

Respect is Reciprocal

By

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FADE IN:

INT.HOUSE/SITTING ROOM-MORNING

A nice day,

A normal one.

TAYO and his wife EMILY are doing their best to get their kids(Caleb, Nicolas and Nancy) ready for school.

But even in this they fail to get a semblance of normalcy.

The kids run around as if on sugar-high

TAYO

Kids, come on let's get you ready
for school.

EMILY

And you think I haven't tried that.
I have tried everything. From
begging to yelling, no response.
These kids are a handful.

TAYO

I am sure you haven't tried
everything.

He steps into his room

EMILY

(calls after him)
I am sure I have.

A brief moment later Tayo steps out, holding candy bar and chocolate in his hands.

EMILY(CONT'D)

Oh no, you don't.

TAYO

(chuckles)
What? This is my secret weapon.
(yells)
Who wants candy or chocolate?

A flurry of footsteps and the little children appear like hounds at the sight of game.

(CONTINUED)

TAYO
(smirking)
See, works everytime.

EMILY
(scoffs)
You are bribing them, is what you
are doing. And I hope you know all
this sugar is what got them pumped
up in the first place. Let's see
how you handle the situation now.

TAYO
So kids, would like some sweets?

In unison

CALEB
Yes!

NICOLAS
Yes!

NANCY
Pick me, pick me!!

TAYO
Don't worry, if you do what I tell
you, you can get these goodies.
But...first do what I tell you.

The children nod their heads like bobbing head dolls

Realizing what he is about to do but also realizing he is
too late to back down now

TAYO
Wow, you guys really are high on
sugar. Ok, before I give you these
I'ma need you to prepare for school
then when you get back, you get
these goodies.

CALEB
Aww, not fair.

NANCY
Deal! But I want the strawberry
flavored candy.

NICOLAS
No!! I want that too.

(CONTINUED)

NANCY

Hey, I picked that first.

NICOLAS

I don't care. You are a girl, I am a boy. So, I get the strawberry candy.

TAYO

Is that so?

He hands the strawberry candy to Nancy.

TAYO

Alright, then off to school.

CALEB

What about us?

EMILY

Children, off to school now.

The kids troop out with Nancy the happiest of the bunch as she devours her candy.

INT.HOUSE/DINING ROOM-LATER

Dinner time

The family have just finished a hearty dinner amidst chatter,

Suddenly Nancy lets out a huge GUST of air down south

At first, everyone is talking but as if on cue the "gust" of wind hits them all at once.

They all shut up immediately looking accusingly at each other as they disperse

Nancy bursts out laughing

CALEB

Eww, Nancy. Come on.

TAYO

Oh my God!! Nancy, was that you? I don't know if I should be impressed or disgusted.

This just causes her to laugh all the more

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

Now I know why my eyes are all
watering.

TAYO

Impressed it is.

EMILY

Impressed?!

TAYO

(to Nancy)

You know, your Dad was feared back
at home for this.

This warrants a darting glare from Emily.

TAYO

(immediately)

Not that it is anything to be proud
of.

Nancy is all smiles not really fathoming the depths of her
actions.

EMILY

Nancy, what you did, was it okay to
do that?

NANCY

No?

EMILY

It is a good thing, people don't
like that. It is not good for
people to pass out gas on the
dining table.

NICOLAS

It is not good for GIRLS to do
that. People don't like girls who
do that.

Both parents look at Nicolas, realizing that they have their
work cut out for them.

TAYO

Where are you getting this from,
Nik?

EMILY

(to Nancy)

Don't listen to your brother, it is
not good for PEOPLE to pass out gas
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EMILY (cont'd)
on the dining table, boys and girls
alike.

TAYO
Nik, Caleb come over here.

Tayo takes the boys to a corner to talk.

INT.HOUSE/SITTING ROOM-THE NEXT DAY

Tayo and his sons are playing video games in the sitting
room and they aren't quiet about it.

Emily walks in just in time to see Caleb celebrating his
victory over his father.

This catches her interest.

EMILY
What are you guys playing?

NICOLAS
We are playing FIFA. Caleb is
trashing Daddy.

EMILY
Is that so? Can I play?

TAYO
Hmm, I don't think so.

EMILY
What? Why not?

TAYO
It's just that, I am not sure you
can handle it. I don't mean
anything by it. I just think you
would be more comfortable maybe
watching TV or something. This game
is pretty tough.

Emily's expression is calm but her anger still seeps
through.

She marches to the game and grabs the console from Tayo.

EMILY
Caleb, come on. Let's play a match.

Minutes later, Caleb emerges the victor but he knows better
than to celebrate his victory.

(CONTINUED)

Not the same with Tayo, he snickers continuously

TAYO

See, I told you. It's pretty tough.

EMILY

I just started this game but I am sure I can beat you.

TAYO

Yeah, you don't want to do strike that cord.

NICOLAS

Come on Dad. Can't you play the game? Or are you afraid?

EMILY

He is probably scared that I will trump him in a game I only just started. That's why he wants to chicken out.

TAYO

I see, what you did there. And I accept. Let's play.

After a tough game against his wife, he wins the match.

TAYO

See, I told you. You couldn't handle it.

Angrily she marches off.

Realization catches up to him and he follows her.

TAYO(CONT'D)

(calls after her)

Hey, Emily. I am sorry. Honey. That was a joke.

The children continue their game as if nothing happened

INT.PARENT'S BEDROOM

Emily barges in and slams the door behind her almost getting her trailing husband in the face.

Tayo enters

(CONTINUED)

TAYO

Hey, Em, I am sorry. I didn't mean it like that.

EMILY

No of course you didn't. You only undermined me and talked me down because I am a woman.

TAYO

(apologetically)

I know, and I am very, very, totally and tragically sorry.

EMILY

You see, this is where Nicolas is getting this from. He is just 8 and...

TAYO

I know. Alright, tell you what. Let's go talk to the kids, educate them. And after that, I will give you that foot rub and back massage you've been asking for.

A smile creeps up Emily's face

TAYO(CONT'D)

Is that a yes?

EMILY

Of course, it is a yes. You know how long I have wanted a foot massage.

TAYO

Then, it's settled. Let's go.

BACK TO THE SITTING ROOM

Tayo walks over to the console and switches it off.

CALEB

Aww, men. I was just about to score another goal.

NICOLAS

Thanks for saving me Dad.

(CONTINUED)

TAYO

Okay, kids your mum has something to tell you. Gather around.

EMILY

Listen, kids, I know you are young but that is no excuse to treat someone the way you did, Nicolas. I want to talk to you about FEMINISM.

CALEB

What's that?

EMILY

Feminism is equality for both genders, male and female, boy and girl, man and woman. In everything, a woman is looked at the same way as a man. She is treated the same way as they would her male counterpart. She is respected, she is heard and she isn't looked down upon.

NANCY

What about the boys?

TAYO

Well, for a long time, a really, really long time in the world, women were treated unfairly by those people they didn't know better. Women are very resilient, kind, tough, smart among many things.

EMILY

Your dad's right, obviously. And this goes for all of you. I don't want you looking down on your sister because she is a girl. Like your what your Dad just did...

TAYO

(interrupts)

I apologized.

EMILY

That doesn't make it okay. Instead of saying I can't play, you could teach me to get better. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do anything not even me or your Dad.

(CONTINUED)

Nancy sticks out her tongue at Nicolas and does an ugly face.

TAYO

Hey, stop that Nance. That's not very nice. Respect goes both ways. Respect your brothers and they will respect you. A man once said "It is a man's duty to respect a woman, but it is a woman's duty to give him something to respect". RESPECT is RECIPROCAL.

EMILY

Was that you?

TAYO

I wish. It was David Beckham who said that.

EMILY

Alright, kids. That is all for today. Time to go to bed. I hope you learnt something.

NICOLAS

That it isn't good to disrespect girls.

NANCY

We should respect each other

TAYO

Very true. Now enough of this, lets get you guys to bed.

INT.HALLWAY.BEDROOM

Tayo and Emily emerge from the kids bedroom, where they have just laid their kids to bed.

TAYO

Alright then, I am off to bed.

EMILY

So soon?

TAYO

What do you have in mind?

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

I was thinking...a rematch might be
in order.

TAYO

What? No, I am going to sleep.

EMILY

Or maybe you are just afraid, I
might get the hang of things and
beat you in the game.

TAYO

Alright, then, but don't cry when I
trash you mercilessly.

EMILY

Fine by me.

They exit.