatha gave them to me yesterday--

ADAM
Perhaps, you left the files at home?

ADAM
You are so dime right. I left them on my bed.

INT/ CONFERENCE ROOM.

A monthly staff meeting is in progress. The camera pans over ADAM, JOHN and other co-workers.

INT. RESTAURANT___NIGHT

A couple, ROSE and OLIVER are locked in a conversation.

ROSE
I don't believe you. When has this been going on?

OLIVER
Six months.
(With remorse)
I have been sleeping with her for the past six months.

ROSE
I can't believe this...

OLIVER
..I am so sorry, Rose. She kept coming back..

(CONTINUED)

ROSE
Okay. She keep coming back? And you
couldn't stop screwing her, right?

OLIVER
I, I..

ROSE
I want a divorce.

OLIVER
Please, it won't happen again.
Please. Listen to me. Never...

ROSE
I want a divorce. This marriage is
not working.

OLIVER
Please...

ROSE
I've to be sincere with you. It's
not just you. I have been sleeping
with the house help.

OLIVER
Esther? What? What's wrong with
you? God, I want a divorce.

ROSE
Absolutely

OLIVER
You and Esther? How was that
possible? She's slender, sexy and
you weigh a lot naked.

The camera pans over a distant table. We see JOHN and MARY
seated on a booth; smiling at each other; having a romantic
evening.

JOHN
You remember when we first met?

MARY
At your Grand ma's funeral.

JOHN
Yeah, it is over a year.

MARY smiles.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Since that very day I have been
madly in love with you.

JOHN reaches out his hand and touches her hand on the table.
MARY smiles.

MARY

So I am.

JOHN brings out a box, places it on the table. She is
surprised. JOHN gets out of his chair slowly. He kneels
down.

JOHN

I want to spend my entire life with
you. Please Mary will you marry me?

MARY

(Surprised)

Oh, my God..

JOHN

I really want to.

A smile lights on her face.

MARY

Yes, I will.

She leans forward and kisses him. JOHN signals to waitress
to come over. The waitress walks over.

JOHN

Bring a bottle of champagne, Linda.
I just proposed to my girlfriend
and guess what? She said, 'Yes..'

MARY shows off her engagement ring to Linda.

LINDA

That's so pretty nice. You must be
rich.

JOHN

(Humbly)

Not really.

LINDA

Just curious. May be you need a
second wife.

JOHN and MARY laughs.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
No. Aren't you married?

LINDA
That's my religion. I've been
married four times.

JOHN and MARY pull on surprised looks.

JOHN
I see. Can you get us the bloody
bottle of Champagne?

LINDA
Okay.

LINDA smiles, and exits.

MARY
(In a whisper)
She has been married four times?

JOHN
That's very interesting.

MARY
Of course--

JOHN
You know, this is a free country.
May be, she was expressing her
freedom of choice.

MARY scowls. Her countenance softens as she looks at her
engagement ring.

MARY
It is nice.

JOHN
I am glad you like it.

MARY
I love it.

MARY smiles. JOHN leans and kisses her.

EXT. CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH.

We see, MARY and some members of church entering the church and exchanging mutual greetings.

A jeep stops. ADAM comes out, spots JOHN immediately.

ADAM

Were you waiting for me?

JOHN

Yes. I was quite surprised when you called and told me you were coming to church.

ADAM

I am a christian now. I am tired of being an Atheist, They have no holidays.

They walk into the church.

INT. THE CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH.

The congregation is sitting on the pews.

REVEREND

I am talking about forgiveness. Forgiveness, love and commitment. These are the things the world needs. Let me hear someone shout, Halleluiah..

EVERYONE

Halleluiah...!

EXT. THE CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH

The sermon is over.

JOHN

(To ADAM)

I proposed to Mary.

ADAM

Wow, that's..wow. When?

JOHN

Yesterday.

ADAM

Congratulation.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM and JOHN glances at MARY standing and talking to MRS. ADEWOLE and a little girl. She brushes her hand through the child's hairs and smiles.

ADAM

She is as slender as a gazelle and
as nice as a nun. She certainly
likes kids.

JOHN

Yes.

MEANWHILE.

ADEWOLE

(To The little girl)
Angela, go inside the car.

ANGELA opens the door of car and enters.

MARY

I saw your missed calls
yesterday...

ADEWOLE

You have been avoiding my calls,
haven't you?

MARY

That's not true.

ADEWOLE

Well, I wanted to tell you, Martin
will be released from prison
tomorrow.

MARY

That's good for him

ADEWOLE

That's good for everyone, including
you. My son will be free again.
Both of you have a bond together
and a daughter, and---

MRS. ADEWOLE glances at MARY'S finger and sees a ring.

ADEWOLE

What is that?

They see JOHN walking down to them and cease talking.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
Good morning, Mrs. Adewole.

ADEWOLE
Bless you.

MRS. ADEWOLE enters the car. She ignites the engine. JOHN smiles at MRS. ADEWOLE. She frowns and drives off.

EXT. NURSERY SCHOOL__DAY

MARY picks little ANGELA from school. They walk to the car.

EXT. ON THE ROAD.

MARY is driving, while Little ANGELA is sitting at the back.

MARY
(Looking at rear mirror)
What did you learn in school today?

ANGELA
Nothing.

MARY
What about homework?

ANGELA
No.

MARY
Okay. Class works?

ANGELA
Nothing.

MARY
You want to tell me something?

ANGELA
When are we going to visit the airport again?

MARY
We visited it last week. Listen, Angela if you are going to be a pilot you have to take your school work seriously.

ANGELA
Okay.

INT. KITCHEN___DAY

MARY is washing the dishes. ISABELLA, her friend, is drying them.

MARY

I was totally shocked and happy.
Now, I am scared of telling him.
(Heaves a breathe)
You remember after I told Henry I
have a daughter, he stopped
speaking to me--

ISABELLA

He looks like a nice guy.

MARY

Who?

ISABELLA

John. Remember, I met him once. You
introduced him to me?

MARY

Yeah.

ISABELLA

He seems like a nice guy, isn't he?

MARY

Yes. Why do you think I said yes to
his proposal?

(Beat)

I have to be totally honest with
him--

ISABELLA

Rather, you don't. No matter what
the issue is, don't tell him now he
has proposed--

MARY

That doesn't sound good..

ISABELLA

You want to lose him?

MARY

No. Absolutely not.

EXT. BUS___DAY.

MARTIN is sitting in bus, with his midget friend, JAMES.

MARTIN
I am never going back there. Never
going back to prison.

JAMES
Thank God, you are out.

MARTIN
Everything is nicer outside.

JAMES
I understand.

MARTIN
There is freedom. You see the sun
and your woman.

He brings out a picture of MARY from his bag.

JAMES
She's very attractive.
(Pauses)
She has a pretty smile.

MARTIN
Of course.

JAMES
She's certainly blessed on her
teeth.

INT. QUICK PIZZA EATERY

Customers are in the eatery, it's lunch time and it's fairly busy. JOHN and ADAM enter.

ADAM
Did you watch Miami versus Lakers
game last night?

JOHN shakes his head.

ADAM
Lebron James was electrifying.
(Pauses)
He was amazing. You missed, bro.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Mary and I visited my mom.

ADAM

What did she say about the engagement?

JOHN

My mom is very excited. She totally likes her. She's very positive about everything.

ADAM

She's a very positive woman.

JOHN

Can you be my best man?

ADAM

Me? Yeah. Yeah, why not?

JOHN

We can plan everything together--

ADAM

Sure. It's gonna be fun, right?

JOHN

Um-hm.

They walk to the counter. MOSES, a short, fat, is talking to ESTHER, the chef.

MOSES

How much?

ESTHER

Moses, you come in here at least once a day--

MOSES

You know, your pizza is getting smaller everyday.

ESTHER

What?

MOSES

Like it's kind of shrinking. Yeah, shrinking.

(CONTINUED)

ESTHER

Okay.

MOSES

Come on, look at it? This can't
fill me up.

ESTHER

Then buy two slices?

MOSES

Two slices? Recessions is killing
me.

MOSES pays and walks away.

ADAM

Can I have a box of pizza and two
diet cokes, please?

ESTHER

Sure.

ADAM

(To JOHN)

When is the wedding coming up?

JOHN

We haven't fixed a date yet.

INT. DINNING ROOM___DAY.

MRS. ADEWOLE, MARTIN and little ANGELA are eating. The ,meal
is elaborate and sumptuous.

ADEWOLE

(To ANGELA)

Do you want more rice?

ANGELA shakes her head.

ADEWOLE

Are you sure?

She nods, 'yes.'

ANGELA

Can I go to my room?

ADEWOLE

Yes, you can.

ANGELA exits.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN
She has grown big...

ADEWOLE
It has been quite a long time you
last saw her.

MARTIN
Three years. Quite a long time.

ADEWOLE
What plan do you have now you are
out of jail?

MARTIN
I am thinking---

ADEWOLE
You are thinking? Okay, what plan
do you have for your daughter and
Mary?

MARTIN
Well, I will see her tomorrow.

ADEWOLE
That's fine. She has done a lot
since you went to jail. Got a
degree, opened a fashion store down
town.

MARTIN
Did she?

ADEWOLE
Yes.

MARTIN
She didn't tell me.

ADEWOLE
I want both of you back together.
At least for your daughter's sake.

EXT. ROAD___DAY.

MARTIN is driving, while JAMES is sitting on the passenger
seat.

JAMES
I saw your girl at a restaurant
last night with some guy?

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN
What? That's not true.

JAMES
You want to bet?

MARTIN
Where?

JAMES
At Jake and Jade restaurant.

MARTIN
May be, it was a business dinner.
My mom told me now she is fucking
rich.

JAMES
May be.
(Pauses)
Do you know the best way to win a
woman's love after a long time?

MARTIN
What's it?

JAMES
Ask her out on a date to a
zoo...women like animals.

MARTIN
(Thinks over the idea)
That's not bad.

JAMES smiles and nods.

MARTIN
You are dumber than you look. Zoo?
For real?

JAMES
Okay, may be. It works for me.

MARTIN
You are a midget, everything works
for you.

EXT. PORCH

MARTIN is standing at the porch. He tolls the door bell.

INT. SITTING ROOM

MARY walks to door and opens it. She sees MARTIN and flinches.

MARTIN

Hello...

MARY

Oh, Martin. Your mom told me you will released yesterday...

MARTIN walks in.

MARTIN

You stopped visiting me in prison. Didn't care how i was? Whether I ate or not? I wrote a lot of letters to you and you replied just few.

MARY

I am sorry.

MARTIN

Of course, you are.

She walks to wall, turns on the ceiling fan.

MARY

It's stifling hot in here...

MARTIN

Hot? Today is too breezy for an afternoon.

BEAT.

MARTIN

I heard you found yourself a new man.

MARY

Then, there is no point going over it again.

(Pauses)

Three years you have been in Jail, You went to Jail for kidnapping a child, testifying you thought he was a monkey...

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN
It was dark and blurry.

BEAT.

MARTIN
I am not in love with you anymore.

MARTIN
We have a child together.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK___DAY.

Angela is playing with other kids. Her mother, MARY and ISABELLA are watching her.

MARY
Martin was released from prison--

ISABELLA
How did you know?

MARY
He came to my house this morning...

ISABELLA
Seriously?

MARY
Yeah.

ISABELLA
Wow! Wasn't he sentenced for ten years?

MARY
His mom hired a good lawyer and re-appealed his sentence. It was reduced to four years.

(Pauses)
It is getting weird.

ISABELLA
No, it's not.
(Beat)
Do you still have feelings for him?

MARY
Martin? Not really. I have love for him, but I am not in love with him. You know, he is the father of my daughter.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE

MARTIN and JAMES cruise slowly. Their car pulls to a stop outside JOHN'S house. They step out of the car.

INT. SITTING ROOM

JOHN is watching television. There is knock on his door. He glances at the door, stands up, walks to the door. He opens it.

MARTIN pushes the door open quickly. He is all over JOHN punching him. MARTIN and JAMES point guns to JOHN'S temple.

MARTIN
...that was for my wife...

JOHN
(in between his teeth)
What? Your wife? I--

MARTIN
Go down on your knees! Now...You
fucked with the wrong guy, asshole!

JOHN kneels quickly.

MARTIN
Bastard. Where do you keep your
money?

JOHN shakes his head.

MARTIN
(To JAMES)
I want you to check the entire
house bring all valuables you can
find.

JAMES
Yes.

JAMES walks to the kitchen hurriedly. He comes out and walks to hallway leading to the rooms of the apartment quickly.

JAMES re-enter quickly carrying heaps of clothes.

MARTIN
What the hell is wrong with you?

JAMES
He has loads of clothes, Martin, I
believe it would be a smart move if
we steal some.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Are you crazy? We are robbers not refugees, Did you check every room?

JAMES

Yes, even his kitchen and fridge. He has a lot of beers and fried chickens...we cant steal those..you know, I am a vegetarian...

MARTIN

(Disgruntled)

Good god...what the hell is wrong with you? Every time you act as if someone dropped you on your head.

He turns to JOHN.

MARTIN

Lead us to your room where you keep your money and your jewelries!

JOHN

Okay..

MARTIN

Now! Don't waste my time.

MARTIN walks to JOHN and tugs him up.

MARTIN

(to JAMES)

And you, drop those clothes, they are not even your size.

INT. BEDROOM

JOHN leads the robbers into his bedroom.

MARTIN

Are you saying to me that you live in this big house and you got no money?

JAMES

Martin, there is no money in the house---

MARTIN

I didn't ask you.

MARTIN walks to the cupboard pull the drawers out and sees bundle of money. He smiles cynically.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES

Uh...uh..oops! Do you need any help?

(To JOHN)

Please hold my gun for me?

MARTIN

Are you nuts? Giving your gun to him...

JAMES

Sorry.

MARTIN

(To JOHN)

You are lying to me, dude.

(Pointing the gun)

You know, it's a crime to lie to criminals--terrible crime.

JOHN is shivering.

JOHN

(Between his teeth)

Please...

INT. OFFICE___DAY

JOHN is photocopying a document. ADAM is standing beside him.

JOHN

I was robbed yesterday...

ADAM

You visited a hospital?

JOHN

No, real robbery. A burly guy and a midget--

ADAM

A midget?

ADAM

Yeah.

ADAM

I am so sorry. Have you reported to the police?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Yes.

INT. ADAM HOUSE____SUNDAY.

ANGLE on ADAM lying on the couch in his sitting room. He's listening to ASA music playing. He's obviously bored. He dials a number.

REBECCA

(O.S)

Hello...

ADAM

Hello, Rebecca...it's Adam...

ADAM

Adam...

ADAM

How are you doing?

REBECCA

Good.

ADAM

Okay. I was, um, wondering if you would like to go out with me this evening.

REBECCA

This evening?

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT____EVENING.

ADAM is sitting on a booth. A waiter serves him and exits. A man sitting in a booth close to his booth is smoking. The streams of smokes are moving into ADAM'S direction.

ADAM

(Turns to the MAN)

I think you are inconveniencing me--

MAN

(Glances at the cigarette)

Sorry.

ADAM

I don't want to be rude, but..

(CONTINUED)

MAN

I understand.

ADAM

Okay. You know, you shouldn't smoke it causes cancer. Cancer of the lungs.

MAN

Well, the world underestimates the importance of cigarette. Have you ever been on the bridge of light and darkness and was rescued by frail smokes of cigarette, have you?

ADAM

No, I have never been a fan of astronomy. Is that your reason for smoking?

The man smiles.

MAN

Stanley. Stanley David.

ADAM

Adam Wright.

MAN

I am sorry blowing smokes your way.

ADAM

No problem. I lost an uncle to cancer. He smoked at least a pack a day.

MAN

We are all different. I can't afford a pack a day. Well, I have to get going. See you.

ADAM and the man shakes. The Man exits.

MISS REBECCA enters. She's wearing a yellow chic dinner dress, looking preen and exquisitely beautiful. ADAM spots her and stands up.

ADAM

Rebecca Okoye, right?

(CONTINUED)

REBECCA
Yeah. Adam Wright.

ADAM
You look stunning.

They both sit.

REBECCA
Sorry, I am late.

ADAM
No..no, problem. You look nice.

REBECCA
Thanks.

ADAM
I never knew online dating sites
works.

ADAM makes a gesture to the waiter to come over.

The waiter drops two menus. REBECCA and ADAM scans through
the menus and makes their orders.

ADAM
Please tell me about yourself?

REBECCA
What can I say about myself? I am
divorced.

The waiter comes over, with a bottle of wine and exits.

REBECCA
And I don't like plastic
surgeries...

ADAM
You don't have to worry about me.
My hair is real. I am not bald. No
plastic surgery.

REBECCA laughs.

REBECCA
When I saw your profile pic I
thought we had meet before?

ADAM
No. Dark hairs, burning, piercing
eyes. Believe me, your face isn't
that common.

REBECCA laughs.

ADAM
So, what do you do?

REBECCA
I am a dancer. professional
dancer.

ADAM
Cool.

EXT. REBECCA'S DRIVEWAY___DAY

ADAM pulls over at REBECCA'S driveway. He climbs out.

EXT. REBECCA'S HOUSE.

ADAM straightens his shirts. He tolls the door. The door opens. JOSHUA, Rebecca ex-husband is standing at the door.

JOSHUA
Hello. How may I help you?

ADAM
You must be Rebecca's brother. Is
she home?

JOSHUA
Rebecca? Yes. Who are you?

ADAM
A friend...

ADAM
A friend? That's it? I am her
husband.
(With a grotesque look)
You are?

ADAM winces, his face falls. He speaks slowly.

ADAM
Ouch...

JOSHUA
Ouch? What kind of name is that?

GRACE
Joshua, who's that?

JOSHUA

Oh, I think it's a house burglar
disguised like a grocery boy...

GRACE

What?

ADAM

My name is Adam. I am no house
burglar.

She walks to door. Sees ADAM.

REBECCA

Ha, Adam. Welcome.

(To Joshua)

He is my friend. Adam, meet my Ex.
husband. He came back to Nigeria
from U.S..

JOSHUA

I hate been called your Ex. You
know I still have much love for
you.

REBECCA

So, Adam you are very welcome.

ADAM

Thank you.

REBECCA

What would you like to drink?

JOSHUA

(Looks at ADAM)

You look quite familiar to me.

ADAM

I don't think so, sir.

JOSHUA stares crudely. with contained hatred.

JOSHUA

I am sure we have. I can't exactly
recall where...but your face look
like a trickster swindling young
women in Miami--

ADAM

What?

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

No offense.

JOSHUA walks to ADAM.

JOSHUA

But stay away from my wife. I hope as you leave you would get lost some place and never return here.

ADAM

With your big, over sized ears and hot air in Nigeria I have a feeling you will soon take off.

REBECCA

Please, cut it off...

JOSHUA

You should be in Jail.

ADAM

I am leaving.

JOSHUA

Take your fury away. Have a nice day, trickster.

ADAM

Back off, dude. You are working on my nerves.

EXT. ADAM'S DRIVEWAY.

JOHN pulls over at ADAM driveway.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE___NIGHT.

ADAM is lying on the couch and on a table. There is a bottle of cognac and a glass.

JOHN enters without knocking. He sees ADAM lying on the the couch. He turns on the light. He looks at ADAM lying at the couch, snoring.

JOHN

Adam...

ADAM wakes and opens his eyes gently.

ADAM

John is that you?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Yes.

(walks and sits)

The way you snore I bet you will
make a pretty good musician, you
know.

BEAT.

JOHN

What's wrong with you?

ADAM

I am fine.

JOHN

Sure?

ADAM

I am just having headaches, for
sleeping too much.

JOHN

You are so transparent when you are
lying.

ADAM

Is it so obvious?

(JOHN nods)

I am the most unfortunate man in
the world--

JOHN

Don't say that? What's wrong?

ADAM

I am love sick.

(Beat)

I used to think I understood women
more than figures, bu...but I was
wrong.

JOHN laughs faintly.

ADAM

You remember Rebecca, don't you?

JOHN

The professional dancer you met
online, right?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Yes.

JOHN

What's wrong with her?

ADAM

Her husband, I mean her Ex.
husband came from U.S to visit
her..

JOHN

Her Ex.?

ADAM

Yeah, her Ex. You know, this lady
and I had an instant connection
real. She brought out the best in
me, merely by just looking at me.

BEAT.

JOHN

I hope both of you didn't get into
a fight or something, did you?

ADAM

With her Ex.? No, not physically.
We just exchanged words, that's
all. I remember he said I looked
like a trickster or something--

JOHN

Did he?

(Doesn't look at ADAM)

He shouldn't have, even though
there are resemblances.

ADAM

Well he said that.

(Looks at JOHN)

What? Do you mean I look like one?
A trickster?

JOHN

You know, nobody is perfect.

ADAM

Seriously?

JOHN

Okay, sometimes.

JOHN laughs. ADAM joins laughing.

INT. SITTING ROOM

MARY enters from the kitchen. JOHN is sitting on the couch. She hands him a glass of orange juice.

JOHN
It was a horrifying experience.

MARY
Thank God, they didn't harm you.

JOHN
They stole my money...one was tall, burly and the other a midget. I can remember the burly guy punched my face and said that was for sleeping with his wife.

MARY
What?

JOHN
Honestly, I had no idea what he was talking about.

MARY
Seriously? Did he?

JOHN
Yeah. He looks like a retard, though. He was dark, bald and had a huge scar on his face...

MARY
Oh my God, martin...

JOHN
Martin? Yeah. I remember the midget called the tall one, "Martin". Do you know these guys?

MARY
John, I haven't been totally honest with you about everything.

JOHN
About what, Dear?

MARY
I have to tell you. I have to tell you something.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
Is it about the wedding?

MARY
No..not at all. Alright, how do I
say this?

(Pauses)
I have a child..

JOHN
You have a what?

MARY
I have daughter.

JOHN
What? Wait, what do you mean?

MARY
That was three years ago. But you
are the only man in my life now...

JOHN
You have a daughter?

MARY nods.

MARY
She's with her grandmother. I am so
sorry--

JOHN
You are so sorry?

The life totally drains from JOHN'S face as turns bleary
eyed, sicked, sad.

MARY
I should have told you earlier. I
am so sorry--

JOHN
You've a daughter and you are just
telling me? I have been totally
sincere to you. God, I just don't
know what to say to you.

He walks to the door and exits.

INT. NIGHT CLUB

JOHN is swinging down a glass of Alcohol, depressed. The bartender gives him a slight look, and gives him another bottle of beer.

JOHN

You got some kind of problem?

BARTENDER

No, problem. Four beers in twenty minutes. No problem.

JOHN

(Quietly)

Shut up...

INT. MARY'S STORE.

MARY is sitting; looking at lithography of her and JOHN. She glances at small lithography of her daughter on her desk.

EXT. OFFICE

JOHN is sitting in his office. His cell phone rings. He glances at his cell phone and sees MARY'S number. He drops the cell phone on the table.

INT. NIGHT CLUB

JOHN and ADAM are sitting and drinking.

ADAM

I am very surprised--

JOHN

The world has turned black before my eyes. I am so disappointed.

ADAM

You know, a woman is like a star, you see it shinning. You never know what's behind or what she's thinking...

JOHN

I didn't know. Never knew--

ADAM

Don't be hard on yourself--

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
It's just annoying.

ADAM
What do you have in mind?

JOHN
I don't really know.
(drinks form his glass)
Right now, I am coping with the
shakes...drowning my sorrows.

ADAM
Okay. Well, you can't cancel the
wedding...

JOHN
I am thinking about that.

ADAM
But..okay, come on, you really love
this woman. She loves you and was
too scared to tell you--

JOHN
(Scoffs)
Too scared?

ADAM
Everyone makes mistakes. I have
made tons of mistakes.

JOHN
You don't understand. It's all just
a load of shit.

ADAM
You feel betrayed, but that woman
would pour her heart for you.
(Pauses)
She has a child with another man,
kept it a secret from you. Everyone
will be your side.
(Beat)
Listen to me, you might get
angry--mad with her, but if you let
go of her and pretend to take it
well, you might plunge into more
despair...

JOHN rolls his eyes; sighs internally.

JOHN
What's your angle?

ADAM
I think you should probably think properly, and allow your conscience to decide, John.

INT. SITTING ROOM___MID NIGHT

The door of the apartment turns. We hear footsteps.

INT. BEDROOM___CONTINUOUS.

JOHN enters the bedroom. He walks to the foot of the bed and stares at MARY sleeping. He walks to the head of the bed, squats and looks at her face. She slowly opens her eyes.

MARY
John?

JOHN
We need to talk.

INT. SITTING ROOM___MOMENT LATER

MARY is sitting on the couch; while JOHN is standing.

JOHN
We have to call off the engagement and everything..

PAUSE.

JOHN
Did you hear what I said.

MARY
(slowly)
Yeah.

JOHN
We have to call off the engagement.

MARY
I understand.

JOHN
I am really sorry.

INT. RESTAURANT_____DAY

ADAM and JOHN are sitting.

ADAM
You have broken her poor, little
heart--

JOHN
Please can we not talk about my
personal life?

ADAM
Sure.

JOHN sips from his coffee cup.

JOHN
This is awful.

A waitress walks over.

WAITRESS
Anything else, sir?

JOHN
Yes, a better cup of coffee.

ADAM
We are okay.

WAITRESS
Okay.

REBECCA and JOSHUA enters. ADAM sees them. JOHN turns and sees REBECCA and JOSHUA.

ADAM
I am having series of bad day. I
meet people I don't like.

JOHN
Is it the guy?

ADAM
This is the guy. She and her Ex.

JOHN
We can leave if you don't feel
comfortable...

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

(Joshua lights a cigarette)
He must have a horrific character
filling her lungs with smokes. He's
not going to live long, you know.

JOHN

Love is blind...

ADAM

..but, her eyes are fully opened.
Let me go talk to her---

JOHN

Now?

ADAM

Yeah, she doesn't look happy, does
she?

JOHN

Don't--

ADAM

He's smoking, strolling through his
cellphone. She's quiet as a
mosque...

JOSHUA

They don't look bad together--

ADAM

Please.

ADAM stands up.

JOHN

What are you doing?

ADAM

I am going to talk to her...

JOHN

Don't--

ADAM

Just relax and observe. Relax, I
got this.

ADAM walks to JOSHUA and REBECCA'S table.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Hey...

REBECCA and JOSHUA lift up their gaze.

REBECCA

Hi...

ADAM

How are you doing?

JOSHUA

You, again? Are you stalking us?

ADAM

(To REBECCA)

I was sitting over there looking at you...

JOSHUA stands up.

ADAM

You look so bored and I want to ask you out on a date--

JOSHUA

What the hell is wrong with you?

ADAM

(To REBECCA)

It's gonna be fun--

JOSHUA

(To REBECCA)

Let's leave--

ADAM

(To REBECCA)

What do you say? this evening I pick you up? At eight? eight this evening?

JOSHUA pushes ADAM, as he exits with REBECCA. ADAM back to JOHN'S table.

JOHN

You, okay?

ADAM

Sure--

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
I must say that was pretty bad.

ADAM
They are divorced. So I have a
chance.

ADAM sips his coffee.

ADAM
Hmm, this taste good.

INT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE.

JOSHUA opens the door. He and REBECCA enter.

JOSHUA
That's the main reason why we don't
go out when we were married.

PAUSES.

JOSHUA
What's wrong with that guy?
Prowling around you? There is no
privacy here, is there any?
Bullshit!!

PAUSES.

JOSHUA
He's just a sick
animal. (Pauses) why don't travel
back to States?

REBECCA
What?

JOSHUA
We should travel together to U.S.
what do you think?

REBECCA
I can't--

JOSHUA
I will make you happier. I promise.
I will pay for a plastic surgery
that's if you want one.

REBECCA
What?

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

Things are a lot better in U.S.
Please, listen to me. Mary?

DEEP PAUSE

REBECCA

I won't travel with you..

JOSHUA

Why?

REBECCA

After what you have put me through.
The Abuse? Arguing at nights, the
bickering---that aside I can't cope
with your habits. You always put
your hands in your boxers and toll
with your balls--

JOSHUA

---because I feel heat down there.

REBECCA

I can't love you anymore.

INT. RESTAURANT_____NIGHT.

A waiter comes over and serves MARY a bottle of drink.

WAITER

Let me know if you need anything
else.

MARY

Thanks.

JOHN enters. He walks over to Mary's table.

JOHN

What's up?

MARY

Good evening. Thanks for coming.

He sits.

JOHN

Just be brief.

MARY

Okay. I know I wasn't completely
honest with you. I messed up--

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
Don't reproach yourself---

MARY
You were so nice to me, and I was
scared of losing you.
(Pauses)
I didn't want to blow that---

JOHN
What do you want from me?

MARY
I am wondering if there's any
chance of we getting back together?

JOHN
I don't think so.

BEAT.

MARY
Okay, I understand how you feel.
But--

JOHN
--I am sorry I can't.

EXT. ROAD_____DAY

ADAM is driving, while JOHN is sitting at passenger seat.

ADAM
Rebecca and I are back together..

JOHN
That's good for you..

ADAM
Splendid. I want her to meet my
parents at thanks giving.

JOHN
Okay.

ADAM
You can come if you want to. It's
on Saturday.

JOHN
..this Saturday?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

..yes...

JOHN

I will be very busy.

INT. DINNING ROOM___DAY

ADAM, JOHN, REBECCA, MRS. WRIGHT, Adam's Aunt MRS PATRICIA, and her husband, ROBERT OKOYE, ADAM parents are all seated at an enormous dinning table.

The meal is elaborate, and sumptuous.

ROBERT

A good woman express her love through food..

ADAM

It's nice.

PATRICIA

(To REBECCA)

..what did you say your name was again?

ADAM

Rebecca Simmons..

WRIGHT

Rebecca?

PATRICIA

..yes, ma'am..

ROBERT

..this is really delicious.

MR. ROBERT swigs down a glass of wine.

PATRICIA

Bob, are you not drinking too much of that? That's slow death..

ROBERT

Exactly, I am in no hurry.

PATRICA laughs.

WRIGHT

Please, let him drink as he wants to--

(CONTINUED)

PATRICIA
--that would be a problem, cause'
he doesn't agree to anything when
he's drunk.

ROBERT
Nothing comes between a man and his
drink..

PATRICIA scowls.

ROBERT
May be a woman.

ROBERT winks at PATRICIA. She smiles.

WRIGHT
So Rebecca, where are you from?

REBECCA
Anambra State--

PATRICIA
Anambra? Bob lived in the East some
years ago, am I right, Bob?

ROBERT
That was a long time ago.

JOHN feels ignored. He starts thinking about MARY, and times
they spent together.
FLASHBACK at the club, HE, and MARY are dancing, and at the
Restaurant. He is proposing to her.

WRIGHT
(Nudges JOHN'S hand)
Son.

JOHN stirs.

PATRICIA
You have barely touched your food.

JOHN
I am fine.

EXT. BALCONY__MOMENT LATER.

JOHN, and ADAM are standing; drinking wine.

ADAM
Have you heard from Mary?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
Not really--

ADAM
Okay, I saw her somewhere
recently...I can't recall where--
(Looks at JOHN frowning face)
It wasn't in the club..

JOHN
Where?

ADAM
I can't quite figure out exactly
where..but..

JOHN
You can't--

ADAM
I am not sure...but..You still care
about her, don't you?

JOHN
Please.

ADAM
You still--

JOHN
May be.

EXT. MARY'S HOUSE___DAY

JOHN pulls over at MARY driveway. He walks to the gates,
raps on the gates. Security man comes out.

SECURITY MAN
Good afternoon, sir..

JOHN
Good afternoon. Is Mary home?

SECURITY MAN
No, she has moved out.

JOHN
--when?

SECURITY MAN
Two weeks ago..

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
Do you know where she moved to?

SECURITY MAN
No, sir.

INT. JOHN HOUSE

ADAM walks into the sitting room, from the Kitchen eating noodles. JOHN is sitting watching television.

ADAM
Umm..this is so nice. There is more
in the kitchen if you want some.

JOHN
I am fine.

ADAM
Sure? You look a little flustered?

JOHN glances at ADAM.

ADAM
You are staring at the television
like a martyr. You know, no
one gets moody on Fridays.

No Response.

ADAM
C'mon, what's wrong?

JOHN
I am not feeling alright. That's
all.

ADAM
I know that kind of sickness..

JOHN
..You think..

ADAM
Yeah, but never walked on that path
before..

JOHN
You rather not. I can't think
right..

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
I know a sign when someone has
leprosy.

JOHN throws an angry side glance at ADAM. ADAM bursts into a
laughter.

JOHN
Everything is funny if it's
happening to someone else.

ADAM
Okay, that was out of line. Is it
about Mary?

JOHN nods.

JOHN
Yes. I don't know what I was
thinking. I really miss her--

ADAM
I understand, she's gold--

JOHN
--I really do. I do miss her.

ADAM
I understand.

JOHN
The other day I went to your
mother's house. I just realize how
I've missed her
(Pauses)
Everyday that passes without her
palls. I wasn't thinking--

ADAM
--c'mon. You know, you are the only
person I know that have never
needed therapy.

(Beat)
What about if I hook you up with
someone on a blind date, have you
been a blind date before?

JOHN
(Sarcastically)
Yes, and she was blind. Are you not
listening to me?

ADAM
Trying to help a friend--

JOHN
I went to her house, the security man said she moved out. She changed her phone line...

ADAM
I ran into her at the Cinema. She told me she comes there once in while with her daughter.

JOHN
At the cinema?

ADAM
I am serious.

There is a news coverage on the television. JOHN glances at the television. He notices that the news is about JAMES, and MARTIN. He reaches for the remote, and tunes up the volume.

T.V PRESENTER
..they were arrested at Lagos/Ibadan expressway this morning..

JOHN
..these were the guys that robbed me..

ADAM
Are you sure?

JOHN
Yeah--

ADAM
---that's Mrs. Adewole's son. Martin.

JOHN
Mrs. Adewole?

ADAM
He has a cousin, a little mousey type, with no hips..

JOHN
Seriously?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

I remember him vividly. there was this valentine her son and I had no dates, we agreed to swap cousins, he chose my cousin, Veronica, and I chose his mom. She was single.

JOHN

So you never knew he was an armed robber?

ADAM

No, not at all. They are humans, you know

INT. BEDROOM___NIGHT.

MARY is sitting in bed, and Little Angela is lying on the bed. She's reading a story book to her daughter.

MARY

...that's how tortoise had their broken shells..

ANGELA

..because of greed..?

MARY

Yes, greed is a very, very bad virtue.

PAUSE.

ANGELA

Mummy, can you read me another story?

MARY

It's already late. Remember, good sleep makes Angela strong, and sinewy.

She kisses her brow.

MARY

Good night, love.

ANGELA

Good night, mom.

She walks to door, and turns the light out.

EXT. CINEMA___DAY.

JOHN is standing, and leaning on his car. His eyes are pacing to, and fro for MARY.

He is sweating. He keeps looking around. A lady recognizes him, and walks over to him.

LADY
John? Is that you?

He ignores the lady intentionally.

LADY
(Persistently)
John Michael? We went to college together? Mirabel Campbell?

JOHN
Hello..

LADY
I am so surprised to see you.

JOHN
(Sarcastically)
Me, too.

LADY
You haven't changed at all..

JOHN
(Uninterested)
Me, too.

The lady grimaces.

JOHN
You likewise..

LADY
So what's up with you?

JOHN
Do you use make ups?

LADY
(Shakes her head)
No..

JOHN
I am so sorry.

The lady grimaces and walks away.

EXT. CINEMA_____EVENING.

It's getting dark. JOHN is still leaning on his car, looking around. He gazes at the skies, climbs into his car slowly, and drives away.

INT. JOHN HOUSE____NIGHT.

JOHN is sitting on his bed. It is raining heavily outside. He walks to the window, and stares at the rain droning.

INT. CINEMA____DAY

JOHN, and ADAM are leaning on the car.

ADAM

(Into the camera)

Relationship is like fishing. You keep trying. And when you have the best fish you don't let it slip away.

ADAM moves away from the camera. he stretches his arms, and yawns.

ADAM

We have been here for 4 hours--

He sees glimpses of MARY entering a car, with a little girl.

ADAM

Wait, is that not her?

JOHN

Where?

ADAM

..there..

JOHN sees MARY, and Little Angela entering their car. He scampers quickly to MARY car. He reaches their car. MARY sees him. He raps on the window of the car gently.

JOHN

May I speak with you...

MARY

What?ad

JOHN

Please--

JOHN opens the door, and enters into the car.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Mary. How are you doing?

MARY

..good. what about you?

JOHN

Sincerely? Totally awful.

JOHN

I feel terrible. Without you I have been bored out as a boat. You made a mistake. I made the greater one---letting you go.

(Pauses)

Walls of my heart brims in roses.

(Sees directly at her)

My sun sets, and rises with you.

MARY

John--

JOHN

I am so sorry treating you like that, you know. I feel so terrible.

MARY

(Emotionally)

I am so sorry, too.

He brings out a box of ring.

JOHN

Will you marry me?

MARY nods, and smiles. Little Angela sitting at the back, chuckles. JOHN stirs his neck abruptly.

JOHN

Hello, princess...

ANGELA

Are you a pilot?

JOHN

No, you want to be a pilot?

ANGELA

Yes.

JOHN

It's easy. Just like driving a car
You have to beware of the sun,
though. Cause' it's so huge.

Little Angela laughs, and her mom, and JOHN joins in the laughter.

INT. CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH

Guests are taking their pews.

INT. CHURCH___CONTINUOUS

MARY is being fussed over by her bridesmaids, including ISABELLA.

INT. CHURCH

Music starts to play softly.

An elderly man walks through the church holding MARY'S hand, with little Angela. They walk through the aisle down to the altar, where the groom, JOHN, and his best, ADAM are standing.

INT. CHURCH___CONTINUOUS

Everybody is seated. REVEREND E.K JOHNSON is standing at a podium. JOHN and ADAM are standing at the altar.

REVEREND E.K JOHNSON

We are gathered together on this beautiful afternoon to share with John Michael, and Mary Felix as they exchange vows of their everlasting vows. You can both recite your vows now.

After an awkward pause.

MARY

John, I didn't know how good a person could be until I met you, and I love you with all my heart, and soul. You taught me much about generosity, kindness, forgiveness. I am madly in love with you.

JOHN smiles.

REVEREND E. K JOHNSON

John, it's your turn now.

JOHN

I wrote you a poem.

He brings out a paper.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

My love for you is deep/ Lovely, it
hum to you in your sleep/ Warm,
you will feel on your feet at
night/ Robust, it will keep you
from plight...

OUT THE CHURCH

A Taxi stops. A man climbs out. He is wearing a black jacket and a baseball cap. He walks to stairs of the church quickly.

INSIDE THE CHURCH.

REVEREND E.K JOHNSON is still talking.

REVEREND E.K JOHNSON

...and if anyone knows of a reason
that these two should not get
married, speak now or forever hold
your peace..

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

The man pushes the door of the church open, and walks in.

MAN

I object..

ADAM

(Standing on the altar)

What? Who the hell is that?

the congregation falls silent Hateful silent roared. He pulls off her baseball cap. It is MARTIN. He steps forward.

MARTIN

Mary...

FADE OUT.