

MY PREROGATIVE

Written by

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EXT. ATLANTA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

Blue skies and sunshine sit high above a urban college campus. Crowds of people unload suitcases and boxes out of their cars while saying "goodbye" to loved ones.

A group of college students are stretched out across the green courtyard. Some catching up with old friends, a group of football players throwing the ball, and others bathing in the sunlight.

Black, white, and multiracial fraternities and sororities strut and stomp their colors across the yard, recruiting the fresh meat.

DARIUS [18], a young, black boy with a new leash on life, stands in the center of the courtyard holding a freshman orientation folder as he takes everything in. He beams up at the "Atlanta State University" sign and smiles a sigh of relief. He is home.

MAGGIE (O.C.)  
(abruptly)  
DARIUS!

He winces at the sound of his name being called. He sighs again, this time disappointed, and turns.

Darius' mom, MAGGIE [40s] wears a "Proud Freshman Mom" t-shirt, styled with a fanny pack resting on her hip. She rushes up and embraces him in a huge bear hug.

Darius' dad, ARTHUR [40s] wears an "Atlanta State University" hat and sunglasses coming up the path pulling Darius' suitcase.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)  
I'm going to miss you so much!

People glance at the interaction. Darius lowers his head, the weight of everyone's eyes bear down on him. He pulls away but she sucks him right back in.

DARIUS  
(through his teeth)  
Alright, mom. We talked about this.

ARTHUR  
Maggie.

She gives one last squeeze.

MAGGIE  
You're right, I'm sorry.

She releases him.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)  
You're going to call me when you  
get settled in?

DARIUS  
Yes, mom.

MAGGIE  
Don't forget about our agreement.  
If you don't answer by the third  
ring I'm in the car on my way up.

DARIUS  
Mom-

MAGGIE  
(interrupting)  
I'm serious. Crazy things happen on  
college campuses. Just the other  
week, your cousin was put into the  
hospital for no good reason.

DARIUS  
Mom, Elliot fell down eight flights  
of stairs because he doesn't know  
how to tie his shoes.

Maggie digs in her fanny pack and pulls out a folded stack of  
papers.

MAGGIE  
You signed the agreement.

Darius hurriedly stuffs the papers back into her fanny pack.

DARIUS  
(frantically)  
I know, I know.

Arthur steps up and embraces his son.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
You couldn't have helped negotiate  
this three rings deal?

ARTHUR  
(whispering)  
You're lucky I got her to agree to  
even let you go away to college.  
Two and a half hours away at that.

(MORE)

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

(beat)

You'll be fine.

Arthur and Darius break. Maggie hugs him one last time, and gives him a smooch on the cheek. He grabs his things and quickly walks to the building.

DARIUS'S MOM

Bye, sweetie! I love you!

A few yards away from the door, he hurries to end his pain and suffering. A FOOTBALL PLAYER runs in front of him bringing him to a halting stop.

FOOTBALL PLAYER

Heads up!

Darius turns in the direction the Football Player came from -- BAM! He gets smacked in the head by a football as he hits the ground.

DARIUS

(to self)

Go away to college they said. Your mom won't be able to embarrass like she has in front of the whole town back home they said.

INT. ASU RESIDENCE HALL - ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

Elevator doors slide open. Darius struggles to get his bags on the elevator while holding his head.

The elevator doors slide close, when--

RYLIE (O.C.)

Hold it, please!

Darius scrambles to push the button to hold it open. RYLIE [18] with long black hair and tan skin dressed in an ASU cheerleader uniform hops on.

RYLIE (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Rylie whips out her phone to send texts. Darius's face lights up as he looks her up and down. The elevator ascends.

He glances at her and then glances away. He looks back at her. He opens his mouth to say something, but stops himself. He sighs and looks down. DING!

The elevator door opens and a KAIDEN [20], tall and bulky football player hops on. Rylie looks up from her phone and lights up with a grin.

She jumps on Kaiden, wrapping her legs around him as they makeout. Darius's eyes grow wide as he watches the scene unfold. They slam into the wall next to him, closing him in a corner.

Darius taps the football players shoulder.

DARIUS  
(clears throat)  
Excuse me. Um-

They continue not noticing him. He peers around them to see how many more floors he has. Three -- Two -- One -- DING. The elevator doors slide open.

Darius squeezes from behind them, grabbing his things and hops off the elevator right before the doors close.

INT. ASU RESIDENCE HALL - 7TH FLOOR ELEVATOR LOBBY -  
CONTINUOUS

ANDY (O.C.)  
Dude!

Darius turns to see his best friend, ANDY [18], skinny and white with black curly hair, styling a tank top that reads "Suns Out Guns Out".

DARIUS  
Andy!

They dap up with a long, extravagant handshake and end in an embrace. Some UPPER CLASSMEN stroll by and see the interaction.

UPPER CLASSMAN 1  
Aww look boys, the happy couple is  
back together again.

Upper Classman 2 motions like he is giving a blowjob. All Upper Classmen laugh.

UPPER CLASSMAN 3  
No way, boys! That's the mama boys  
from that tiktok.

They all point and laugh as they head into the elevator.

Andy grabs one of Darius's bags and they walk down the hallway, dorm rooms lining both sides.

DARIUS  
What're they talking about?

ANDY  
You know the-

Andy motions like he is throwing a football and then getting hit in the head with it. Darius squints, confused.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
You basically sucking on your  
mommy's left titty in the courtyard  
before you took a football to the  
face?

Darius's eyes grow wide.

DARIUS  
It's on tiktok?

Andy pulls his phone out and hands it to him. The video of Darius being squeezed to death by his mom and getting hit in the head replays over and over and over.

ANDY  
You already have over one million  
views man.

DARIUS  
It hasn't even been thirty minutes.

ANDY  
Don't sweat it man. This is our  
time to shine. Plus your mom is  
finally gone. You're free man. No  
more providing your mom with  
resumes of girls you're interested  
in for her to interview.

DARIUS  
True.

ANDY  
No more her tasting your food to  
make sure it's safe when you go out  
to eat.

DARIUS  
I mean she did prevent me from  
getting food poisoning on multiple  
occasions.

ANDY

No more weekly physical exams.

DARIUS

I mean she's a doctor what do you expect.

ANDY

Dude, she gave you a weekly hernia and prostate exam too.

DARIUS

She was being thorough?

ANDY

Dude your eighteen, you don't need to worry about your prostate, plus your mom should be the last person to be grabbing your balls and shoving her finger in your asshole.

THUD! Darius and Andy stop. A COLLEGE GIRL stands next to her dorm door and stares at them and then stares at Darius looking him up and down. Darius and Andy exchange looks.

College Girl slowly walks around them and speed walks down the hallway.

Darius glares at Andy. They continue down the hall.

They come up on, JAMES [18], Indian young man who walks like he has a stick up his ass and the resting bitch face of the century reading a book as he passes them.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Hey, what's up James?

James cuts his eyes at Andy.

JAMES

(walking past, barely acknowledging them)

Do I know you?

ANDY

(only low enough for Darius to hear)

Oh no, I'm only the guy you've been living with the past three days and will be for the next fucking two semesters.

Darius and Andy continue down the hallway.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Speaking of roommates, you are so lucky to be rooming with the R.A. I hear he is quite the ladies man.

DARIUS

Is that so?

ANDY

Hell, yes! Dude, I heard he banged a professor's wife and both of his daughters and still got an 'A' in the class.

DARIUS

No way.

ANDY

A cop accused him of stealing and treated him like shit, so to get him back, he slept with the cop's wife and made him watch.

DARIUS

But did he steal something?

ANDY

I mean, yes, but that's besides the point. He could be our ticket to completing our pact.

(whispering)

Losing our virginity in the first 30 days of college.

(normal voice)

People will no longer see you as the bitch of a mama's boy you are and call you a man.

DARIUS

Nobody calls me that.

ANDY

Everybody calls you that dude.

DARIUS

(to himself)

Everybody?

ANDY

But listen to me when I say, your roommate is a legend. He'll help you out.

Darius turns his nose up as they stop at Darius's dorm room.



ANDY (CONT'D)

What?

DARIUS

Not sure if that is good or bad.

ANDY

How could it be bad?

TWO COLLEGE GIRLS exit Darius's dorm room slightly disheveled with messy hair. Andy grins, impressed.

DARIUS

(under his breath)

He could keep all the women to himself.

Andy checks out the ladies. Straightens himself up and clears his throat.

ANDY

(deep voice)

Hey ladies.

The girls exchange looks and then burst into laughter as they walk down the hall.

DARIUS

Smooth.

Darius enters as Andy looks down the hallway after them still trying to process what just happened.

INT. ASU RESIDENCE HALL - DARIUS'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Darius enters into a half decorated, messy living room - artwork lining walls, party cups and trash cover the floor. Empty alcohol bottles are littered across the kitchen counters and floor.

Darius grimaces as he surveys the room, or what's left of it. Andy joins him, his face blank slowly shifts into a grin.

ANDY

Must have been a great party.

Darius rolls his eyes.

DANI (O.C.)

It was alright I suppose.

Darius and Andy turn towards the voice. DANI [20], Latina with short, dark hair emerges from one of the bedrooms wearing boy shorts and an oversized t-shirt.

She heads to the kitchen and grabs a pot of coffee. She sniffs it and slightly winces.

DARIUS

Umm I don't think you should-

She pours herself a cup, grabs some whiskey from the cabinet and adds it to the coffee.

She takes a sip, smacking her lips - taking in the taste. She adds a little more whiskey and tastes again and closes her eyes and sighs, perfection.

Darius and Andy exchange looks. Andy grins at him, Darius shakes his head in disapproval. Andy clears his throat and checks his outfit - good.

He takes a step towards Dani, and without even opening her eyes-

DANI

Don't even think about it, baby face.

Andy stops mid step, points back to his original spot and goes back.

DARIUS

Is um Danny here?

Andy interjects himself.

ANDY

You know, super cool R.A., pulls all the ladies.

Clicks his tongue and winks. She rolls her eyes as she takes another sip.

DANI

(hesitates)

Actually, you just missed him. He'll be back for the party later though.

DARIUS

From the looks of it you guys just had a party last night.

DANI  
Better start cleaning then.

DARIUS  
Me? I didn't do this shit.

DANI  
I mean, you wouldn't want other people to think you're a slob right? Everyone loves Dani, and if you cleaned this for him, he'll owe you big time. His last roommate, he was able to get the entire Football Cheerleading Squad to sleep with him in two days.  
(takes a sip)  
I forgot to mention, there are thirty girls on the squad so that's about fifteen girls a day.

Andy's jaw drops. Darius sighs.

DARIUS  
I don't know.

DANI  
Think about it. Today you're a little bitch-

DARIUS  
(interrupting)  
Hey!

ANDY  
It's true man.

DANI  
-but tomorrow  
(beat)  
you could be one, one-thousandth of a man.

Dani walks back to the room.

DARIUS  
Which is?

DANI  
A boy.

DOOR CLOSES and Darius and Andy are left alone.

INT. ASU RESIDENCE HALL - DARIUS'S ROOM - NIGHT

The dorm room is dimly lit, crowded with college students drinking, eating, dancing, and talking to the thunderous music blaring from the speakers.

Darius sweeps through the crowd with a plastic bag picking up trash and tidying up things.

Darius kneels on the ground and picks up more trash. He reaches under the couch and grabs something, he cringes from the texture.

He pulls out a wet piece of plastic. He takes a closer look at it and realizes it's a used condom. He gags as he tosses it in the trash bag.

The room continues to get messier the more he cleans. He sees Andy in the middle of the crowd forcefully doing the sprinkler into the robot, but nobody paying him any attention.

Darius plops down on the couch. Dani notices and leaves her friends and joins him.

DANI

How's your first college party going?

Darius side eyes her and sighs.

DARIUS

Isn't Dani supposed to be here? I mean it is his party.

DANI

He'll be here. You need to relax kid. What you need...

(searching through the crowd)

Is a little...distraction. See that girl over there?

She points across the room to a REDHEAD GIRL [18], standing in the corner, sipping on a drink with a bored look on her face.

DARIUS

Err...I don't know.

Dani pulls him off the couch.

DANI

Sure you do.

She walks him in the direction of the Redhead Girl.

DANI (CONT'D)  
 Whatever you do, don't tell her  
 about your mom checking your  
 prostate.

DARIUS  
 Wait how do you know about that?

She pushes him over. The Redhead Girl looks him up and down.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
 (clears his throat)  
 Hey--

Darius's phone rings. The screen reads - "Mom". He declines  
 and puts his phone away.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
 Sorry about that. How're you--

His phone rings again - mom. He rolls his eyes and sighs as  
 he declines again.

Before he can open up his mouth again, phone rings.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
 (trying to be discreet)  
 Yes?  
 (murmuring otp)  
 Everything is good, mom.

He smiles at the Redhead Girl, she returns it with a blank  
 expression, unimpressed.

Redhead Girl's phone RINGS. Caller ID says "Telemarketer".

REDHEAD GIRL  
 (answering)  
 Hello?  
 (beat)  
 You've been trying to reach me  
 about my car's extended warranty?

She looks at Darius who is pleading into the phone as he runs  
 his hand through his hair.

REDHEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
 I've got the time. Whatcha got?

DARIUS  
 (on the phone)  
 Hey, I'm kinda busy at the moment.  
 (MORE)

DARIUS (CONT'D)

(BEAT)

I'll call you tomorrow.

(BEAT)

Alright, bye. Bye, mom.

(BEAT)

He rolls his eyes and turns away.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

(whispers into the phone)

I love you too, mom. Bye.

He hangs up and turns back to the Redhead Girl.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Sorry about th--

She's gone. Darius sighs, throwing his head back into the wall.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Ow.

INT. ASU RESIDENCE HALL - DARIUS'S ROOM - MORNING

Darius shuffles around the living room picking up trash and tidying things up.

Andy enters.

ANDY

Dude, you're still cleaning?

DARIUS

If I have any hopes of not being a mama's boy and getting a girlfriend then I'm going to need Danny's help.

ANDY

Yeah that was a pretty bad crash and burn. Way for Maggie to cock block from two and a half hours away.

(BEAT)

Me on the otherhand.

DARIUS

You already got some.

Dani comes out of the room yawning.

DANI  
He didn't get shit.

Darius looks to Andy.

ANDY  
(nodding)  
No, she's right.

DARIUS  
(to Dani)  
You're here again?

Dani goes for the coffee again, sniffs it.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Fresh pot.

DANI  
Well look at you, Dani just might  
be half impressed.

DARIUS  
Speaking of, where is he? I know he  
was here last night. I could hear  
all of y'all in his room all night  
after the party ended.

Dani pours whiskey in her coffee and takes a sip.

DANI  
I would say I'm sorry, but...

She takes a long pause and sips some more coffee.

DARIUS  
But you're not.

DANI  
Look at you kid. Catching on.  
You'll have a college degree in no  
time.

Darius side eyes her and continues cleaning. The bedroom door opens and the Redhead Girl emerges as she finishes putting on her clothes.

Darius watches the Redhead Girl go to the door.

DARIUS  
(whispering)  
You just couldn't help yourself  
could you?

DANI

What? You weren't going to.

She takes a sip. The Redhead Girl turns back.

REDHEAD GIRL

Thanks, Dani. I had a lot of fun.

The Redhead Girl exits. Darius and Andy's eyes grow wide as they turn and look at Dani.

DARIUS

Dani?

Dani awkwardly smiles.

DANI

In the flesh.

DARIUS

I thought Danny was a guy. Like Daniel.

DANI

Or Dani as in Danielle.

DARIUS

But Andy said that Dani pulls all the women.

ANDY

Yeah, Dani slept with a professor's wife and two daughters.

DANI

I sure did. Little Miss Redhead there makes that twice now.

Andy grins, impressed. Darius plops down on the couch, gazing up looking for answers. Dani sits next to him.

DARIUS

Why didn't you tell me?

DANI

And miss out on you cleaning the place not once, but twice? Yeah, no.

Darius throws his head back and sighs.

DANI (CONT'D)

You'll be ok, kid. A good joke never hurt anybody.



Dani gets up and heads back toward her room.

DARIUS  
Where are you going?

DANI  
Back to sleep. Do you know how much  
work I put in last night?

Darius rolls his eyes.

DARIUS  
Why did you help me last night?

DANI  
You remind me of my little brother.

Darius slightly smiles, Dani notices.

DANI (CONT'D)  
Don't be proud of that, my little  
brother is thirteen years old and  
he definitely has better game than  
you.

His phone RINGS. It's mom again.

DANI (CONT'D)  
And note to self, you should  
probably get mommy's titty out of  
your mouth and get another woman's  
in it or else you'll forever be the  
mama's boy who got hit in the head  
with a football.

DARIUS  
You saw the tiktok?

DANI  
It's at three million views now.

Dani exits. Andy pulls out his phone and they watch the video. Darius's phone RINGS on the table, but he doesn't notice it. The screen reads - "Mom".

Darius takes Andy's phone and keeps rewatching the video and looking through the comments.

Darius's phone lights up with a text. Andy picks it up. The text reads: Mom - "It's way past three rings. I'm on my way up to campus."

**THE END**