

BED OF ROSES

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A PREVIEW

1 **EXT. WOODS - DAY**

1

TITLE: 2006

Two boys - FUJI, 11 years old, and his brother, TAYO, 15 years old -are racing through the woods, having fun. Tayo overtakes fuji. Fuji is struggling to catch up.

FUJI
Bro Tayo, Wait for me!

Tayo looks over his shoulder. He sees his brother trying to match his pace. He laughs.

TAYO
That's not how we play the game. You have to beat me if you want to have the dog.

With newfound determination, Fuji doubles his speed. Tayo looks behind him again and sees his brother catching up to him. He has a look of satisfaction on his face.

MONTAGE- THE BROTHERS ARE DOING A LOT OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Tayo and Fuji are wrestling
- Tayo and Fuji are walking together, talking and laughing.
- Tayo and Fuji are throwing pebbles into a small river.

END OF MONTAGE

2 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER

2

Tayo and Fuji are walking side by side down the road. They're having a snack. Tayo finishes his and begins to eye his younger brother's. He has a sly smile on his face.

TAYO
(points up ahead)
Fuji, don't look up!!

Fuji looks up immediately. Tayo snatches Fuji's donut and runs away with it. Fuji, realizing that he has been tricked, begins to scream after his brother.

FUJI
Bro Tayo, give me back my donut. You tricked me!

TAYO
I told you not to look up!

3 INT.THE ORIJI'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 3

MR ORIJI is seated in his living room. The T.V is on. He is engrossed in the news. Tayo and Fuji are on either side of him, tensed. There's a faint rhythmic sound of pounding in the background. Fuji glances up at the wall clock. The time reads 8:21.

4 INT. THE ORJI'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME 4

MRS ORIJI is making dinner. The once faint sound can be heard clearly now. She is pounding yam. She pauses every now and to catch a breather. She looks up at the wall clock. It reads 8:23 pm. She wipes the sweat off her forehead and resumes pounding.

5 INT. THE ORIJI'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME. 5

The trio still assumes the same position: Mr. Oriji in the middle, the kids at either side, holding their breath. The sound of Mrs. Oriji's pestle against her Morter becomes louder and more intense. Fuji glances at the clock again. He counts on his finger until the clock reads: 8:3pm. He glances at his brother, Tayo, who gives him a small nod of his head.

FUJI
(With a shaky voice)
Mummy is late.

MR ORIJI
Yes. She is.

TAYO
(Attempts to stand up)
I'll go help her.

MR. ORIJI
(Sternly)
Sit. It's not your place.

Tayo sits back down. They are quiet for a while. Mr. Oriji turns off the TV. All they can hear is the sound of Mrs. Oriji's pounding.

MR ORIJi
I noticed you've gotten better at
reading time. Well done.

FUJI
(More relaxed)
Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Oriji stands up and exits the living room. The boys exchanged a worried look. Mrs. Oriji comes out of the kitchen shortly after. The boys can't hide the look of terror on their faces.

MRS ORIJi
(She sighs)
I'm late, aren't I?

The boys nod. Tayo's eyes tear up. Mrs. Oriji smiles warmly at them.

MRS ORIJi (CONT'D)
Don't worry about me, I'll be fine.
You, my fine boys, must be hungry.

6 INT.ORIJI'S APARTMENT. DINING TABLE - LATER

6

Mrs. ORIJI, Tayo, and Fuji are at the table. They're having pounded yam. Mr. Oriji's seat is empty. Mrs. Oriji isn't eating.

TAYO
Mom, you should eat.

MRS ORIJi
Soon. How was your day? What
mischief were you up to today?

TAYO
Nothing much. We just ran around. As usual.

MRS ORIJI
Hmm.

Mrs Oriji is picking at her nails. Tayo is picking at his food. Fuji keeps staring back and forth from his mother to his brother. The silence becomes unbearable for him so he breaks it.

FUJI
(He blurts out)
Bro Tayo got me a dog.

MRS ORIJI
(Alarmed)
He what?!

TAYO
(Enraged)
Ode!! I thought I told you not to tell them!!

MRS ORIJI
(Sternly)
You will not use such words in my house!

TAYO
(He snaps at her)
But daddy can, can't he?

Mrs. Oriji is taken aback. She looks as if she has just been hit. She blinks back tears and recomposes herself. Tayo looks apologetic but doesn't say anything.

MRS ORIJI
(Quietly)
You will take that dog back as--

TAYO
(He interrupts her)
--I didn't get him any stupid dog.

FUJI
Yes, you did!

MRS ORIJI
Boys...

Things are getting heated up around the table. Mrs. Oriji keeps throwing quick glances toward the stairs, hoping her husband isn't coming down.

TAYO
I did not! Do you see any dog
anywhere?

FUJI
But you said you did. You tricked me
again!

TAYO
That's because you're very stupid
and easy to trick!

MRS ORIJI
Tayo!

Tayo stands up and leaves. Fuji is sobbing. Mrs. Oriji looks at him with a sad smile. He stops after a while. Mrs. Oriji leans in and props his chin up so he's looking into her eyes.

MRS ORIJI

Maa su kun, so ti gbo?

Fuji nods. A little more silence.

MRS ORIJi

What were you going to name the dog?

It's clear he hadn't thought about it before now. He is playing with his food.

FUJI

Alayee.

Mrs. Oriji smiles and nods.

7 EXT.SOMEWHERE IN LAGOS - DUSK

7

TITLE: 15 YEARS LATER

The scene opens with a small dog running. The camera pans up and we see Fuji as an adult running in his running gear with his dog.

8 INT.FUJI'S APARTMENT - MORNING

8

Fuji is standing in front of his full-length mirror, checking himself out. He is dressed in a Tshirt and jeans. The dog waddles in and circles his feet.

FUJI

Alaye, ba wo ni.

The dog gives a small bark. fuji smirks.

FUJI (CONT'D)

I thought so too.

Fuji goes to crosscheck his already packed bags. He zips them up. His phone rings. He answers.

FUJI

Yes, I'm almost done packing...What time is the car coming... Alright...

(Laughs). No, I haven't been there in over 15 years... (chuckles again). I'll miss you guys at the office too. Let me finish packing...Yeah...Later.

He ends the call and sits down on his bed. On his bedside table, there's a framed photo of fuji and a slightly older man. He picks it up and stares at it.

9 INT. SMALL TOWN. ARA AND IFE'S HOUSE- MORNING

9

TITLE: A YEAR LATER

Ara and Ife are in their living room. Ife is getting ready for work, putting some documents into his work bag. Ara puts his breakfast on the dining table. She stops to watch him for a bit then she laughs.

IFE
What's funny?

ARA
Oh, nothing o. I'm just thinking about this your new job. I still can't believe this Fuji man came back to this town after what happened.

IFE
Ara, I've told you over and over again. It's none of our business. It's been how many months now since the company opened a branch here and my marketing skills finally count for something. Please don't jinx it.

ARA
(Laughs)
Haba, are now angry? Ko to yen now. I was just saying. People have been talking and are now keeping a close eye on the company, its employees, and especially Fuji. I'm just looking out for you.

IFE
I'm not angry, okay? Maybe you should stop spending so much time with those gossips you call friends.

ARA

