

Make It Rain

CHAPTER ONE

Make It Rain

Author: Sy-savane Usman

The sun couldn't rise any faster to an already excited Akande Samuel who just couldn't wait to get home. It was the first time he was returning home after eight long years of study in London. He was now a master in the field of Physics and really couldn't wait to celebrate his new achievement with his family.

Even though he might have felt sad leaving some of his good friends behind - some that he might not see again, the joy of going back home and seeing his mum again totally engulfed the little feeling of sorrow he had.

It was already nine thirty in the morning and his flight was meant to take off by twelve noon. About an hour's drive away from the airport, Samuel knew he had to be quick in packing up so he didn't miss his flight. He got out of the bathroom to his phone ringing.

"Hello mum!" He picked the call with a wide grin.

"Hello dear," Speaking all the way from Nigeria. "Hope you are packed and ready for your flight." His mother asked.

"Yes mama!" He said " I am about getting dressed, I will be on my way to the airport now"

"oohh I can't wait to see you mum!" He exclaimed with excitement.

"Me too baby. Alright, I will leave you now" She didn't want to waste much of his time

"I love you Ma'. See you in a bit" he said

"I love you too." She replied, ending the call.

Samuel got off the phone and continued his preparations for his flight back home.

The flight lasted six hours, or a little bit more.

Samuel had finally landed back in Nigeria.

"Ahh" Samuel let out a very gentle breath of satisfaction as he walked out of the plane.

The smell in the air, difference in the temperature, change in the zone, it all amused Samuel. Made him realise he had finally arrive home.

Mr. Peter Ojo, his mother's chauffeur had come to pick him from the airport.

"Good evening sir" Samuel prostrated, showing his respect to the old man.

"Get up my boy. You are all grown up now. How are you?"

Samuel was only about five feet and eight inches tall, but the stature of his body had evolved into a more matured man and his beards more prominent, covering at least a third of his face.

"I am fine thank you sir." He replied with a gentle smile.

"I thought mother would come" Samuel looked around hoping to see his mother around somewhere.

"Let's take you home now" Mr. Peter refused to indulge in that conversation.

"Okay. I understand" Samuel felt a little disappointed not to see his mum.

Ever since his father's death, Mrs. Akande was now the bread winner of their family. She worked very hard to make life as comfortable as possible for Samuel and his younger brother. Her vehement desire to create a very satisfying environment for her kids cost her a lot of time, as she spent more time at work.

"You know... Jimmy's leg is way better now. He plays football in school for his class" Mr. Peter tried to lighten up Samuel's mood a little as they walked to the car.

Jimmy is Samuel's little brother. Eight years back, when Samuel was going abroad for studies. Mr. and Mrs. Akande drove Samuel to the airport, along with Jimmy who was just three years old at the time. On their way back from the airport, after Samuel's plane had taken off, they had a terrible accident which left Mr. Akande dead, Mrs. Akande with a fractured skull and little Jimmy with some broken ribs and vertebrae. Despite Samuel's travel at the time having it's many perks, it always left a bitter taste in his mouth every time he remembered the cost.

But without any doubts, the news of his brother being fully fit again was enough to brighten up his mood.

"Wow, that's so amazing. I can't wait to see the young lad now." Excitement overwhelming his pain. "I hope he still recognises me" Samuel began to stride even faster to the car, hauling his bag behind him.

A beautiful orange filled the sky as the setting sun took away the warmth in the air, replacing it with cool uninterrupted breeze.

Shola sat at her desk at work, making documents of things her boss had given her to work on. She was usually the last to leave the office, along with Mrs. Akande who had a higher position at work than her. With no one else to keep them company, the two gradually grew into buddies discussing so many things together.

Aware of Samuel's arrival, Shola was curious as to why Mrs. Akande was still at work that evening.

"What time did you say Samuel's flight was leaving London again?" Shola asked, with her eyes still locked to her screen.

"He should be on his way home by now. He is going to be so mad at me" Mrs. Akande replied, feeling guilty.

"I think you should go early today so you don't miss his arrival at home." Shola turned her seat around, facing Mrs. Akande.

"But that's not possible anymore. My car went to pick him up from the airport and there is no way an Uber would make it in time"

"I can drive you home in my car." Shola offered to help

Mrs. Akande didn't feel comfortable making Shola sacrifice her duty for her;

"No. You have a lot of work to do"

"I insist"

"Shola I really appreciate your help but I can't do this to you. This is my problem, I will handle it okay?" Mrs. Akande rushed off with her heels heavily stumping the floor.

Outside the office, Mrs. Akande felt lighter than usual.

"Tsk! I forgot my bag!" She tapped her forehead. Turning around to Shola standing behind, Mrs. Akande drew a smile.

With Mrs. Akande's bag in her hand, there was no way Shola was going to allow her miss her son's arrival. Not when she could do something about it.

"Please allow me to take you home." She was as persistent as Mrs. Akande was stubborn.

"Oh omo mi. You are blessed!" Mrs. Akande finally conceded to Shola's kindness as she swiftly entered the car.

Their office was only about thirty minutes drive away from Mrs. Akande's house. Compared to Samuel's one hour drive, they were surely going to get home in time.

Always very unfriendly, the traffic made their journey even slower as they made it in forty-five minutes.

"Thank you very much my child" Mrs. Akande expressed her gratitude to Shola as she got out of the car.

Shola only saw it as her duty to help Mrs. Akande. It had always been like a factory setting for her to assist anybody in need of assistance.

"You are very welcome Ma." She waved Mrs. Akande goodbye as she got into her car. About to pull out her vehicle, a black mini van came parking behind her.

"My baby!!!!" Mrs. Akande ran from her door steps with her hands wide spread.

The headlights of Mrs. Akande's mini van beamed in the night as it pulled over by the drive way.

Samuel stepped out with a bag in his hand and the chauffeur took care of the rest luggage while Mrs. Akande preoccupied Samuel with hugs and kisses of love. It was no surprise, after spending eight years away from her first child there was no telling what she would do when she finally saw him. They both embraced each other.

"I am so sorry for not coming for you myself"

"Come on mum, it's totally fine. What's most important is that I got to see you today"

"And it's all because of one person" Mrs. Akande pointed at Shola who had already gotten out of her car.

"Who...?" Samuel gazed at the very young and beautiful Shola.

Debonair single lady with perfect hips and structure, every woman's dream figure. She was in her mid twenties, only four years younger than Samuel who was already twenty-

nine. She had a natural long hair which she braided all the time, and a saccharine sweet smile that always caught men dumbfounded every time they got a sight.

He walked up to her, getting an even clearer view of her charming face than before. Samuel gulped as Shola raised her hand for a shake with her signature smile.

“uhh... thanks” He tried to keep his composure as he shook hands with her.

There was a spark of electricity in her heart when Shola grabbed hold of his warm masculine palm as they both stared at each other. The weather, suddenly colder than before got a lot more windy, blowing Shola’s hair all over the place and across her face.

“You are welcome”

“Why does it suddenly feel like its...”

Shola cut him short

“...about to rain?”

With a flash of light and a terribly loud 'boom', there was a sudden thunder clap as the rain began pouring down aggressively on these two, stuck in each other's gaze.

“Yh...” Samuel said as they both continued to stare at each other.

CHAPTER TWO

The sound of the thunder was loud enough to wake an already asleep Jimmy. Jimmy always loved it when it rained because of the cold that he’d feel and sweet smell of cold dust that came with it. It was all so pleasing to him. Even though it never really ended well for him, he always drew open all his curtains whenever it rained or was about to.

It’s about to rain again! He jumped out of his bed in haste, rushing to quickly open the curtains. There was no way he would miss even the tiniest atom sized bit of cold if he was aware of it. He never really cared if his room got all wet.

The maid will clean it after all.

What a rascal!

There was a short stint of sound, metals rubbing as the rims holding the curtain railed across the curtain rod. Jimmy could see through the window, headlights of a car parked by the drive way in front of their house. His vision was a little blurred by the droplets of water on the window but he could identify his mother wherever he saw her. There was a rush of blood as he felt excited seeing his mother. His tiny feet tapped their ceramic tiled floor as he rushed downstairs to his mother.

He could hurt himself doing that! Like Jimmy cared.

“Mummy!!” He yanked the door open

“Jimmy?!” Samuel exclaimed, letting go of Shola’s hand and looking to the door.

Wanting to reach out to him again, Shola stopped herself. What was she thinking? She had only met him for the first time, she couldn’t have possibly fallen for him already!

No Shola! Put yourself together! You are a strong independent woman. Even though she felt a spark of electricity the moment she held hands with him.

“Brother Sammy!!” Jimmy suddenly forgot his mum and rushed out to embrace his big brother who in return ran towards him with wide spread arms.

The two grabbed each other as Samuel raised his brother up swiftly

“How are you? Ha! Ha! Ha!” He held Jimmy at chest level, rolling under the rain with a very wide smile anchoring across his face.

“Hehe! Hehe! Hehe!” Jimmy enjoyed playing under the rain.

“Brother did you bring something for me?” Showing Samuel no mercy. Not unusual amongst kids. Presents always being the first thing on their minds when welcoming someone from a journey.

“Of course I did lad! But first, let’s get out of the rain. Then I will give you something you never expected” Samuel carried his little brother inside.

He paused for a second at the door, looking back at Shola who stood in the rain smiling at them.

“What are you doing Shola? Let’s go inside!” Mrs. Akande ran past her, holding some of Samuel’s bags in her hands.

They all rushed out of the rain into the warmth of the Akande family house. It was a very beautiful interior, with sparkling white tiles spread all across the living room and beyond. A huge bright chandelier hanging at the center of the room, casting out colors, glittering in hundreds of different facets. With the brightness of its light filling the four corners of the room whilst emphasizing the beauty of the house.

“Wow!” Shola and Samuel exclaimed simultaneously.

In a short glimpse, she looked at Samuel and pinched herself. Control yourself woman!

Samuel looked at her, noticing she was trying not look at him. Wow! She even looked way better in bright light. Brown-ish long hair. Beautiful dark toned skin. And a slightly long, tasty looking neck. He noticed the wetness of her blouse as it stuck to her skin adamantly, revealing her white laced bra which featured her boobs prominently. 34C probably. Samuel gulped as he gawked at her without even realizing it.

She would probably let him have a taste if he asked politely.

Fat chance!

“Samuel!!! What are you looking at?!” Jimmy folded his hands winking at Samuel with a naughty smirk.

“Go away!”

Jimmy scam laughing audibly.

Samuel cleared his throat. As if there was something to clear

“Let’s uhh... Have a seat umm...”

“Adeshola Joel” She smiled as she looked at him with her glimmering hazel colored eyes. Beautiful eyes.

That smile again, and accompanied with her beautiful eyes.

Samuel motioned her to the sitting room

“I am Samuel Akande. Please have a sit”

“Thank you” She sat on the white leather chair. Mrs. Akande must really love white huh?

The material was so thick, yet so soft and comfortable to sit on. Her skirt slid up a little, revealing a portion of her thighs. Samuel’s gaze instantly caught it as her thick thighs pressed against the chair. He was probably lucky that his mum decided to send the chauffeur to him or he wouldn’t have met this sumptuous thing. What a journey it had been so far.

I should probably control myself before I begin to get turgid and uncomfortable in my pants.

“Oya! Let’s be going brother Sammy before you will embarrass me now” Jimmy grabbed and yanked at Samuel’s hand.

“Sister I have told mummy to bring something for you to cover your...” Jimmy pointed at her chest.

“Ahh!” Her voice was a high pitch. Her panic underscored by the widening of her eyes and her hands all over her chest. Curse her love for laced bra. She probably wouldn't wear them again after this incident.

“I couldn't find anything that would fit you except for Samuel's old shirt that he wore eight years back. Here, try it on”

“Jimmy told me about your little problem” Mrs. Akande giggled holding her lips as she handed the shirt over with a towel.

“Thank you ma”

“The guest room is upstairs. Around the corner, you can't miss it” Mrs. Akande pointed at the stairway.

Woo! That was pretty refreshing.

Shola closed the shower and dried herself with the towel Mrs. Akande gave her, after stepping out of the bathtub. She grabbed her skirt from the hanger in the bathroom and put it back on. Thank God this didn't get soaked up too.

“Tsk! I think I left the shirt in the bedroom.” She grabbed the knob of the door about to open it.

“Oi my friend!” That is Samuel's voice!

Who was he talking to? Most importantly, what was he doing in that room? She quickly closed the door, stepping back a little. Isn't this meant to be the guest room? Or did she make a mistake and entered Samuel's room? No! Samuel had probably forgotten, he will soon realise and leave.

“...you got that right mate! Not a single thing changed. My room looks exactly the same. They even left my shirt of eight years back on the bed.”

Bam!

“Oh no! I am finished!” She let out a quiet mumble, laced with tension.

What would she do now? There was no telling when Samuel was going to leave the room. Or what if he took the shirt out with him?

Okay, worse case scenario I will just put on my blouse again.

Where was her blouse?! She buried her hands in her hair like a person about to lose her mind, realising she dropped it somewhere in the bedroom. Now her heart raced even faster than before. If Samuel saw the blouse then he would suddenly know she was there somewhere, and it would be even more embarrassing for her.

How can I be so careless!

She covered her face with her palms, hoping he won't see her blouse. She peeped and saw he was on the phone.

Probably talking to one of his white friends. At least things couldn't get any worse than this.

You wish!

"...nothing much really. Just about placing my things in the bathroom and heading down for dinner. Mum is cooking my favorite pounded yam and egusi soup!"

She quickly tied the towel around her and slid back into the bathtub, sliding the curtains close. Hoping he wouldn't come in there too, like hoping worked for her before.

"You wouldn't believe what I saw today man! The finest thing to have ever graced the surface of the earth." Okay that made her blush a little, but couldn't relief her situation one bit.

Samuel walked into the bathroom and arranged a couple of things he brought with him. He stood at the mirror as he spoke to his friend.

"Na! Amy was a mistake that was meant to happen. I learned from it. But there is a different vibe to this girl. And damn you had to see her laps and her boobs. I mean, even if nothing happens between us, I hope I get to tap those buttocks at least once."

What?! What a perv! She sat there boiling in the bathtub.

"Aiit mate I have got to go." Samuel cut the call on his way out of the bathroom.

"It's warm in here. Like someone just bathed in here." He said in soliloquy, pausing at the door.

On hearing that, Shola's shoulders lifted, tension evident. He was probably going to check if there was someone in his bathtub.

"Brother Sammy! Mummy said you should come and eat." Jimmy the savior.

"Oh okay. I will be down in a minute" Seriously?!

“No! Come now!” Jimmy pulled Samuel out of the room.

Phew! What a relief. She quickly put on her wet blouse and rushed downstairs.

“Shola come and... Kilode? What is wrong? You did not wear the shirt again?” Mrs. Akande stopped serving her plate of pounded yam.

“I really appreciate your hospitality, but I have to leave now.” She began to pace towards the door.

“Wait! My daughter what is the problem? The shirt didn’t fit you ni?”

She paused, trying to be polite to Mrs. Akande,

“No Ma it didn’t fit me.”

“But it looked like a perfect match.”

“Yes I thought the same too, but at times looks can be very deceiving.” She glared at Samuel

Mrs. Akande threw looks between Samuel and Shola, unsure of what was happening. Samuel recognised her glare to be a mixture of anger and disappointment. But what did he do?

“I have to go Mrs. Akande. Thank you for your care. Goodnight.” She walked out.

“Samuel! What did you do to her?!” Mrs. Akande immediately turned her attention to him

“Wahala ti dé!” Jimmy mumbled almost inaudibly. There sure was trouble.

“Nothing oo. I just went up to arrange my stuff ni and came back. I didn’t even see her at all.”

“You better had not done anything to her!”

“Mummy wallahi I didn’t do anything to her” He pointed up while shaking his head in emphasis. His emotional state instantly brought out the Nigerian in him.

The whole incident was immediately forgotten the next morning. Samuel woke up to a note from his mum.

“I prepared your breakfast before leaving for work. I know it’s a Saturday, but there are many important things for me to attend to before Monday. I Don’t know what time you will see this but if Jimmy is gone before you wake up, then he has gone for football practice. Be sure to pick him up by 1:00pm. The place is opposite your former

secondary school, hope you still remember. Be sure to take an umbrella, it's been raining a lot lately. We will spend time together with the lord tomorrow. P.S. check the garage. Love you”

He dropped the note on his bed as he stood to take a shower.

With the lord huh?

How does he tell her he no longer believed in a creator? He probably wouldn't. Couldn't afford to ruin the thoughts of his little bro, he would never forgive himself.

Guess I am keeping it to myself after all. He took a quick shower and checked the time.

“Twelve?! Man I really slept.” Never mind breakfast. Having to see Jimmy play ball was more important to him. He quickly made his way to the garage. To a great surprise, his mum had worked on his power bike. Turned that old junk into something sweet. Paint job, new engine, silencer and a dope ass pair of tires.

“Sweet! Love you too mum”

He opened the garage and looked outside.

“Doesn't look like it will rain anytime soon.” He grabbed the keys and mounted that baby. Off to football practice!

This place is really cool. But where is everybody? Samuel walked into the field looking around. He didn't see even a fly pass by. Then suddenly he heard two kids. Sounded like they were fighting.

“Hey!” He shouted with his deep masculine voice, running towards the kids.

Jimmy was fighting another boy. Did Mrs. Akande ever spank this kid? I bet she didn't.

You should know better than this Jimmy. He grabbed the two kids, separating them.

“What is wrong with you?” Throwing looks at them. More at Jimmy.

“Uncle he is the one that looked for my trouble.” The other kid pointed at Jimmy with his brows all wrinkled up out of anger

“It's a lie oo. He is the one that started it...”

“Hey! Hey! It's okay! It doesn't matter who started it. Fights are dangerous. Don't fight again!” Samuel eased the tension, holding their shoulders.

“Who is coming to get you lad?”

“My name is Emmanuel not lad, and my mummy will come” What a sweet mouth.

“Well they better come soon 'cause it's about to rain.” He looked up to the sky.

The clouds looked pretty heavy already. What kind of instructor leaves the kids unprotected? I can't leave him here.

“Okay let's go sit on the bench and wait for your mum to come”

After a few minutes of sitting, it began to drizzle. They confined themselves in the little shelter above the benches.

“I guess we will wait for the rain. If by then they aren't here, I will take you home myself okay?” The little boy nodded his head with a smile.

The rain didn't look like it was getting any better. Pouring down continuously. The wind carried around the cold. Jimmy of course would love that. There was someone under the rain, holding an umbrella. A feminine structure. Probably Emmanuel's mum.

“Emmanuel!!”

That voice. Samuel strained his eyes trying to see who it was.

“Aunty Shola!” Emmanuel ran under the rain to his aunt

“Where is mummy?”

“She couldn't come. Let's get out of the rain first.” She held his hand but he resisted.

“Don't leave my friends, they waited for me.” He pointed back at Samuel and Jimmy

Great! It's that cad again. If it weren't for Jimmy, she would have probably left Samuel there. She waved her hand at them to come. Samuel carried Jimmy and ran out to them as they all rushed into Shola's car. A/C tight. It was a new model car. Aren't those meant to be like, expensive? Probably not for Shola.

“Thanks for helping us”

“Didn't you come with a vehicle?” Shola had no interest in being formal with him anymore.

“A bike.”

“Who drives a bike around, wearing a tank top in this season” She was being sassy.

“Wait up! What is wrong with you?” Samuel flared up.

“What is wrong with me?!”

“Yah! Last night you suddenly went from this amazing las to something else. And now this?!”

“Oh!!! Okay you think your fancy little British accent will shake me. Well you are mistaken mister buttocks tapper!”

With a sudden glare, Samuel immediately knew what she was talking about.

“You were the one in the bathtub.” He said under his breath.

“Yes...” Feeling a little shame.

Samuel suddenly felt ashamed too. If he wasn't a very dark skinned person, his face would have been as red as Shola's painted lips as he blushed out of embarrassment. There was an instant ambiance in the car. Shola looked out through her window, feeling frustrated while Samuel could only look down at his feet.

He knew he had to apologize anyways, “I am sorry”

“Hmm, classic.” Shola sassed

“Really. What I did was inexcusably wrong. I really just want to know you.”

Shola stayed quiet

“I was trying to blend in. That's not really who I am.”

“You shouldn't change yourself for another. You were brought up differently. Think about your background.” Shola finally responded, looking at his irresistible puppy dog eyes.

“Be the Samuel that would forget the world the moment he sees his little brother after eight years. The Samuel that doesn't leave another kid all alone under the rain without protection. Be that guy. Not Samuel for the peeps!”

“Thank you for not leaving Emmanuel behind.” A slight smile drew across her face.

What a goddess, Shola was born kind and caring. Nothing pleased her more than to see people happy. And she sensed something similar in Samuel, which drew her to him even more. So much more that she could easily forgive him.

“Do I get a do over?”

“Sure!”

“Grrrr!” Samuel’s stomach growled. He hadn’t eaten all day.

Shola noticed and reached out for her portable cooler.

“This was meant for work, but I guess I wouldn’t be going today anymore.” She handed it over to Samuel.

“Thanks.” He reached out for the cooler.

His fingers brushed hers and there was that sudden spark of electricity again that went down her loin, making her feet feel so light. Luckily, she was sitting.

She stared at him as he dug into the meal. What was she thinking? She couldn’t have possibly stayed away from him for good. They would have eventually met again one way or another, and she couldn’t possibly resist his charming looks. She knew it. Those well built arms and chest under that tank top. Neatly shaved beards complimented with a very thick manly voice. And his touch. There was just something about it that she couldn’t ignore. He wasn’t like other men she had met before.

“Hmm. What were you doing in my bathtub anyways?” Samuel mocked.

“Hey!” she slapped his arms as they all laughed in the car, having fun waiting for the rain to stop.

•
•
•

CHAPTER THREE

Woo!!! What a day it had been. Shola walked out of the bathroom. She needed a hot bath after all.

Who wouldn’t?

She had spent a large portion of her day sitting in an air conditioned car, waiting for the rain to stop.

No matter how much they turned the heat up, it was never enough to compete with mother nature’s cool. Sitting there almost all day must have cost her a lot.

I just hope I can cover up today’s work after so much lost time.

But it was probably worth it, having to spend so much time with Samuel. She sat on her bed as thoughts of the time they had spent together caused a smile to anchor along her lips. She fell back into her bed with her arms wide spread. Her white towel loosened up,

leaving her sexy body scantily clad, but she didn't care. She was all alone in her bedroom after all.

"Ah" she sighed

Was she falling for Samuel already?

Oh such luscious lips he has.

She could stare at them all day, and maybe all night too. After all, she so much enjoyed watching him talk all through the time they spent in her car that she didn't even notice when it had stopped raining.

Curse Jimmy for bringing that to their notice!

And then his arms. Oh God! The way his muscle had flexed every time he raised his hand to emphasize a point. She would have probably held them to see how it felt, if she wasn't so shy.

"Ping!" her phone rung

It was a message from Samuel "Hello bathtub invader"

Shola chuckled without sending a response.

The same ringing sound again. One could easily guess who it was.

"Playing the silence game are we? What do I do to get you talking?" with a thinking emoji attached

Shola read again but was still playing hard to get.

"Hmm... typical feminine response. Silence!" he texted again.

"Hey! That is so wro..." Shola stopped typing, giving no response again.

"I almost got you to reply there. I guess provoking you is the key. I have just the thing" he sent with a winking emoji

A few seconds later, he sent a picture that Jimmy took, of her picking her nose in the car.

"Mining now are we? Sure hope you found some gold in there!"

That definitely would get her to respond. "Okay that's embarrassing. Lol"

“There we go.”

“I thought it was the guest room” she replied to his earlier text justifying her being in his bathroom. Not that she needed to.

“Can I ask you a question?”

“If answering doesn’t put me in trouble. Sure!”

She took a deep breath and typed “Who is Amy?”

“Hmm...” a silence that had a thousand meanings

“I am sorry, I shouldn’t have asked something so personal so soon” she deleted her previous message

“Church tomorrow. Then I will tell you everything”

“And she blushed” he added.

Like hell she did!

Shola couldn’t hide her excitement to see Samuel again, even if it meant going to church which she normally didn’t. She was Christian, but wasn’t the strongest around.

Enough of the chat. She dropped her phone and began to get dressed up. Her casual dress code at home, a very comfortable baggy jogger and a slim fitted round neck made of pure cotton. Most times, she never put on a bra when at home, didn’t matter if there was a visitor or not. Shola loved her comfort and didn’t care what people thought. She only dressed like a proper woman when going out simply to respect her father’s wishes.

Being the only born child in the family and with her mother’s tragic death during labour, Shola was brought up by her father. She didn’t really have any friends growing up except for one person, Seun. Seun was the son of her father’s late friend, they more or less considered themselves siblings and did a lot of things together whenever he came around.

“Ko! Ko! Ko!” there was a sudden knock on her door.

“Come in!” Shola put on her shirt

“Good evening Ma. Oga said you should come down for dinner” a young pretty lady walked into her room. She had a smile so friendly as a viper.

“Jumie I am so sorry I couldn’t help in the kitchen today” even though Shola was always busy, she always made out time to spend with Jumoke in the kitchen. It became so much of a norm to her that she had probably begun to get obliged.

“No ma. You even need rest sometimes. I see how hard you work.” Being so considerate. She knew Shola didn’t really need to help her out anyways.

“Please come downstairs” she gave off a gentle smile before she left.

Shola rushed downstairs to the dining room.

Overly eager to spend time with her dad, Mr. Ayomide Joel. They never got so much time to spend together as a family because they were both always busy.

Mr. Joel was a very big and powerful business man in Lagos, probably one of the richest men in the town but wasn’t lavish. He founded the company “Shine” a soap producing company which sold millions yearly, generating a huge amount of revenue. He also owned numerous real estate around the country; hotels, estates, even down to hostels for students in their various schools. He owned shares in many other companies around, including the company Shola worked for.

Not that he helped her get a job there though.

Mr. Joel was a very busy and wealthy man. No wonder Shola could afford to drive the newest model of any car she wanted.

They only really got time to spend together during weekends at dinner and Shola always made sure she couldn’t miss it. Due to his religious nature, he’d invite her a couple of times to join him at church on Sundays but Shola wasn’t the most religious person around even though she followed him few times. After he had forced her of course.

“Daddy o!” Shola walked into the dining room to her dad who waited patiently for her.

“My little champ.” Mr. Joel was always so proud of his daughter.

She gave him a kiss on the cheek “Good evening sir” still being formal

“How are you my girl?”

“I am very good!!!”

“I see you are exceedingly happy today. Your smiles reminds me of your mum every time she saw me”

“So why don’t you tell me about it Shola” Mr. Joel investigated.

Uh-oh Shola couldn't possibly tell her dad why she was so happy. At least not yet.

"About what sir?" she chose denial

"What is making you so happy ma?" her father put on a knowing smirk.

"uhh... I umm..."

"Ding dong!!!" it was the door bell!

"I will get it!" Shola quickly made her escape.

Phew! Saved by the bell.

Shola opened the door but there was no one behind it.

I could have sworn I heard the bell ring. She stepped out a little, scanning to see if there was anyone around

"And now I am hearing things" she whispered as she turned to go back in.

"ah!" suddenly, someone grabbed her hand pulling her close.

"Boo!"

"Seun! I have told you I don't like frights" Shola complained, pulling herself out of his grip.

"Ha!Ha!Ha! Alright sorry" he apologized

"What are you doing here self?! Be going" Shola folded her hands and looked away

"Oh okay. Bye!"

"Come joor! Shey you don't know play again?" holding his hand

"Why don't you welcome me properly then" Seun spread his arms for a hug.

Shola responded with a very tight hug, making herself comfortable in his arms.

Remember Shola's best friend Seun? Yes, that guy. Adio Oluwaseun, the only guy Shola had ever really trusted in her entire life. Being childhood friends and more or less growing up together, they knew absolutely everything about each other and really loved spending time together. Apart from being just friends, Seun always protected her and took very good care of her when needed.

Due to how safe and free she felt with him, Shola eventually accepted to date him after he had asked about a thousand times. It seemed to be a very beautiful union at first, but didn't end so well. Seun wanted more from their relationship than just goodbye kisses and hugs, he wanted sex. Shola on the other hand didn't feel like she was ready for that at the time. He continually mounted much pressure on her which soon made Shola shy away from the relationship and broke up with him.

He went on to date another person which really disappointed Shola. Nevertheless, she didn't allow it ruin her friendship with him.

"That's much better. Let's go in"

"Yh. Come join us for dinner" Shola welcomed him into the house

"Good evening sir" Seun prostrated to Mr. Joel

"My boy! How are you?"

"Fine thank you sir"

"I hope you are taking good care of your family and business" Ever since Seun's father died, Seun was left in charge of his father's business.

He took care of his mother and other siblings while coping to run his father's business. With some help from Mr. Joel of course.

"Everything is fine sir" unleashing a wide grin

"That's good. Join us!" Mr. Joel pointed to a dining chair next to him.

"Thank you" Seun sat comfortably

While Mr. Joel and Seun were busy discussing business and other related stuff, Shola was a little preoccupied with her phone.

"I wish you could invite me for dinner" Samuel teased

"It isn't pounded yam and egusi soup" Shola mocked

"Wow! How much of our conversation did you hear?"

"Pretty much everything" she replied with an emoji sticking out its tongue.

"Great! Now we will have to set assault against you"

"You and what army?" Shola jeered

He sent a picture of his biceps fully flexed

“Me and this army” with a smirking emoji. Like he knew she fell for it already.

Which girl doesn't?

Shola blushed and responded

“Not enough” biting a side of her lower lip in anticipation to see what he was going to send next.

His abs? his thick chest? Or everything... Oh how she wished he would send it all. Her breathing got a little faster and her heartbeat warmer. He had read the message but wasn't typing a response.

He went offline! Could this mean he wants to snap the picture? The suspense was killing her. She hadn't even taken a taste of the delicious porridge that Jumoke had prepared.

He is back online! Yes!

“I have never seen you this caught up with your phone before” Seun interrupted her little chat.

“Oh!” she jerked

“It's umm... I... am... watching cat videos” terrible recovery

“I never knew you liked cats” Seun puckered his brow in suspicion.

“What do you know?!” Shola stuck with denial taking a sip of the porridge

“You were too busy with your little girlfriend to have noticed” offensive is better than defensive she has learnt all through her life.

“Ping!” her phone went again.

There was a sudden silence in the dining room as both Mr. Joel and Seun stared at Shola to see when she would respond to the notification. She could almost feel their eye balls pocking her forehead but continued eating her meal like nothing happened.

“So! Seun how is your girlfriend?” she flustered, trying to divert the attention from herself

“My ex you mean. We broke up a long time ago”

“Oh... sorry to hear.”

“Umm... thank you very much for the meal Mr. Joel. I have to head home now” Seun stood with his hands held behind him.

“One more thing Seun. Why don’t you take Shola with you to visit your site tomorrow morning. I mean, since she probably won’t go to church anyways” Mr. Joel was very fond of the two being together.

“That would be...” Shola interrupted before Seun could show his interest

“No!”

“I uhh... who said I am not going to church?! I will go”

There was a crease between Seun’s brows. He knew Shola too well. She had not been herself all night. He knew she was definitely hiding something.

“It’s fine. We can meet for lunch later on. Right?”

“Sure!”

“Cool. Uh... Mr. Joel, I will be off now” Seun strode away from the dining table. He was tall and burly, with a very fluid movement.

Shola knew she hadn’t behaved like she normally would. Seun would probably be mad at her. She wanted to apologize but couldn’t. What was wrong with her? Why was she suddenly ready to sacrifice anything for Samuel.

“Shola” her father tried to talk to her

“Daddy I am sorry. Goodnight” she flustered, running up to her bedroom.

Mr. Joel’s eyes fluttered out of confusion. What is wrong with this girl tonight?

She jumped in her bed trying to force herself to sleep. She felt a little ashamed and a little confused too. She just wanted to sleep now. At least that would help her pass time, enough for her to forget the uncomfortable night.

She tossed

She turned

She lay on her back, her side, her stomach

It was useless. Thoughts of Samuel overwhelmed her.

Oh no! I haven’t responded his chat!

She unlocked her phone to a picture of Samuel shirtless. Chills all over her body as she fell deeper into his abyss of emotional games.

Oh! Surely I will sleep now. She pressed her phone against her chest with the picture still in display, and closed her eyes to give herself one more shot at sleep.

CHAPTER FOUR

Mrs. Akande and Jimmy seeped out of her mini van on their arrival to church. She was greeted by some of her friends at church and other members of the church. She was well known as one of the most devout members of that church and even though her popularity had it's many privileges, she wasn't at the luxury of keeping her life completely private. Almost everyone she knew at church heard about her son's arrival from the UK and were all very eager to see him.

"Bunmi!!!" Mrs. Akande's oldest friend came hugging her.

"Esther my friend!" The two friends hugged tight.

"I don't see Samuel anywhere." Esther scaled the area with her eagle eyes.

"He woke up a little late. He will be here soon. Let's go inside." She held on to Jimmy's hand as they started making their way into the church

"Aunty Shola!!" Jimmy pulled himself from his mother's grip and ran towards a just arriving Shola.

He jumped at her and Shola in return carried him up.

"How are you? And I hope you aren't too cold from yesterday?"

"What a surprise!" Mrs. Akande walked up before Jimmy could even reply

"Good morning Ma!" She knelt down in respect for Mrs. Akande

"You are blessed dear." Mrs. Akande patted her on her shoulder with a very bright smile

"Come let's go in." Waving a path for Shola.

Shola took a quick scan with her eyes to see if Samuel was around. She couldn't ask Mrs. Akande. She will know that's why I came.

"Psst!!" Jimmy gave Shola a nudge. He made a gesture with his head which was unmistakably pointing out a direction.

Shola understood and looked. It was Samuel riding in with his bike.

Tank top again! Even to church?!

Shola shook her head.

It was a very heartfelt and beautiful service. Shola definitely felt a bit closer to God that morning.

I should probably do this more often.

She had thought that about a million times in the past.

Mrs. Akande introduced Samuel to all her friends and they all recognised him to be a young handsome man. Some even teased to get him married to their daughters. If Shola had nothing to say about it of course.

The duo had finally seen each other. Samuel couldn't control his gaze as he stared so carelessly at her. In that well slim black dress that displayed her full body structure as it seamlessly formed perfect curves, there was no man that could resist – especially Samuel. The tight corset of her dress clearly emphasized the size of her breast.

Was this payback for teasing her last night?

Probably!

Well now was not the time to think about that, he had to focus on getting Shola away from his mum without her being suspicious of he and Shola. Luckily, he was a genius at making up schemes. And a very observant one too.

“Shola... I don't see your car anywhere. How did you get here?” He winked at Shola to play along

Mrs. Akande reacted to Samuel's question “Yes Shola. Most importantly, how will you go back?”

“No it's fine Ma, I will probably just hire a taxi.” Trying to be casual.

“No it's not. Why don't I take you home. Since mother won't be leaving soon.” Playing on his mother's innocence.

Of course Shola would love to ride with him on his bike. A huge opportunity to hold on to his huge and broad shoulders. And maybe even tease him a little by giving his back a feel of her succulous chest.

“I don't think that's necessary.” Playing along

“Please Shola. It’s the least we could do after how you helped me the other day.” Exactly what they wanted. It had to come from Mrs. Akande herself for them to be free of suspicion.

What a genius you are Samuel.

There was no limit to how cocky he could get.

“Okay if you insist then.” A faint smile drew on her face as she tried so hard to hide her excitement from Mrs. Akande.

Even though Shola and Samuel might have felt a thing or two for each other, their relationship was still nothing more than a friendship. Shola planned on keeping it that way and would do anything to prevent Mrs. Akande from knowing about them. Mrs. Akande having the wrong idea about them was the last thing she needed at the moment.

“Samuel don’t speed oo. Be careful!” A stern look at him and a strong demeanor was enough to emphasize Mrs. Akande’s point.

Before Samuel had traveled to the UK for studies, he had crashed his bike a couple of times which all lead to some minor injuries and hospital bills. The bills weren’t the issue this time, Mrs. Akande wouldn’t want him putting Shola’s life in danger.

“Where to?” Shola asked, mounting the bike. Apart from their hand shake this was the first real contact she had with him as she placed her hands on his shoulders.

Samuel grabbed her hands and locked them around his waist “Do you have a death wish or something?”

This is even closer! She slightly slipped her hand higher to his belly, feeling the tightness of it. With every feel sending a wave of fire through her core low in her belly. Now she had the perfect excuse to lean on him and hold him. Absorbing every bit of his essence. She loved it.

“Besides mother said to take you home. That’s what I am doing?”

“Okay... wait! What?!!!” she jerked.

“Ha! Ha! Ha! Just kidding. Wait and see.” Samuel turned on the engine and made a large roaring sound before he zoomed off.

For the first time in days, it didn’t seem like it was going to rain. The whether was so clear and bright. Shola and Samuel rode endlessly under the bright sunshine. The sun was hot, but was nothing compared to the heat between these two.

Samuel could feel Shola's soft breasts as she leaned on him. He liked it, he should probably try to take her to a hotel for the rest of the day and skip their little date. His brain casted a "no" vote even though there was another part of his anatomy that eagerly voted "yes". Despite the thought being tempting, he couldn't. He had promised himself to behave. He was completely drawn to her and wanted to make a better impression than the last, even though he could feel Shola taking every opportunity to rub his abs. He knew she loved them.

He isn't even moving a muscle. A part of Shola wanted Samuel to take part in her naughty little game. Being this close to him made her weak, vulnerable. She couldn't control herself and had to put herself in the driving seat. But how? If she wasn't careful she might find herself naked, locked in between his thighs before evening. Which she didn't want, at least not yet. But she always found herself trembling whenever she was around him.

I hope he hasn't noticed my racing heart. Of course he had

Good thing she is behind me. The warmth from her hardened nipples and her racing heart gave Samuel a strong hint of her quiver. The excitement had begun to cause his little Sammy to begin to beg for space down there. No wonder he was happy she could only see his back.

"The beach?" Shola threw him a curious look

"Who comes to the beach on a Sunday?"

"That's the point. Come with me" They stamped their feet in the sand as Samuel motioned her closer to the water.

"You asked about Amy?" A part of his life he swore to forget. He stared far into the ocean but in the corner of his eyes could see Shola looking up at him. She probably wondered what the beach had to do with Amy.

He sat there with his hands locked around his legs as he continued his stare, far into the ocean. The breeze blew aggressively in their faces.

"She is the first girl I ever fell in love with. We met on the beach on one beautiful morning. There was no one there and I met her crying. She just experienced a terrible break up and I tried to console her. A couple of weeks later we got even closer and I fell in love. I asked her out and that's where it all started..."

Shola's gaze remained at him, paying close attention to every word he spat. He spoke for a long period of time and Shola remained obsequious all the while.

"...it was so fun and exciting until her ex came back for her. Without a second thought she threw me away like a piece of junk. Ever since then I stayed away from beaches so

I never have memories of her again.” His eyes were a little itchy as he narrated. He would have touched them but if he did it might provoke his tears to roll out.

Shola could see the pain in his eyes. There was no hiding it no matter how hard he tried. It made her feel for him.

“If memories of her made you stay from beaches, why don’t we create new ones here and now.” She mused, intending to help him forget Amy for good.

She hauled him off the sandy ground looking at him with a very determined smile on her face. She had just met him but something in her wanted him too bad. Won't he think of her as needy? She didn't really care about that. If he will ever become hers, there was no better time to start that campaign.

“What are you doing?” He watched as Shola ran to the ocean. She stood just at the edge, where the wave would push the water up to her legs. Spinning and twirling, she danced flinging her hands in all directions.

I have never seen a girl this carefree. Samuel ran to join her.

Like children, they played in the beach. Splashing the water at each other by stumping their feet in it whenever it flowed to them.

Samuel watched her at times as she would carelessly spin around. Her dress lifting up in the spin revealing her panties a little. But he would not think about it. He wasn't going to be that guy, he was beginning to love her so much so suddenly and didn't want to ruin it. He knew she was sexually drawn to him as much as he was to her but wanted to focus on building a relationship far stronger than sex. He wanted love.

He had never felt like this in his entire life. For the first time, a ladies physical features wasn't all that mattered to him. He became curious to see other qualities in her. He had already seen how playful and carefree she could be and it drew him even more to her.

Is this the feeling of love? He shamelessly gawked at her laughing and spinning around like nothing else in the world mattered. She was beautiful. The moment was beautiful. This is perfect. He was certainly going to forget all about Amy after this.

“My dress is all muddy because of you!” Shola mocked Samuel as they walked away from the ocean

“The way you played today... you don't do this very often, do you?” He made a curious remark.

She slapped her hands together, dusting off the sand;

“Hmm... I don't. I spend most of my time focusing on developing myself as a person and trying to build a perfect relationship with my father.” It was probably why she didn't have much friends and worked late. Driving expensive cars and wearing beautiful jewelry all the time were all to prevent people from seeing how lonely she was. Nobody would get to know her too well and be able to see through her and how lonely she was. At least she could pretend to others what an interesting life she had.

“So am I the first person you ever got this close to?” he turned to face her.

She locked eyes with him “uhh... I once...”

“Coming through!” A random man ran bumping into Shola, who hit Samuel as they fell to the ground.

They both layed on the ground, Shola lying on top of Samuel with her palms on his thick chest. They felt soft, yet strong. Her face began to show signs of ecstasy, her breathing gradually became slow and huffed. She shifted her body, climbing him properly and rested her pliable little body on him. She looked into his eyes as her lips slowly separated.

“Hold me.” She breathed out raising his hand to her thigh and the other to her waist.

“Shola...” Samuel knew she wasn't ready for this

The sun was very hot, but at this rate the sun couldn't even compete with the heat between these two.

“Why won't you touch me?” she eagerly asked

“Shola...”

“Touch me.” She cut him short.

He pulled her knee higher to his waist and brushed her thigh, up to her lower back and squeezed their softness.

“Don't do this.” He said under his breath trying to stop her but she made it hard for him as she leaned even more on him. Pressing her huge chest against his and perched her luscious lips on his.

Shola was totally lost, completely immersed in her attraction for him. And for the first time this quintessential prude found herself trembling in the arms of a man. For someone so disciplined, this was a complete change and she had to stop herself before things got out of hand. Or something had to.

A loud humming sound that came with a continuous vibration alerted Shola of a call on her phone. She jerked off Samuel in reaction to the call.

“Oh my God! What am I doing?” she covered her face with her palm in shame.

“I am so sorry Samuel. I should be going home.” She stormed off

“Shola wai...”

What was meant to be the perfect first date ended in an embarrassing fashion. Samuel could go home this time with his conscience clear but that was the least of his worries. He worried about how Shola would react to what happened. He hoped she wouldn't hurt herself mentally because of one mistake. He sent her several text that were left unread, calls that were not picked and a couple of voice mails that were not responded. All he wanted was for her to be fine that's all.

“Where is this girl?!!” Seun barked. Sitting all alone in a restaurant that he had booked for he and Shola.

He had texted her several times in hope that she would see them and remember their lunch.

I even texted her the address this morning. He sat there fuming and releasing several sighs of anger.

I should call her. He picked up his phone to call her. The phone rung but she didn't pick.

She was probably away from her phone. He called her a few minutes later but this time she declined it.

“I knew there was something off with her. First, dinner yesterday and now this! I will have to find out what is up with her.” He flared his eyes out of rage. Then with a huff he snatched his keys from the table and strode out of the restaurant.

CHAPTER FIVE

There was a short fine roar that came from the car engine just before it was switched off. Shola stepped out of her slick Mercedes as she just arrived home. The sitting room was neat and well organised. It was quiet, too quiet, but the clicking sounds of her high heels were loud enough to break the silence of the sitting room.

"Jumie." Her beautiful high pitched voice run across the house.

"Jumie?!" she called again. Her voice echoed, bouncing off the walls, begging for a response. There was none.

She wondered where her dad or Jumie could have gone. The house was usually empty but never this much.

"Oh." She remembered. Daddy had already left for Abuja for a meeting.

Mr. Joel was extremely busy and only managed to make up time for his daughter every once in a while. At the beginning of every month, he would take a routine check on all his investments. Even though he had people in charge of that, he always made sure he did some himself just to be sure.

Once again it was just her at home, lonely, again. She was reminded of her emptiness. Jumie might have been able to help her forget. But where was she?

Should she call Samuel?

Not a chance.

After bailing out on him and not talking to him for so long, Samuel probably wouldn't want anything to do with her again. She only had work now to keep her company. She pulled out her tab on her way up to her room.

Sitting in her room, she had her back crooked, eyes stuck to her computer and ready to work. After a couple of hours she was beat, her neck sore, fingers in need of rest and her eyes had probably gotten all red. Now she would definitely sleep instantly without any thoughts running through her mind first.

"ahh." A sigh of relief as she laid on her soft bed. Her body sunk deep into the mattress, lying flat on her stomach with her eyes closed. She was tired, still she couldn't sleep. Her soul yearned for something.

What's this feeling?

She turned

She tossed

She rolled

Her shoulder begun to ache after lying on it for too long, forcing her to lie on her stomach again. After all it was her preferred position. Her neck pain morphed into a head ache. Everything was a mess and now sleep wouldn't come. It's been the same thing for two weeks.

There was a sudden sound from the living room.

Who is it?

Before she could get up and check, she felt a weight pressing against her back. She tried to move but was locked between his strong thighs. Her breath became fast but it was weak.

He swept her hair from the back of her neck, licking her neck gently. The feeling was forced but it was pleasant.

Should she struggle?

Her nose flared up as his scent got even clearer to her.

I recognise this scent... is it...?

No she couldn't tell, she was too weak to turn and see who it was either.

His hand rubbed on her back, down to her waist and even lower. Massaging her lower back gently. Not that she needed any massaging, but the sensation was strong and pleasant that she felt a constriction in her genital. He grabbed on to her pant, pulling it down slowly.

"What are you...?" unable to complete as she was more aroused by soft touches his lips laid on her neck.

"oh!" She moaned softly

A soft touch on her clit came afterwards, sending shock waves all over her body, even more to her brain.

The sensation got even stronger and more pleasant as he rubbed more on her clit.

What is this?

It was nice, strong and sticky. A skin to skin touch. This was the first time a man was this close to her.

No don't! She began to feel an input.

Then with a sudden gasp she jerked up "Samuel don't!!"

It was just a dream. Whether it was a good one or not, she couldn't decide. At least she got to sleep even if it was for a few hours. A brief look at the time made her realise she needed to take a quick shower and go to work.

It's been over two weeks since the incident with Samuel but Shola couldn't seem to forget. Talk less forgive herself. She constantly had weird dreams since then - none as extreme as this one. Thoughts of shame drowned her so much that she couldn't even picture herself talking to him.

What would he think of me, a slut?

What if he takes advantage of my weakness?

He won't.

She had all her life been wary of men and how deceitful and dirty they could be. After going so far, it would be terrible if she lost her footing.

Hundreds of droplets of water rained on her as she stood under the shower washing herself. She was going to forget the dream and forget what happened.

It was only about the fourth time she told herself that.

First she had to get to the office quickly if she wasn't to get into any trouble with her bosses.

Shola wasn't the only one running late for work. Mrs. Akande was busy preparing breakfast for Samuel. He hadn't been eating very well for the past two weeks and Mrs. Akande was beginning to get worried, but she had a plan.

Maybe cooking his favorite set of meals everyday will bring back his appetite.

First on the list was breakfast. Standing at Samuel's door, Mrs. Akande knocked, holding his breakfast in her hand.

Unsurprisingly he was awake already "Come in." He called, sitting at his desk reading a book.

"Good morning dear." Mrs. Ankande took gentle steps into the room. "I brought your favorite breakfast." Trying to draw out his excitement.

Her attempt wasn't enough "Thank you ma but I am not hungry." His eyes remained fixed at his book.

"What is the matter Samuel?" She decided to be direct with him. "You have been like this for too long and I am getting worried." She placed her hand on his shoulder to gain his attention

"Nothing is..." His denial was cut short

"Samuel I am your mother." Mrs. Akande sat on the desk "I know something is wrong with you. Tell me." Eager to know.

I can't tell her.

He stuck to denial "Really mom, I am fine." Wearing a fake smile, in attempt to fool his mum.

Mrs. Akande wasn't buying it "Remember what you always did when your dad scolded you?" Bringing up his past

"Mooom!!"

"You'd come up to your room and start reading novels all day." She placed her palm beneath his chin and raised his gaze at her "Do you remember what you said when I asked about it?" She asked wearing a knowing smile.

"I said I did it to forget what happened." Grinding his teeth.

Getting of the desk, Mrs. Akande pushed his breakfast towards him "I know something is bothering you and you don't want to talk about it. But you need to know you can talk to me about anything." A gentle smile drew across her face.

She left Samuel to his thoughts, sitting at the desk as she made her way to the door.

After a brief period of acquiescence, Samuel turned his chair around "Mom?" Calling her attention "Thank you."

"You don't need to thank your mom. This is why we are here." Mrs. Akande stood, holding the door knob. "Eat your breakfast. You need it." His mom added just before leaving the room.

For the first time in two weeks, Samuel felt a little relief. Even though he hadn't told his mother anything about what had happened or why he was so down, knowing that he had someone to back him made him feel a little better. For the first time in a while it felt like he knew what to do next.

He drew the food closer to him with a sinister smile, ready to jump into the meal like a pilfering barbarian.

What was I thinking saying no to this?!

"I must say, that was a very good presentation Shola." Mrs. Akande and Shola walked out of the conference room.

"Thank you ma."

"Shola..." Mrs. Akande threw her a curious look "you don't look so good."

"Uh?" Shola exclaimed

Oh no! I have tried so hard to hide it at work, I hope Mrs. Akande doesn't figure.

"Your eyes are like you haven't been sleeping well." Mrs. Akande's curiosity grew even stronger.

Shit! What do I do now?

Shola had to come up with something fast and she knew it "Ummm... Mosquitoes." Lying was never her strongest trait.

With a crease between her brows, Mrs. Akande retorted "Mosquitoes? I don't believe that Shola."

Of course! With how empty her house was, even mosquitoes would be absent.

Shola was never the kind to discuss her problems with anyone, especially not at work. She always tried to stay happy at work and show people her perfect life, she was definitely not ready to tell anyone about what happened between her and Samuel, most especially not Mrs. Akande. This wasn't how Shola wanted Mrs. Akande to know about her and Samuel.

With a sigh of concession Shola decided to tell the truth "Mrs. Akande there is something I need to tell you" She looked up at Mrs. Akande with a deep breath "I and Sa..."

"Mrs. Akande!!!" A call from the general manager cut Shola short.

"I am sorry, I will be back." Mrs. Akande quickly attended to the call, leaving Shola alone.

Phew! Saved.

Shola returned to her desk to continue her work. It was already closing hours, but unlike others at work, Shola was still busy working.

"What is she always working on self?" Some wondered.

As always, she had her eyes fixated at her screen and her right hand wrapped around the mouse. After a few clicks and drags and a couple of sharp movements with her eyes. There was a humming sound from her phone as she received a message but she didn't check, she remained focused on her work.

About an hour passed and it was finally time to relax a little, the cool breeze from the rainy night seeped into her lungs as Shola took gentle breaths. Everyone else had left for their houses except Mrs. Akande who sat adjacent to Shola's table, the usual duo.

Shola leaned her back on the chair, stretching her hands out releasing a loud screeching sound.

"Ahh." She picked up her phone with a sigh of relief. Her eyes dilated as she read the message on her phone "No!!!" She jumped out of her chair and with a sudden burst, started sprinting out without even wearing her shoes.

"Shola what is it?!" Mrs. Akande Stood up worried but got no response. "Ah! Kilode?!" She was left baffled by what occurred.

Despite the heavy rain outside, Shola didn't even think of taking her car. She burst out of the runway of the office, without an umbrella, without her car and even without her shoes. She could have easily been mistaken for a mad woman roaming the rainy night. Details of the message began to reflect in her memory as she run in the rain.

Shola, the moment I saw you there was a certain feeling I had and till now I feel the same thing. I got curious about you and at a point it felt like you were giving me the chance to explore those curiosities. For a brief period I felt joy. No, I felt love, even if it was only for a day. I wish to pursue that feeling, but surely only if you feel likewise. It might seem sudden and ridiculous but I find myself falling for you. Your office should have closed by now. I will wait for you at Café Noir, please lets talk. I will be there for an hour and if you don't come it could only mean one thing. So I will let you be and you will never see or hear from me again.

Shola sprinted desperately to Café Noir hoping to still meet Samuel there. The rain blurred her visibility as heavy drops of water slapped her face and some into her eyes, but she was determined to get to the destination in time.

What did he mean by "you will never see me again"? Surely he wasn't planning to kill himself, was he?

The more Shola thought about it, the more scared she would get. She was scared to see him but she wasn't ready to lose him, especially not in this manner. She got to the shop but was too late, it was already closed. Luckily for her a waitress there was just leaving.

"Excuse me?" Shola rushed up to her "please I am looking for a guy wearing a tank top about..." the lady cut her short

"Yes he left a few minutes ago. He went that way." Pointing down the walk way. Not allowing Shola get too close to her.

"Thank you!" Shola rushed off instantly

"Ahan! Nawa oo." The waitress was left slapping her palms together, perplexed by Shola's state. Another story for her to narrate when she got home, probably.

After a while of running around aimlessly, Shola's search seemed to have finally come to an end. Standing before her was a figure beneath a street lamp. A silhouette looking like that of a man, it just stood there with its head down. Drenched by the rain but careless of the fact. It looked sad, tired and uninterested in anything.

Shola took gentle steps towards it, hoping to see clearly who it was. It was no use.

"Samuel?" Her shivering voice called out. Evidence of the cold

The figure raised its head in response of the call "Shola?" It was Samuel

It's him!

Shola dashed at him, attacking him with a strong embrace and tears gushing out of her eyes "What are you doing, don't you know you will catch a cold" still worried about his health

Samuel squeezed her back, as tears slowly rolled down his eyes too "And you? Where are your shoes?" Placing his chin on her head as her head laid on his chest.

"Samuel I am sorry. I don't know what was wrong with me. I shouldn't have..."

"Shhh... stop." Samuel cut her short, pressing his finger against her lips. "All that matters is that you here with me." He gently stroke her lip with his thumb.

Unable to hold it anymore, Shola asked, "Samuel. Did you mean what you wrote in the message?" Gawking at him, hoping for a positive response.

"Yes! And I don't want to ever be away from you again." Samuel responded, grabbing her waist and pulling her even closer to him. "I love you Shola!"

Her anxiousness suddenly turned into relief and joy. Her blush was so obvious that if she was white, her face would probably have been all red. The dilation of her pupils were more than enough for Samuel to understand how she felt about him even though she was stunned by his response.

He rubbed her cheek with his index finger, holding on to her waist with his other hand. Lowering his gaze to her luscious lips, he could only think of one thing next as his face drew even closer to hers.

Shola could feel her heart racing faster by the second as well as his. The rain poured continually, flooding her eyes with water and reducing her vision. But she didn't need it, she could tell how close he had gotten to her. She knew what he wanted and she wanted it too.

Please kiss me!

Her demeanor begged for it, her lips puckered a little underscoring her hunger for it. And she got it!

Samuel lowered his head and pressed his lips against hers, launching a direct assault without hesitation. Her lips were soft, deliciously soft.

Shola was suddenly hesitant from his aggression, but not for long. He used his tongue to tempt her mouth open. He wanted to taste her, every bit of her, to feel that tongue of hers. And she gave in rather quickly, separating her lips and allowing him to come in, and he didn't hesitate going in greedily. He swept his tongue in, caressing hers. Her lips, her tongue, her taste, all of it was so delicious. A mix of her saliva, sweat and rain all together, he tasted it all. She was sweet, far more than he had expected.

Shola would back down no more, she let loose her tongue, held on to his arms tightly, allowing his masculine body to rub hers. She loved it.

Her soft breasts were crushed against his chest as he run one hand over her body and the other squeezing her cute ass. Instead of her wetness, he felt her body heat on him.

Shola never felt like this before, the squeeze, the kiss, the heat, it was all so sensual that electric flashes sent down her loins caused her to have a constriction for real this time.

The kiss lasted a few seconds before a sudden thunder clap interrupted them. They both smiled at each other, the rain washing them none stop.

"How about we get out of the rain?" Shola suggested

"Yh." Samuel agreed.

The night had ended, they had to head home but they were both happy. And Samuel hoped things would only get better from now.

CHAPTER SIX

"Ding dong!!" Went the doorbell of the Joel family house.

The maid rushed in response to the bell "Good morning sir" She greeted with a smile.
"Mr. Joel is in the living room" Making way for him to enter

"Thank you" the man took a gentle stride into the house.

"Good morning Mr. Joel" he entered the living room with a wide grin.

"Ahh Seun my boy" Mr. Joel was pleased to see him "Have a sit" He requested while the maid brought Seun a glass of water.

"How was your business trip to Abuja sir?" Seun willing to start up a conversation.

"Fine fine." Throwing a grape into his mouth.

Suen dropped the glass on a small table beside his couch after a sip. His demeanor was strange, constantly tapping his finger on the arm rest and wiggling his legs, exuding a strong sense of nervousness.

Strange, I have always known him to be confident.

Mr. Joel was a very discerning man. Noticing Seun's odd behavior, he decided to investigate and know what was on his mind.

He picked the bowl of grapes and passed it on to Seun "So how was lunch with Shola? She didn't tell me about it" Testing him with the topic of Shola.

After knowing Seun for so many years, Mr. Joel knew he would never be hesitant to bring up a topic relating to business. They had done so many business transactions together for Seun to fidget about just another one. So it had to be something else, that's why he picked the next most probable topic to tease Seun's thought out.

"Uh... She couldn't make it sir" puckering his brows as he cleared his throat. "She was probably busy or something" Nope. The only thing she was busy with was ignoring him all day, and he was going to find out why. One way or another.

"And I guess you are here to see her" Making a remark after his accurate observation.

"Yes sir!"

Mr. Joel chuckled "You clearly don't know her routine" Nodding his head with a smile, but not from disappointment.

"Uh... That's not all sir" Seun aimed to quickly recover Mr. Joel's full attention.

"Oh, so what else then"

Seun cleared his throat and adjusted himself properly on the couch. "You see sir, I and Shola have known each other since childhood and she has been my only friend since then"

"Hmm hmm" A little furrow appeared on Mr. Joel's forehead, trying to follow up with Seun.

Seun continued "We are no longer kids anymore, and I think the time has come for us to take our relationship to the next step sir"

Mr. Joel wore a knowing smile as he rubbed his beardless chin. "Seun I have known you since you were a boy, so from the moment we started talking I already guessed why you were here" He caught Seun's liss with a glance. "Of course I would like to have you and Shola enjoy a couples' life, but you see the decision doesn't lie with me. It's Shola"

"I understand sir" even though it wasn't what he wanted to hear

"Good. So you have my support, but still talk to her first."

"Okay sir." Seun agreed, not that he had any choice. "Um... But where...?"

"She is at work" Mr. Joel picked the TV remote from beside him "Let's watch some tv, shall we?"

As one of the most eligible bachelors in town, Seun always got aboslutely whatever he wanted, he didn't even need to try at times. But this time, things were different, Shola was different. After blowing his first shot with her, he would need to work hard to get her this time.

While Seun was on a mission to get himself back into Shola's life, Shola was on an entirely different mission to completely win over Samuels heart. Even though without any attempts Samuel was hers already.

Shola was with Samuel at MaxPax, sitting on his thighs as they held each other and fawned.

MaxPax is a gym that Samuel visited every morning. Being a huge fan of fitness, he always carried out several workout routines to maintain his fitness. Every member of MaxPax was allowed only one visitor when ever they were around, so Samuel took the luxury of inviting Shola over to gym.

"You ever wondered why it rained every time we met?" He stared at Shola's hazel coloured eyes

Shola threw him a puzzled look "It's the raining season and it rains all the time. Its just a coincidence"

Samuel's smile showed he had something else in mind "It's because whenever I am with you I can do anything. I can even make it rain" He kissed her hand, allowing himself to be engulfed by her scent.

"I see" Even her blush was beautiful, reacting to Samuel's flattery.

"Uh huh" he replied tracing her thigh with his hand, slightly going underneath her skirt.

"Stop! Not now" Averting Samuel's virile touches. "And most especially not here!" Shola clipped. If they were alone she would have probably given in and felt how it would be like to have him touch her all over, but sadly they weren't.

Shola was deeply in love with Samuel but she wasn't going to be blinded enough to ignore her principles. If Samuel was to succeed in being intimate with her, it would have to be private.

"Just teasing" he wore a suspicious smile. "I will wait until you are ready" Even though he wished it was sooner. Every part of his being wished for Shola's touch, to learn every part of her body and memorise them in his photographic memory. But he had to be patient.

Shola made an attempt to get off his thighs but he drew her back in, holding her even tighter this time.

"Where to?"

"Remember I have to go to work?" Forcing herself out of his hold and getting up

Samuel tapped his forehead "Come on Shola it's a weekend" he stood to follow her "I can understand my mum being too busy, she is the accounts manager. But you don't need to stress out during weekends"

"But..."

Samuel cut her short with a velvety tone "Hey!" Taking off his shirt and exposing his tantalisingly built body. "Don't you want to watch me work out?" Trying to coax her with his burly body, slowly walking towards her.

"Shut up!" Maxwell came from behind and tapping Samuel on his head "Shola go jare. If you wanted to workout, you for don start since" pulling Samuel away from Shola.

Maxwell was Samuel's friend, they had known each other for a very long time. Ever since their university days and before Samuel travelled out for his masters. He was also the owner of the gym, thus the name.

"Abi!" With a burst of laughter Shola ran out of the gym.

After a flicker she poked her head back into the gym "Psst! Samuel" grabbing his attention. "I love you!" Then continued on to work.

I love you too

Samuel stood there staring until Maxwell yanked at his hand "Thats enough man, lets get to work"

For the first time in a while, the sun shun bright that morning. The weather was almost perfect with a warmth in gentle breeze that flowed around. A new season was coming, and with it came new hope and expectations for Shola. Things were beginning to make sense again as she stood outside the gym leaning on the door, and her hands crossed across her chest.

This is my time!

Apart from Mrs. Akande and Shola, the company was expectedly always empty during the weekends. They both stayed dedicated to their work and constantly got promotions and raises. They slowly became very good friends over time as Shola began to respect Mrs. Akande like a daughter would, her own mother. Even though Shola was still very young, her behavior was mature. As a result, earning Mrs. Akande's full trust and respect.

"Shola I have been meaning to talk to you about something" Mrs. Akande turned her chair to face Shola.

In response, Shola dropped her pen and took off her headset. "Yes ma?" Always ready to listen when ever Mrs. Akande was talking.

"Its about you and Samuel" Mrs. Akande started

Oh no! Has she noticed anything? Damn Samuel!

"I and Samuel?" Shola's expression was a mixture of fear and shock

"Yes" Mrs. Akande leaned on her desk "Samuel told me everything already. To be frank I was really disappointed when I heard" Her look was scary enough to make a six year old cry, but only enough to make Shola's legs shudder.

Samuel you fool! I wanted to tell her myself!

"Please don't be. I..."

"I was Shola!" Her tone became even scarier "He shouldn't have said such things about your behind" referring to the incident that occurred when they first met.

My...

"My behind?" Her thought came out loud, driven with a silent relief

Phew! It wasn't what I thought it was.

"Yes! He told me everything and I apologize on his behalf. His behavior was ill"

Shola crouched at Mrs. Akande's feet and held her palm "You don't need to do that ma" She raised her gaze to Mrs. Akande ready to tell her about she and Samuel's relationship "As a matter of fact I and Samuel have gone past that ma"

"Gone past it? I don't understand"

Shola moved closer, taking a deep breath "The thing is, Samuel and I are..."

Mrs. Akande's phone rung, interrupting Shola "Eh! I have to take this"

Again?

Everytime Shola wanted to tell Mrs. Akande about everything, something always came in the way. It was beginning to feel like destiny didn't want her to tell Mrs. Akande just yet.

No! Shola was going to tell Mrs. Akande anyways. She had to get this off her chest, she couldn't hide it for too long. Besides Mrs. Akande would probably be happy to know someone as prim as Shola was in love with her son.

After the phone call I am definitely going to tell her everything!

If only things always went as planned.

"Shola I have to leave now" Mrs. Akande got off the phone immediately

"What?! Now?"

"Yes I need to meet someone." Mrs. Akande packed all her stuff and shut down her computer. "I won't be coming back today"

"Um... okay"

On getting to the elevator, Mrs. Akande turned around. "On second thoughts, would you love to come?"

"Me?" It was the first time Mrs. Akande would volunteer to take her out.

"Who else Shola?" Mrs. Akande laughed. "But i must warn you, we are meeting at a local restaurant. You might not like their food" Quick to judge Shola.

Little did Mrs. Akande know about Shola. She was a very big fan of locally made food, at times she would give money to Jumie to buy her some Amala and Ewedu stew from the local restaurants near her house.

Wait till we get there. You will see my true colours today!

With a sinister smile, Shola nodded her head in agreement to go "No problem ma!"

Everyone was happy and excited, all getting what they wanted. Everyone but Seun. He couldn't help but think about Shola all day.

How would he get her?

What he would do when he got her.

His thoughts drove wild, he tried so hard before but to no success, this time was going to be different. He would do what ever it took to get her without a second thought. He couldn't wait to get her legs wrapped around his waist and plung himself deeply into her.

But for now he would make do with what he had, his favorite stripper. Regularly visiting her hotel whenever he was hungry for it, and today he was starving.

"I need it bad." He complained, turning her naked body over.

"How bad?" She sounded breathless

"Really bad!" Tapping her soft ass, "And tonight you are going to give me all I want" He added, taking off his shirt in haste.

With a giggle she spread her legs a little more, teasing him to come in quick. "Ready?"

In a second he pulled down his zip and his erection juttet out as soon as he lowered the zipper. He didn't even bother taking his pants off completely. He wouldn't want to bore her while waiting for him.

He knew his cock was big, much larger than any average man. It would take many women a while to accommodate him fully, but he had fucked Temi one time too many and she was more than capable of taking everything he brought her way. Likewise, he was ready to strike her with all that he had without mercy.

Centering himself behind her, he grabbed her hips with both hands, about to plunge himself into her heat when a phone call came in.

"Who is it?!!!" He groaned, checking his phone. "This fool!" Picking the call as he got off the bed.

"Didn't I tell you not to interrupt me tonight?!"

"Sir its very urgent, and its good news"

"Good news?!" He hadn't heard many in a while.

"Yes sir!"

"Then tell me already!" In a hurry to get back in bed

"Your guess was right sir. It's another guy, and we know exactly who it is"

Seun suddenly broke into a wicked laughter "I have got you now."

"What do we do now sir?"

"Follow him and find out everything about him. We will strike at the right time" He wore a sinister smile. "Now let me be. I have an important visitor" He cut the call, returning to his indeed important visitor.

"Now where were we?" He walked up to his whore.

She turned around, lying on her back and spreading her legs wide. Inviting him to come in at will.

"With pleasure!"

CHAPTER SEVEN

After a very long day of fun, Shola and Seun walked out of the movie theater, Shola holding on to his arm and laughing heavily.

"I am so glad you agreed to watch the cartoon."

"Didn't have much of a choice," He said "You refused to watch 'Finally yours'."

Not after what you did last time

"I didn't feel like." More like she didn't want to.

"Is this about what happened before at my house?"

"No. And i don't want to talk about it."

"That was a long time ago Shola!"

Shola walked forward, taking a gentle breath. "Have you noticed it hasn't rained for a while now?"

"Everybody has." Seun replied "Don't change the topic." He added, following her.

"What topic?" Exasperating him even more.

"Shola!" Seun yanked at her arm from behind.

Almost immediately, she pulled back, "Hey!"

"I don't want to talk about it!" She clipped with a stern look.

Seun was always used to being in the driving seat of every situation, controlling things and having them go his own way. The boss, the big man everyone had to pay attention to, everyone but Shola. Because with Shola things were slightly different. With her, he always had to focus on controlling himself rather than the situation if he was to ever get a chance with her.

"Okay," he said "Let's forget it. I am sorry."

Shola smiled. "It's okay. We are friends."

"Yes."

Until I make you mine, of course.

They both continued on to hang around the city mall, window shopping. An activity that Shola loved so much. Even though she could afford almost everything she saw, she didn't fancy purchasing any if she didn't need them.

For a sport that she loved so much, she was initially not herself. Feeling a little uncomfortable as her thought drifted back to what had happened between and Seun in the past.

"I can't believe you would do such a thing Seun" Shola fumed out of Seun's dorm.

"I am sorry babe"

"And all you can think about is my father not finding out?!!" She turned around to him.

"I don't know what came over me, please forgive me Shola." Seun tried to place his palms on her shoulder.

"Take your filthy hands off me!" She quickly shrubbed them off.

"I can't risk anything like this happening again Seun."

Seun's expression was easy to read, "What do you mean?"

"You know what I mean Seun!" She turned her neck, looking over her shoulder.

"We have to break up." Her voice trailed off. It hurt her as much as it hurt Seun because she knew him as the only person she trusted. At least, until he tried to take advantage of her.

"No, no, no, w... we can't end it this like this." Stammering as he held her hand.

"What will your father think about me?"

Still disgusted that Seun wasn't worried about what she thought as much as he worried about her father's thoughts, Shola pulled herself out of his grip and walked off.

"Shola! Shola!" Seun tried to follow before falling to his knee.

"Alright Shola the time is already 'past four' let's go home." Seun snapped Shola out of her thoughts.

"Past four?!!" She jerked,

"What are you thinking about?" Throwing her a curious look.

Drawing out her phone to confirm the time, Shola exclaimed. "Oh no! Jimmy's game."

"Jimmy?" The furrow on Seun's face underscored his confusion "Who is...?"

"Sorry I have to go now!!" She ran off uninterested in hearing out Seun.

"Jimmy?" Seun murmured

Could he be...?

No! He has to be.

"Jimmy you have to get your head into this game now!" A voice yelled, snapping Jimmy out of his thoughts

"Yes Jimmy what are you playing?" Another person said

"Remember. If we don't win, we won't get to play the finals."

"I am sorry" Jimmy replied, shaking off his thoughts.

The first twenty minutes were over and it was almost time for the second half to begin, but neither Samuel nor Shola had arrived.

The referee blew his whistle, signalling both teams to get back on the field. Jimmy's team was already a goal down and needed to get back into the game fast.

"Alright boys, lets go!!" The coach encouraged them "Jimmy please focus we need you." He tapped Jimmy's shoulder.

But how could he? Jimmy had all his hopes that he would see his brother and Shola at the game but neither of them came. He kept scanning through the spectators through out the first half hoping to see them but was disappointed.

Time to forget those no-shows and win this game. Jimmy jogged into the field, taking position. After a few nods of readiness with his teammates and a deep breath, he was ready, until...

"Jimmy!!!" Shola yelled from the stands. "I made it!" A wide grin began to form on her face as she yelled.

She made it! A sudden smile drew on his face. Almost immediately the referee blew the whistle to start the second half. As the piercing sound of the whistle vibrated into Jimmy's ear drums, his brief feeling of euphoria quickly morphed into a more focused and determined feeling. Determined to win!

Ten minutes of the second twenty had ended and the score was level already, a goal that was assisted by Jimmy. Shola who wasn't a fan of football found herself enjoying the game and even tried to get Samuel to come before it ended.

"I thought I was going to see you here."

"I had something important to attend to" he replied her text. "Tell him I will watch the final."

"What if they lose today?"

"I am confident they won't. I have seen Jimmy play and he is good. When he plays well, his team can't lose."

"Okay bye."

Shola returned her gaze back to the game, staring at Jimmy as he controlled the game with his play. The score was still level and the game had five minutes of play time remaining. Surely Samuel didn't know all these facts but he had full trust in his brother.

There is something about you Samuel. You never cease to amaze me. A wide smile anchored across her face, falling even deeper in love with Samuel.

"GOOOAAAALLLL!!!!" A portion of the crowd jumped in celebration.

Who scored? Shola didn't notice, until she saw Jimmy wheeling away in celebration.

"Gooaallll!" She joined the rest of the crowd to celebrate. Jimmy's team had scored, courtesy of another assist by Jimmy.

The game was won for sure now. With only two more minutes to play, Jimmy's team switched to a defensive mode leaving only Jimmy ahead as he was the fastest of all his team mates. His speed would be useful for a counter attack. They waited and wasted the rest of the time with substitutions until the referee blew the final whistle.

There was a huge roaring sound as their fans celebrated their comeback victory. A victory that was very well deserved.

"Well done Jimmy! I had never seen you play before" Shola embraced him with a hug

"Yes, that's why I reserved my magic until you came." Jimmy winked with smugness.

Shola laughed "I trust you did."

She held his hand as they walked out of the field, Jimmy preaching moments of the game that he enjoyed the most.

"But I am upset about one thing."

"What is it?" Shola crouched to meet his height

"Your 'ugly' boyfriend didn't come." He said.

"Oh Jimmy," Shola hugged him "I am very sure he would have loved to come"

"Then why didn't he come?"

"I don't know, but he is your brother. You can talk to him, he will surely explain."

"I would have loved to see him here today though, but your presence is enough." Jimmy wore a cute smile.

"Awww... Thanks Jimmy." She could already feel a blush.

"I know!" A cunning smile began to draw on his face.

"Huh?"

"Yes!" He said. "He is jealous because he couldn't make it to the final during his time!"

Shola burst into laughter "How do you know that?"

"My gut feelings"

"Okay. Whatever you say champ." She chuckled as they continued their stroll back to her car.

"Were you able to get all that I asked for?"

"Yes sir, but how do they help our course?"

"Please just send it all to me and stop asking me foolish questions!" Seun's voice laced with disgust.

"Okay sir."

"We have all the necessary information concerning." Seun stood at the patio talking on the phone. "When the time is right I will give the go"

"But sir Jimmy is not her..."

"I honestly don't know what your problem is!!" Seun curt.

"Will you do as I say or I have to find someone else?!" Seun barked, briefly looking back at the house hoping no one heard his voice.

"Sorry sir. You know say me I just dey follow anything you talk sir."

The man Seun spoke to was just a thug that he sent to do all his dirty work. After completing numerous missions for Seun, he knew by now that Seun didn't tolerate any objections to his ideas.

"Hmm..."

"I will do as you say sir." The man replied

"Good!" Seun said. "Now I want you to gather all the men that you will need before I am ready."

"Yes sir!"

"And listen. I don't want to hear any excuses okay?"

"Yes sir!"

"Good." Seun cut the call.

CHAPTER EIGHT

"This charity event was a success only because of you."

"No. I'd rather not think that." Seun said with a grin.

"You are a good man," said the man. "Caring for all these kids... The world needs more men like you."

"Thank you Mr. Chang." Yes. Thank you for trusting me so blindly.

A hundred charity events weren't enough to wash all of Seun's sins away, talkless one. But all he needed for the world to love him was just one.

A stifled laughter filled his chest as he shook Mr. Chang, probably the most difficult hand shake of his life.

"Uh... I have to take this." Mr. Chang walked away to respond to his call.

Almost simultaneously Seun's phone also rang.

This fool again?

"What do you want?!" Seun snapped

"Sir Jimny is having another football match today."

"And so what?!!" He barked, looking around as he walked to a more isolated location.

"Sir we don't know what to do."

"Don't be stupid!" Seun curt, "Do nothing and wait for my call!" Then he cut the call instantly.

I better think of something before these idiots ruin my plans.

There was a very loud distinct roaring sound from Samuel's bike as he rode into the school's compound with Jimmy sitting at his back. Samuel was wowed by the number of people he saw, all through his highschool days he never saw his old school this full.

Canopies, bake sales, lemonade stands and many more, it was all there. Afterall, this was the first time their school ever hosted a Schools' Golden Cup (SGC) final, and to make it even better, they were in the final.

"Wow!"

"I know right?" Samuel supplemented Jimmy's awe

"Yh."

"Jimmy!" A boy, about Jimmy's age came running towards them

"Emmanuel right?" Samuel asked, climbing off his bike. "How are you lad?"

He fondled Emmanuel's hair as they continued their greetings. Holding on to Jimmy's hand, Samuel and the boys walked across the school grounds on their way to the football field.

Jimmy whispered at Samuel with a nudge "Sammy!"

Samuel quickly understood his gesture and looked side to side. Good thing Shola wasn't around, all the young ladies around couldn't help but to gawk at Samuel as he carried his burly body all over the place. The way his chest would pump up every time he took a deep breath, showing a glimpse of what it looked like to see him shirtless. And his completely bare arms that swung beside his torso with every step he took. He was never going to give up wearing tank tops, maybe because it always killed the ladies.

"If I catch you with any of them I will tell Shola." Jimmy warned before walking off with his friends.

Chants and drum sounds filled the stadium as spectators filled up the seats, gathering around to enjoy the long awaited final. Samuel found himself a very comfortable seat before the game began.

"I see you are also supporting the away team." A beautifully pitched voice came from behind. It was a female.

Samuel amongst other men turned around to see who possessed such intoxicating voice. Wearing a black gown that was only long enough to cover half of her thighs, she placed her hand on her hip and gazed in the direction of Samuel. She had big round eyes that shun so bright and a beautifully pointed nose that complimented her smile. Such beautiful creature, beautiful enough to have every man around hoping to find out she was referring to them.

"You in the tank top!" She said wearing a smile as sweet as Shola's. But Samuel would rather not think about it.

Hopefully

After throwing looks between himself and others around him, Samuel gulped. "Me?"

The lady held her stomach in laughter. "Yes you!"

She walked down to the row Samuel sat and took the privilege of sitting beside him. "Hi! I am Jadesola."

"Uh.. Um..." Samuel was still a little dumb found by her beauty

"Hellooo!" She snapped her fingers at his face.

"Oh sorry." Samuel jerked, quickly taking his subconscious eyes off her huge boobs.

"Jimmy..."

"Jimmy?" A crease appeared on her face.

"Um...what I mean is, these aren't the seats for the away team." Samuel finally gained his composure.

"Oh, okay then. I guess I don't belong here" She stood to leave. As she stood she bumped into a man and fell back, on Samuel's thighs.

"I got you!" Samuel grabbed her waist preventing her from falling. Her scent seeped into Samuel's nose. That smell of lavender, quickly catching him and sending him back to England. He loved the smell of lavender in his room.

"Thank you." Her voice was husky.

She surprised Samuel with a kiss on his cheek before getting off his thighs and making her way.

Who is this woman? Samuel sat there, watching her hips wiggle as she walked away.

Was he allowed to do that?

The sun had moved and the temperature was fairly cool enough for the game to begin. The referee lined up all players and explained the rules of the game to them. When the designated time was reached, the referee blew the whistle and began the game. Like the semifinals, it was meant to last a total of forty minutes. Each half containing twenty minutes, injury time excluded.

It was only the beginning of the game when Jimmy took the ball on a solo run, running past three players from the mid-field and unleashing a deadly shot from range which beat the keeper. They were one goal ahead thanks to Jimmy's wonder strike.

The entire home fans roared in celebration flinging their hands in the air, some throwing whatever they held.

The first twenty minutes was completely spent and the score remained in the favor of Jimmy's team. Courtesy to his wonderful display.

"I need to eat something." Samuel constantly massaged his growling stomach on his way to the food stand

Jimmy's game should have well started by now.

Shola couldn't focus properly at work. After watching the last game, she couldn't help but want to watch the final.

"Wow. Jimmy's so good!!" Shola praised him over the phone.

"Yh. He did say he was going to bring his 'A' game. I couldn't expect less."

"I wish I was there."

"Me too" said Samuel. "The second half will start soon, you can still make it..."

"I can't. I am sorry"

"Okay... Bye."

"Bye..."

"What's the matter Shola?" Mrs. Akande could read Shola's disappointment.

"Nothing, it's just... Why haven't they granted my leave yet?!" She shrugged her shoulders.

"HR takes time, I am sure you will get your leave. Be patient" Mrs. Akande gathered the files she came for before walking away.

"Hmm..."

The half time break was already over and Samuel was still at the food stand.

"Samuel!" A voice came from behind.

It is the same voice from before.

Samuel turned around and saw the same beautiful eyes that met his before.

"Jadesola?"

"Yes." Walking towards Samuel

"How do you know me?" Samuel got curious.

"Tsk..." She tapped her forehead "I guessed you won't remember me." She folded her hands, standing in front of Samuel.

Jadesola was a school mate of Samuel during his junior secondary school days. Always sitting at the back of the class, she was never noticed by anyone. She wasn't the prettiest, smartest or even the best at anything. Making her even more invisible to the minds of people.

She left for another school before senior secondary school and no one heard anything from her ever since then. Not that they tried.

"The girl with the glasses?"

"Yup! The girl with the glasses."

"Wow! You're..."

"Different?"

"Yes!"

Jadesola laughed at his reaction towards her. It was something she was beginning to get used to, everyone was always amazed by her big transformation.

Samuel especially couldn't comprehend how she turned from an unattractive skinny little girl to a complete package. Her hips perfectly shaping out her slim body, boobs protruding in perfect proportion, the texture of her skin from when he caught her, her intoxicating voice, and that beautiful smell of lavender all left his heart warm. It was like she got struck with a dust from heaven.

"Are we going to stand here all day or we are going to finish the game?" She waved her hand at Samuel.

"Oh yes!" He chuckled from embarrassment.

Samuel and Jadesola returned to the stands but this time she sat where he was, regardless of whether it was the away or home side. There was a lot of catching up to do, and they did just that while watching the game.

The score remained the same, still the one goal from Jimmy. With a very high press, the opposing team launched several dangerous attacks at the home side. They really meant to equalise the game, but nothing seemed to work for them.

After a long and excellent defensive display, the home team broke on a counter attack, releasing Jimmy and Emmanuel in a two against two situation. Jimmy laid off a beautiful pass to Emmanuel who finished it off with an accurate strike. The game was now two goals to nil and was surely put to bed with only five minutes of play remaining.

The final whistle went and it was over, Jimmy and his friends were champions and the trophy was theirs for the taking.

"You had a really great game today. I am proud of you!"

"I know. I am awesome" Jimmy bragged, swinging his medal in his hand.

"I mean, being player of the competition isn't easy."

"But you grinded it!"

"Exactly!!" He said, then sighed "I wish Shola was here to see."

"Goodbye Samuel!" Jadesola passed by them

"Again, I wish Shola was here" The expression on Jimmy's face said the rest.

"It's not what you think..."

"It better not be!" Jimmy was probably more protective about Samuel's relationship with Shola than Shola herself.

"The two weeks are almost over" Samuel stroke Shola's hair, with his other hand around her waist as she laid on him.

"When will you be back?"

"As soon as I get my papers sorted out."

Shola got off him, rolling out of the bed. She took a few steps, walking towards the window.

"I am scared."

"I will be back." That's not why she was scared

"I know. That's not it"

It was clear to Samuel now. He held her from behind and landed a soft kiss on her neck.

"Shola," Samuel motioned her to face him. "I love you and you are irreplaceable."

Even though she tried to hide it, her lips drew wide creating a beautiful smile that exposed her blush.

"I love you too." Crushing her boobs into Samuel's chest with a hug. Samuel in return brushed his fingers through her hair, patting her gently.

They wished the moment lasted a little longer, but fate had other plans. There was a long humming sound coming from Samuel's phone.

"I thought you switched off your phone."

"So did I." Samuel scratched his head with a grin.

"Who is it?" Shola asked

"Jimmy" Samuel replied. "Hey boyo... What???! Stay where you are I am coming!!"

"What is it?!"

"Jimmy's in trouble!!!"

CHAPTER NINE

"Good work today guys" The coach walked around, shaking all the boys.

It had already been two weeks since Jimmy and his teammates had become the SGC champions. The following week after the final was spent celebrating and just having fun, something Jimmy did better than anything. Even playing football.

Even though the excitement was still there, they knew they had to keep their fitness and continue all necessary workouts and drills to improve on their game as a team. The day's exercises were completed and everyone had started heading home after a very tough day. Everyone but Jimmy

"Your brother complained about me leaving you here last time. Now where is he?"

"I don't know. Maybe he will be here soon" Jimmy shrugged his shoulders as he removed his boots. Jimmy really didn't care whether the coach waited for Samuel to come or not. He was a very quick witted kid that believed he could take good care of himself.

"And you too? Where is your aunty?" The coach pointed at Emmanuel.

Emmanuel drew his breath and sighed, also shrugging his shoulders as he sat beside Jimmy. They both knew Samuel and Shola were probably together and if any of them came, both Jimmy and Emmanuel would be heading home. The coach on the other hand was just afraid of losing his job to another warning and had to wait.

"So na just three of us now" The coach complained

"We self dey here" A thick scary voice came from behind.

All three of them reacted to the voice with a sudden jolt.

"Shhh" The men revealed their guns, rounding up the trio.

They directed them to a warehouse close to the training camp. The guard at the gate had already been subdued by two other who were waiting for them.

"Oga please sir, we don't have anything jus..."

"Shut up!" One of the thugs slapped the coach

The warehouse was a very small one but was almost filled with carton boxes of different varieties of products. They motioned the coach and his pupils to a corner of the room and sat them there.

"Please what have we done!" The coach tried to protest

"Do you want me to shoot you!!!" The leader of the thugs pointed his gun at the coach

"No!!! No!! No! Please, I will shut up!!!" He shrivelled, holding his head in fear.

After ordering two of the guys to keep watch outside, the leader and two other men watched the captives.

"Boss show, I beg" Calling their leader aside

"What is it?"

"Who are we meant to kill here first? Because I know say no be that fool wey dey shake for ground" disgusted at the coach's behavior.

"That boy" He pointed at Jimmy

"Ehn?!! You sure?!!"

"Leave me!!" The boss pushed his comrade away.

I myself am confused. I don't think Mr. Seun knows Jimmy is just a boy. Either ways, let's follow instructions.

"Boss!!!" One of the men called out.

In quick response, the boss rushed to them. "What is it?!"

"This fool let the boy run!" Hitting the last man they left to watch their captives.

"Oga I tell you say I no sleep for night" Like that was a good enough excuse for letting him escape.

Could only be good for Jimmy who had quickly snuck somewhere in the warehouse to call for help.

I better call brother Sammy now!

"He can't have gone far, find him. And you watch the other two." The boss said. "If you sleep again you no go wake up" Warning him sternly.

"I thought you switched off your phone"

"So did I" Samuel scratched his head with a grin.

"Who is it" Shola asked

"Jimmy" Samuel replied. "Hey boyo... What???! Stay where you are, I am coming!!"

"What is it?!"

"Jimmy's in trouble!!!"

Samuel quickly switched from lover boy to hero. His brother was in trouble and he couldn't put anything before rescuing him, or anyone. He sprinted to the garage to get his bike as Shola struggled to keep up with his pace. She might have been a sprinter during her school days but was nothing compared to Samuel.

"Where exactly are you?!" Samuel asked, igniting the engine of his power bike and releasing a deafening roar from the bike.

"Samuel what is happening?!" The worried Shola finally caught up.

"Just tell me where you are?!" Not focusing on Shola at the moment

"We are in the warehouse near the field. I am hiding but they... Ahhhhhh Sammy!!!"

"Jimmy! Jimmy!!!!"

"Talk to me baby I am scared" Shola's eyes began to well with tears.

"Jimmy and Emmanuel are in danger. I have to go now!" He released the stand and pulled the throttle. With a burst of pace, he zoomed out of the garage at full acceleration.

Mother couldn't tell him not to speed this time. No one could

Shola paced in the garage. With her fingers dug deep into her hair, unsure of what to do. She had never found herself in a situation like this and never had she thought of it, she was clueless.

"Lemme tell Mrs. Akande" She said in soliloquy, drawing out her phone from her pocket.

No Samuel will handle it. I shouldn't scare her.

"I have found him!" A thug pulled Jimmy out, from the back.

"So you want to run away abi?" The boss squatted to meet Jimmy's height.

"Let me go! I will deal with you!" Jimmy's struggle was useless against the thug's grip.

The boss slapped Jimmy through the face, hitting him to the ground "Shut up! Too much action film is worrying you"

"Take him away!"

The other thug pulled him on the ground and tied him with his coach and friend. Where was Samuel? His brother really needed him now more than ever.

At full speed Samuel zoomed past several vehicles on the road. With a lot of hold up on the road, his bike was the perfect machine to get him to the warehouse.

Vroom!!

Samuel parked his bike a distance to observe the scene. He quickly noticed two men standing at the gate, one of which constantly walked around, patrolling the compound. He had seen several characters sneak into buildings in video games and movies but sadly this was no movie. His brother's life was at stake.

After the patrol guy had entered the warehouse, Samuel quickly walked up to the one at the gate.

"Umm... Where can I find 'Adeniyi Jones' sir?"

In attempt to make things look natural, the guard decided to explain to him. "After this junction you..."

Before the guard could finish, Samuel blew him on the cheek with his elbow. In attempt to retaliate, the guard swung his hand at Samuel who was quick enough to react to the weak punch. Samuel held the guard's hand and with a powerful throw over his shoulder, hit him into the ground and broke his neck. Good thing he learned judo back in England.

Samuel then pulled out the guard's gun but there was a problem.

"It's a fake!" Throwing the gun away.

As Samuel pulled the guard into the security post, he saw the warehouse security lying there tied. The security man kept humming, trying to communicate with Samuel but his mouth was also tied.

"Hmm mmm mmm!!" Trying so many gestures with his head, but none that Samuel could understand.

Samuel quickly removed the cloth tied around the security man's mouth.

"Behind you!!!" The man yelled.

Samuel turned on his toes to the up coming assault. A big hefty thug holding a huge wood came charging at him. With a swing he tried to hit Samuel but Samuel was quick enough to evade the strike. Immediately, the thug veered his swing, bringing it back at Samuel. Nimble enough, Samuel took a step forward, closing the gap between he and the thug, thus reducing the effect of the strike to just the thugs arm instead of the stick.

It was time to retaliate.

Samuel effortlessly wrapped his arm around the thug's hand and struck it with his elbow, breaking the thugs hand.

"Arrrrggghhh!!!!"

He wasn't done, he then pulled the thug, landing a heavy blow in between the thug's legs. To finish him off, Samuel struck a final blow to the thug's nose with the base of his palm, knocking him out.

"Quickly take his gun, we have to get the others" Samuel untied the security man.

"Only one of them holds a real gun. The rest are fake, but we must be careful" The guard felt the need to bring that to Samuel's notice

"Sir we have waited for long. What do we do?" The leader of the thugs complained on the phone.

"Just wait till you hear the sirens"

"What?! Did you call police on us?!"

"Don't worry it's all part of my plan. You will get out safe"

"If he comes before the police arrive, then finish the job. If not, leave through the back entrance of the warehouse"

"The police will have the whole building surrounded, how do you know that will be safe?!" The leader of the thug asked

"I sent the police. One of them is working for me and that was the instruction he gave. Just do that, bye" Seun ended the call from his side.

The leader of the thugs turned around, looking at Jimmy who was also staring at him with rage.

What did Mr. Seun mean by if he comes?

Could this mean that mean that Seun predicted this outcome and played his cards according to his predictions. Jimmy wasn't the target after all, he was a bait to bring Samuel to the scene, and then murder him. All they had to do now was to wait and hope Seun's prediction turns out right. If Samuel came before the police arrived, he would be a dead man. If not, both he and Jimmy and all parties involved would be free.

But why put us through all this stress when we can just kill Samuel directly?

"Sir we have a problem!" One of the thugs came running into the warehouse.

"What is it?" The boss asked

"Okaka is dead and we just woke Eze up, but his hand is broken"

"What?!" What kind of person are we dealing with?

"Hahaha! You people are in trouble. Samuel is here" Jimmy mocked, feeling more confident about their escape now

"Shut up!" The leader yelled. "You and you, spread out and find that guy" pointing to his two remaining boys.

He came after all.

Jimmy noticed movement at the corner of his eye and tilted his head to see. It was Samuel!

Now he had to find a way to distract the boss to give Samuel a chance at rescuing them.

"Ooooo!!! I want to pee!!!"

"Pee on yourself na!!" The leader ignored his complaints

"I said poo not pee!"

He was positive he heard pee "Liar! You said pee!"

"Okay now continue arguing, when I poo poo here it's all of us that will suffer!!" A wide smirk overwhelmed him.

The leader threw him a scary gaze but it didn't seem scary enough to shake Jimmy.

"Oya come" he untied Jimmy and escorted him to the toilet.

Samuel and the security man took the opportunity to go and untie Emmanuel and the coach.

Without hesitation the cowardly coach took to his heels and bolted out of the warehouse.

"Me I no go die here today!!" Worried more about his life than his pupils'.

On hearing his voice, the other two thugs rushed out and saw Samuel still trying to loose Emmanuel's hands.

"Stop there!" One pounced on the security man while the other interrupted Samuel before he could finish releasing Emmanuel.

The four men wrestled each other, one party trying to get the better of the other.

"Be fast and poo, you this boy" The leader was beginning to get impatient.

"What was that?" He heard noise from the other end of the warehouse.

It sounds like... A fight!!

He pulled out his gun to go see what was happening and control the situation. Jimmy also took the chance to get out.

"Hey! Stop!!" The leader pointed his gun at Samuel and the security guard but the wrestling continued

"I will just kill you now, once and for all!!" His target, Samuel.

Before he could pull the trigger Jimmy pushed down a whole load of boxes on his head, falling him to the ground as his gun skid away.

Instinctively, Jimmy tried to go for the gun.

"No! Leave it!!" Samuel warned. He didn't want to have to remember the day his little brother handled a gun, talk less shoot it.

Still struggling with his man, Samuel asked his brother to leave immediately. "Release Emmanuel and take him with you. Go!!!!!"

Emmanuel and Jimmy ran out of the warehouse and Samuel finally succeeded in subduing his man. He quickly helped the security guard as they both handled the last thug immediately.

"Where is the gun" The security man threw looks from left to right in search of it.

"Over here!" The leader stood at the warehouse entrance, holding Jimmy and the gun in his hands

"No!!!" Samuel yelled

"I wanted to come and help you too" Jimmy tried to excuse his return

Even though Jimmy was a lot different from Samuel, they possessed a certain kindness and bravery in their hearts. Just like Samuel, Jimmy would never see anybody in need and refuse to help them. Especially not his brother, but this time it was going to cost him dearly.

"Okay then, go and help him" The leader let Jimmy run loose to Samuel.

Samuel saw the look on the thug's eyes and could almost guess what was coming next. He also tried to get to Jimmy quickly before his fear was realized, but he was too late. The thug had already cocked his gun and then...

Pow! Pow!!

Two straight bullets went flying through Jimmy's back.

"Ahh!!!!" His yelp was short but loud.

"Jimmy!!!!" Samuel knelt and caught him before he fell to the ground

"Now your turn!" He pulled the trigger again at Samuel. Straight went the bullet into his heart.

Wee oww wee oww

The sirens went as the police arrived at the scene.

"Shit! I have to leave!" The thug took to his heels, following Seun's instructions. The security man let him run in attempt to save Samuel and Jimmy first.

"S... Sam... Sammy... I... I... I can't breath" Jimmy struggled to pull his breath

"Bro... ther... Sammy" Tears slowly rolled down the cheeks of Jimmy

"I am here..." Samuel put his arm around Jimmy as he laid on Samuel's chest

"I... can... not see. Sss... Sammy"

Samuel wasn't doing any better than Jimmy. Blood gushed out of his chest as both his and Jimmy's blood mixed on the floor beneath them.

Struggling to breath Jimmy didn't give up even in pain "Sss... Sam... mmy I want to go home" he complained to his brother who could do nothing but spit blood.

"My ss... stomm... stomach hurts Sammy" His voice continued to shake as more and more tears filled his eye lids

Blood and tears gushed out of the brothers as they laid there, hoping for a rescuer to come.

•

CHAPTER TEN

...Worked out a plan

And it didn't take 'em long to decide

That Earl had to die

Goodbye Earl

Those black-eyed peas

They tasted all right to me Earl

You're feelin' weak

Why don't you lay down

And sleep Earl

Ain't it dark

Wrapped up in that tarp Earl?...

With a bottle of tequila in one hand and a wine glass in the other, Seun twirled around his living room, singing out loud as he listened to an old country song, sung by 'Dixie Chicks'.

"It didn't take long to decide! Samuel had to die!!" Spilling that colourless liquor from the wine glass as he spun around in joy and sang along.

"Goodbye Sam!!!!" He jiggled his shoulders, following the beats and tunes of the song.

"Na nana na na!!!"

With an image of Samuel's corps in mind and a devilish grin, he looked to the ground, "Why don't you lay down and sleeeeeeeep Saaam?!"

Now that his biggest threat was gone, Seun felt more alive than he had in the last couple of months. With a thud, he made himself comfortable on his chaise lounge, happily pouring himself a glass refill of tequila. No rules about not drinking tequila in a wine glass afterall.

A gentle sigh came after taking a quick sip of the liquor, his sigh laced with a strong sense of relief.

"Ahhhh! Sorry it had to end this way for you Samuel" He said. "You can move on to the other side now, I promise to take good care of your beloved. Hehehehehe!!!!"

With Samuel out of his way, Shola would have no one else to turn to for emotional support except Seun, and he was sure of it.

"Oh it's such a shame Shola" He mocked "I know I can't replace him but I will do my best." His soliloquy could easily make anyone assume he had lost it. But of course he was mad, mad in joy and love.

"Oops! The good news has come!" He disconnected his phone from the bluetooth speaker.

"Hello sergeant Jeje!" Sergeant? Okay he wasn't mad but he was clearly getting drunk already.

Inspector Jeje was the police man Seun had told his thugs about. He had worked for Seun on numerous cases, helping him beat the law and have his way. Surely for a small fee.

"Sir we have a problem!" Jeje spoke from the crime scene

"Wait, w...w... wah... what do you mean?"

"A very big problem sir"

"I don't understand. Didn't Samuel die?" His biggest worry blinded him from other possible obstacles.

"Both of them are down! Your foolish thugs shot both brothers!"

His excitement went down by at least forty percent at that moment. "What?!!!"

"Yes!"

"Those fools!!" He was comfortable killing Samuel, but not his innocent brother. Like Samuel was guilty.

What would happen if it all points back to me and the media hears it? This is trouble.

"What do we do now sir?" The inspector was more worried about his neck than Seun.

"There is only one way." He answered. "We get rid of those thugs. I will give you the location of their money drop point and the time they will arrive. You and your fellow cops can apprehend them there" He cared more about his safety than loyalty.

"Okay sir!" The foolish police not realising at the moment that he could have easily been the one at the receiving end of the situation.

"But first, I have to pretend to gather evidence against them."

"Okay, bye officer!"

"We need a surgeon!!!" The nurse barged through the hallway of the city hospital, pushing Samuel on a wheeled bed.

"J... Where is... Jim" Samuel struggled to move his head

"Sir please don't talk. You are going to be fine"

"What is it!" The surgeon sprinted out of nowhere

"This man has been shot in left chest, at the level of the fourth intercostal space" She responded "His body is showing signs of hemodynamic instability, at this rate I fear we will lose him" Continually pushing the bed

"God! His pulse is super fast, we will need to carry out a cardiopulmonary bypass." He wouldn't want to risk any complications "Quickly, let's take him to the ER!"

Jimmy was in a more critical condition than Samuel. He had two bullets stuck in his back, one which hit his spinal cord and the other piercing into his abdomen from behind. His heart rate also read a very high figure, and being a child he had a slimmer chance of survival compared to Samuel.

"My babies!!!" Like a mad woman, Mrs. Akande stormed into the hospital, hands held high with her headscarf tied to her waist.

"Where are my babies?! Where are they?! Where are they?!" A heavy breath escorted every lamentation.

"Madam please calm down. Our doctors are the best in..."

"Don't tell me to calm down!" She pushed the staff

"Do you have kids?! Ehn tell me, do you?!!"

No mother could calm down after realising she could lose all that she had left in the world. The only reason why she still struggled day and night, her sleepless nights were enough to make her go haywire.

From one to another she ran to Inspector Jeje after noticing his arrival at the hospital.

"Did you catch them?!" Her eyes red and all wet from tears.

Anger and sorrow all brewing inside her made her lose complete control of herself.

Shola who brought her to the hospital could only sit on the floor, in a corner of the hospital. She had never experienced the loss of someone so close and dear to her before. She was still too young when her mother left her, she didn't even have memory of how she looked. But memories of Samuel's smile and Jimmy's wicked smirk freshly lingered in her memory. Her life was just starting to make sense to her, but fate had other ideas, was she to accept it like that? That Jimmy would die? Her love would die?

No!

No! No! No! No! No!

"Nooooooooo!!!!!!!! Nooo!!!!!!!!" Her thoughts suddenly engulfing her as she burst into a sudden panic attack.

She squeezed herself up, pulling her legs inward as she shriveled her body, constantly repeating the same utterance while shaking her head with aggression.

"No! No! No! No!"

One of the staffs quickly came to her attention, carrying her out of the waiting room to a separate room. Her condition was probably worse than the mother of the victims.

"Officer answer me!" She held on to the collar of his uniform.

"Madam we are still in pursuit. Rest assured, they will be caught" He tried calming her down. "We have a lead on their hideout and we will surely apprehend them there."

That was probably the only good news she heard all day, but still couldn't be enough to relieve her state.

Seconds went like minutes and minutes like hours, Mrs. Akande never imagined a day like this to ever occur. After her husband's death, her boys were the only things she had left to hold on to in the world. She had no real friends at the time, no family and even her husband's relatives abandoned her completely.

"Landlord please just give me one more month to gather some money to pay you"

"Taahh!!!! Where will you get money from?" The man threw her a disgusted look.

"Before killing your husband, you did not think of the outcome?"

Mrs. Akande's expression was filled with confusion and shock as she held her mouth with a gasp.

"Do you think the rumours aren't spreading around? You used him for ritual so you can send your son to London. Useless woman!!!" He spat at her feet.

Society turned against her because of her husband's death. They blamed her for it, they insulted her. Like she was the cause of the accident. She was alone with her three years old son who was stuck on a wheelchair, like that wasn't troubling enough. Society and even her family turned their backs on her.

"Look woman! I give you only two weeks, and I don't want your money anymore. Just leave my house after that" The feral look in his eyes confirmed he meant it.

With nothing left to do, Mrs. Akande began to call some of her husband's friends for assistance. Very few of them responded to her calls. Of the ones that did, none of them agreed to help her. Until one blissful morning, she received a call.

"Am I speaking with Mrs. Bunmi Akande?"

"Yes you are"

"Our company received an application in your name for an interview, but you never showed up."

"An application?"

"Yes ma. It was your husband that filled the application. But ever since then we haven't heard from him or you"

"I called to inform you, on request, that another interview will take place in three days time"

"Whose request?" It mattered to her

"I am sorry but I can't disclose that information. Please be here in three days time, all information will be sent to you via mail... One more thing. My condolences to you, be strong. Bye!" The caller disconnected the call.

That one call was enough to change her fate. Whoever requested her call was aware of her situation and probably had some kind of connection with her husband. Even in death, he was still doing things for her, caring for her. He must have been a great person, but had to go soon.

Mrs. Akande was at that brink of losing all that she had left in the world, knowing her boys were in such a critical condition left her reminiscing about what she suffered during her husband's absence. Until...

"Call Doctor Abayomi now!!! We are losing the boy!!!" A nurse ordered a call for another specialist from the receptionist.

"Losing him ke!!!" Mrs. Akande jumped from her seat. "Nurse! Nurse!"

"Madam please not now!" The nurse ignored her calls, more worried about saving Jimmy than consoling his worrying mother.

"Ehhhh!!!! Jeeeesus!!!! This is not happening"

The call for another specialist was made immediately. But was he going to make it to the hospital in time?

Slim chance

After an hour and thirty minutes into the surgery, the two doctors walked out of the operator room. One of them whispered into the ear of the other before he walked away. The looks on their faces were enough to shatter Mrs. Akande's hopes.

"Doctor" Her voice husky from all the crying

"Madam... We are sorry" He took a sigh as he looked to the ground

"Doctor say something please" Tears couldn't stop rolling out of her eyes.

"We could only save one. The younger one couldn't make it"

"Ehn!! Jimmy!!!"

How would she feel? Happy that Samuel made it? Or sad that Jimmy died? What kind of emotions would she display?

She was lost, she was weak, her resolve broken. She sat on the floor and dug her fingers into her hair.

"I am sorry ma" The doctor said before walking away. Like that was going to make anything better, only bringing back her son would. Only bringing back Jimmy would.

Officer Jeje, listened to everything that was said then stepped aside to make a call.

"Sir Samuel survived but the boy died"

"What?!! Those foolish thugs!! The blood of that boy is in their hands not mine"

"Look sir. I suggest you forget this whole thing and let this Shola girl go"

"Shut up! How dare you?!" Seun snapped at him. "Listen, that boy's death can still be useful to us. Tell Mrs. Akande that..."

"Okay sir. But after this, I am not doing anything again for you regarding this case" The officer cut the call.

"Madam can I speak with you?... It's regarding the case." Jeje stood by Mrs. Akande.

With a sniff, she pulled herself together and got up. "I am listening"

"That lady that you came with, who is she to you?"

"My coworker"

"Okay. Madam, I received information that she was dating your son Samuel"

"That's not possible. Shola would have told me"

"Apparently she didn't"

"Well... It's not a problem"

"True, that is not the problem." Jeje cleared his throat. "The problem is that this girl has been involved in many death cases similar to this"

"What?!"

"Yes ma. And all of them have involved a guy that she was dating or was going out with. We suspect she has some kind of lover that is very dangerous and possessive of her"

"No no no, you are mistaken. Shola has a very simple life" Mrs. Akande knows Shola too well to just believe that.

"I understand you trust her. She is innocent, but she is dangerous to be with. It is my duty to warn you about things like this. Please don't let your son near this girl again or you might face more situations like this in the future." The officer warned, putting on his hat.

"I am sorry for your loss. I must take my leave now"

I have done my bit, it is left to you now Mr. Seun. I wonder what you wish to gain from all this.

Mrs. Akande stood and stared at the officer as he walked out of the hospital. She didn't trust what he said but then, what if he was saying the truth? Could their lives be in danger because of Shola?

"Mrs. Akande," Shola came with her eyes all swollen from crying for so long. She had probably heard the news about Jimmy. She slowly walked to Mrs. Akande seeking an embrace. She needed it, but...

"Stay away" Mrs. Akande placed her hand forward, slightly pushing Shola.

"Mrs..."

"Shola please leave!" Mrs. Akande looked away with a frown.

"But..."

"I said leave!!!!" She meant it

Mission accomplished! Inspector Jeje looked at them with the corner of his eye as he walked away.

•