

Misconception

Bernard Mersier

"Weakness is a predator's favorite dish."

Bernard Mersier

**FADE IN:**

**INT. THE STAGE - NIGHT**

We come in on a stage with two black loveseats and glass tables resting beside positioned on the left and right side of the stage. There's also a nice size flat screen television showing a colorful screensaver hanging in the background.

The ANNOUNCER is standing in the middle of the stage getting his ear-piece together wearing something casual, but it looks nice on his dark skin.

ANNOUNCER

Good evening, and welcome to this epic debate y'all been waiting on. In a matter of minutes we'll have two internet sensations coming out here. They both have different views on men and women, along with a nice following of people who agree with what the other speaks on. But tonight...tonight both parties claim a full understanding will get accomplished, leaving one to respectfully admit the other was wrong for what they claimed was right. Unlike your usual debate where questions are asked and then both parties have a certain amount of time to elaborate, this will be a pure freestyle. Anything can be asked in any fashion, with no limit on how long it takes to get your point across. So if y'all ready, let's see how the outcome will end between men and women. Coming to the stage is Cathy, the leader of the women against raunchy men or W.A.R.M for lack of better words, and her opponent Deion.

CATHY, late-twenties comes on stage from the left side, and her appearance is remarkable. For those who rate people, she would get ten's all across the board. Her hair and makeup is flawless like her smooth brown skin, which compliments the fitted but sophisticated outfit showing off her curves and

flat stomach.

As she approaches the loveseat, the Announcer looks on in awe ready to drool over her beauty and confidence.

As she takes her seat, Cathy and the Announcer become confused because Deion didn't come out.

CATHY

(Deep sigh)

This is exactly what I'm talking about. Ladies, do you see this? A man will always talk big shit, and he'll always be late following up on what he was talking about.

Cathy crosses her legs, sucking her teeth annoyed.

The Announcer is silent, and after a few seconds, he turns his attention to Cathy.

ANNOUNCER

Deion would like to know if he can smoke on stage?

CATHY

What?

ANNOUNCER

He wants to know if he can smoke when he comes out. He doesn't care if you say yes or no, but he's showing respect.

CATHY

(Sighs)

Whatever gives him the courage to come out I'm fine with it. He picks tonight to show respect, thinking it'll help cover up the words he boastiously uses on the internet.

ANNOUNCER

With that said, here comes our other guest, Deion.

Deion, late-twenties comes out staggering, holding two fifths of tequila. One of them is almost empty, and the other one is full. He's deeply focused on the music coming from his headphones. From his appearance, you would think he's a bum off the streets. He's in need of a haircut. His beard looks

rough on his brown face, and his clothes look like he pulled them straight from a dumpster how old and faded they are.

As he continues staggering, he finally plops down on his seat taking a deep breath before placing the bottles down on the floor.

He goes in his pocket pulling out a mini black ashtray placing it on the table, and then finally, he takes his headphones off, placing them on the table, along with his phone they're connected to.

Cathy looks at him shaking her head, and the Announcer is not far off from following her lead, wondering why Deion's appearance isn't what people would usually see in his pictures or videos on social media.

ANNOUNCER

...You good, fam?

Deion takes a swig from the almost empty bottle, shakes his head a brief second, and then looks at the Announcer with a smile.

DEION

Why wouldn't I be okay?

ANNOUNCER

I mean...not saying you're drunk, but---

CATHY

Don't sugarcoat his ignorance. He knew what this debate was about, now look at him. He came out drunk, and apparently he didn't care about grooming. Again, ladies, do you see what I'm talking about? On social media he looks somewhat decent, but look at him in real life. He probably has a basic job, but he demands all these specific qualifications from women. I'm glad, but embarrassed at the same time I'm debating with a clown.

The Announcer covers his mouth to stop from laughing.

Deion shrugs up his shoulders, finishing off the rest of the liquor in the bottle.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Look at him, speechless.

DEION

I'm not speechless. I just can't disagree with the truth. Yes, I work in a fast food restaurant, and sometimes when I post pics on social media, I borrow my friends clothes, jewelry and money. But...I should've taken this debate seriously. I see this is something you need to prove, and I was just talking shit. I'll finish this, but I won't dare accept confrontation on this level again.

He picks up the unopened bottle extending it towards her.

DEION (CONT'D)

Would you like a drink?

Cathy scoffs, leaning back in her seat offended.

CATHY

One, I don't drink cheap. Two, if I wanted to drink I would've brought one with me, especially if I would've known this would be a child's play debate.

Deion opens the bottle, and takes a swig. Appearing as if it's hard for him to swallow, he slowly places the bottle down, and then looks at Cathy with a smile.

DEION

Can't say I didn't offer. Um...did the debate already start?

CATHY

I knew this would be a waste of my time. Yes, it started once you spoke to me.

The Announcer is still trying to compose himself from laughing before looking into the camera.

ANNOUNCER

As y'all can see, the debate is already lit! Cathy started off with a mean streak, and I don't know about y'all, but I'm waiting for Deion to

actually respond.

DEION

Hey, she's on fire. Let her keep going.

The Announcer shrugs up his shoulders, turning to look at Cathy who sits with a devilish smile, licking her lips ready to get what's on her chest out in the open.

CATHY

Why do you men think if a woman doesn't have a phat ass, and her hair and makeup isn't done she's either ugly or stuck up?

DEION

Women think the same thing about men. If we don't have a certain physique, dick size and money, we're bums, right?

CATHY

No. A bum ass nigga is someone without money, but swear up and down he ballin`. That should remind you of yourself.

DEION

I can't argue with that. I am a bum ass nigga, you're right.

CATHY

Of course I'm right. You should probably take another sip because I'm far from done with you. Men like you need to start respecting women. And after tonight, I'm highly confident you and others like you will.

Deion shrugs up his shoulders, taking another sip, while nodding his head in agreement.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Here's another one for you. Why do men want these specific qualifications from women, and if we don't meet them we're nothing more than bitches? But if we tell y'all what we want in a man, y'all would be quick to try and meet the qualifications for a few

days, and then fall off if you don't get none?

DEION

Considering how you just explained I'm a bum ass nigga, I don't know if me saying women expect nothing but the best from men would count.

CATHY

No. No, it won't count.

DEION

I figured that much. Since I'm a man, we believe we deserve and we earned whatever we want from a woman.

CATHY

And exactly what makes y'all believe you deserve or even earned the right to exclusive privileges?

DEION

...Because we're men, and without us, where would the world be?

CATHY

(Laughs)

Typical ignorant response from a male. Do you or do you not know women bring life into the world?

DEION

I know this.

CATHY

Then why would you say something so foolish?

DEION

It sounded right in my mind as I was thinking it. I agree. Without a woman there would be no life. Again, you hit another strong point.

CATHY

You can stop telling me what we both already know. Can you answer the other part of the question, please?

DEION

Damn...can you repeat that part?  
Sorry, this drink is starting to catch  
up with me.

CATHY

(Sighs)

Just like a man. You can't remember  
the simple things women love that'll  
keep them happy, but you'll remember  
if we said you can get some pussy. I  
asked why do you men attempt to meet  
what we want for a couple of days, but  
if you don't get some pussy within  
that time, y'all fall off.

DEION

If we're going all-out meeting your  
needs making sure you're happy like a  
child doing their best to get straight  
A's, we feel we deserve some type of  
reward. Why should we continue proving  
what you see can get accomplished, and  
it goes unnoticed without a reward?

CATHY

That's your logical answer?

DEION

Yeah.

CATHY

Using a child striving for straight  
A's was just...I'll exclude that all  
together. But if you men swear up and  
down all y'all want is a Queen, then  
you should always push forward no  
matter how hard it gets, instead of  
saying I'm not built for a woman like  
her. You knew that from the beginning,  
so why did you even bother wasting her  
time?

DEION

...I'm starting to believe this is a  
debate I shouldn't have agreed on  
having.

CATHY

Nah, don't run that excuse. You knew  
from the beginning you didn't want

this debate. But by you being I guess a man, your pride made you come on here just to make a fool of yourself, and the men that's like you.

DEION

Speak that truth.

(Takes a swig)

I think...I think I might need a cigarette. All this truth mixed with liquor has got me feeling um--um--um...

(Repeatedly snaps fingers)

What's the word I'm looking for? It starts with---

CATHY

Are you trying to say equilibrium?

DEION

That's the word, I think. That means balance, right?

CATHY

That's something else men like you do. Always trying to use words you can't pronounce or know the meaning.

DEION

I mean...I believe I got the notion right. I just can't...I can't think clear right now because as I said---

CATHY

Yeah, an alcoholic's excuse instead of being a man saying you truly have no idea about what you're talking about. That's our biggest gripe as women we have against men. Y'all swear you're men, but don't do or hold down the title of what a real man is.

DEION

And what exactly is a real man?

CATHY

Something you or men like you will never know.

ANNOUNCER

Damn!!!

CATHY

You don't have to beat on a dead horse by hyping it up, and we both know the horse is dead.

ANNOUNCER

I feel where you're coming from, but damn. I think you finished him off with that one.

CATHY

I didn't finish him off, yet. He's still sitting here as if he hasn't registered that he let his following down.

The Announcer turns to look at Deion laughing, and Deion just looks on, taking a sip from the bottle.

ANNOUNCER

Man, she's killing you out here, fam. They're telling me in my ear-piece, the women are going crazy, and the men think you're soft. Are you gonna bite back or just sit there and drink?

DEION

I'm all bark, no bite. I'm sorry I disappointed my following. I had no idea she would come out this strong. I figured once she saw me in person I would win hands down. But since that's not the case, I have no choice but to agree with what's right, right?

ANNOUNCER

Fam, I can't see this debate ending without you having some form of comeback. Put the bottle down, and focus. Not siding with her, but goddamn. This can't be the finishing blow.

CATHY

The debate is far from over. He just needs a cigarette to get it together. You know men who drink feel they need a cigarette and a blunt, just like they feel they need a side chick.

ANNOUNCER

And she's still going hard.

Deion takes a sip, and then laughs.

DEION

I noticed. Well, I don't need the cigarette yet, I'm good. As far as side chicks go. Maybe the side chick fulfills the happiness the main doesn't.

CATHY

Maybe if he was doing what he was supposed to be doing as a man, he'd get everything his heart and mind desires in one woman at home.

DEION

Do you think so?

CATHY

My man enjoys every ounce of what I give him without a complaint.

Deion begins laughing, but quickly stops, catching himself from hurling.

CATHY

See what happens when you find the wrong things funny? Just like y'all laugh about the women you sleep with until you find out she's pregnant. When y'all hear the word "Pregnancy" y'all turn into church mice.

Deion begins laughing hysterically, and the Announcer looks at him confused.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Look at you, still laughing. That's the only thing men are good for. Laughs, excuses, and an imaginary spectacular sex game. So tell me, what are y'all really good for?

Deion's laughter becomes louder, standing up shaking his head.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Not only was this a joke, but it truly

was a waste of my time. This so-called debate is over. Ladies---

DEION

You're right about this being over.

Cathy looks over at him stunned.

CATHY

What did you say?

DEION

I said, you're right about this being over.

CATHY

That's the smartest thing you said tonight. Not to mention you're finally correct about something. I'm glad you're accepting your defeat like a man.

DEION

I didn't say all that.

CATHY

Then, what are---

DEION

Just be quiet. You've been talking all night as if you would truly give a fuck about the answers I gave you. You already had it set in your mind that anything I'd say you'd be right. I didn't think this would be completely biased, but I should've known better. And now...now you believe you've just obtained a victory?

(Laughs)

You are a character, I swear.

Cathy claps as if she's proud of what he just said.

CATHY

He finally said something without mispronouncing a word, and actually used them correctly. I am so proud of you. Let me guess. After saying your few little words, you believe you won?

DEION

It's not about winning. There lies your problem.

CATHY

It's not about winning? Then what is it about?

DEION

An understanding.

CATHY

Oh, we're supposed to have an understanding? I understand---

DEION

You understand you know how to run your fucking mouth. I'm not even mad at you. You gained a following of people just like you who know how to run their mouths before thinking, and that's what's up.

CATHY

Hold on. We're not---

DEION

You and your legion are biased as fuck, and I don't understand why. Y'all wanna start this so-called superior following because you and your members have no flaws, right? And before you even answer that. The name of your group is "Warm" demanding respect using a word pertaining to pussy? Does that make any sense coming from women who want respect?

Cathy stares at him in silence.

DEION (CONT'D)

Did the high level of arrogance calm down?

CATHY

I feel the same way I did when I came out. I'm just letting the drunken fool have his moment.

Deion covers his mouth as if he's stunned, while laughing.

CATHY (CONT'D)

This whole debate or whatever you wanna call this was nothing but a joke to you. So---

DEION

So, sit ya ass there and watch this. Wait, excuse me. Can you please sit there and watch what's about to come on the screen, since you don't wanna hear words from a drunk?

CATHY

I'm glad you cleaned that up. Now, what can you possibly show me that has to do with this debate?

DEION

You'll see. Start the video, please.

On the television we see a recorded live video of Deion smiling sitting in his car, well dressed with some nice jewelry on.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

What's up, y'all. I made this video bright and early before my debate tonight. I kept this one to myself because it holds a deep meaning. Hold on a second.

(Into the phone)

Fam, you ready? If you're ready, text so I'll know.

A ding goes off, and by his smile, he's happy by the response.

DEION (CONT'D) (ON THE TELEVISION)

Aight. As I said this was pre-recorded for my debate tonight. So since I know I can't bring someone on the show with me, I got him here with me live on the video chat.

Another screen opens and we see a handsome light skin male with blond dyed tip dreadlocks, and a clean cut goatee. He's sitting in his car smiling wearing a wife beater and a gold link chain. This is Cathy's boyfriend LANCE.

Cathy becomes outraged, standing up from her seat pointing at the screen.

CATHY

What the fuck are you doing talking to my man?!

Deion places a finger to his lips telling her to hush before picking up the bottle taking a sip.

The Announcer stands just as shocked as Cathy.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

What's going on, homie, you good?

LANCE (ON THE TELEVISION)

You know me, man. Same old shit, doing what I need to continue growth.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

I feel that. You know about my debate with your girl tonight, right?

LANCE (ON THE TELEVISION)

Yeah, I know about that crazy shit. If she would've sat her ass down and listened, she wouldn't be in that position.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

(Laughs)

You tried to stop her, fam?

LANCE (ON THE TELEVISION) (LAUGHS)

Man, I know how you get down when you're debating. You've been the same way since elementary, so why would you change?

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

(Laughs)

True. So since she didn't listen, what did you tell her after the fact?

LANCE (ON THE TELEVISION)

Dealing with her, you really can't tell her shit, but you'll find that out tonight. But, uh, yeah. All I said was bring your best A-Game because he ain't nothing to fuck with. He talks shit on social media for his own amusement, but if you were to actually talk with him, that's something completely different.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
I appreciate you for telling her that much. So, how did she end up being your woman?

LANCE (ON THE TELEVISION)  
...Keeping it real with you, since we've been homies for all these years, and I don't care that she'll see this tonight. Most would think I'm a simp, and that's cool too. But...I met Cathy after she finished up the last nigga in a gang-bang. I don't know if I was pussy-whipped or if I saw something in her I shouldn't have even been looking for, but...I invested time in her, getting to know her better, and that led to us being a couple.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
WOW! Not even coming at you or your girl, but damn. I guess at the end of the day, you're the one fucking her, so that's all that matters. So if she was a runner, why is she talking all this respect women shit, and she didn't even respect herself?

LANCE (ON THE TELEVISION)  
No disrespect taken. The most logical answer I can give you is when I got with her and started showing her different things in life, she took that and I guess for lack of better words woke up. I truly can't say her true motive behind this movement, but I can say after she sees this...

He picks up a cup of what appears to be liquor, and takes a sip.

LANCE (CONT'D) (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Yeah, I should've told her this to her face, but this seems like something that'll stick in her head way quicker. After the show...she might as well be on the hunt for a new man. What I thought was happiness when I found her is no longer in her body. She's more focused on saying men ain't shit, and she got a good one at home. I don't

get it.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Damn, don't drop your woman, fam.

LANCE (ON THE TELEVISION)  
She dropped me a long time ago. I don't know or care to know if she was cheating on me, but...when she started her little movement, this house hasn't been a happy home.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
I won't even get in-depth with that topic, but, damn. I'm pretty sure there's a good reason why you feel this way, and I don't know if there will be a discussion when she gets home. But I wish you happiness if that's the move you're about to make.

LANCE (ON THE TELEVISION)  
I appreciate you, Bro, and thanks. Have fun with your debate tonight. Bring everything you got so she'll get an understanding.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
You know I will. I'll get back with you.

The television goes back to the screensaver we saw earlier.

ANNOUNCER  
DAMN!!!! He just responded with---

DEION  
No need for all that. The debate is still going on, right?

Still standing with pure anger written on her face, Cathy stares at the television in disbelief.

CATHY  
When the fuck did he amazingly grow a pair of balls to say he's leaving me?! This weak ass---

DEION  
Ma'am. Ma'am, calm down. There's more to go.

Still filled with anger, she turns looking at Deion with attitude in her finger as she points at him.

CATHY

And you! You've been cool with my man for all these years, and you're just now saying something?

DEION

Shit, if you think that's bad, you're about to hate this.

Turning our attention back on the television, we see Deion again, still somewhere posted in his car.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

What's up again? This is part two before my debate tonight. I know what some of you ladies are thinking right now. He set all this up. He probably paid her man off to say what he said, which is something the typical weak ass nigga would do, and I'm cool with y'all thinking that. So, that's why I made this video.

(Into the phone)

Text and let me know when you're ready.

When he hears the ding, Deion gives the same smile he did when Lance texted him.

DEION (CONT'D) (ON THE TELEVISION)

This video is for the ladies.

Another screen opens and we see Cathy's friend SHAWNA on the screen. She's a sexy redbone with long Shirley temple curls, and natural beauty. Judging by how her tank top is fitting her breast because of the way she's sitting in her car seat, we can tell her breasts are big.

DEION (CONT'D) (ON THE TELEVISION)

Baby girl, what's going on?

SHAWNA (ON THE TELEVISION)

Hey, D!!!! Are you ready for the debate tonight?

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

I hope so.  
(Laughs)

You know ya girl better than I do, so do you think I'm ready?

SHAWNA (ON THE TELEVISION)

(Laughs)

I love what she's doing with the movement, and I appreciate her heart for doing it. But...if you're doing something like this, make sure you tell your true story before you get people to follow you.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

Hold on. How can you give her credit and dog her out in the same breath? That's a contradiction, right?

SHAWNA (ON THE TELEVISION)

I said I'm proud of the movement she started, but...

She places her hand over her face, slowly dragging it down, looking back into the camera disappointed.

SHAWNA (CONT'D) (ON THE TELEVISION)

If you're comparing the lies she doesn't tell to the members of her movement, then yes, my words are contradicting. She's out here making people believe she has no flaws knowing damn well she's had, and still does have some major flaws.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

Oh, shit. Are you about to air her out or leave it as it is?

SHAWNA (ON THE TELEVISION)

D, you know me and how I get down. I'll send you the greasy texts she was sending other people about me, but swear up and down I'm her girl.

(Laughs)

Hell yeah, I'm airing her out.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

(Laughs)

Damn, look how ya homie getting down on you. Yeah, make sure you send me those texts later. But if you know she's greasy, why do you still hang

with her?

SHAWNA (ON THE TELEVISION)  
I gotcha. I hang out with snakes  
because you gotta be ready for when it  
thinks about attacking, that way you  
can stop that shit before it even  
makes a move. Since I got them text  
messages, it appears she's ready to  
attack, so let me end her ass now.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Gone head, homie.

SHAWNA (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Ya know, it's really not even about  
airing her out. It's about getting her  
to be true with not just herself, but  
these women who follow and believe  
everything she says, not knowing she's  
talking about them when she views  
their pages.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Get the fuck outta here. She's  
clowning her own fans?

SHAWNA (ON THE TELEVISION)  
As if she's not in the same boat. All  
up in her room like look at this dumb  
bitch. Or how stupid can she really be  
staying with a nigga she know ain't  
shit? And I'm sitting there like you  
only mad because that married nigga  
with money didn't leave his wife for  
you, but you praise your man highly  
and you out here cheating on him.  
Break that down for me.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Goddamn, look at that.

SHAWNA (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Yeah, look at that. You know how I am,  
and I'm not ashamed of what I do. The  
catch is I can openly admit it with  
pride. But ya girl---ya girl is doing  
too much. I can go deeper.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

(Laughs)

I think I'm good. Don't forget to send those texts. I gotta get home so I can get ready for tonight.

SHAWNA (ON THE TELEVISION)

Not a problem. Is the pool finished in your backyard so we can get the cookout going?

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

Two more days, and we can get it crackin.

SHAWNA (ON THE TELEVISION)

Aight. I love you, and have fun tonight.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

Love you, too. Tune in and enjoy.

The television goes back to the screensaver.

If you thought Cathy was mad when Deion did his video with Lance, she's beyond calming down after this one.

CATHY

No that bitch didn't! She supposed to be my girl, and she's out here making up stories for your useless drunk ass, and for what?! To get noticed out here or get some dick from you?! You got my man and my girl turning against me, and they've been with me since I started this movement! How much did you pay them? I can't believe you know the two people I truly love.

Deion takes a swig, and then laughs.

DEION

What makes you think I paid them off? What would I gain from that?

CATHY

Help from two fake ass people assisting a bum ass drunk who went to these extremes so he can possibly win this debate, and he still won't!

DEION

Are you mad about the truth they spoke  
or the fact that you have to own it?

CATHY

I'm not about to own those lies they  
spoke on my name! What, I'm supposed  
to sit here and agree with the trash  
they just said, I don't think so? I'm  
not thinking about them or you!

DEION

And they're lying just so I can win  
this little debate? Not because it's  
true?

CATHY

How about you finish off that bottle  
like I finished you in this debate.  
And when I get home, my ex man has  
got---

ANNOUNCER

Sorry to cut you off, but Deion, what  
kind of pool do you have?

CATHY

Probably some generic ass pool he  
doesn't know how to put together, and  
that's why it's taking so long. I'm  
amazed he knows what a pool or water  
is, drunk ass bum.

Deion takes a swig, and almost spits it out from laughing.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Laughs and false assistance is all you  
brought with you tonight.

(Scoffs)

My real ladies who follow me, y'all---

DEION

Wait. Before you wrap all this up, I  
got one more video for you.

CATHY

Who is it this time? Somebody else  
you've been knowing for years that  
knows me, and they're about to speak  
more lies?

DEION

Just watch.

On the television we see one of the bottles of liquor Deion was drinking from under a faucet in the sink getting filled with water being held by a firm looking brown skin female hand.

Now that the bottle is filled, she turns the water off, and then turns her camera so we can see the elaborate kitchen, and if you look through the glass doors leading outside you can see the pool Deion was talking about being constructed.

Moving from the kitchen, she steps in the very nicely furnished and decorated living room. She turns to her right and then proceeds down a hallway with various different paintings hanging on both sides of the hallway.

She gets to the end of the hall and stops at a door partially cracked open, and she pushes it open.

Inside the black and white bedroom on the king size bed we see Deion wearing the same pants and shoes he's wearing now, but he doesn't have a shirt on exposing his athletic tattooed covered chiseled frame.

He's in a trance with a smile looking down at the adorable baby girl lying asleep on the bed beside him.

ANN (O.S.) (ON THE TELEVISION)

Baby, I got---

Deion looks up at her smiling, while placing a finger to his lips signalling for her to be quiet.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

You see I just got her to sleep, and you wanna come in here all loud.

ANN (O.S.) (ON THE TELEVISION)

(Laughs)

I'm the one that's gonna be up with her while you're gone, so it doesn't matter.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)

(Laughs)

Keep that in mind when I get home.

ANN (O.S.) (ON THE TELEVISION)

Whatever. Are those the pants and

shoes you're wearing?

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Yup. They go perfectly with my point.

ANN (O.S.) (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Well, here goes the other part.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
(Laughs)  
Are you gonna bring it to me or do I  
have to get up and get it?

ANN (O.S.) (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Are you trying to get some tonight or  
are you staying up with your daughter?

With the biggest smile, he hops up from the bed rushing over  
towards her, grabbing her by the waist causing her to laugh.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Should I bring home the whip cream,  
ice cream and cherries?

ANN (O.S.) (ON THE TELEVISION)  
(Laughs)  
Boy, cut it out. Tell me why you  
decided on wearing what you got on?

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Since I know how the majority of  
people think these days, no matter  
what I say, it'll go right over their  
heads. Why? Because they'll be looking  
at my outfit first so they can have  
something to talk about and make  
meme's. But what they don't know is  
these shoes cost me five thousand  
dollars to have them made, and the  
pants and shirt were five hundred a  
piece. Of course it's not about the  
price. It's about the whole point I'll  
prove at the end of this little  
debate.

ANN (O.S.) (ON THE TELEVISION)  
That's what made me fall in-love with  
you in high school, and why I'm still  
in-love with you to this day.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Why is that?

ANN (O.S.) (ON THE TELEVISION)  
You love letting people think they're  
better than you, but you never think  
you're better than them after you  
prove your point. The way you think is  
so sexy.

It appears as if she's moving in for a kiss, and Deion leans back avoiding the gesture.

ANN (O.S.) (CONT'D) (ON THE TELEVISION)  
I know you didn't just move away from  
me.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
I know the only beauty my eyes desire  
seeing didn't just try to kiss me  
without showing herself doing it.

As the two laugh, she turns the camera so that her and Deion can be seen.

Ann is a petite woman wearing a T-shirt, with a seductive educated look going on because of her wire-framed glasses.

The two embrace with a deep kiss, and then they look into the camera smiling.

DEION (ON THE TELEVISION)  
Not only is she my business partner,  
and the mother of my daughter. She's  
also..

Ann holds up her left hand showing off her diamond wedding ring.

DEION (CONT'D)  
She's the reason why I got my life  
together the day I met her, and now,  
she's the woman I'll spend the rest of  
my life with. Enjoy the show tonight.

The television goes back to the screensaver.

The Announcer and Cathy are speechless, while Deion guzzles the rest of the water in the bottle, and then looks at Cathy smiling.

ANNOUNCER

...You just flipped the whole script with this one. A new light has definitely been shined on you. So...not only are you married, you have a daughter?

DEION

The woman you just saw has been the love of my life since high school, and our daughter is the only child between us. As far as business wise, she owns two beauty salons, and she's working on being a paralegal. Now on my end, I'm part owner to three graphic design companies due to some of the designs I've created, along with a degree in linguistics, and I have my own landscaping business.

ANNOUNCER

WOW! All of this was kept under the radar. Why didn't you let all of this be known before accepting the debate?

DEION

What would make this situation different if people knew all of this about me? But more importantly, why should I disclose my actual life to people who never had a thought about me until now, just because they follow my social media life, which is merely for humor? Well, in my case, it's for humor. But, as my wife said, I love letting people think they're better than me.

ANNOUNCER

This is so different right now. So---

Cathy finally comes from her state of confusement.

CATHY

Wait a minute. Everything I said you agreed with was all a front? This bummy appearance clearly was a front. And you pretending to be drunk was all for what?

DEION

So you and your warm movement can feel right about every man.

CATHY

That doesn't make sense.

DEION

Of course it does. Just like your ex man as you called him told the truth about how he met you, and why he loves you. Just like your girl was telling the truth about what she said, but I'm not about to show the texts she sent verifying her words. And do you know why?

Cathy sucks her teeth, and rolls her eyes, folding her arms across her chest.

CATHY

...Why?

DEION

Because when you generalize everything as a whole as if there's nothing good you're generalizing everything with, what makes you so different from the things you're judging?

CATHY

All men are the same, so I don't feel I'm wrong for feeling the way I do.

DEION

There lies the misconception. Everybody is quick to follow something or someone, having no idea if the person or what they chose to follow has a solid foundation. Yeah, this can be said about a lot of things in life, but that's not what this is about. This about you being hellbent of proving men ain't shit, and you're no better than the men you claim ain't shit.

Deion places his hand up regretting the words he just said.

DEION (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for those last words I said.

By me saying that, it makes me no better than you. And before you or anyone else says something, no, I'm no better than anybody. I'm just out here trying to make it like everybody else, and instead of pointless debates.

(Clears throat)

People should be worried about things that are important like sex trafficking. Children coming up missing. Racism. Rapists. You know, shit like that. But...that's too much like right. The only things people will talk about after this is my clothes, and who they feel won, missing the whole message.

Deion walks over to the Announcer and gives him a play.

DEION (CONT'D)

Thanks for having me on the show, but, I'll leave you two to it. For those who didn't get the understanding of my message, here's why I played it out like this. You have good and bad people. You have people who put up images so good you'll fall for them if you don't know better. And you have people who live a normal happy life, that won't hesitate to keep it one hundred with you. Now, when a normal person links up with a fraud, their character slowly gets broken down until they're just like the fraud. When a fraud links up with a normal person, they end up using them until there's nothing left, leading to the real person becoming bitter for the route they took instead of leaving before it spiraled outta control. What she talks about is right, but not when it comes to every man. And what she said about how women should be treated with respect is true, but...a woman can't display herself as if she's easy thinking she'll get respect from someone who's only out for one thing. The moral...you can't be fake trying to be real because eventually you'll get exposed. And you can't be real trying to be fake to fit in because

you'll end up being fake. You can't have the best of both worlds. But above all, if you focus on yourself, you won't have time to worry about anybody or anything else, because you'll be too busy focused on what you're supposed to do for your happiness.

Deion walks to the table picking up his headphones, placing them on, after which he picks up the two bottles he came out with prepared to walk off stage, and then he pauses, turning back around to retrieve his ashtray.

DEION

I didn't smoke while I was out here because the people told me in the back the announcer hates smoke around him. That's what most would call courtesy. Something you said men don't have. And one more thing...

Deion turns to look at the two.

DEION (CONT'D)

I'm not a celebrity or an internet sensation. I'm the average man who does what he's supposed to do, and while doing that, I don't take shit. Those titles and fame is what she seeks. Me...I just want people to gather and grasp a full concept and stop being one-sided.

Deion turns back around, and then makes his way off stage.

The Announcer stands stunned, silent, turning his attention to Cathy.

Cathy sits silent with a look of shame, shaking her head digesting what Deion said.

She notices the Announcer about to speak, and she holds her hand up.

Sitting there for a few more seconds, she finally stands up shaking her head as she makes her way off stage.

The Announcer is still stunned, but he finally turns looking into the camera.

## ANNOUNCER

Well, damn. I definitely didn't see the outcome turning out like this. I won't say there was a winner or loser, nor will I say who was right or wrong. I did gain something from both parties that'll have me thinking for the night. Hopefully for those of you who tuned in, you can say the same. Thanks for watching the show. Goodnight.

**BLACK SCREEN:**

"Why follow in footsteps you can't fill, when you can lead with your own?"

Bernard Mersier