

THE GOOD MAMARITAN

Written by

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1. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

The living room seems quiet, the television is on, a man is seen watching the news with a sad look on his face, a woman is seen entering the living room.

MOTHER

Lunch is set on the table.

The man looks at her, sighs and returns his attention to the TV screen.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Would you like me to bring it over there?

Silence

This your silence is not going to help you o. I am not related to the people in government, so I don't know why it is in this house you are doing your protest. Who will see your efforts here?

Silence. The man is wearing a determined look on his face. Let us see how long your so-called protest will last. Ehen, your daughter called me and said she would be returning today.

George looks at his wife and smiles.

When you are hungry you know how to find your way to your food on the table.

She goes to pick the TV remote and starts to surf the channels. George gets up, glares at her and leaves. Grace laughs.

FADE TO BLACK.

2. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

A young girl is seen dragging a box in. She looks exhausted. Grace is sitting on the couch watching TV. She looks excited to see the young girl.

MOTHER

My baby girl has returned home a graduate o. My enemies have been put to shame. They shall come and witness the wonders in my house and die from envy!

AMANDA

(Laughs) Mummy! Good afternoon mummy, how are you doing?

(MORE)

AMANDA (CONT'D)

See how you are looking fresh and I've been dying of hunger in school.

Hugs her mother.

MOTHER

My dear, I am fine o. So with all this wrinkles and grey hair you say I am looking fresh? (Laughs) look at you, you don't even look like someone that said she worked hard in school. Always calling home for money, now I see where all the money has gone.

AMANDA

With all the lecturers acting like they were on a mission to drain our bodies and spit our dry bones out for the dogs to finish. It was hell o. I am just glad that part of my life is over. Where is daddy? Is he home?

MOTHER

Your father is sleeping inside. Go and freshen up so you can rest. There is food in the kitchen

AMANDA

Okay mommy.

FADE OUT.

3. INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT.

The girl is seen lying in bed, talking on the phone. The mother walks in and sees her daughter laughing and smiling. She doesn't notice her mother's presence. The mother sits on the bed smiling and waits for her call to end.

AMANDA

She listens

I tell you! Just because he helped me do analysis does not mean that he will start seeing me as a love interest. I mean when did we start doing geography that we started drawing map of Nigeria together?

She listens

And I paid him o! I'm sure he came late and stayed till that time on purpose. He just did not expect me to see through his weak moves.

She notices her mother

Let's finish the gist later babes.
My mom is here. Good night okay?

She sits up

Mom I didn't even know when you
came in, have you been here for
long? You should have knocked...

MOTHER

Knock in my own house? Why would I
knock, am I a visitor?

AMANDA

Mummy don't forget it is my
father's house, and I have rights
to privacy. Anyways, what's up mom,
do you need me to do something for
you?

Her mother ignores her

MOTHER

So was that our in-law that you
were speaking with?

Amanda rolls her eyes at her mum. But her mum misses it.

AMANDA

A friend, mother.

MOTHER

Your father and I have been
discussing, and we decided to wait
till you returned. It is time for
us to start welcoming suitors.

AMANDA

When the time is right mom, it will
happen.

MOTHER

So you are saying that in all the 4
years you spent in school, no
boyfriend?

AMANDA

I thought you people always told me
to face my studies and stay away
from distractions? Mummy, I would
like to sleep now, I need to rest,
long trip today, remember?

MOTHER

Hmmm okay, rest, we will continue
later. Goodnight my dear

AMANDA

Goodnight mom. Say goodnight to daddy for me. Why has he not said a word to me, he only gave me a smile and a hug, is he okay?

MOTHER

Don't mind your father, he is angry with the government.

AMANDA

(laughing) you're kidding

MOTHER

Like he is the last Nigerian citizen in the world. I am waiting to for him to talk so I can claim my prize. You know your father loves to talk.

Amanda has a confused look but chooses not to engage her mother in more talk. She goes under her duvet.

AMANDA

Okay, goodnight mom.

FADE TO BLACK.

4. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

The house seems quiet. Amanda walks in furious with her mother behind her.

AMANDA

I can't believe you took me to Aunty's house to meet a man. Who still does that?

MOTHER

And what is wrong with going to meet a man in aunty's house? Does it matter how people meet?

AMANDA

So he doesn't have what it takes to meet women the way his fellow men do that he had to settle for matchmaking?

MOTHER

So? Is it now a crime?

AMANDA

Say what you feel like and I will do the same. I will not subscribe to such arrangement. This should not repeat itself again mummy.

MOTHER

And who are you to tell me what to do or not? You are my child and not the other way round.

AMANDA

And then dearest mummy, you would realize that you would be greatly embarrassed when you try this again.

She folds her arms and glares at her mother who looks on in disbelief. The father walks in with a confused look on his face, he looks from wife to daughter

MOTHER

You would then see that I still remember how to discipline children!

Sees her husband

See your daughter, see how she plans to bring shame to our family! How can you try to save a child and she chooses to drown? Talk to her o!

AMANDA

I see no shame anywhere, but then shame is relative, but then I can say that what you did today was shameful. Never again mommy.

She leaves her mother looking shocked and kisses her father on the cheek and leaves.

MOTHER

(Crying)my enemies have gotten me o! What kind of child was I given?

The husband gives her an "I told you so look" and smiles smugly. This annoys the wife.

Oh don't give me that look! I'm doing this for me and you!

The husband mimics her (silently)

I know very soon you would give up and start talking and you would loose the bet and give me my money, it's just a matter of time.

She storms out and the husband waves at her and continues laughing.

FADE TO BLACK.

5. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Weeks have passed, the family seems to be enjoying a TV program when the doorbell rings

MOTHER

Amanda, go and see who is at the door

AMANDA

Okay mom.

She opens the door and sees a young man.

JOHN

(Smiling) hello, my name is john.
Is this the Nwafor residence?

AMANDA

Yes, how may I help you?

JOHN

I was sent to Mrs Nwafor.

Amanda has a suspicious look but shrugs and lets him in.

AMANDA

Mom, are you expecting anyone? He said he's here for you.

Looks at John then to her mother. Pleasantries are exchanged.

MOTHER

Errr, actually, it is you he is here to see.

AMANDA

Really? But he mentioned your name not mine and I don't know him.
(Confused)

She looks at him again.

MOTHER

It's true.(She looks at her husband for confirmation) he came here so you would get to know him. Why don't you offer him a drink?

Smiling at John

Please take a seat.

Amanda looks at both her parents, starts to speak but goes to get the man a drink. She returns to meet the man in a conversation with her parents. John and her mother share a laugh.

Amanda, John here is a successful young man, he said he is ready for marriage and he said he is interested in marrying you.

AMANDA

How come, he only met me when I opened the door.

JOHN

Well, your mother has told me a lot about you. I have seen pictures of you and I must say, you look much better in person (smiling)

AMANDA

I hope she didn't meet you by the road and try to do some marry my daughter marketing?

George has a huge grin and gives his daughter a thumbs up. John laughs awkwardly and crosses his legs.

MOTHER

I actually have pictures of you all around town with a *husband wanted* written. I think we should leave you two to have a talk.

Her husband gets up and pats his daughter on her shoulder and gives the man a slight nod and leaves, his wife follows behind with a satisfactory look on her face.

FADE TO BLACK.

6. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

There is a knock at the door, the father goes to get the door and he sees John and another man at the door.

CUT TO:

7. INT. BEDROOM. DAY

Amanda's is in her room where she is seen getting set to come out.

CUT TO:

8. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Amanda comes out to see the visitors.

AMANDA

How punctual. So what brings you here again today?

JOHN

Well I told you I wanted you to meet someone

AMANDA

Who might that be, your lover? I thought I told you that I am not ready for marriage?

JOHN

(Laughs nervously)no, this is my friend, Fred. He has been eager to meet you.

Her parents walk in and pleasantries are exchanged

AMANDA

So why does he want to meet me?

JOHN

You see, my visit the other day was for a reason, he is the reason.

AMANDA

(Confused) please explain

JOHN

I am a married man, I do not have any interest in pursuing a relationship with you, I came here for my friend.

FRED

Yes, that is true.

MOTHER

What do you mean?

JOHN

Errr, my friend Fred is searching for a wife, so he requested that I meet you first before he makes an appearance.

MOTHER

So is he the son of a king? Why are you his front man?

JOHN

(Clears his throat) Fred is a shy person. He doesn't socialize much.

The husband taps his wife and looks to Fred

MOTHER

Since your friend is here, let him speak for himself.

FRED

Thank you ma, you see I am disabled, meeting a girl is not easy, so I have to hide my disability...

AMANDA

You don't say! So what kind of disability do you have?

FRED

I am a crippled man

He stands and walks around. The mother has an alarming look and puts her hands on her head.

MOTHER

Yes! My mockers have found their way to my house! They have decided to smear me with dog faeces!

FRED

What is wrong ma? I can take care of your daughter ma. I (gets cut off)

MOTHER

Don't even say another word! How am I sure that you can give her children? You want to use style to enslave her! No! Please tell them you did not see me

She starts to cry. The husband has an expressionless look and the daughter has a smug look directed at her mother.

AMANDA

Actually mom, I think I would like to get to know him, after all, you sent him to me remember?

MOTHER

You can't be serious!

AMANDA

But I am mother, since I came home a month ago you have spent a great deal of time introducing me to all sorts of men

MOTHER

And so? Your father agrees with me that you should have had a man by this time!

She looks at her husband asking him to back her up.

AMANDA

Maybe, but he also told me to take my time. In his own words "don't be in a hurry to start a happily ever after."

Her father gives her an approving smile. John and Fred look on in mild embarrassment and confusion

FRED

I'm sorry if my deceit caused this. Maybe we should take our leave.

They get up to leave

MOTHER

Good you know you caused this. Don't come back!(Glaring at them)

AMANDA

You are free to visit anytime Fred. You don't need to apologize.

They bid the family good-bye. (At the door)

JOHN

This family is crazy. Guy, you fit stay for this kain fire?

FRED

Guy, the family is something o. But we will see.

Back at the living room. The father looks at the time and goes to whisper in his daughter's ear and leaves.

AMANDA

Dad says the bet is over. You lost. It's 8pm

MOTHER

No way! It can't be!

She looks defeated. And runs after him. Amanda sighs and sits on a couch and closes her eyes.

The End