



33 CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

Standing at the door and watching his mother on the floor, crying her eyes out. Samuel couldn't truly tell if her threat was just a bluff or she was for real. 1

"Why are you doing this mum?"

"I swear I will kill myself!" She sniffed in her tears and her voice became stern. "What else do I have to live for if you are gone?"

"No you are not!" His voice echoed across the room.

Samuel had some kind of gut feeling that his mother was just being dramatic and she wouldn't kill herself, or maybe it was hope.

He needed to hear something else from her, "You know what I mean mum." trying hard to hold his trembling voice, "Why are you trying to ruin my life? I thought you loved me. Shola wasn't sure but I made her believe that you'd be happy to hear about us, but no you weren't."

She raised her torso, with her hand slowly stretching out to Samuel, "Samuel..."

"I don't care what you do or say, I am leaving." He had no interest in hearing her excuses.

Samuel never pictured a day would come where



he would see his mother in this much pain or sorrow and not feel any remorse. Or maybe he did feel some remorse, maybe he wished things hadn't turned out the way they were. Samuel loved his mother so much, maybe even more than he loved Shola, but she had hurt him so much. What she did to him was unforgivable and that's why he was leaving, not because of Shola, but because she betrayed him.

He hauled his luggage behind him, with another bag hanging on his left shoulder, the taxi was waiting for him already and his mom followed up from behind with her face all greased up with tears. Samuel was going to leave for sure.

Until...

A humming sound came from inside the bag he hung on his shoulder.

The vibration from the bag hanging on his shoulder sounded like that of a ringing phone. Having realised that he was still in possession of Shola's phone that she left with him at the hotel, Samuel curiously picked the phone from his bag as he stood at the walkway.

"Oh Junmi, doesn't she know Shola is not with this phone?" He clearly had no idea of Junmi's death, how could he?

After he and Shola's separation, there was no



way Samuel was going to find out about Junmi's death.

"Hel-Hello?"

"Hello!" An unfamiliar masculine voice spoke from the other end.

"Who am I speaking with and what are you doing with Junmoke's phone?" Samuel asked quite rudely. Of course, he was already in a bad mood.

"My name is Ezekiel, Junmoke's boyfriend."

Stuck in his memory of what had just happened, Samuel could barely hear his mother as she persistently called for his attention.

"Samuel! Samuel!!" Mrs. Akande's persistent calls from the back passenger seat finally snapped him out of his daydream.

"Yes?"

"Who was the person that called you and where are we going?!" Trying to get a grasp of the situation.

"I spoke with a man named Ezekiel and..."

"Ezekiel?!" Mrs. Akande gasped.

"You know him."

"Yes..." Feeling ashamed again about yet another secret. "What did he say?"

Becoming even less pleased with his mother, Samuel took a quick glance at her through the rear view mirror before answering, as they drove away in his mother's van.

"Uhh... okay Ezekiel, Shola is no longer in possession of this phone. You should try calling..."

"It is you I want to speak to, Samuel."

"I-I don't understand, about what?"

"Right now, you and your mother's lives are in danger..."

Shocked by the news, or what was at least news to him, Samuel cut Ezekiel short, "Danger?! What do you mean?"

"You have to listen to me, there's no time. I need you to take your mother and get out of your house right away."

"How do you expect me to just... Wait, what about Junmi, why are you even with her phone?!!" Samuel couldn't just accept anything from a stranger posing to be Junmoke's boyfriend.

"Haven't you heard?" Ezekiel's voice showed a hidden pain.

"What?"

"Junmoke is dead," his voice trailed in response, "and the same person that killed her might want you and your mother soon, please do as I say."

With his heart beating heavily and a vigorously shaking hand, Samuel's voice trembled, "B-B-But I don't even know you."

"Ask your mother for more details. She knows everything."

"My mother?!" Samuel turned around to his mom, wearing a very curious expression on his face. How many more secrets was she hiding from him?

"I am about to attend an occasion organized by him and I am hoping to expose him. Do as I have told you and call me back, bye."

After narrating the whole conversation to his mom, Samuel remained quiet to hear his mother's response. What was she going to say this time to clear her name?

"I am sorry Samuel, I hid it all from you to protect you."

Samuel slowly parked the van by the sidewalk and turned around to his mother, "Even Junmoke's death?"

"Samuel..." Mrs. Akande shook her head.

"I can't believe you." He said in disappointment,

before clunking the door open and stepping out of the car.

"Where are you going?!" His mother asked, passing her purse to her friend, Esther, before following Samuel.

"Away from you." Flaggering his hand for a passing taxi.

As much as Mrs. Akande had been hurt in the past, nothing had hurt her more than the response that Samuel gave. The entire treatment she had been receiving from him that day felt like hell to her. A mother's hell.

"Samuel..." She stood and watched him leave in a taxi as a trail of tears stamped itself on her face behind every rolling tear.

She watched her whole life, right in front of her crumbling and she couldn't blame it on anyone. Things couldn't get any worse than that.

Or could it?

Standing where she was, a gun was pointed at her head from behind and instructions followed, "Get back into the van. We are taking you back home."

Sitting alone at a table, Ezekiel waited for Shola who was soon called by Seun to discuss

something. After sitting for a while, she finally returned with a rather confused expression on her face.

"What is it?" Ezekiel asked.

"He has changed the wedding date to tomorrow." Shola's face was already beginning to sweat from the thought of it.

"Is that even possible? It's such a drastic change!"

"I know, but he said something about a business trip he is leaving for tomorrow, that would take him a three months, and that he wanted that to be our honeymoon"

"You and I know that doesn't make any sense."

Thumping herself back into the seat, Shola tapped her forehead, "Tell me about it!"

Shola knew such a drastic change of time was very silly and didn't make any sense at all, but that was not Ezekiel's worries.

Seun suspected he had been caught and was trying to make a run for it with Shola, and Ezekiel knew that. If Seun managed to leave the country with Shola, there's no way he was returning back to Nigeria, that was the real reason why he wanted to have the marriage so quickly.

"I can't allow that." Ezekiel whispered to himself.

"Sorry?"

"Nothing."

"I don't think I am ready for this right now, maybe I should..." She paused for a while upon hearing something, "Do you hear that ringtone?"

"From where?"

Tracing the sound to be coming from Ezekiel, she pointed at him, "It's coming from your pocket."

"Oh thanks." Ezekiel pulled Junmi's phone out of his pocket, briefly forgetting he was with Shola.

Shola's eyes bulged with surprise, "Is that Junmoke's phone?!" Then she snatched the phone out of his hand, "And that's the ringtone she set for when I called her."

Oh shit, it means Samuel is calling.

Ezekiel's demeanour suddenly changed from a more confident and smooth person to an agitated and worried one. He didn't want Shola to know what was going on behind the scenes, behind his scenes.

With a swipe, she picked the call.

"Hello, Ezekiel." Samuel's voice came from the other end.



Like a pair of pressure switches, Shola ears perked on hearing Samuel. An instant fuel of emotions sprung up from her belly up her heart, and it wasn't love, "Samuel?!!!"

Unable to reply, Samuel immediately cut the call.

Her eyes suddenly turned red from rage and disappointment as she could feel tears welling up her eyes, "So this is what it's all about huh?! Helping your buddy out."

"Allow me to explain Shola."

"Yh, go ahead. Lie to me again." Her willingness to listen may have been fake, but her feeling of anger was real.

"There are so many things happening you don't understand, about Samuel and Seun. But now is not the right time to..."

"That's enough!" She cut him short, "Someone like Samuel or you has no rights to say anything about Seun. Now I know why you want the wedding to be stalled."

Pissed off and sad, Shola carried herself off her seat and made her leave. She knew Seun wasn't the best man out there, but in her eyes he was certainly better than Samuel, and now Ezekiel.

"Arrggghh!!!" Samuel punched the taxi seat after

ending the call.

Out of interest, the driver asked, "You get woman problem?"

"Not your business sir?"

"Sorry oo..." The driver replied as he slowed down for another passenger who was flagging by the roadside.

"Hey I am paying for you to carry just me."

Swiftly and without any hassles, the driver pulled out a gun at Samuel. "Shhh!!! Quiet, while my humble partner comes in."

The other guy slipped into the car, pointing his gun at Samuel's belly as he sat next to him, "Time to go back home where we can watch you very well, before Mr. Seun comes visiting, and he is pretty mad right now."