

Can't You Do Anything Good ? (Dear Mom)

de

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EXT. AN OLD FIELD --AFTERNOON

1

FADE IN

The sweating face of VINCENT, a 30 year-old dark skin young male is closely staring at us.

Drops of sweat are falling down his face to the ground, while his eyes slowly blink.

A fist comes close to his cheek and pushes his skin inward while his mouth slowly opens releasing floating drops of blood.

FLASHBACK TO

INT. OLD KITCHEN --DAY

2

Sitting on the old wooden floor of a small and dark kitchen equipped with an old brown table in the center, little VINCENT (2 year-old), dark skin, poorly dressed with an old shirt too big for him and a diaper is playing alone with an empty metal plate and a little wooden spoon.

his MOTHER(22), in an old and dirty white dress with a head tie, is sweeping.

She walks by the child once, then another time.

At the back of the kitchen she takes a porcelaine plate and drops it violently on the floor, then gets down and starts crying.

CUT TO

EXT. A SMALL WOODEN HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY SIDE --DAWN

3

The sun is lighting a wild field around a small wooden house. A baby is crying in the distance as the title appears on screen.

montage : During the credits, we discover the caribbean country side, with various landscapes and details of genuine objects from the 1900's the final scene is a river.

EXT. ISOLATED RIVER --DAY

4

MOTHER (24) in an old fashioned light blue dress, is at an isolated crystal-clear water river washing some clothes.

Vincent(5) in simple worn-out shorts and shirt, is playing under an old tree nearby.

An old straw basket is filled with all their dirty clothes while a big green blue basin keeps the wet and clean ones.

little Vincent, joins his mother, showing her a self made toy (A plane made of old leaves and branches).

she looks at him for a while, her tired face covered with a mix of sweat, water and soap.

little Vincent stares at his Mother's eyes a little smile waiting to form on his mouth.

Mother raises her eyebrows then turns back to the river.

Little Vincent looks at his plane for a while then drops it.

He comes close to Mother and takes an item of clothing from the basin and tries to drop it in the river.

Mother grabs his arm.

MOTHER

don't you have anything to do !?
go away !

She pushes him away,

Little Vincent runs back to the old tree.

EXT. FRONT OF THE SMALL HOUSE --DAY

5

7 year-old Vincent dressed in old, ripped t-shirt and shorts opens the door,

A MAN(40) in a worn grey matching outfit with a pale hat, holding flowers is standing in front of him,

Mother(26) dressed with a colorful old dress, tied hair , arrives showing a big smile.

She gently pushes Little Vincent outside, the man enters and closes the door.

Vincent walks outside and starts to play soccer with a rotten mango lying on the dusty dry road.

INT. KITCHEN --DAY

6

Vincent (8) in shorts bare-chested, is playing on the floor with TYRESE, his 1 year-old brother only dressed with old clothes Mother put on him as a baby diaper.

Mother is at the table cooking soup for dinner.

The steam released by the food dances in the light rays entering the holes of the rusty galvanised roof

Vincent tries to hug his little brother, who starts to scream.

Mother comes in and removes Little Tyrese from his brother's arm.

MOTHER

what have you done to him!!?
can't you do anything good?!
(the sucks her teeth aggressively)

VINCENT

But mommy...

MOTHER

shut up! go set the table !

Vincent gets up, angrily gets a plate, and accidentally drops it on the floor.
The plate crashes.

CUT TO

EXT. A SMALL WOODEN HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY SIDE --DAY

7

The wind is blowing in the field surrounding the small house. The noise of Mother hitting Vincent several time with a belt while cursing him is barely perceptible.

EXT. FRONT OF THE SMALL HOUSE --DAY

8

Vincent(14) opens the door of the delapidated house furiously, he is athletic looking and only wears an old familiar grey pant, no shoes, and holding an old meshed vest in his left hand
We hear Mother screaming from inside the house.

MOTHER(O.S)

Little boy! you'd better do as I
said, don't make me CRUSH your head
today...

VINCENT
I don't CARE Mom ! I'm out !

Vincent stops in the dusty road in front of the house.
He puts on his meshed vest.

Little Tyrese(6) Suddently opens the door and runs at his brother.

Vincent naturally gets down and the little guy jump on his back and they move on.

EXT. THE STREET NEAR THE HOUSE --DAY 9

Vincent carries little Tyrese on his back.
They're singing and laughing as we picture The old house behind them in the distance.

the house's door opens and Mother gets outside Yelling.

MOTHER
Vincent! Bring my son back!

VINCENT
(turning to her, smiling)
we won't be long!

she look at them with an angry face then calm down.

EXT. COUNTRY SIDE --AFTERNOON 10

Vincent(14) face covered with mud, mouth bleeding is facing GARRY(16), strong black male, face covered with bruises and a black eye.

Little Tyrese(6) is standing behind his brother crying.
4 other young male are standing in the field watching the scene.

ONE OF THE GUYS (O.S)
come on Garry don't let the guy
f*** with us!

Vincent firmly in his fighting position, is staring at his opponent's eyes, he is not moving, nor blinking...

VINCENT
(seriously menacing)
move again... and I make your head
do a 360.

Garry's body starts to shake, as load of sweat drops slide from his head.

GARRY

Y.. your mother's c*** !

Vincent make a step forward moving so fast that Garry doesn't even react.

He violently slam his right open hand toward Garry's throat.

Then drop his closed left hand on Garry's chin.

Garry is pushed backward, then get on his knees and falls heavily on the grass.

VINCENT

YOUR mother's c***!!! next time,
curse my lil brother AGAIN!,
AS*****!!!

he turns to the others.

VINCENT

Anybody else, from your MOTHER's
A***?!!

the guys stares silently, shocked.

Tyrese, face covered with tears, is still shaking.
He runs at vincent and grab his pant.

TYRESE

Vincent I wanna go home!

Vincent does not respond, his eyes are red, his face is distorted by rage, his hands tightly closed, he is still staring at the guys, no blinking.

TYRESE

Vincent please!

Vincent's eyes start to blink. He looks at Tyrese.

VINCENT

Aight let's go.

EXT. THE STREET NEAR THE HOUSE --AFTERNOON

11

Vincent and Tyres are heading back home, as usual Vincent carries is little brother on his back.

VINCENT

See kiddo you should never have your guard or head down. I never, ever give up on anything... if you give up you're dead, understand?

TYRESE

will you teach me how to fight like you?

VINCENT

Sure and one day you'll be stronger than me ! But first, promise me to work hard at school, ok?

TYRESE

Ok!

EXT. FRONT OF THE SMALL HOUSE --DUSK

12

Mother is outside waiting, her hands on her waist.

MOTHER

Where have you been !!? Don't you see the sun was setting to get back earlier ?!

TYRESE

Mommy ! Vincent gonna show me how to be stronger than him!

MOTHER

Oh really and how will he do that?

TYRESE

All I have to do is to work hard in class and he'll teach me!

MOTHER

Ahahaha well I can't wait to see that.

She looks at Vincent Smiling, Vicent smiles back at her then look at little Tyrese.

TYRESE

Mommy what do we eat tonight, i'm hungry.

MOTHER

Well first you two are going to have a bath then we'll see...

Vincent stares a while as Mother is taking care of Little Tyrese, a smile on his face.

EXT. BUSY SMALL TOWN, MARKET --DAY

13

Vincent(25), Tyrese(17) and Mother(42) in simple shirts, pants and robe are walking along. The boys are now two good looking young men. While they pass next to the various stalls, the female vendors starts to smile, and talk.

Mother stops at one of the stalls, and talk to the merchant (MS JOSEPH) standing there.

Vincent leave the group, Tyrese turns his head toward his older brother, watching him as he leaves.

MOTHER

DON'T think about it.

TYRESE

what's that Mom?

MOTHER

Don't even think about following him, I have enough with one trouble making son home, understand?

TYRESE

...

TALYA

Do you need anything else?...
Hello?...Hey BWOY I'm talking to you !!!

Tyrese wakes up from his daydream and turn his head back to the stall.

TALYA (20), Ms Joseph's older daughter, beautiful dark skinned caribbean girl is standing behind the stall, her generous chest his barely hidden behind her traditionnal "Grand Robe" as she throws a sunshiny smile at him.

TALYA

So ?

TYRESE

I...

The other merchants starts to laugh

TALYA

Are you ok?

She takes a mango and put it in his hand.

TALYA

here have this you'll feel better.

MOTHER

How much is it, we don't have the money for that.

MS JOSEPH

(smiling)

don't worry hunny, send him back later when you'll have the money.

Mother frowns, shakes her head, then grabs Tyrese by the arm and leaves.

As they're leaving Tyrese looks back at Talya.

She is smiles at him.

EXT. DOWNTOWN, A CALM STREET --DAY

14

Vincent (30) in beige pants and light blue shirt, shakes his right hand then drops a pair of dice on the dusty road.

The dice Roll on the ground, as a smile draws on his sweating face.

The other guys standing around him starts to jump, holding their heads and cursing.

Vincent's hand slowly grabs a mix of coins and notes on the ground.

He stands up, walks to Garry(32), stronger now, wearing a nice costume and a hat.

Vincent, turns his right hand palm toward him.

Garry grumbles remove his hat and put it in Vincent's hand.

Vincent puts the money inside the hat and puts it on his head.

VINCENT

Thank you sir, it's always a pleasure to have business with you, come again.

He winks, then leaves

Garry and the guys look at him, fists closed.

ONE OF THE GUYS (O.S)

come on Garry he is fucking with us again...

GARRY

shut the f... up...

EXT. FRONT OF THE SMALL HOUSE --DAWN

15

Tyrese (22) opens the brand new door of the family house, and runs outside. He wears nice but simple sunday clothes with shoes.

The little wooden house looks bigger, some new wooden parts have been added.

Vincent(30), is on an oxcart with nice but simple sunday clothes with shoes and his new hat, waiting for Tyrese.

TYRESE

Wow ! Bro where did you get these
?!

The door of the house opens again.

TALYA

Hey BWOY don't you forget anything?

Talya(25) is wearing a white dress, and a nice round belly.

Tyrese turns back to her and Vincent smiles as the rising sun turns his wild dark hairs into glowing live coals.

Tyrese kisses his gorgeous fiancé and his upcoming baby.

Mother runs out of the small house, she caresses Tyrese cheek, and gives him some bread and a pot of chopped cod fish wrapped in a white tissue.

Then she looks toward Vincent.

VINCENT
All right ! Let's go !

EXT. COUNTRY SIDE ROAD --DAY 16

Vincent(30) and Tyrese (22) wearing nice but simple sunday clothes are on an oxcart, on a small and dusty road in the country side, heading to town.

VINCENT
So how does it feel kid?

TYRESE
what do you mean?

VINCENT
Well tomorrow we will have to call you mister teacher man!

TYRESE
it's not done yet ! Today is really the day that will..

VINCENT
Aah! don't worry about that, I know my little bro man! Plus if you fail this test you know I'll kick your ass right?

TYRESE
Ahaha yeah defenitly...

VINCENT
I'm glad you know.

TYRESE
Anyway... thanks bro

VINCENT
...what for...?

TYRESE
Well... for everything... you know..

VINCENT
hold on.

EXT. COUNTRY SIDE ROAD --DAY

17

The oxcart approaches a small bunch of trees in front of a cliff.

Garry and his guys are standing in the middle of the road talking and laughing.

Vincent gets as close as possible until he has no choice but stop.

They are now on the road between some trees and an impressive cliff.

VINCENT

What's up guys?

GARRY

What are you two up to? Going to town?

VINCENT

Yeah we have some business to do there, so if you don't mind getting off the road...

GARRY

Business ? with my money and my uncle's cart ?

VINCENT

I've rent it from Jesner it's mine 'til tomorrow.

GARRY

Bullshit ! You rob my money my hat and now that !?
Get the F... out of...

Garry grabs Tyrese's arm making him fall out the Cart. Time Slows down as Vincent's eyes turn red.

EXT. COUNTRY SIDE --AFTERNOON

18

BACK TO PRESENT

Vincent recovers from the punch he has just received. Dodging another one coming from behind. He kicks toward one of the guys' face hitting him violently then drops his fist to another one's face knocking them both out.

Tyrese who fainted after his fall, wakes up.

Vincent dodges several kicks and punches as three of Garry's men are on him.

Tyrese runs and pushes one of the guy then punches another.

The one pushed by Tyrese knocks his head on the ground and passes out.

Garry seeing this takes a big rock nearby and hides it being him.

Tyrese and Vincent are now both facing one opponent.

Tyrese's shirt is torn off by his opponent as he grabs the little brother to knock him over

Vincent makes a traditionnal ladjja move faking a punch while throwin a kick instead.

Surprised, his opponent is knocked out, Vincent turns to his little brother.

Garry is getting close to Tyrese with his rock.

Seeing this Vincent runs like never before, his face distorted by rage, he jumps at Garry pushing him toward the cliff.

They both roll over. Tyrese gets rid of his opponent and turns his head toward Vincent just in time to see him disappear behind the edge of the cliff

His face turns pale. He stands up and runs to the edge.

Vincent is hanged at the cliff holding a small piece of rock. He is bleeding and His slippery hands are dangerously letting go.

Tyrese tries unsuccessfully to reach his brothers' arms, then grabs an old root at the edge and just has the time to jump and grab his brother's wrist before his hands slips from the little rock.

TYRESE

Raaah gotcha!

VINCENT

NO !!! what are you doing?!!

TYRESE

Hang on !!!

VINCENT
Are you crazy?!!

TYRESE
I won't let you down!!!

VINCENT
NOO!!! no!! no! Tyrese listen to
me, the root won't support us both!

TYRESE
Shut up !!! and Help me!

VINCENT
Tyrese ! let Go !

Vincent his shaking his arm to force Tyrese to let go

TYRESE
AAAARGH... why are you doing this
to me!!!

VINCENT
use your brain... you want both of
us to pay for one's mistake ?

TYRESE
(suffering) argh.. pfft pfft..
you always..pfft taught me not
to give up! why are you doing
this!?

VINCENT
...You're my little bro (tears)...
my only bro.. I've promised mom...
you would come back
safe...Safe!!!!..you understand? she
won't forgive me...

TYRESE
(crying)
no please, I'm begging you Vincent,
help me please! HELP!!!

VINCENT
(whispering while crying)
God knows I've tried to be a good
son....What have I done Mommy...She
won't forgive me bro...

Vincent rotate his wrist trying to make his hand slip away
form his little brothers'

TYRESE
 Raaaaaaaaaaah !!!!! NO!
 There is no way I let you down
 today bro !!!

VINCENT
 Oh yes you will...And you know why?

TYRESE
 SHUT UP!!! HEEEEELLLLP! Somebody
 HELP!

VINCENT
 Because there's a little secret you
 don't know T.

TYRESE
 Shut the fuck up Vinc... HEEELP!!!

VINCENT
 Remember how she always smiles at
 me?

FLASH BACK

EXT. DOWNTOWN MARKET --AFTERNOON 19

Tyrese and Vincent brought the money back to Talya, they are talking and laughing together.

VINCENT(VOICE OVER)
 What would you like her to do with
 a little crying kid like you bro?

Tyrese surprises Talya looking at his older brother while he is looking away.

EXT. A FIELD NEAR THE OLD HOUSE --AFTERNOON 20

Talya tries to carry heavy buckets of water from the river, Vincent joins her to help.

On their way home Vincent throws some water at Talya's face as a joke, starting a water fight.

VINCENT(VOICE OVER)
 What would you like her to do with
 a little crying kid like you bro?
 hu ? Tell me ?

They Laugh while running in the field. Tyrese is near by, he sees them, starts smiling and gets back to his woodchopping job.

EXT. FRONT OF THE SMALL HOUSE --DAWN 21

Vincent is leaving the house, early in the morning, Tyrese wakes up and find Talya outside with Vincent she gives him some food for the day.

He thanks her by caressing her shoudler, she smiles at him while rearranging her hair, Vincent looks at Tyrese smiles and waves his hand. Tyrese half asleep answers back mechanically.

VINCENT(VOICE OVER)

All she wanted is a real man, you got me?

EXT. A SUGAR CANNE FIELD --DAY 22

Vincent and Talya are making love passionately on the grass, close to a sugar cane field.

VINCENT(VOICE OVER)

A Really bad bwoy... That's what they all want Bro!

EXT. CLIFF --DAY 23

Tyrese's Pupile is displaying the scene of Vincent and Talya in the sugar cane field.

As tears continue flowing from his eyes, we follow one of them getting down his face to his mouth now showing his clenched theeth.sk

VINCENT

Yeah ! You got It now?
your baby... is my Baby bro...
So what you gonna do now hu? Tell
me Kiddo? Are you going to cry? or
be a MAN!!!!? HU??!!! TELL ME!!!

We keep on getting down, following one of Tyrese's drop of sweat along his arm, to his hand holding his brother's wrist.

His hand is shaking now...

THE END.