

Tequilla Warner  
1/16/08

### Against All Odds

Laila and De'von have known each other for many years and have been through everything together. But everything changed when they started Blue Angel High School. Since it is Senior year, Laila has her eyes set on college and getting a high paying job. Laila gets straight A's and is on the Honor Role. But De'von is still in her life. De'von has now become a thug. De'von rarely goes to class, he hangs out with the schools gang leader E, and has no goals set for life after high school. Even though De'von might be a thug, Laila still cares about him. Laila's two best friends, Angela and Christina sit in class trying to convince Laila to tell him how she feels but she won't listen.

"Laila there he is. Just go tell him," Angela says.

"No, he doesn't like girls like me," Laila replied.

"What are you talking about? You guys grew up together and you know that he's always liked you," says Christina.

Laila just sat quietly staring at De'von.

"I don't know what I'm going to do!" Laila says.

"Just do what you feel. You know we'll have your back no matter what," Angela says.

*(The bell rings for lunch)*

As they walk laughing and talking, De'von stops Laila.

"Hey Laila, can we talk for a minute?" De'von asks.

"Yea sure," she replies. "I'll be right back," Laila says to Christina and Angela.

Laila and De'von walk over to the nearest bench and sit down.

"So what you been up to?" De'von asks.

"Nothing, just trying to get everything ready for college. What about you?" Laila asks.

"Nothing much, just been chillin' with E and them," De'von says.

"Yea I could have guessed that... Anyway what did you want to talk to me about?" Laila asks.

"Oh ummm... all right I'm just going to tell you because I'm not good with this...Laila, I've liked you since the first time I knew your name and I don't know if you like me but umm...," he says.

"Are you trying to ask me out?" she asks.

"Yea I am...So will you?" Laila was too shocked to answer. "So are you going to answer?" he asks.

"Oh sorry...of course I will De'von," she responds.

They get up and give each other a long hug.

"All right then, I guess I'll let you get back to your girls," De'von says.

"Oh yea...I'll talk to you later then," Laila replies.

"Ok...I'll call you tonight," De'von says.

"Ok, bye," Laila says.

They give each other another hug and Laila goes back to her friends and tells them what just happened.

Laila and De'von have been going out for six months now and they have a steady relationship going. But lately De'von has been hinting around about them having sex. So

a few nights ago De'von decided to tell her how he feels. And even though he wants to, he understands that she wants to wait until she gets married and how its no rush for them to do it. Now Laila is thinking about whether to have sex with him or wait until marriage.

So on prom night Laila decides to ask Angela and Christina their opinions about it, as they are waiting for the guys to pick them up.

"You guys...should I do it?" Laila asks.

"If you're not ready then you should wait," Christina states.

"But its been six months and De'von has been very understanding of me waiting until marriage," Laila says.

" I know Laila, but if he can't wait until you guys start a family, then don't do it," Angela replies.

"Come on you guys, De'von has sacrificed a lot for me. He brought his grades up so now he can go to college, he has stopped thuggin' like he used to, even though he still be chillin' with E and them, but he still has done a lot for our future," Laila says.

"Well the decision's up to you, we nor De'von can tell you what to do and what not to do," Christina says.

The door bell rings.

De'von, Rick, and Mark are at the door picking up Laila, Angela and Christina for prom. All night Laila was trying to make a decision whether or not to wait or have sex with De'von. It is now midnight and prom is over, so Laila said goodbye to everyone and got in the car with De'von.

"So what do you want to do now?" Laila asks.

"Doesn't matter. Are you tired?" De'von asked.

"Not really...Do you want to go to my house?" Laila asks.

"Sure, where are your parents?" De'von asks.

"They're both out of town on business, you know my parents are always leaving somewhere," Laila says.

"Yea that's true," De'von responded.

De'von drives to Laila's house.

"Come on, we can watch a movie," Laila says.

"Ok, where are we going to watch it?" De'von asks.

"We can watch it in my room on my big screen," Laila replies.

"Ok," De'von says.

As they watch the movie De'von kisses Laila, She smiles and kisses him back. As kissing leads to touching De'von stops.

"Are you sure you want to do this, we don't have to," De'von says.

"Yes I'm sure...I love you De'von," Laila says.

"I love you too Laila," De'von replies.

The following Monday at school Laila hears rumors about her and De'von and what they did after Prom. So during lunch Laila finds De'von and goes talk to him about it.

"De'von, why are there rumors going around that I had sex with you and that I did hella other shit that you know we didn't do?!?" Laila says angrily.

"What the fuck are you talking about?!? You know we did all that shit on Prom night," De'von yells.

"You know damn well that I didn't do all that shit that's going around!" Laila yells

back.

"You just mad because I hit yo shit, walked out and dumped you afterwards!"

De'von screams.

"De' von fuck you and your stupid ass friends!!" Laila says as she walks off with tears pouring down her eyes.

*Two weeks later*

"You need to tell him Laila!" Christina says.

"I can't, after he used me...NO!!!" Laila responds.

"There he is you tell him or I will..." Angela demands.

"Alright...Alright," Laila says.

Laila walks over to De'von and his friends.

"De'von..." Laila says.

"What this beezy want?" E says.

"You know what E, fuck you!!" Laila yells.

"Hey don't be coming at him sideways like that! What do you want Laila?" De'von asks.

"I need to talk to you...in private..." Laila says.

"Naw, Whatever you want to say you can say it right here," De'von says.

"No I want to tell you in private," Laila insisted.

"Well, if you can't tell me then bye," De'von says.

"You know what De'von...IM PREGNANT!!!!" Laila screamed.

"What!?! Why the fuck you telling me you're pregnant?!?" De'von screams.

"What you mean why am I telling you? Its yours!" Laila responded.

"You know what you bopping ass bitch, you know damn well this baby ain't mine!!" De'von yells.

"De'von you know that you're the only person that I messed with and that I never cheated on you during our relationship," Laila yells.

"You know what, you are a E.S.S.H," De'von says.

"What the hell is a E.S.S.H?" Laila asked.

"You are a Easy Sleazy Slutty Hoe!! Because you done fucked everybody and they daddy at this school, so you better go tell one of them about all of this baby shit!!" De'von says.

"De'von yo ass can go to hell!! I'll have my baby and raise it on my own!!" Laila screams as she walks off.

"Damn D, you told that bop!" E says while laughing.

"Yea I know..." De'von says.

*Two weeks later*

De'von goes and finds E to talk to him about getting out of the gang but E doesn't take it very well.

"Yo E, I gotta talk to you real quick..." De'von says.

"Yea what up D?" E replies.

"I gotta leave all of this..." De'von says.

"What you trying to say? You leavin'...don't tell me that your going back to that rip!" E says.

"I got to E... she is carrying my baby," De'von states.

"Yo baby?! A couple of weeks ago you wasn't thinking about your baby!!" E

replies.

"Yea I know, but I'm going to have a family with Laila and your not going to stop me!" De'von yells as he walks off.

"You know what D I'm not going to forget this...you live by the gun, you die by the gun. You remember that D!" E yells as De'von walks away.

De'von goes and finds Laila.

"Laila can we talk?" De'von asks.

"What do you want?" Laila asks.

"I want to talk about our problem," De'von says.

"Our problem?!? A few weeks ago its was mine remember?!?" Laila says loudly.

"Yea I know Laila...I messed up alright but I'm trying to make this better here," De'von says.

"Well you wasn't trying to make things better when I needed you, you were trying to make things worse! Do you know what I've been through these last few weeks? I've been dealing with all kinds of pains in my stomach and morning sickness! Devon, it's been hell and all you have to say is that your trying to make things better?!?!" Laila yells.

"Baby I am so sorry for everything I put you through and I didn't mean to. It was just E telling me all this stuff and how I wouldn't be anything without him by my side and I believed it," De'von says.

"All these years and you still let E run your life!" Laila states.

"I'm stupid ok...I left all that stuff behind to be with you. I'm ready to be with you for good this time! To start a family and go to college...all of that. Not all of this gang stuff I was in...please Laila...Baby I love you, and you're the one that I will always love.

Please just give me one more chance!" De'von begs while kneeling down.

"De'von, after what you did to me, I don't know if I can ever trust you again...De'von you hurt me and you even denied our baby!" Laila says.

"Laila I know I hurt you and I want to be in our child's life...please can we give it one more chance?" De'von asks.

"I love you De'von, I really do but I swear if you ever mess up again I will leave you and you will never see your baby again!!!" Laila says.

They give each other a kiss and a hug.

"I missed you baby," De'von says.

"I missed you too," Laila replies.

*Two months later*

Today is Graduation Day and De'von and Laila are both graduating. They both have been accepted into UCLA but they're taking a year off so that Laila can have the baby and so they can start a life together.

*Five months later*

Now Laila and De'von have moved in together and they are setting up the nursery to make sure everything is just right. Laila is now 8 months pregnant and she knows that De'von is going to be a great father. It's about 8pm and De'von walks to the store to get something to drink, but on the way he runs into his old friend E.

"Oh, look who it is...its D," says E.

"Hey E..." De'von says.

"You still with that hoe Laila?!?" E asks.

"Hey don't be talking about my girl like that!" De'von yells.

"Oh...so you trying to be a family man now!?! Did you forget what I said to you when you first got into my gang?" E asks.

"No, I know exactly what you said," says De'von.

"Well then you should know that you can't leave a gang that easy...Remember you live by the gun, you die by the gun!" E yells.

E pulls out a gun and shoots De'von, De'von falls to the ground bleeding.

A few hours later.

Laila is worried about De'von because he hasn't come back yet but then she gets a phone call from De'von's cousin saying that De'von was shot and killed...Laila goes insane, she starts throwing stuff and crying. Laila completely goes crazy!

*One month later*

Laila gives birth to a healthy baby boy, She names him De'von Jr. after his late father and to keep De'von's memory alive. Now that the baby is born Laila has know idea what she going to do without De'von there to help her. But as time goes on Laila starts to slowly get her life back on track, while raising De'von Jr. by herself.

*Two years later*

Laila has now gone back to school and is doing great. De'von Jr. has grown up a lot and loves his mother to death. He has started walking and talking and Laila loves every minute of it. One night Laila was putting De'von Jr. to sleep when the phone rings.

"Hello?" Laila says.

The other end hangs up.

The phone rings again.

"Hello?!?" Laila says again.

"Is Laila there?" A voice says.

"This is she," Laila says.

"Baby its De'von," De'von replies.

"DE'VON!?!? No it can't be ....De'von is dead!" Laila screams.

"Baby listen to me! I'm not dead. E tried to kill me, he shot me six times but I lived. I have to hide out because if E found out I was alive he would try to kill me again. So I had my cousin call you and tell you I was dead so you wouldn't have to worry. Baby I'm sorry, I love you!" De'von says.

(De'von hangs up)

"NO, DE'VON COME BACK, DE'VON!!!" Laila screams into the phone while crying.

Laila sits there in the dark staring at the phone and crying in silence...

TO BE CONTINUED...