

THE PERFECT DATE

BY

GABRIELLA MICHAEL

EXT. SITTING ROOM – DAY

ADE walks into the house; obviously back from school. He immediately is distracted from an aroma oozing from the house. He drops his school bag on the couch as he begins sniffing his way to the kitchen, where the aroma seems to be coming from. But suddenly, he's stopped by his father who stands in the way.

ADE: *(Opening his eyes to realize who's in front of him, he adjusts)* Papa! Papa Good afternoon

PAPA ADE: *(no response other than the stern look on his face)*

ADE: *(smiles sheepishly)* Erm Papa, is that aroma coming from our house?

PAPA ADE: *(sarcastically)* No. It's coming from your teacher's office. My friend, go and get that bag from there and keep it in the right place!

ADE moves on to get the bag.

PAPA ADE: *(draws closer to him as he speaks in a low tone)* Ade, listen. We have a guest in the house. A very very important one at that and I don't want you to mess things up for me.

ADE: *(Looks suspicious)* Papa who's in the house?

PAPA ADE: *(with a cunning smile)* she's my date. *(Clears throat)*. As in my woman. You're still a little boy you won't understand this things.

ADE: Papa! Me? I will not understand what? Paaapaa. Is it not me that's always been match making you with all these pretty –

PAPA ADE: *(slaps his head)* my friend will you shut up. Don't even get me started – *(checks to see if anyone's coming)* – on those little wayward girls you tried to link me up with. The last one almost took my life!

PAPA ADE runs through a few seconds montage of his ordeal with the ladies Ade had recommended for him in his mind.

ADE: Papa. Papa! *(Shakes his father off his memory lane)*

PAPA ADE: *(Startled he slaps ADE on his head again)* my friend you don't call the attention of an elderly man like that.

ADE: But Papa I was only trying to –

PAPA ADE: Keep quiet! So as I was trying to say, I need you to be on your best behaviour today. I should not have any reason to complain about your behaviour today. Of course you know what will come your way once you disobey.

ADE: Yes Papa. So Papa you mean you found this one yourself?

PAPA ADE: Uh Uh! What do you take your father for? *(Smiles as he adjusts his agbada)* It's as if you don't know who is standing beside you. If I start giving you gist of my old days, you'd start asking yourself if you're truly my son. Coz I don't understand where you get this luck with finding irresponsible girls from.

ADE: *(frowns)* ah ah Papa na! *(Smiles cunningly)* So Papa, where is she?

PAPA ADE: She's in the kitchen

ADE: Wow Papa! She's the one in the kitchen?

PAPA ADE: *(proudly)* I told you, your father is not a small boy! A responsible woman that comes home; helps clean up the place and cooks! Not like those ones you come with, who only want to spend my money buying things for them outside.

ADE: Papa is okay. Let me hurry up and freshen up so I can come down and eat. Coz the aroma of this food alone!! Chai!! Papa this is why you're my mentor!

Excitedly ADE runs to his room while his father sits proudly on the couch.

LATER, PAPA ADE, ADE & his father's date, KEOTA are sited on the dining table eating. ADE is seen rushing through his food while his father is giving him warning looks to behave. Also, PAPA ADE and KEOTA are seen giving each other romantic looks.

LATER THAT DAY, ADE is playing a video game, while PAPA ADE & KEOTA are teasing each other on the couch and trying to not make it obvious since ADE is in the room too.

PAPA ADE: *(clears his throat)* Ade you've been on that game since. Don't you have homework to do?

ADE: *(still fixated on his game as he responds)* I have done my homework already Papa.

PAPA ADE: I'm talking to you and you're still playing that game! Is something wrong with you? Oya go and wash plates!

KEOTA: honey don't worry about that I've already washed the plates. *(To ADE)* Ade you can go ahead with your game, when you're done make sure to sleep early ok?

ADE: *(excited and surprised)* Yes ma. Thank you very much ma!

KEOTA: You're welcome. Meanwhile, I and your father will be upstairs.

PAPA ADE: It's because of you o.

KEOTA: I know. Just leave the boy alone. Now let me go take care of you upstairs.

Smiling sheepishly PAPA ADE follows her upstairs while ADE tries to peek behind them.

MOMENTS LATER in the evening, ADE is seen tiptoeing in the kitchen. He opens the cooking pot and takes out a piece of chicken. As he closes the pot he hears a sound coming from outside. He goes to the window and slightly opens the blinds to check what it is. He sees KEOTA with a 25 litre Jerry can close to his father's car as she's busy sucking out fuel from the car to put inside the can. PAPA ADE walks by the kitchen and sees ADE standing by the window. He calls him, and immediately ADE throws the chicken in his pocket and signals his father to be quiet, then gestures to him to come closer so he could see what he's seeing from the window. PAPA ADE joins him. In shock, he calls out her name.

PAPA ADE: Keota!!

Camera cuts in to the scene where they're all in the sitting room and KEOTA is seen on her knees begging them.

PAPA ADE: Who sent you?

KEOTA: Ah! Nobody sent me sir. Na just black market I dey sell. As fuel no dey na it I say make I find other means to sell market. Baby please. Ade please help me beg your father, at least for the sake of the food I made for you today. Please!

ADE: tah! Which food? Is that supposed to be an excuse for what you did? In this hard times where people are finding it difficult to get fuel; you're going about to steal others their own. This is called oil theft and I believe my father will do what is right. He will definitely call the police on you.

KEOTA: Ah! Sir please! Please I beg you just let me go. I'll definitely return your fuel back for you.

PAPA ADE: how many litres of fuel do you have in there now?

KEOTA: From what I've made so far today it's close to 20 litres.

PAPA ADE: You can go.

ADE: *(surprised)* Ehn?

PAPA ADE: leave that fuel here. Then you can go.

KEOTA: *(A bit reluctant)* Haba! Baby it hasn't gotten to that...

PAPA ADE: Ade, bring me my phone let me call that police officer now.

ADE runs off immediately to get the phone without waiting for further instructions.

KEOTA: OK sir. You can have it! Please don't call the police. Thank you sir!

She immediately leaves the house. ADE comes back with his phone but confused as he can't find KEOTA anywhere.

ADE: Papa where did she go? Papa did you let her go? Why na? Don't you know what she did is a crime?

PAPA ADE: My friend will you keep quiet. What do you think I'll tell the police she was doing here in the first place?

Silence.

PAPA ADE: Plus how many litre of fuel did you think I had in my car! Just two litres!! With these extra she made for us I don't have to go and stand in cue looking for fuel.

ADE: actually Papa that's very smart o. Ah ah I never thought of that at all. My mentor!

PAPA ADE: What do you know?

ADE: But Papa, if we think about what you said about the kind of girls I attract. Looks like we're alike now. You know, like father like son!! *(Laughs)*

PAPA ADE: *(Pretends to be laughing too as he draws closer to ADE.)* Very funny. And you know, a father can always tell what his son is up to.

ADE: *(still laughing)* what do you mean Papa?

PAPA ADE: Ade, bring out that chicken in your pocket.

ADE: *(In shock)* Papa?

A resounding slap follows as light goes out.

THE END