

Ambitious Intentions pilot 10/12/2023 at 2:22 PM

ACT I

1 EXT-DAY-CONSTRUCTION SITE

1

She instrumental A. Hopkins plays in the background. It's lunchtime in downtown Houston, TX, and commuters walk down a busy street while construction workers wait for tacos at the taco truck. We see the back view of Marcus (30), who has just gotten off work at the construction site. He strolls down the busy street as he narrates.

MARCUS (VO)(SOUTHERN ACCENT)

My grandmother used to say, "Tell God what 'cha got planned, and God laughs," cause if you had told me ten years ago that I would be damn thirty-five years old and thinking about settling down, I would have laughed at myself. I turned in my playa card a long time ago. It's just that because boxing was my first love, loving something or someone more was unheard of for me.

2 INT-EVE-AVA'S APARTMENT

2

Ava arrives home from a long day at the hospital and sorts through her mail before sitting down and staring at a photo of her and Marcus. She picks up the photo, kisses it, and then goes back to her room to get dressed. We see a photo of Marcus and Ava as she heads to her room to change her clothes.

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AVA (VO)
(sighs. Lately, it just
seems)

like the same old routine: work, eat, pray, meditate, and repeat. I ain't seen my man in about a week; he's next in line for a promotion at his construction company, so he's been working a lot of hours, and hey, you can't be mad at a black man trying to move up in the world, right?!? I just miss him, that's all. I'm so looking forward to fight night at his spot this weekend. I can't wait!

He strolls down a pathway of trees that leads to his apartment as he narrates.

MARCUS (VO)

I used to box back in the day, and I was pretty damn good, if I say so myself. I went 6-0 on the local amateur circuit, took my first loss by KO, and well, let's just say the internet is undefeated, so I traded my gloves for a construction hat instead. There was a dark place in my life. Little did I know my dark life was about to beam with sunshine when I met the love of my life, Ava.

He takes off his boots as soon as he makes it upstairs, leaving them on the porch as he walks into his apartment. He takes his hat off as he enters his apartment. A close-up of him, his hands placing a single key on the TV stand his apartment has a sporty feel to it, with posters of renowned boxing legends such as Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, and Mike Tyson adorning the walls. On the center of the mantel is a photo of him and Ava.

MARCUS (VO)

That was about five years ago, and now she's got me thinking about settling down. Imagine my surprise when, six months ago, I randomly started saving for an engagement ring, but every time I go to make a payment on the ring, I get nausea. I'm supposed to be picking up the ring next week, so ain't turning back now, champ! No turning back.

Can we talk?

3.

He grabs a beer from the refrigerator, opens it, takes a sip, as he opens up his laptop. He pulls up a photo of an engagement ring, sighs as if something is on his mind, then slams the empty bottle on the table and walks away.

3 **INT-EVE-AVA'S LIVING ROOM**

3

After changing, Ava sits down on the couch and continues to narrate while staring at the picture of her and Marcus.

AV(A) VO
My man is the epitome of a good black man. He treats me like a queen. Lately I've been feeling like I need something more in our relationship, more of a commitment, but every time I bring up the subject of settling down, he gets all weird, making me wonder if he thinks I'm the one.

Later that night...

4 **INT-LIVING ROOM-NIGHT**

4

Boxing commentary plays in the background. Marcus comes from the backroom and is dressed in a black tank top and boxing trunks, and both of his hands are wrapped like he's really getting ready for a boxing match, as boxing commentary plays in the background. He's so pumped about the upcoming championship boxing match that he shadowboxes in anticipation.

MARCUS
Come on, sweetie! Michael Buffer is finna to announce any minute.

AVA (OS)
Patience boo! Deliciousness takes time.

MARCUS
(In his Michael Buffer voice)
Now weighing 145 pounds and hailing all the way from Houston, TX, Marcus "The Destructor" Edwards!!!

He hypes himself up, and Ava walks out of the kitchen holding two plates of food. She's wearing the same attire as him, only in red.

She extends the plate to him, but he is too preoccupied with shadowboxing to accept it.

AVA
Marcus... Marcus... Marcus!!!

MARCUS
Awww, my bad baby, these fights are about fire!

He kisses her on the cheek after taking the plate from her.

MARCUS
Sweets for my sweets!

AVA
Ummmm..., huh? You'd tell me anything just to get to this plate.

MARCUS
Girl, you think you know your man so well.

He takes a bite of the fish.

MARCUS
That's what I'm talking about, right there!(exaggerated forehead kiss) Now that's how you properly season some fish! You fried the hell out of that fish, girl!

AVA
Okay, cause who needs Christie's seafood and steak when you can get Ava's down-home cooking? Let me see if I can catch some of the spirit with Cha!

They both look at the plate, at each other, and then feed each other, with Marcus taking his bite first. They both take a bite of fish and catch the Holy Ghost as praise music plays in the background. They laugh as they sit down on the couch to eat.

DISSOLVE TO

MARCUS
I've been missing you, Sweetie; it
feels like we ain't seen each other
in weeks.

AVA
That's you! Mr. "I'm working
overtime."

MARCUS
Today was our last day on site.
They worked ten hours a day, nine
days straight; no off day was
killing a brutha. My feet ain't
never hurt so much in my life!

AVA
"Aw, my hardworking man!" (he
sings), "he works hard for his
money!" Saving for something
special?!

MARCUS
Wouldn't you like to know?
(winks flirtatiously)

AVA
You know it don't take much to get
me excited!

SHE BLUSHES AS HE LEANS IN TO GIVE HER A PECK ON THE CHEEK.

ACT II

5 EXT-DAY-PARKING LOT

5

FADE IN

Marcus is sitting in his car in the parking lot, searching
in his jacket pocket, patting himself down as if he has
misplaced something, and then he discovers it: a black ring
box hidden deep inside his jacket. He examines the ring.
His phone rings. He drops the ring down the seat, startled.

MARCUS (NERVOUSLY)
Hey (clears his throat, speaks with
a deeper tone): Hey, sweetie.

AVA

Awww, check you out! Barry White with the baritone How you doing? We still having fight night at your spot tonight.

MARCUS

I was thinking we should do something a lil different. I was thinking we should go check out that new spot downtown that everybody has been talking bout. Meet me at my house at 8:00 o'clock before I forget. Wear that dress I like.

FADES TO BLACK

FADES OUT

6 INT-NIGHT-LIVING ROOM

6

We see a montage of shots of Marcus setting up the apartment for his big surprise

7 INT/EXT. EVE.MARCUS APARTMENT

7

Ava struts down the path leading to Marcus apartment when she suddenly gets a text message from Marcus.

DING!

TEXTED MESSAGE

Don't be mad at me, but they had a last-minute situation down at the site, and the deadline for this project is Monday. I'll only be gone for a little. I left a door unlocked. I hope you like my surprise. Love you, champ (buff arm emoji)

A beautiful cheese plate and fine bottle of wine chill in a bucket; besides a pallet in front of the fireplace, the floor is adorned in rose petals. As soon as Ava enters the apartment, the room glows with Christmas lights, and pictures of the two of them from their relationship are linked to the lights. A picture of the two of them and a note with her name on it are on the mantel.

She reads the note.

MARCUS (V.O.)
Roses are red, violets are blue,
and I must feed my sweetie, so you
know my love for you is true! go to
the dining room and fill up with
food for us both! PS: Wait until
you've finished dinner before
opening the next note.

8 INT-NIGHT-DINING ROOM

8

Soft jazz music plays in the background as she walks over to the dining room table to see that it is romantically prepared with flowers, candles, and her favorite dinner, surf and turf.

MARCUS (V.O.)
You see what I mean? Things like
this,, romancing me after he
ditched me for work. I mean, he has
done nothing close to this. I might
be closer to getting that ring than
I think.

After finishing her dinner, she reads the second note with her name on it. It reads:

MARCUS (V.O.)
Now that you're all fed, go relax
in the tub before you lay in my bed
and await my arrival. PS: Your love
has made me be at my best!

9 INT-NIGHT-BATHROOM

9

The bathroom has a bubble bath with rose petals in the water and is lit with flameless candles. Rose petals cover the floor leading to the bathroom.

AVA (V.O.)

Okay, he is definitely up to something—not the bubble bath and rose petals in the water with the wine. Is this man trying to romanticize while he is at work? Ha ha, that's alright, he doesn't even know that a sistah been on her yoga flow, reading Kama Sutra books! We backwards-reverse dipping in tonight! As a matter of fact, let me send him a little something to show my appreciation.

She pulls out her cell phone, takes a sexy selfie, and texts a message that reads, "Just for you, Champ! she undress and soaks in the top for a bit, finally picking up the next note.

MARCUS (V.O.)

From the moment that we met, I knew you were sent to heal my broken heart. For that, you have my love for eternity. I have one last thing to ask after you finish your bath.

AVA (V.O.)

Is he getting ready to do what I think he is about to do? Naw, I'm tripping. Am I, though?

She quickly exits the bathtub and makes her way to his bedroom. This has a black box with the last letter attached, candles inside, and rose petals in the shape of a heart. She takes a sip of wine, and her heart races as she picks up the last letter, closes her eyes, opens it, and reads it.

10 INT-NIGHT-MARCUS BEDROOM

10

MARCUS (V.O.)

Ava, my love for you runs deep, and this next question that I'm about to ask you is very important to me. Will you do me the honor? Will you move in?

AVA

Of course, I'll marry. What? move in with you, This is a joke, right?

Can we talk?

9.

She silently reads the note again in disbelief.

AVA

This has got to be a joke. I'm going to turn around any minute, and he's going to be down on a bended knee with my ring.

She searches throughout the house for him, only to discover that it isn't a dream. She sits back on the bed taking one last look at the ring box with a hey before leaving the room.

FADES TO BLACK

10A EXT. EVE.BALCONY

10A

A-hop vibey track plays in the background as Ava sits on the balcony sipping wine as she texts Marcus.

AVA (VO)

Marcus, Marcus, Marcus, I must say that I was taken aback by your question. I have to decline. I need some time to reevaluate where this relationship is going. Because forever is a mighty long time.

11 INT-DAY-MARCUS APARTMENT

11

Act III

MARCUS (VO)

It's been two weeks since she hasn't answered my phone calls or texted. We have never even had an argument in five years, and now it might be over just like that. If I could just get her to simply listen to me. Let's just take it down a notch and maybe move in together. Forever is a mighty long time.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

They miss each other and want to hug as he answers the door, but it's awkward.

MARCUS

I'm glad you came over. You look pretty today.

AVA

Thanks; I just got off of work. Listen, I'm sorry I ran out of here like that the last time. I was just confused.

MARCUS

Confused? confused about what?

AVA

For real?!?! You have this lavish night set up for me; I was actually hoping you were going to propose. I mean, we've been together for five years. Am I wrong in assuming that?

MARCUS

Awww, see, there you go with the assuming! As I always say, don't assume, be fa show!

AVA

WOW!!! UNBELIEVABLE! I think I'm just going to go!

She gets up and walks towards the front door. As the door opens, he gets in the way.

MARCUS

Wait! Can I say something before you leave? I realize we've been together for five years, and they've been the best five years of my life. I didn't propose to you because of some unforeseen circumstances, so I'm doing it now!

He bends down on one knee and removes the box from his pocket.

MARCUS

Ava Curry, can we get hitched in the church? Will you marry me?

Can we talk?

11.

AVA
Marcus!!!! You sneaky devil! Of
course, I'll marry you.

They exchange a kiss and a hug.

DISSOLVE TO:

12 INT. EVE. LIVING ROOM

12

AVA
Not to bring up oldish, but,
Ummmm..., you were going to propose
the other night, huh?

He shushes her with his finger up to her mouth.

MARCUS
Don't ruin the moment now.

He goes in for a kiss, but she looks away.

AVA
You lost the ring, didn't you?

He looks at her with guilty eyes.

CUTS TO:

13 INT. NIGHT.BATHROOM

13

Marcus looks at the engagement ring a sudden noise startles
him, causing him to drop the ring down the sink.

MARCUS
Technically, it fell down the sink,
but knowing you, you're going to
say I lost it.

AVA
(She shakes her head.)
Always)
losing something!

MARCUS

Can we talk?

12.

Ha! Ha! Ha! The joke is that you
just signed up for a lifetime of
all this!

AVA
Dayum!

FADES TO BLACK

THEY EXCHANGE A KISS.

THE END