

STATE

"Pilot Welcome to LSU"

Written by

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TEASER

INT- BUTLER ARENA - EARLY MORNING

Inside the Butler Arena on the campus of Lafayette State University. The arena is beautifully decorated. There are chairs on the floor filled with eager freshmen. Parents and staff sit in the high rise seats. Student leaders are dressed in cap and gowns surrounding the new students.

On the stage sits the chancellor, the bored, and student body officers.

JORDAN PITTINGTON stands up to the podium. He is handsome, brown skin, dressed in a suit underneath his cap and gown.

JORDAN

Good morning.

CROWD

Good morning.

JORDAN

Or should I say great morning. My name is Jordan Pittington, your student body president. I would like to welcome you, the class of 2024 to the illustrious Lafayette State University. The first public HBCU in great state of North Carolina. Today marks the first day of the rest of your lives.

CUT TO:

INT. WES' DORM ROOM - EARLY MORNING

We see inside of Wes' dorm room. It's not very neat. There are clothes on the floor, empty liquor bottles in different areas of the room. On the wall there is a pride flag and other items that shows his love of cartoons and batman.

There is a cap and gown matching the ones of the student leaders hanging off the closet door. Wes is asleep in his bed laying on the chest of a naked body.

We see his phone vibrating with an alarm that says "Convocation" Neither one of them hears it or gets up.

CUT TO:

INT. BUTLER ARENA - EARLY MORNING

JORDAN

This journey will take you about a four to five years to complete. Some maybe a little longer. The length of time is irrelevant. Just make sure you complete this journey. The best path you can take is your own. Be your own person. Live your best life. Find your own identity.

CUT TO:

INT. - ARIANA'S APARTMENT ROOM- SAME EARLY MORNING.

ARIANA is asleep sitting up. She wears a muumuu and has her braids tied up. She has a bible on her lap. Her alarms goes off. It startles her. She looks at the time and jumps up.

ARIANA

Oh, shit. I mean shoot. Lord, why I can't I stay up and pray in the morning?

Ariana rushes to the bathroom. Turns the water on. She walks back in and looks at the bible.

ARIANA (CONT'D)

Did I say Amen?

CUT TO: BUTLER  
ARENA

JORDAN

Every friendship and every relationship can make or break you. Choose wisely.

(MORE)

## JORDAN (CONT'D)

Don't allow people to distract you from what you are here for. Granted, some of the relationships you encounter will last a life time. Some will falter.

CUT TO: NEY NEY  
OFFICE

INT. - RA OFFICE- EARLY MORNING

NEY NEY is sitting at her desk. She has beautiful chocolate skin, heavier set, thick natural hair. She is wearing khaki shorts and a blue shirt that says RLC on the front.

She is scrolling through a social media's page. She opens her recent calls.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

We see she's made eleven calls to someone named BAE.

INT. BUTLER ARENA - EARLY MORNING

## JORDAN

Students, looks up to the stands at your parents. Parents wave at your students. Let's reflect on this moment that your children are now becoming adults. You will go home to empty nest. You're pushing your little bird out to become the best version of themselves.

INT. - THEO'S MOM HOUSE- SAME MORNING

THEO,17 is extremely young. He is wearing jeans, and short sleeve button down shirt and a bow tie. He sits anxiously, checking the time. He gets up and knocks on his mother's bedroom door.

## THEO

Mom? Are you ready?

THEO'S MOM (O.C)  
I'll take you later, Theo.

THEO  
Mom, It's orientation day. I really don't want to miss it.

THEO'S MOM (O.C.)  
I said later boy. Now leave me the fuck alone!

Theo is hurt and defeated. He sits back down.

CUT TO:

INT. BUTLER ARENA - EARLY MORNING

JORDAN  
Now we will begin our traditional pinning ceremony. Remember, you are not officially a Hornet until you are pinned by an upperclassman and you repeat our school motto.

Rows of students begin lining up and following Jordan's directions. The freshmen hands their pins to the upperclassman dressed in the cap and gowns.

JORDAN (CONT'D)  
Students, walk up to an upperclassman and hand them your pin. They will take the pin out and pin it to your clothes. When they say our school motto to you "Res Non Verba" you must repeat back to them "Deeds Not Words." This means that your actions are more important than your words.

Just as students begin to line up, Ariana steps up next to NICO, 21, he is extremely handsome and very fit. He is Black and Mexican. She places her finger over her lips. He smiles at her and laughs. Two students walk handing them their pin. They unhook the pins places on the collar of the students.

ARIANA AND NICO  
Res non verba.

STUDENT 1 & 2  
Deeds not words.

They smile at each other and shake hands. This pattern continues for a few moments other students and student leaders while Jordan continues to talk.

JORDAN  
College is what you make of it.  
Your grades will reflect it. Your  
relationships will feel it. So make  
this the best four plus years of  
your life. Welcome to State.

END OF TEASER