

The Good Fight

(Low Drama)

by  
Michael Adedeji

Michael Adedeji  
173 Woodxxx XXX SE  
(404)-450-0756

Agency Information

CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Camille Flushing	African-Amer. Educated, Concerned	20s-30s	Fem
Dereck Walton	African-Amer., Cultured, Aloof	20s-30s	Male

SCENE ONE.

CAMILLE lays on the sofa of her and her boy friend, DERECK's studio apartment. She is scrolling on the phone perusing Twitter and going between apps enjoying the comedy of other's lives. DERECK is on his laptop working on a paper for his African-American Families Course at Georgia State University. They each are on their separate sides of the room. Since it is a Studio Apartment the size is small, at least compared to a regular apartment, and intimate.

(A SILENCE.)

CAMILLE

Babe, did you hear about Tanya and Tori getting engaged?

DERECK

I have.

CAMILLE

What?! Why didn't you tell me?

(DERECK takes a continues typing away.)

DERECK

Huh?

CAMILLE

Baby, "huh," means you can hear.

(Dereck smiling, plays along with her.. He continues typing.)

DERECK

Huh?

CAMILLE

Okay, now you're playing games. Fine. Don't say nothing.

(Dereck continues typing.)

DERECK

Okay. I am done!

(She just stays on her phone, but her demeanor is different than before.)

A SILENCE.

Dereck gets up and places his laptop on the bed. He sneaks up behind Camille. He grabs her shoulders and begins to rub them. Giving her soft kisses from the back of her head down to her neck. She begins to laugh.)

CAMILLE

Stop.

DERECK

What? I'm not doing nothing but a thing...

(CAMILLE gets up and moves to kitchen trying to keep busy.)

Awh come on Camille, don't be petty, I thought you'd see it on Instagram. I did.

CAMILLE

Nigga, that's all you had to say!

DERECK

I was working on my paper for my Master's course for African-American Family Dynamics. I was in the zone.

CAMILLE

Okay, but you could have gotten out of the zone to say what was up with Tori and Tanya. If you're gonna write and ignore me you can take that to Starbucks.

DERECK

I mean, I just found out too. What's up with you?

CAMILLE

Huh?

DERECK

“Huh?” Huh means you can hear, babe.

(Dereck walks over to the kitchen and  
Camille walks over with a mug of hot cocoa  
to the couch. He follows her.)

What’s the matter?

CAMILLE

Everyone is leveling up. And I don’t know...I feel stuck.

DERECK

Stuck how?

CAMILLE

Stuck as in I don’t know what I’m doing? I don’t know.

DERECK

Saying “I don’t know,” is a very powerful response. It is just a-

CAMILLE

-”Bridge to actually finding out.” And I know “the answer’s to my questions lie in the same place they are being asked.” I- I just feel stuck in this liminal space. I have my degrees, I have a roof over my head, a good job, a damn good job, and albeit a 9 to 5, I am relatively comfortable. But-

DERECK

But what?

CAMILLE

Let me finish.

DERECK

Oop. Sorry.

CAMILLE

Don’t be sorry, just listen.

DERECK

It's Camille time.

CAMILLE

That's right.

(CAMILLE sits upright and drinks her cocoa. She pauses to enjoy it. DERECK smiles adoringly to her.)

Aight, so I'm just "wanting more?" How do I say that without sounding so needy?

DERECK

Wants and needs are two different things. You just waiting for the big glow up. Patience is key. It's gonna come.

CAMILLE

Yeah, but I've been waiting too long. Every one around us is getting married and making great investments in their lives. Here we are in this comfortable studio apartment. Not an apartment apartment. We've been here for two years. Doing what we needed to do. I got my Master's, you working on yours. Work. Then we come home, sleep and start over.

DERECK

Can I add to this conversation?

CAMILLE

Dereck now has the floor.

DERECK

So you are on social media.

CAMILLE

Yeah me and half the world.

DERECK

And you watch other people's lives whenever you are on there?

CAMILLE

It's how I stay connected when I'm not with my friends. Look, let me stop you there. You're gonna turn this into some lesson.

DERECK

Babe! The lesson is, and please stop doing that, is you're letting everyone's pace affect yours. You can't do that it is unhealthy. And Getting your Masters and me getting mine? A good investment.

CAMILLE

But don't you feel it too?

DERECK

I don't try to. I just have to focus on you, me, and this degree. You know what my mom always say.

CAMILLE

"A finish degree is a good degree. " And I know. This Master's Program is hard. Everything is hard.

DERECK

Look, I have friends ahead of me. Skipping out on getting a Masters and making high 5 and 6 figures. It stresses me out, but if I let that energy get into this room, we are in trouble.

CAMILLE

I'm sorry.

DERECK

It's okay babe. We all get frustrated. Let them out. But let's never come incorrect to each other.

CAMILLE

Well then answer me when I speak to you!

(She takes a pillow and hit him.)

I'm just kidding, no but for real, if you want to go to Starbucks or the Library do so. So I'm not on top of you when you're working.

DERECK

I actually prefer to work at home most of the time. Being in your space, your energy, your care, it brings me comfort.

(They relish in that moment for quite a bit.)

CAMILLE

You've been home for quite a bit. You don't go out much anymore. You miss me that much? Or you avoiding ...someone.? Another chick?

DERECK

Now why you gotta bring other non-existent people into this?

CAMILLE

I'm just checking.

DERECK

Love.

CAMILLE

Yes?

DERECK

Check your fears at the door.

CAMILLE

I'm just conversating now. Let's talk about it.

DERECK

Let's not.

CAMILLE

Aha!

DERECK

What? What?

CAMILLE

You got a side-chick!

DERECK

No the fuck I do not. You're already a lot to handle.

CAMILLE

A lot to handle? Oh. Okay.

(CAMILLE opens her phone, while looking at DERECK. She dials a number. She is calling a friend.)

Hello. Ansley? What are you doing tonight? Wanna go to the Vortex? I'm feeling stuffy and stuck in the house. Wanna just chill out somewhere. Yeah. Yeah he's getting on my nerves. Yeah. Yeah, I got on his nerves but I'm too much to handle-

DERECK

A lot to handle, not too much.

CAMILLE

Same thing, nigga.

DERECK

I don't think Ansley is comfortable hearing that word. She's white.

CAMILLE

Ansley. I'll be there to pick you in 15 minutes. Alright. Bye.

DERECK

Why are you leaving mid conversation. You didn't even tell her why you provoked me to say that? You're acting very manic. Like one moment you're here and then you're there. Like what the hell Cammy?

CAMILLE

I don't know. I'm a lot to handle.

DERECK

Babe. Don't leave just yet. Can we at least find some calm?

(CAMILLE walks over to grab her coat. She walks to the bathroom and closes the door.)

Babe?

CAMILLE

...

DERECK

Babe?

CAMILLE

I have one question.

DERECK

Shoot.

CAMILLE

Why haven't you proposed?

DERECK

Ain't shit like that a surprise?

CAMILLE

Yeah, but every woman knows when the time is right. When you're gearing up for the big moment. Like why no proposal? What happened to us going out on Friday nights? The last time we went on a trip? Dereck, I feel like nothing is going on. So like earlier when I said I'm stuck in a liminal space, there are more factors than watching friends level up, or being stuck in this small apartment! I need more from you too. I'm always suggesting "let's do this, let's do that," but when I give an inch you don't move. Baby, baby, I'm tryna do the best I can, but the routine is malaise. This is getting tiresome. You just work, write papers and don't have fun. I preferred your undergrad self to this guy who's burying himself in work. It's okay to come up for air. It's okay to let loose. I did when you supported me through my Master's --and we still got to have fun. Tanya and Tori have been through it and they are finally signifying it. We, we're just here.

DERECK

Are you done?

CAMILLE

Oh no the fuck you did not? That was the most outpouring I've done to you in months.

DERECK

I'm just fucking tired! I'm just trying to stay ahead, the articles, the reports, the discussions, the events, then managing sleep, then making sure I get bills paid, making sure you-

CAMILLE

Babe I-

DERECK

Don't fucking interrupt me!

(DERECK stops. He looks at her. He sits  
down, disgusted with himself. )

I mean let me finish. I'm sorry I shouldn't have yelled at you.

CAMILLE

You shouldn't, but I understand. I was being annoying. I should have thought about how I approached this. I had played with the conversation just to provoke you. I'm sorry.

DERECK

Baby. I'm sorry. Time management is a huge must for what I'm doing. I'm just working so that one day our better comes.

CAMILLE

I know. You do so much. I tend to get wrapped up in everyone else's lives I forget that I'm fortunate to be alive and have good things around me.

DERECK

It's okay to want more. I shouldn't downplay that you deserve more. You're my queen, my best friend, and my wild child. I want you to know I see you. With all the stress coveting me, I see you. I love you. You cover for me when money falls short, you clean up after my messes when I KO after a long night of studying, and you don't have to but you do. God, you're so amazing, to have to deal with me after a 9 to 5 working with children, and still have yet to slit my throat after the nerves I jump on. I just -you're incredible. You're wife material and more than that. I cannot wait for that day to jump the broom, and take our love to the next level. Fusing two complex beings into an item and side by side, hand in hand, taking on the challenges of this world with our power. You make me fall in love with love, even when I often fail to love myself. You make love a true gift. God, I love you.

CAMILLE

You see me?

DERECK

I see you. I hear you. I love you.

CAMILLE

And I love you! My King.

(She leans in to kiss him. They embrace.)

Now, when are you gonna propose?

DERECK

What?

CAMILLE

You said you cannot wait for the day to jump the broom with me? So when?

DERECK

You love ruining surprises.

CAMILLE

Remember when you called my mom and planned my Senior party, and I knew because I picked up the call and put you on speaker?

DERECK

Yes. I remember.

CAMILLE

Then don't be surprised when you propose, I'm gonna know...then act a whole fool when you do because I love you so much.

DERECK

Is that right?

(DERECK get's up and get's on one knee.)

Let me just-

CAMILLE

Oh my God! Oh my god, oh my God, oh my God!

(DERECK picks up the charger off the floor  
and takes it over to the bed.)

You a whole head ass.

DERECK

Haha! No you are.

CAMILLE

Let me get my ass up and pick up Ansley, before we start something.

DERECK

Oh we got to be starting something.

(DERECK pulls her in.)

CAMILLE

Stop it. Stop..it. I'm going out...

DERECK

You literally said that to get away from me, why not cancel so we can go out? I'm amped now after our conversation.

CAMILLE

Well, Ansley can join us. I can't just call her to go out and just cancel.

DERECK

Yes the fuck you can.

CAMILLE

No the hell I'm not. Stop it. Besides, we can have tea time.

DERECK

You gonna talk about me, and she's gonna talk about J.B. So I'm not trying to hear it. Ya'll can get mean.

CAMILLE

Okay, then stay here. Take a nap. Big baby.

DERECK

Okay, but don't call me when Ansley disappears.

CAMILLE

Disappear to where?

DERECK

When she turns sideways and disappears.

CAMILLE

Okay I'm done talking to you. Bye Dereck.

DERECK

Wait, I'm just kidding don't tell her. I know she is sensitive about being thin.

CAMILLE

I'm gonna tell her. We gonna talk all sorts of shit about you. It's out of love though.

(CAMILLE grabs her bag and walks to the door. DERECK intercepts and grabs her for a kiss.)

I love you.

(She exits.)

DERECK

God I love that woman!

(He lifts up the covers on the sofa and reaches into it. He picks up a package and opens it.)

DERECK takes the ring out of the package and he raises it up to the light. He kisses it and puts it back in the package with a smile.

FADE TO BLACK.