

# **THE CIVIL SERVANT**

by

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FADE IN:

INT. BAR- DAY

The room is barely alive. Business just opened.

Louis Armstrong's Weather bird hums softly

BOBODE AKINJU, a 35 year old colourless man who looks like he could puke fire, gazes into space, totally detached from the world.

Six beer bottles, most of them empty, erect before this miserable figure

KATE, the bar-tender, a pretty fox with curves in the right places, approaches him holding a chilled beer bottle

KATE

That's 3500 naira in total

Bobode keeps gaping. Face like stone

KATE CONTD

Okay then

She plants the bottle on the table and saunters back to her post behind the mahogany counter. Opposite her is AJARAT, a slim angel who looks like she's never been kissed, typing on her tab

KATE CONTD

Nawa for some people o

AJARAT

Don't tell me you won't leave the guy alone?

KATE

Isn't it strange? That's the seventh bottle o

AJARAT

Seven, twenty, fifty.. How's it your business. He's not drinking for free

KATE

I have a feeling when it's time for payment, he'll come up with one silly drama.

Ajarat turns to glance at him. She shakes her head and returns to her tab

AJARAT

He'll pay

KATE

You read minds now?

AJARAT

Okay he won't pay

Kate hisses and starts typing on her phone as well.

AJARAT CONTD

So you didn't tell me who paid for  
the new hair and pants

KATE

I have a new guy

AJARAT

Why am I not surprised

The door splits open.

CHIEF ABUDU, 52, a podgy man swollen with wealth and the good things of life, wheels in his paraplegic son, KOLADE, 27, a fresh faced cherub

CHIEF

We should be fine here

KOLADE

And your guards should be fine  
outside

CHIEF

Our guards you mean? They are paid  
to stand strong in the face of  
danger

Kolade and Kate's eyes meet. A knowing smile is exchanged between the duo

CHIEF CONTD

When we are sure the police have  
cleared those shooting fools, we  
will go home

KOLADE

Those fools have not been paid for  
months

CUT TO:

COUNTER

Kate dances around nervously. She grabs her phone and uses it as a mirror to inspect her face

KATE

How do I look?

AJARAT

Astoundingly ugly. Why?

KATE  
My new guy is here

Ajarat turns back to glance at the Chief and his son

AJARAT  
You are back to older guys now?

KATE  
My new guy is the son of the older  
guy

Kate rushes away

CUT TO:

CHIEF AND SON

They are seated very comfortably by the window. Two seats  
away the stone-faced Bobode

KOLADE  
Don't judge

CHIEF  
What?

Kate arrives and bends to kiss Kolade passionately on the  
lips. The Chief is astounded.

He clears his throat to remind the slurping duo that he's  
around.

Kolade ends the kiss, they rub noses briefly before Kate  
stands straight

KATE  
You must Kola's dad

CHIEF  
(shaky)  
That's what they call me

KATE  
I've been wanting to meet my  
boyfriend's father

CHIEF  
Boy..

Chief turns to Kolade who mouths "Don't Judge".

CHIEF CONTD  
I've been wanting to meet you too

Kate crouches back to Kolade's eye level

KATE  
I've missed you baby

KOLADE

Did you get the necklace

KATE

It was..

She kisses him on the lips briefly. Chief squints..

KATE CONTD

(excitedly)

Beautiful. The stones were so  
bright I had to grab my glasses

CUT TO:

BOBODE

He gulps from a bottle of beer, repeatedly turning to gaze  
at the ballyhoo beside him.

CUT TO:

KATE

She stands straight, totally buzzing like a 5 year old who  
just got new barbie dolls

KOLADE

I totally forgot you were a  
bartender

KATE

Doesn't matter. What would you like  
to drink?

KOLADE

Anything you think I'll enjoy

Kate caresses his head. She turns to Chief

KATE

What about Dad?

CHIEF

I-I will have what he's having

KATE

Be right back baby boy

Kate rushes away. Kolade stares at his father

KOLADE

What?

CHIEF

It makes total sense. A lamb like  
you going for a firefox

Kolade shakes his head, smiling

CUT TO:

COUNTER

Kate rushes in and grabs two bottles housing brightly coloured fluids. She proceeds to mix but she stops. She looks up and sees Ajarat gazing at her

KATE

What?

AJARAT

I was okay with you draining the former guys because let's be honest they were fools but this one? This is just harsh

KATE

Why do you think I want to drain?

AJARAT

(muffled)

Why else would you be with a guy in a wheelchair

Kate smiles as she mixes drinks

KATE

Trust me, he's just like the other guys. He gets erect o.

Ajarat yields a hard frown

KATE CONTD

Okay okay. What if am draining him? His dad is super rich, he is super rich, his kids will be super rich. Why can't I be super rich?

AJARAT

But he is on a wheel chair! You might be a hoe, don't add bitch to the trait list

Kate hisses and keeps mixing

CUT TO:

CHIEF AND SON

Kolade types on his phone as his father looks on expectantly

CHIEF

You're ignoring me

KOLADE

You keep asking the same question

CHIEF

I am just confused

KOLADE

You can say it dad. You're shocked  
a hot girl like that is with me?  
Right?

CHIEF

She just wants the money

KOLADE

You think I don't know that? Why  
would a girl like that like me?  
Don't worry she'll be bored soon  
enough.

Kate arrives with two cups

KATE

Enjoy your drinks

The chief and his son sip their drinks while Kate grabs a  
chair. For a moment, her eyes meets Ajarat's but she cuts  
it.

KATE CONTD

How is business sir

CHIEF

Well uh..Strangely, it's very good

KATE

How is strange

KOLADE

Most people are suffering.  
Especially civil servants and  
traders

CHIEF

Stop making it sound so  
unfortunate. It's the way life is.  
Some thrive, others suffer

KATE

That's very true

KOLADE

(blase)

Sure it is.

Ajarat arrives much to the shock of Kate.

KATE

What're you doing here?

AJARAT

Good day everyone

Chief and Kolade give her slight nods

KATE

I'll join you by the counter

AJARAT

I know but I have to share something

KATE

Please go..

CHIEF

Let her talk now

AJARAT

She is only dating you for your money.

A beat

CHIEF/KOLADE

We know that

Ajarat is shocked to the bones.

Kate smiles, her face flushing with embarrassment

CUT TO:

BOBODE

He shakes all the bottles on the table but there all empty, eyes still fixed on the charade beside him

CUT TO:

CHIEF AND SON

Kolade puts his arms around Kate, smiling.

KOLADE

Do you want to log in when she is bored? There's so much money to go around.

Ajarat scoffs and returns to the counter.

Kate is even more embarrassed. Kolade notices this

KOLADE CONTD

Are you mad at me?

KATE

Why would you think of me that way

KOLADE

Don't play the innocent card. My guards did thorough checks on you. I am aware what you did Ben, your last prey but it doesn't matter. Your fire is what I need and my money is what you need.

Kate stares in shock. She struggles to her feet and walks away

CHIEF

That was brutal son. I am proud of you. You have the money, let them know you're in charge

KOLADE

Yeah yeah

Chief's phone rings. He picks the call

CHIEF

Hello?

CUT TO:

COUNTER

Kate sits beside Ajarat, still shocked

AJARAT

What the eff!

KATE

Yes babe. That was really effed up

AJARAT

I guess I was wrong about him. All guys are fools

KATE

I feel used

AJARAT

There's a first time for everything.

KATE

I wish he and his father would just die

CUT TO:

CHIEF AND SON

Chief gets off the phone, chuckling

KOLADE

More money?

CHIEF

The inspector just called me. The foolish shooters have been caught. And yes you were right, there were civil servants. Twelve of them. Eyewitness say one of them left even before they started shooting. The fool had no guts.

KOLADE

Is everyone a fool to you?

CHIEF

Well lazy gun bearers are.

CUT TO:

BOBODE

His hands vibrate violently. There's boiling blood flowing through his veins.

He jumps to his feet, flinging the table and the beer bottles in all directions.

Deafening smashing and crashing of the bottles reverberate

CUT TO:

CHIEF AND SON

Chief and Kolade turn to their side in shock.

CUT TO:

COUNTER

Ajarat and Kate turn back in shock.

KATE

I knew the guy was mad

CUT TO:

BOBODE

He pulls out two pistols from each pocket and points it at the chief and his son.

BLACK SCREEN

Gunshots sounds. Six times. Female screams reverberate

THE END

