

Screenplay

EXT.STREET-EVENING

It is a rather quiet evening except for the noise of vehicles honking in the distance.

The sun is about to set casting a friendly orange glow across the horizon.

A car drives into view and parks in front of house of suburbia characteristics.

EXT.HOUSE-SAME

Kids come running out as the AFRICAN-AMERICAN Man (Tayo) steps out of the vehicle.

He is tired but this comes with the job description of being a father.

He opens his arms and welcome the trio into a bear hug.

He picks up the youngest, a pretty girl of six(Nancy), while her two older brothers(Nicolas and Caleb) trail behind

TAYO

And how are my babies doing today?

NICOLAS

(excitedly)

Today, we were told we are doing history day tomorrow.

CALEB

We are to write a report on our heritage. On our history.

NANCY

American History!!

FATHER

(chuckles)

Okay, but you are also from a country called NIGERIA.

NICOLAS

Where is that?

CALEB

Tell us all about Nigeria.

They reach the porch now where they are greeted by the smiling CAUCASIAN EMILY

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

Careful what you wish for. You are about to get the full history of where your Dad comes from.

She pecks him welcome.

TAYO

How about this? I tell you a story only if you let Daddy relax a little bit.

They proceed into the house.

CUT TO:

INT.HOUSE-LATER

After dinner, Father is relaxed on the couch when the children crowd him.

CALEB

Tell us about where you came from.

He picks up the girl and places her on his lap

TAYO

Alright, let me give you a brief history of Nigeria.

The boys sit as he begins his story.

TAYO

Nigeria was formed almost a thousand years ago, when ancient African civilizations settled in the region now known as Nigeria. Many African kingdoms came together and they settled there.

They are joined by the mother who takes a seat. They all look at her.

EMILY

What?! I also want to learn about Nigeria.

The younger boy runs up to meet his mother as she picks him up and set him on her laps.

(CONTINUED)

TAYO

And so the kingdoms grew and grew,
they expanded and even some smaller
kingdoms were formed, numerous
tribes were created, and different
languages were established.

NICOLAS

You mean they don't speak English?

TAYO

Oh, we do, we were colonized by the
British.

NANCY

What is colorized?

They break into laughter at this. She joins them not knowing
why they were laughing.

EMILY

Baby, it's CO-LO-NI-ZED.

NANCY

(recites it slowly)
Co-lo-ni-zed.

TAYO

Yeah, that is correct. We do speak
English, but we have other
languages we speak. In fact we have
over 500 languages spoken in the
country with 250 ethnic groups. It
is a very diverse country.

NICOLAS

500?! How do you understand each
other?

EMILY

That's where English comes in,
honey. Or if they are from the same
ethnic group, then they can
understand each other.

TAYO

And we have a language spoken
fluently across the country
regardless of your ethnic group.
It's called PIDGIN English. It's
just English with some major
changes.

(CONTINUED)

He waits for questions, when none are forthcoming, he continues

TAYO(CONT'D)

So back to our story. Okay, now fast forward to a few hundred years later, contrary to what people believe the British weren't the first Europeans to interact with the Nigerians, no. The Portuguese were the first in the 15th century. That was when Christianity was first introduced in the country. That was also a bad time in the region.

CALEB

What happened?

TAYO

Slave Trade happened, is what. The Europeans captured people who lived along the coast and took them away. Later on some of the people living in the region at the time got involved and sold others to slavery.

NANCY

But that's not fair.

TAYO

No, it wasn't and it still isn't.

CALEB

If it were me, I would fight back, I won't let them take me.

EMILY

(chuckles)

I am sure you won't.

She ruffles his hair as he rests into her

TAYO

Well as you can expect, this caused conflicts between the ethnic groups.

NICOLAS

Too bad.

(CONTINUED)

TAYO
Yeah, too bad.

NANCY
So what happened next?

TAYO
Well, go on a few centuries later
to the year 1851. The British
invaded Lagos, a state in Nigeria.
The British moved in and assumed
power with their military. And they
ruled over Nigeria for 109 years,
till we fought for our Independence
and got it in... what year?

The question hangs in the air as the kids mentally solve the math.

Both parents just smile anticipating the winner.

EMILY
Let's make it more interesting,
whoever wins this gets candy for
the whole week.

That is enough motivation for the kids. They start throwing answers.

NANCY
1861?

TAYO
Nope.

NANCY
2020?!

TAYO
(laughs)
Thank God, no.

NICOLAS
1951?

CALEB
1950?

TAYO
Okay, okay. You all are close
enough, but not correct. The answer
is 1960. October 1st, precisely.

(CONTINUED)

CALEB

I almost got it, just missed 10 years.

NANCY

So who gets the candy?

EMILY

You all do, but not for the whole week, I don't want you getting sick.

TAYO

So... back to my story. After we got our independence, we were able to rule ourselves, we became a republic in 1963 but eventually succumbed to military rule after three years and a coup d'état.

NICOLAS

What's that?

EMILY

It's when the military takes over control of the government forcefully.

TAYO

There was even a civil war that lasted 3 years. It is known as the Nigerian civil war. After that we became a republic again but that was also short lived as another coup d'état saw the military take over. In fact this happened three times and the fourth time began in the year 1999 which is still existing till today. And so kids, that is part of your history. So what did you think?

NICOLAS

I think I would like to visit your home one day.

CALEB

Me too.

NANCY

Me too! Me too!!

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

Well, I guess me three then.

There is laughter all around as the camera fades out.

FADE OUT:

INT.CHILDREN ROOM-LATER

Tayo and Emily carry the kids who are fast asleep, lay them on their respective beds and kiss them goodnight.

EMILY

(quietly)

So, when are we going to your home?

TAYO

Oh, sooner than I thought.

They step out of the room and close the door.

THE END..