



## 19 CHAPTER NINETEEN

"What?! You must be out of your mind Seun!" He sure was. 1

"I want you to send her the notice tomorrow. Understood?" Seun had little regard for what the lawyer felt about his actions.

"No I don't understand... err... erm... I don't understand, rather!" Mr. Isaac's stammer and grammatical blunders always underscored his anger, and this time wasn't any different. "I am reporting this to the police and taking my hands out of this crime!"

"Who would you call?! Inspector Jeje? Inspector Ismail? Or is it Dorotimi the head of police in this state? I have them all at my fingertips, don't you know?!" Seun was a very powerful man.

"No.3 Anthony street, Iju Ishaga. Let me not remind you again that my men are closely watching you Isaac!"

No one in their right senses would ever challenge Seun. He wasn't the man to dare or mess with. Easily switching moods from cool to angry, he was always prepared to change forms and with every inch look like the demon he could turn to when provoked.

"Ahh!!! P-P-Please! Leave my family. I wu-w-will



do it, I don't know what came over me sir." He gave up as soon as he challenged Seun.

"This is your final warning... I won't be so gentle next time." His voice sounded even scarier than before, though lower.

"I am sorry sir. Th-Thank you sir."

"Good... I will call you in the morning." Seun cut the call about to ignite his car engine.

Running through the parking lot was Shola and Junmi as they made their way into the hospital. Seun watched Shola as she worried into the hospital. Even though it was for her, it hurt him more than anything to watch her in so much pain.

On second thoughts he would just wait to see her reaction to the whole thing. He had known Shola to never handle very well things like this. She always panicked

"Quickly! Quickly!" Shola and Junmi were eager to see the condition Mr. Joel was in.

They banged heavily at the door as Shola rammed into the hospital. What she saw...

She was confused.

Why were the doctors all panicking?

Who was the old woman crying on the floor? "Na so dem kill am oo!"



'Kill?! Maybe it's another patient!' Shola looked for an excuse, hoping she would be right.

She didn't know where to start from. Who should she speak to? What was the sudden emptiness she felt? They say people are usually spiritually connected to their loved ones. Did this emptiness mean she had lost someone.

No!

Why was everything in slow-mo and whose voice was that echoing in her head? "Shola! Shola! Shola!"

It sounded like... like... Junmi!

"Shola!" The voice finally rang into her ear drums hard and she came back with a gasp.

"Yes?" She tore her already red glistened eyes open and stared at Junmi who came running at her.

Unable to say any more words Junmi held her lips tight with tears gushing out of her eyes as she shook her head continuously. Her expression, her demeanour, her tears, the silence, they said it all and Shola understood very well.

She finally understood the emptiness she felt.

In an instant, Shola's world turned upside down. Nothing was making sense anymore, the air



around her got heavier by every wave her brain created to understand the situation. She pulled her breath hard as she held her chest, panting heavily but was still lacking oxygen. Her head was hot and heavy, she had never realised how heavy her body was until now.

Her heart thrubbed heavily, none-stop, with a force that she might just...

"Shola!!!" Junmi caught her midway before she fell.

Slapping her face gently, Junmi called for a doctor. "Doctor!!"

Before the doctors could arrive, Shola jerked back up in a bolt. Junmi tried to hold her but she pushed her hand away and sprinted out of the hospital with her tears creating trails behind her.

Back in the parking lot, Shola jumped in her car and zoomed off into the cold night of Lagos city.

Where to? She couldn't tell, she just wanted to be somewhere away. To run away, only if one could run away from their sorrows. Shola needed it.

Driving endlessly in the cold night at high speed. Shola zoomed past several drivers with her sport car, leaving a scent of burnt rubber everywhere she passed - her tyres pleaded for



some rest. She was going at a speed that her household might experience another casualty on the same day.

Household? She was the only one now. At least no one would hurt if she died, so she didn't care.

After a few hours of driving around town, her fuel ran out. She slowly stopped by the road side and stepped out of her car.

It was already late and she didn't even know where she was. The road was very empty, not even a fly passed by.

Shola sat on the floor leaning her back against her car and looking to the sky. Usually it was beautiful, but tonight it only made her cry even more. The blank spaces it offered were like a screen which allowed images of her father to display as flashes of memories filled her thoughts.

"Shola?" Mr. Joel stepped into her room.

"Where are you?" There was no response.

Walking more into the room, Mr. Joel turned his head from left to right. Leaning at each corner to see if she was hiding somewhere.

He had offended her and needed to apologise, but how would he if she didn't want to talk to him.



"Shola!"

"Leave me alone!" Her voice came from the bathroom.

Knocking on the door, "Shola talk to me."

"Don't come in, I am naked." She was lying.

"Okay then come out... please."

With her brows furrowed and her lower lip sucked in, Shola walked out of the bathroom with her eyes glistening from tears.

Kneeling down to meet her height, Mr. Joel held the hand of his twelve years old daughter, "I am sorry Shola. You know I had work to..."

"You always have work. Everyday, everyday, work." Cutting her daddy short.

"Okay. I promise I will attend your next school party."

"Shebi that's what you normally say every time but you don't normally come."

"I will this time, I promise. Okay?"

Shola nodded in response and hugged her daddy.

"Thank you. I love you daddy."

"I love you my dear." Mr. Joel held his daughter with a tight but loving embrace, and nothing was ever going to take them apart.

"Thank you..." Junmi's voice was faint in Shola's ears as her eyes fluttered open.

"Ugh! Where am I?" She felt a little ache in her head, about to stand up.

"No no please lie down..." Holding Shola's submissive shoulders still. "We are at Seun's house. He found you sleeping on the floor by the roadside."

More like he followed her.

'Oh so it was just a dream. Daddy is still...'

Tears began to fill the wells in Shola's eyes as she turned on the bed, backing Junmi.

Her daddy was gone for good, he was no more. The pain in her heart was excessive. Apart from Jimmy, she didn't know what it was like to lose someone dear to her. What she felt with Jimmy was nothing compared to this, it was her father this time. Her father. The only real person in her life, gone.

She remained still without turning back to Junmi or even uttering a word.

After a gentle rub on Shola's arm Junmi left the room for her. There was no need scolding her for running off like a mad person the previous night. She knew what it was like to lose family.

Alone in the room, Shola's reminiscence

continued. But this time they mixed with thoughts of everyone that she loved and weren't in her life at the moment.

Her mother. Even though she never met her, Shola grew a bond with her mother through herself. Her father always told her that she reminded him of her mother whenever she smiled.

Because of that Shola would smile into the mirror from time to time, creating an image of her mum in her head.

'She was beautiful.' Shola thought.

Shola was beautiful.

Jimmy. Having just known him for a few months, Shola grew very fond of Jimmy and his attitude. An ideal little brother he was. A gem that Shola wished she never lost, ever!

Her father. He was alive a few hours ago. There were so many things she wished they did together, so many things she wished she told him. About her ideas for expanding his business to the UK, even if it was just an excuse to be with Samuel if he left for the UK. And also about Samuel, she knew her dad would have loved him.

Then Samuel. The love of her life, the man she was willing to spend the rest of her life with. All because of one attack where Jimmy's life was

taken, she was losing Samuel already.

She should have accepted the proposal when she had the chance, but now he was probably stuck in the arms of another girl.

It was too late...

Or was it?

With a strong sniff and a determined look, Shola jolted off the bed and strode out of the room.

She wasn't going to accept losing everyone that she loved. She always stood on the sidelines watching things happen in her life, but not anymore. This time she would fight, and she would do whatever it took to get Samuel. Whatever!

"Where are you going Shola?!" Junmi followed.

"To Samuel."

"What are you doing?!" Junmi stood in her way.

"What I should have done a long time ago." Shola maintained a straight face.

"And how will this help your situation Shola?!"

"ENOUGH!!! You have done enough already Junmi. I know you have well-being in mind but I need to hear it from him. Let him say he doesn't want me or that he is seeing someone else. I want to know!"

Junmi stepped out of her way. "Okay. Do as you please, but don't come back running to me because I won't be here." As much as it hurt her to utter those lies, she knew she needed to.

Without another word to say Shola walked out after picking up Seun's key off the table. Did she catch Junmi's bluff?

"Where did she go." Seun walked into the living room after noticing his car left.

"Samuel!" Her tone was scary. But couldn't move Seun.

"Okay..." He walked out.

Standing at his front yard and watching the automatic gate as it slowly closed, Seun placed a call

"Have you finished with the papers?" The lawyer was on the other end of the call.

"Good... keep them until I give the go." Then he cut the call.

"This is going to be very interesting." A wicked sneer grew on his face.

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Samuel looked into the mirror, combing his beard as he got ready to leave his suite.

Kokoko!!!



'Who is at the door?' He threw a quick glance at the door and back at himself in the mirror.

Kokokolll

Whoever it was couldn't wait till he finished combing his beards. "I am coming!"

And quick astride and about two short hops, Samuel was at the door.

His hand on the knob he unlocked the door and pulled it open.

His eyes drew open as he pulled his breath in shock, "Shoin?!"

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