

BLOOD ON ROSES



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12/14/2020

BLOOD AND ROSES

In a busy neighborhood of Lagos, houses adorn the opposite sides of the street. Cars, flying pass in opposite directions of the street. Greg and his wife talk in their apartment, in the neighborhood.

FADE IN:

MORNING: INT

Greg walks out of his room into the living room, ready for work. His wife comes out too, ready for work too. Greg runs his small business which he barely sustains, while his wife works in one of the oil companies. They have known each other from secondary school years. Greg couldn't attend the university due to lack of fund. Pauline finished her master's degree program a year ago. Greg is in his mid-thirties while his wife Pauline is in her mid-twenties. He has a very fair skin and middle built and Pauline is a beautiful woman of average height and built too. Both have cool and beautiful spirit. Not easily irascible and they understand each other very well.

Greg

"Darling i am late to meet a client. Have a nice day".

(He pecks her on the fore head and immediately throws open the door and left)

Pauline

"Bye babe!"

(She says behind his back as he is already closing the door)

She picks her hand bag and left, closing the door behind her)

FADES:

EVENING: EXT.

Greg walks in through the gate into the compound. Opens his front door and gets in.

In the house, he sinks into the sofa in the living room; he is much fagged out, he slowly stands up and unbuttons his shirt. Fly his shirt free. Some moments later, his wife Pauline opens the door and steps into the living room.

Pauline

"Good evening darling, you are home already".

Greg

"Welcome love, how was your day?".

Pauline

"My day was great and yours?".

Greg

"Hmmm, i thank God, not much. Business is dull".

Pauline

"We have something to cheer up for. Life, we are alive, so let's glorify God".

Greg

"Yea, you are right".

Pauline

"What are we having for dinner?".

Greg

"You are the woman, whatever you think is good for us".

Pauline

"Okay, let me go change, i am tired after a hectic day at the office, but i must perform my duty as a wife".

Greg

"Sorry, just try to fix something that is not too demanding. No go undress let me do it".

(She is already walking towards the kitchen)

PUALINE

"No don't worry darling, let me undress and fix something for us to eat".

(He rises from the sofa and starts walking to the room to change)

DISSOLVES TO:

MORNING: INT:

In the living room, Greg lay on the sofa, pressing his phone.

Few minutes later, his wife Pauline walks in from the room, dress for work. She sees her husband lie on the sofa pressing his phone and not in any way ready for work.

Pauline

'Honey, why are you Lying down, pressing your phone?. You not going to work?.

Greg looks up from his phone and turned lazily to answer his Wife.

Greg

"I am not in the mood to go today. I got info that the Land Lord has sold the house".

Pauline

"Sold the house?, (she interjected). Which of the house if i may ask, this house or your business place?"

Greg

"My business place.(Pauline sighs in relief a while, he can get another place for business but good residential places that suits so many things are not easy. The place they live is good, easy access to work place, the road links is good. Easy transports and safe environment

Pauline

"If a new Land Lord comes in, it won't stop you from doing your business".

Greg

"Darling from my reliable source, he is going to give us few months of quit notice. He wants to build a hotel".

Pauline

"Oh that's bad, renting a new place is not all that easy in Lagos".

Greg

"Business is dull, no money. I am managing to keep it afloat. I owe my secretary 4 months' salary".

Pauline

"The economy is not something to write home about. Even in my work place, retrenchment exercise is ongoing".

Greg

"When Last did i take you out or buy you a gift?"

Pauline

"Honey i noticed all that; don't worry i understand. I am not complaining".

Greg

"You have been providing for us alone for a while now. Thank you. I appreciate".

Greg stands up and draws her closer to him. Kisses her and hugs her tight. Holding her for a while then disengage and looks into her eye. (Big smile envelopes her face)

Pauline

"It is our duty to love and care for each other. You have not treated me bad as a husband since we marry".

Greg

"I promise to pay you for all your sacrifices in our marriage when God blesses me and i hit it big".

Pauline smile and nods, very happy.

Pauline

"God will bless us, i can feel it. (Glancing at the watch on her wrist) Honey i am late, let me run; don't want to lose my Job".

Greg

"Okay, have a nice day. Take care of yourself. (Pecking her on her cheek) I want to stay back and think of a way out".

Pauline

"Take care of yourself too babe, fix something for yourself later".

Greg

"Okay babe. Bye, be safe. The retrenchment won't pass your lane in Jesus name".

Pauline

"Amen ooo"

(She says as she hastily moves towards the door)

Greg

"See you later in the evening. I might go out to see some friends".

Pauline

"Okay love, Bye!".

(She opens the door and is gone. closing it behind her)

CUT TO:

AFTERNOON: EXT:

Later that afternoon, Greg walks to see one of his friends, David, who owns a very big business.

At the front of David's company, one of his assistants stands, resting his weight on the wall.

Greg

"Hello young man, is your oga around?".

David's Assistant

"No sir, he just left the office few minutes ago".

Greg

"Do you know if he is going to be back soon?"

David's Assistant

"I don't know sir. Why not call his number?"

Greg

"I lost his number, In my lost phone, Can you give me his number?"

David's Assistant

"Oga, he doesn't want us to give out his direct number".

Greg

"I had it but lost it when my phone was stolen".

David's Assistant

"Please i am taking a risk, he warned us not to give out his direct line. Take the number, please be fast".

Greg

"Thank you" (Quickly bringing out his phone)

David's Assistant

"Oga please don't say na me give you o".

Greg

"No problem, i won't. I am his friend. I had his number before".

(The shop assistant calls the digits out to him quickly).

David's Assistant.

"I have seen you both on different occasions".

Greg

"Thank you, i will call him later to know where to meet him". (Moving away from the scene)

DISSOLVES TO:

EVENING SAME DAY: OUTSIDE BAR: EXT

Greg and David stand talking near a car.

Greg

"I know you understand my predicament. I really need your help".

(David is uneasy, he doesn't like what Greg told him)

David

"Greg, please listen. I am unhappy to hear what you are going through".

Greg

"I am no longer comfortable, my wife providing alone for the family. I am cash strapped, I need your help David".

David

"Please Greg, your wife is not an issue here, you are. Is she not your wife? Abi you don't let her ride you"?

Greg let that question hang in the air.

Greg

"She is a sweet wife, caring and very understanding".

David

"Why won't she be caring and understanding?, do you think she no get sense".

Greg

"I don't understand what you mean"

Greg

"Hmm women, Greg are you blind and unwise too?, abi your sharpness don't leave you"?

Greg

"David you are confusing me the more".

David

"Greg how long are you married now?".

Greg confused where the question is going.

Greg

"Four years now, why do you ask?".

David

“Do you think your wife is foolish? Four years of marriage and she is yet to conceive, don't you think she is wise playing a good woman”.

Greg

“Pauline has been good from the first day i met her. She is a wonderful woman”. (Scratches his beards)

David

“Okay, i no wan open your eyes any more. You are far from understanding it”.

Greg

“David abeg leave Pauline talk out of this, na money i come borrow from you”.

David

“You are my friend that's why i talked about her, women in such condition play good wife to keep their husbands from talking of their childlessness”.

Greg

“Okay, i understand you better now. All i know is my Pauline is a good wife. She won't change”.

David

“My wife provides for my family, if she fails, i beat the hell out of her. I give her money for up keep when i feel like”.

Greg

“You mean you beat that your beautiful wife?”. (Surprise)

David

“Yes nah, if you no beat a woman sometimes, she starts growing wings”.

Greg

“David, you beat your wife?”.

David

“Yes nah, that's how to tame them. If she sees bruises you inflicted on her she go cool down”.

Greg

“You are a rich man and you don't provide well for your family; I am shocked to hear that”.

David

“See this Greg, if one keep providing for family like that, which money go remain for him to give other Ladies out there?”.

Greg

“You mean you keep other women?”.

David

“Holy Greg, it seems you have been living in the Stone Age”.

Greg quickly replies, seeing where this talk is leading to.

Greg

“Please David, help me with the money, i will pay you back soon”.

David scratches his head, feeling uncomfortable.

David

“Greg, honestly i can't help you. I have no money in my account right now. In fact i owe my suppliers”.

Greg

“Oh this is not good; i need to get a new space before my new Land Lord throws away my things from my business place”.

David

“Sorry Greg, i can't help, I am...”

(Suddenly his phone starts to ring cutting him from talking more) He picks his call.

CUT TO:

Greg

“Excuse me”.

(He says to David and walks away few feet)

David

“Hellooo my babe, how are you doing?”

The woman's voice from the other end responds.

WOMAN

"I am not feeling fine".

David

"What is the matter sweet, talk to me love".

WOMAN

"I am very broke, don't have money to fix some things. David, i need money".

David

"Oh is that the problem?, don't worry i will transfer one hundred thousand to your account before the day runs out, hope that'll be okay babe".

WOMAN

"Thank you love, please can you make it one fifty k. I am really in need of it".

David

"Okay don't worry, i go try. Keep that thing ready waiting for me o, you know nah".

(They both laugh and David cut the call and turns, walks back to Greg)

BACK TO:

David

"Sorry for the wait, na some of these Ladies we no de allow person rest".

Greg

"Hmmm i hail you o; the peeler".

David

"Why not we go in and have some more drinks". (Pointing the bar)

Greg

"No thanks, i need to be sober. I have something bugging me i need to solve".

David removes some few Naira notes in his pocket (Handing it to Greg)

David

"Use this for your Taxi fare. Sorry i don't have money to help you now"

Greg looks at the money in David's hand for a while, looks up to David's face.

Greg

"Thank you, keep your money. I never poor reach to that extent, I have my taxi fare". (Walking Off)

David

“Come this weekend so we and the rest of our friends can go enjoy at the Lounge”. (He says at his back as he walks off)

“Thank youuuu” (Greg replies and walks without looking back)

DISSOLVES TO:

EVENING: MAJA’S LIVING ROOM: INT

Maja and his wife Silvia exchanging unpleasant words.

Maja

“If you talk nonsense again i will blind your eyes, stupid woman”.

Silvia

“Oya come blind my eyes, shameless husband, Wife beater”.

Maja dash for her (She steps backwards) still runs her mouth.

Maja

“Enough of this your disturbance in my house; I can't take it anymore”.

Silvia

“Because i asked you to stop messing around with those useless girls you waste your money on, that's why your eyes are red with rage”.

Maja stops advancing towards her and stares at her in silence.

Maja

“You will leave my house; i can't take your nagging anymore. I am a man and i can marry as many women as i wish”.

Silvia

“Look at you, do you think i am tied here, what is good for the goose is good for the Gander”.

Maja

“You said what?” (Walks some steps towards her)

Silvia

“You heard me right. I am tired of your adulterous life. You have no respect for me, for our marriage, you mess around with girls without shame”.

Maja rush and grabs her, hitting her left and right while she squeals and trying to free herself from him, but he continues hitting her. She suddenly fights back, pushes Maja away from her, crying and Responds with an aimless blow. Maja steps back and tries to slap her but she grabs his hand and tears his shirt.

Silvia

“Useless man, kill me today!, kill me.!!” .

None of their neighbor's showed up to separates the fight. They are used to hearing them quarrel and fight.

Maja pushes her unto the double sofa and removes his shirt; she keeps crying and running her mouth at same time.

Silvia

“Shameless man, you have the strength to beat me, but you couldn't fight when the area boy nearly finish you at Oshodi motor park” .

Maja

“Foolish woman, that is happy that they nearly killed her husband” . (Walking into the room)

Silvia

“Since you started moving with those your friends, you have turned to something else, Shameless Husband” .

Maja

“Don't worry, i will leave this house for you, i will be going on vacation from you” .

Silvia

“You don't care how your family feeds, no money for upkeep, no care, no fatherly love to your child, Yeye husband; yeye father” . (She cries in between words)

She looks and sees Maja coming out with a mini bag; he already changed to another shirt.

Silvia

“Where are you going with that bag?”

(Stands up immediately he come into the living room)

Maja

“I am taking a vacation from you; i am tired of your nagging. Enjoy the house alone” .

Silvia

“You are taking no vacation; you agreed to do your work diligently, without slacking. You signed the contract. If you go on vacation, i go on vacation too” .

Maja

"You can go anywhere you want, but i want to be free from you before i die".

(Silvia grabs the bag and blocks his way)

Silvia

"I am your wife and you are my husband, our son is our blessing from God and this is our home".

Maja

"Home i can't have rest of mind?. I am been monitored and almost policed by my wife".

Silvia

"Please give me the bag and let's go into the bedroom to talk things out".

Maja

"No, i am not going into the bedroom, i know your tricks, So that i won't think straight again after you are done with me".

Silvia looks away and smiles to herself, he know what she is capable of in the bedroom.

Silvia

"Babe let's go into the bedroom, i beg you. We need to talk".

Maja

"Let's talk here; i am not going in there".

Silvia

"Am i not your wife, are you afraid of me?".

Maja

"The only thing on my mind now is to leave the house. Leave my way". (His voice Angry)

Silvia

"See, you beat me; bruise my eye and just want to leave the house, no way. Let's go into the bedroom".

Maja

"I am allergic to bedrooms. (Trying to push past her but she blocks his way more) He forcefully pushes her aside." I need a break from this marriage". (Grabs the door handle and yanks the front door open and walks out, slams the door behind.

Silvia stands looking at the closed door, looking angry.

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

MAJA'S FATHER'S OFFICE: MORNING:

Maja's father, Barrister Henry perks on a computer in his office when his phone rings. He stops what he is doing and picks the call. The call is from Silvia, Maja's wife.

BARRISTER HENRY

"Hello!"

SILVIA

"Good morning sir!".

BARRISTER HENRY

"Good morning my daughter; How are you doing?. Hope you and family are doing just great".

SILVIA

"Sir we are good but not too good. Actually I call to complain to you about my Husband".

BARRISTER HENRY

"Hope all is good my daughter. What about my son. What has he done?".

SILVIA

"My Husband hits me any time we have small misunderstanding".

BARRISTER HENRY

"What? My son hits you?. How long has this been going on?"

SILVIA

"Sir, for some time now; In fact he changed from his loving self since the time he reconnects with his Friends from school".

BARRISTER HENRY

"Don't worry my daughter. Just take it cool. I will talk to him".

SILVIA

"Sir the worst part is he sleeps out on any slight excuse".

BARRISTER HENRY

"So it has gotten that bad?"

SILVIA

"Yes sir"

BARRISTER HENRY

"Why didn't you inform me about this development since?".

SILVIA

"I didn't want to bother you with it. I thought we could resolve our differences as Husband and wife, but he is making things difficult. He rarely allow us discuss as couple. He is really changed to someone else. He even blinded my eyes as I talk to you".

BARRISTER HENRY

"What? My son becoming that wicked. Don't worry my daughter; Just cool down. I will ask him to see me immediately we finish talking".

SILVIA

"As I am speaking with you; Right now he is not in the house. He left the house last evening and slept out. He cheats on me with women out there".

BARRITER HENRY

"My son sleeps out leaving his home"

(Tapping his finger on the work table before him)

SILVIA

"Yes sir, He hardly provides for his family anymore. Honestly I am getting fade up with everything".

BARRISTER HENRY

"Don't be my daughter. Calm down; let me call him right away".

SILVIA

"Okay sir. Thank you for Listening to me. I am grateful".

BARRISTER HENRY

"Oh don't mention. You are a good wife to my son. You deserve better treatment. I am going to call him immediately. Take care of yourself. Bye". (He cuts call).

DISSOLVE TO:

MORNING: CHRIS APARTMENT: INT

Chris and his wife on heated Argument and Chris is fuming hot while his wife stands blocking the exit door.

UGOMMA

“You are not going anywhere; you have money but told me you don't. There is no food in the house; the children are coming back from boarding School today”.

CHRIS

“Woman i warn you; enough of this nonsense. Find something and cook for them. Will i kill myself for you?. Now get out of my way”. (Approaches aggressively towards her as she stands her ground, unyielding)

UGOMMA

“When you don't have money i never bothered you, but you only chose to be wicked. You eat out and don't care for your family”.

CHRIS

“Get out of my way” (waves her off but she is ready to fight)

UGOMMA

“You want to hit me, okay better kill me here, you shameless wife beater”.

CHRIS

“Don't make me hit you again. Since you want to die, go and look for someone else to kill you not me Chris”.

UGOMMA

“You derive joy hitting me, Give me money to cook for my Children that's all i demand now. You refused me to work, made me resign from my job and you won't allow me do business either. You are wicked!”.

(Suddenly Chris rushes her and hit her on the face. (She yells and grabs his shirt crying)

UGOMMA

“Wicked man, kill me!. Kill me!”.

CHRIS

“Move away from the door, idiot. (He yells trying to move her away from the door)

UGOMMA

“Mama mooo, he has blinded my eyes. I can't see well again o” (Crying). (Suddenly she fights back, grabs his shirt collar and tears his shirt). Chris gets angrier and he hits her mercilessly and manages to push her out of the door.

Ugomma keeps crying, her eyes in pains due to the beating she received there. Chris walks back to the room to Change his torn shirt. Ugomma slides to the floor, her back to the door in effort to block it with her back. Few seconds later, Chris emerges from the room, coming towards her in rage.

CHRIS

“If you want’s to die, dare touch me shirt again”. (Advancing towards the exit door)

Ugomma Shifts on the floor in a bid to block the door more, Places all her body weight to the door.

UGOMMA

“Wicked man, you spend money on girls out there. Treating me like trash back home. Look at my eyes, you hit me at will and don't care how i feel, Shameless Husband”. (She keeps running her mouth)

Chris suddenly grabs her and pulls her away from the door. She tries to grab his leg but he shakes her hand off and quickly opens the door and steps out, and slams the door hard behind him.

Ugomma cries out more, still sitting on the floor.

CUT TO:

AFTERNOON: BARRISTER HENRY’S OFFICE: INT.

Barrister Henry speaks to Maja on Phone.

BARRISTER HENRY

“Maja, I asked you to come and see my yesterday but you didn’t come. What is the problem with you?”.

MAJA

“Sorry Dad, I couldn’t come as I promised. I was much occupied”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“Come right away to my office. I want to see you now. I mean now”

MAJA

“Okay dad, I will be there in few minutes”.

BARRISTER

“Good!. I am planning to go out. Don’t waste any time”.

MAJA

“Okay dad. I am on my way already”.

Barrister Henry cuts call and relaxes back on his seat thinking.

CUT TO.

FEW MINUTES LATER: BARRISTER HENRY’S OFFICE:

Maja walks into his Father's office and on Getting to where his Father sits. (He slides onto the seat before the table)

MAJA

"Good afternoon Dad. What is the matter? You want to see me urgently. Is everything okay?". (His father eyes him and sighs)

BARRISTER HENRY

"Everything is not okay Maja. It is no longer okay. Get that?".

MAJA

"What is the matter Dad?. How is Mum? Did she call?".

BARRISTER HENRY

"This is not about your mum. She is fine. I spoke with her few minutes ago".

MAJA

"What then Dad?. You look sad and I don't understand it. Everything is going fine for the family".

BARRISTER HENRY

"Everything was going fine Maja, until you choose to live a wayward life". (He speaks angrily).
Maja Looks shocked)

MAJA

"What have I done now Dad? I don't get it".

BARRISTER HENRY

"Your wife called and reports you to me. How you have been beating her, living an immoral life. No longer provides for your Family. What has come over you Maja. Is that how I brought you up?".

MAJA

"So my Wife reported me to you; that I did what?"

BARRISTER HENRY

Don't be stupid and pretend you don't know what I am talking about. (Raising his voice)

MAJA

"Dad, honestly I am not happy the way you are going about this". (Voice raised in defense)

BARRISTER HENRY

"How dare you raise your voice as you talks to me. Are you mad?".

MAJA

"No I am not mad, but I am pissed off. You hear from me and let me explain".

BARRISTER HENRY

“Explain what?. You want to explain your irresponsible live you live now or how you hits your wife at any slight opportunity?”. (Almost yelling) (Maja keeps quiet)

MAJA

“It is not like that Dad. She lied against me. I do provide for my home”. (Answers defensively)

BARRISTER HENRY

“I learnt you sleeps out with your friends and do women; Cheats on your wife with impunity”.

MAJA

“Dad I only go out with my Friends on business meetings”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“I see. And that meeting result to beating your wife and sleeping out?”.

MAJA

“I am sorry dad I yelled at you, but honestly she lied against me. A loving Husband to her; Oh I am smattered”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“Cut that crap Maja, and don’t mess with my sense of reasoning. You are fooling yourself Maja. Honestly I am very disappointed in you”.

MAJA

“You are disappointed in me Dad?”

BARRISTER HENRY

“Nonsense, Did I raise you to be a bad man?, To live a life that is not worthy of moral purity that I instilled in you as a kid”.

MAJA

“Dad please don’t go there. Don’t begin to preach morality to me. After all I learnt these things from you”. (Angry)

BARRISTER HENRY

“I see you have really developed wings. You now have the effrontery to speak to me in such mannerism”.

MAJA

“No I am not trying to be rude to you sir. I am only speaking the truth”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“Which truth?. What did you learn from me?”.(Lowers his voice a bit and relaxes back to his seat)

MAJA

“Dad I am not trying to make a mountain out a mole hill, but the truth is I always saw how you hit mum any time you had misunderstanding. I saw you with women in your car sometimes; even you did not know I knew”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“Sharrap you stupid boy!. You saw me with no woman”. (sits forward, eyes almost pooping out)

MAJA

“Oooh Dad, is it because I didn’t tell Mum about it. I choose to keep quiet about it. I am only doing what I learnt from you sir”. (Stands up)

BARRISTER HENRY

“Don’t dare walk out on me; Sit right back and Listen to me son. (Maja slowly sits back and watches his dad)

BARRISTER HENRY

“I and your mum had some of our differences, but I never for one day cheat on her. I took care of my responsibilities as your father. Wasn’t I providing for you?”.

MAJA

“Yes Dad you provided for us. I can’t deny that”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“No matter the misunderstanding, you must provide for your family, unless you don’t have money to do that”.

MAJA

“Dad believe me, my wife lied to you”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“I no longer care how you want to do it but you must go and make peace with your wife”.

MAJA

“I am being framed up here by my wife. No problem I will see her at home”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“If I get any report that you hit her because of this discussion. You will see how angry I can be”.

MAJA

“Okay dad are we done talking?. I want to attend to some other things”.

BARRISTER HENRY

"I will come to your house to see things for myself. Change from your bad ways my son".

MAJA

"I heard you dad, please can I go now?". (Rises up)

BARRISTER HENRY

"You can go. Just mend your ways. I want the best for you as my son".

MAJA

"Thank you dad for your care; I will change".

BARRISTER HENRY

"That will be good for you, for me too. I don't want my son to have unstable home".

MAJA

"Okay sir. Thank you for your advice". (Walking off)

BARRISTER HENRY

"Wait, Maja". (Maja stops and turns to face his father) (His father walks round from his table and stands before his son)

BARRISTER HENRY

"Hope you won't tell your mum about the women you said you saw in my car". (His voice Mellow)

MAJA

"No reason to do that dad, unless you give me any reason to".

BARRISTER HENRY

"Keep it our secret".

MAJA

"I knew it might destroy our happiness if I had told mum. I decide to keep it a secret. I didn't tell Charity or Sunday".

BARRISTER HENRY

"Good. You know Charity runs her mouth. If she gets wind of it; then your mum would be as good as hearing it".

MAJA

"I understand Dad. I won't, I promise".

BARRISTER HENRY

“Thank you my son. You have been a bright boy right from your young age”. (Smiling happily)
(Maja smiling too) He parts on Maja’s back as he walks towards the exit. Opens the door and walks
into the street. Barrister Henry slides back into his seat. (He sighs and remains silent.

BARRISTER HENRY

“So this boy has this secret bottled up inside him. Phew close call”. (He picks his car keys and
phone and walks towards the exit door)

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

TONYS APARTMENT: MORNING: INT

Tony dress and walks out from the room, about to go out. Rose, Ann’s mum reads in the living
room. She is on a single sofa.

TONY

“Good morning Mama”.

ROSE

“Good morning my son; Are you about to go out?”.

TONY

“Yes mama”.

ROSE

“Please sit down. I want to talk to you”. (Tony sits down on a sofa and waits)

ROSE

“My daughter told me how you hit her on any slight misunderstanding”.

TONY

“Aaah Mama, it is not true. She lied against me”.

ROSE

“She lied against you?” (Starring at him)

TONY

“Yes ma’am. We only exchange words but I don’t hit her”.

ROSE

“I am not talking about the starving you starving her, but I am more concern about you laying your
hand on her”. (Silence)

TONY

“ I insist she did not tell you the truth”.

ROSE

“What about you stopped her from working?. Is that a lie too?”.

TONY

“I merely suggested to her she stop work until after child bearing. I didn’t say she should not work at all”. (Irritated)

ROSE

“Please I didn’t give my daughter in marriage to you to kill for me. If you beat my daughter again you will have to beat me too”. (Voice rises)

TONY

“Honestly, I hate this lies, I am been controlled in my house. My wife behave and talk to me rudely and if reply I will be accused of maltreatment. (Springs up to walk out) Ann walks emerges from the room. She has been listening.

ANN

“So you are denying, and I am the one lying against you right?”.

TONY

that “Why would you lie to your mother that I hit you, and don’t take care of you?. Is fair?”.

ANN

“ Hei so you are denying now abi? So I am the one lying. I can’t believe this”. (Looking bewildered)

Ann’s mum’s phone starts to ring and she picks call. (Speaks briefly and cut call)

ROSE

“**Ann**, your dad is close by. He is coming to know what is the problem is”.

ANN

“Oh dad is visiting. Where is he?”

ROSE

“He is on the next street. He will soon be here”

Tony starts feeling uncomfortable. He keeps shifting on the sofa now and then. (Very troubled)

Few Minutes later, a knock sounds on the door. Ann quickly heads to open the door to welcome her Father. (Beaming with smile)

ANN

“Welcome dad”.

(Steps aside to allow

him in)

Tony smiling sheepishly, rising up to welcome his Father In law.

TONY

“Welcome sir. How was your trip?”.

CHIEF PATRICK

“It was fine. How are you doing?” (Walking to his wife)

Tony steals a quick glance at his wife pleadingly. (Ann’s Father sits beside his wife and they hug each other. Disengage and Ann hastily walks into the kitchen to get water for her dad. (Tony went sits back to the sofa. Wishing he can find a way to leave immediately.

TONY

“Hope everyone is good sir”. (Smile playing on his lips)

CHIEF PATRICK

“We are all fine. So how is Lagos?”.

TONY

“Lagos is good sir. Only the economic crunch is affecting businesses here”.

MR PATRICK

“Same everywhere; So many people barely survive now”.

TONY

“It is true sir. Even yesterday I saw a man walking along the road. Talk and gesticulate as he walks. A car narrowly avoids knocking him down”.

ROSE

“ Hmmm thank God he was not knocked down by the car”.

CHIEF PATRICK

“On my way here a well-dressed man walks up to me to solicit arms. He said he lost his Job and needs to find work to fend for his family”.

ROSE

“Situation is getting out of hand. Things are not easy even for the average Nigerian. The Country is going down the lowest ebb”.

Ann enters from the Kitchen, with a glass of water for her Father. Hands the glass of water to her dad and she walks back towards the kitchen.

ANN

“Let me prepare something for breakfast”.

Tony used that is Opportunity to leave. Standing Up to go.

TONY

“Sir I am sorry to leave you. But I have something I need to attend to
urgently”

CHIEF PATRICK

“Tony I travelled all the way to have a chat with you. I want to go back
today”.

TONY

“Sir why not rest and stay till next day. Not good to travel back same day. You
need to rest”.

ROSE

“Go and come back Tony, I won’t allow him travel back today. He knows his health is not all
that good”.

TONY

“Okay mama, I will come back later. Get some rest dad”. (He
hastily walks out the Apartment feeling happy he could escape them for now).

DISSOLVE TO:

EVENING: TONY’S APARTMENT.INT.

Tony and his Mother and Father In-laws, with his wife Ann talking in the Living Room.

CHIEF PATRICK

“Tony it has come to my knowledge that you hit my daughter at will”.

TONY

“It is not true sir, she is lying against me. I never hit her”.

ANN

“You keep claiming that I lied against you. You are an enigma honestly”.

ROSE

“My own is please, don’t beat my daughter again. If you have misunderstandings
talk it out”.

CHIEF PATRICK

“Tony I come to warn you never beat my daughter again. She is not a punch bag”.

TONY

“Sir i heard what you said, but I insist she’s exaggerating the whole situation”.

CHIEF PATRICK

“Next time you hit my daughter you will see the other side of me. You are our children and I won’t want any of you to be unfair to the other”.

ROSE

“Aaaaah me I am not going to take it, if you dare lay your hand on my daughter again. You go beat me join”. (Stand up angrily, closes her palms in a ball and glares at Tony)

CHIEF PATRICK

“Any man that beats his wife is very stupid and weak. With proper dialogue you can resolve any issue”.

TONY

“Why do all of you clamp on me like this? I am someone’s child too. You want me not to have say in my house. No! no!! no!!! and no (Shakes his head in protest, voice raised)

CHIEF PATRICK

“I am leaving your house today but I warn you, don’t lay your hands on my daughter again”.

ROSE

“You want to kill my daughter for me and you don’t want us to complain”.
(Going for Tony angrily)

Ann quickly rushes to grab her mum, starts to pull her back as she points at Tony.

Tony quickly uses the opportunity to escape. He angrily walks out the Apartment and Slams the door behind him, in great rage.

CUT TO:

NEXT DAY: AFTERNOON: MICHAEL’S OFFICE: EXT:

Michael just enters into his office, not just one minute before his cell phone starts to ring. He picks call and sinks into his office chair.

MICHAEL

“Hello, David, good morning. How are you and family doing?”.

(DAVID FROM THE OTHER END)

DAVID

"We are all fine and yours. What's your plan for the weekend?"

MICHAEL

"Emmm no plan yet, i might have to go see one or two clients who wants me bring their supplies home".

DAVID

"Okay but you will be free in the evening?"

MICHAEL

"I suppose, what's up. Any better?"

DAVID

"I am thinking if all of us plan a gate away this weekend with some girls; New girls".

MICHAEL

"Do you have any new arrangement?"

DAVID

"Cynthia, one of my new girl promised to come around with her friends, she said they are beautiful".

MICHAEL

"Interesting, did you inform others?; Maja and Edmund".

DAVID

"Not yet, i know they will be happy about it, i decided to talk with you first".

MICHAEL

I am in, life is meant to be enjoyed". (Excited)

DAVID

"I don't know of our friend Greg, not sure he will come. The last time i saw him, it seems to me he is under the influence".

MICHAEL

"Influence of what, how do you mean?"

DAVID

"They guy be like say his wife hollam with Love".

MICHAEL

"That's not bad nah".

DAVID

"Why you no allow your wife hold you like that?"

MICHAEL

"She tried but couldn't, i am slippery"

(They both roar into laughter)

DAVID

"Bad boy!"

MICHAEL

"Na you be the bad peeler, bed breaker" (They laughs out the more)

DAVID

"So get ready for pool party, after that we go lodge with the girls".

MICHAEL.

"Good idea. i am ready for the peeling".

DAVID

"See you later in the evening. Around 5 pm".

MICHAEL

"No need for pool party, i suggest we go somewhere cool to relax with them after that, then the lodgings".

DAVID

"I contemplated inviting our friend Greg but the guy is very rich now and i doubt if he will want to come".

MICHAEL

"Forget about him, he is not into women runs. He is Mister holy".

DAVID

"Okay, see you later in the evening. 5pm is time. We go to one of the good lounge".

MICHAEL

"Okay, see you then. Take care. Please no break bed again o".

DAVID

“Na maja de brake bed not me o”.

(They all burst out laughing and David cuts call few seconds later).

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME DAY: LATE EVENING: EXT

David and Maja, Michael and Edmund, Tony and Chris with some girls are laughing. Each of them stays close to his girl. David calls Cynthia aside and talks to her briefly and few seconds later they walk back to the group. The evening is gradually going into early night.

CYNTHIA

“Girls we are going to another place to enjoy the night, more drinks, more laughter and good
hmm, hope you understand”.

The other girls chuckle. They all understood. It was prearranged, agreed to spend the night with the men. Chris enters his car parked some distance and drives close to allow some people get into his car.

David and three girls enter into Chris car. David didn't come with his car, he hate driving in Lagos traffic, unless a friend or driver drives him. Maja went and starts his car, Edmund and Michael slide in, with other two girls. The cars drive off into the early night. (In the car, Edmund speaks)

EDMUND

“Maja i suggest we go to Blue Sky for more drinks”.

GLORIA

“Please we don't want to drink anymore, we prefer to lie down, i am feeling sleepy”.

OJOMA

“Yes! Me too; I don't want to drink anymore”.

MICHAEL

“So let me call David for them to know the change of plan”. (Bringing out his phone, dialing David's number)

MICHAEL

“Hello peeler!, the girls here say they prefer to go to lodge, no more drinks”.

MAJA

“It's supported!”

(He says loudly on the wheels, smile playing on his lips)

MICHAEL

“We are heading straight to bed, me self, i am feeling sleepy”.

EDMUND

“All of us dey feel sleepy. I don't need any more drink myself”.

(Maja burst out laughing)

MAJA

“Abeg make una no infect me with the sleep, i am driving”.

MICHAEL

“Sleep no go fit catch me as long as these fine girls are here close to me”.

OJOMA

“Oga this one wey your body dey shake like this, i no see you as a good attacker”.

Maja nearly burst out laughing but manages to muffle his laugh. But Edmund couldn't keep himself from laughing.

MICHAEL

“Fine girl, abeg wetin be your name?” (Looking at the girl)

OJOMA

“My name is Ojoma”.

MICHAEL

“I will show you my skills tonight”. (Ojoma smiles and nods)

EDMUND

“We wey no get skills, all i know is, i score goals”.

(Maja burst out laughing)

MAJA

“Edmund de Ronaldo!”.

(Laughs out loud) The car swerves and he steadies it on the road again as others

Shout in fear.

CUT TO:

MICHAELS' APARTMENT: MORNING: INT

Michael turns his door knob and walks into his Apartment, gently closes the door. His wife sits on a Sofa talking to someone on Phone. Immediately Michael closes the door, she stops talking and cuts call and stare at him as he walks by. She did not greet him. Suddenly Michael stops and looks at her angrily.

MICHAEL

“So we are mates now, you can't greet me again?. Emmm”. (Silence) she keeps shaking her head)

MICHAEL

“Am i not talking to someone?. You woman hmm, you are trying my patience in this house”.
(Suddenly she flares up)

DIAMOND

“Why won't you allow me think of my life!?. What have i done to you?. You live the life you choose, disregarding the feelings of your wife. You sleeps out, enjoys your life with women. I am here uncared for and you come back now after you're frolicking with girls to question me. Please don't add to my head ache”.(Hisses)

MICHAEL

“You have the guts; the effrontery, the audacity to hiss while talking to your Husband. Stupid woman!”.

DIAMOND

“I agree that i am stupid, please leave me alone with my stupidity”.

MICHAEL

“The day i will get angry, I won't stop hitting you until you faint”.

DIAMOND

“I am your punch bag; you have no shame hitting your wife; Shameless Husband”.

MICHAEL

“You call me shameless?” (Infuriated, takes few steps towards her)

DIAMOND

“If you touch me, two of us will die here today. I am tired of this Marriage”.

MICHAEL

“Idiot, you can't bear male kids for me. You have the guts to Challenge me. I am tired of you and your bunch of female kids. Soon i will marry another woman to bear male kids for me”.

DIAMOND

“Oh! So you are hating me because i only have female children for you?”.

MICHAEL

“Don't provoke me more; i am not ready to allow you ask me any stupid questions again. Rubbish”. (Walking Off)

DIAMOND

“What you deposited in me i brought forth. Now it is my fault. Please blame yourself”. Adjusting on the Sofa)

(Suddenly Michael stops and glared at her hard)

MICHAEL

“So it is my fault now?. Emmm. (Silence) You have the Audacity to talk to me in such mannerism. Honestly I am tired of your impudence”.

DIAMOND

“How did i talk to you?. You came back looking for trouble”. (Suddenly Michael slaps her) (She yells and springs up to defend herself, braces up to wad of any more slaps)

MICHAEL

“Idiot!. I think i have had enough of your disrespect”. (Walks to the room) Diamond sobs, holds her head in her Hands)

DISSOLVE TO:

NEXT DAY: MORNING: EXT

DAVID AND MAJA, EDMUND AND MICHAEL STAND OUTSIDE A HOTEL AS CHRIS DRIVES HIS CAR TOWARDS THEM FROM THE CAR PARK. MAJA LEAVES THE GROUP TO GO DRIVE HIS CAR TO PICK SOME OF THEM. SOME OF THE GIRLS HAS BEEN SETTLED AND THEY LEFT. Only Cynthia and Gloria are with the men now.

Michael gets into maja's car front seat while Edmund sits in the back. The rest enter into Chris car and they drive off. On the way Edmund turns to Michael.

EDMUND

“Olboy, how far with the girl, Ojoma?”.

MICHAEL

“Abeg let's get home quick; i need to sleep and catch enough rest that girl na fire”.

MAJA

“Fire as how, explain well nah”.

EDMUND

“Me i don't understand what you mean by she is fire”.

MICHAEL

“Una dey craze, wetin una no understand?. I say the girl wanted to kill me for bed, she no de tire”.

(Maja and Edmund burst out laughing)

MAJA

“But you claimed to be an attacker. Why you de complain now. You see that kain girl go de challenge am for bed”.

EDMUND

“Just Pray make your wife no de house when you reach home. If she is ready for another bedroom challenge you go understand”.

MICHAEL

“Me we de come from crusade ground go listen to person, if not only to lie down and sleep”.

MAJA

“Michael wey preach and sing praises till morning, na him go do wetin with him wife?”.

MICHAEL

“She no go even try am. Na when i want we go do. I am in control”.

EDMUND

“Honestly, you people are spoiling me. When i marry i won't near you guys. Husband should love his wife too. I hate these dirty talks”.

MICHAEL

“Saint Edmund!, You chop and clean mouth. Now we are the sinners. No problem”.

EDMUND

“You people beat your wives and don't care for them. Please i don't subscribe to that. The other day Chris boasted how he beat his wife to stupor”.

MICHAEL

“Na so i beat my wife. Don't you know women should not be allowed too much freedom to run things?”

EDMUND

“That is very wrong. If i marry i won't treat my wife harshly”.

MAJA

“I hear you Mr. Good man. Why you follow us last night if it is not in you?. Can i stop so you go down and leave us alone with our bad ways?. Me i de beat my wife o”.

EDMUND

“I am not married yet; i am follows you to see if i can find my wife too. Back in School you guys were so good to your girls. Why this wicked Change?”.

MAJA

“So you are condemning us. You never hear how David treats his wife. We are saint compares to David”.

EDMUND

“Doing too many women is not good for a man”.

MAJA

“So you are exonerating yourself abi?”.

MICHAEL

“No mind this crook, na him chop pass, then clean mouth”.

EDMUND

“I mean am, this is not a good life especially for married men”.

MAJA

“Wait! Edmund, so you are passing judgment on us?”.

EDMUND

“Nooo i am just saying the fact. I am beginning to hate this kind of lifestyle”.

Maja remains quiet suddenly, his mind racing, thinking about his entire life and what his wife said yesterday.

Few minutes later, the cars pull to a stop by the road and Edmund alights. Waves as the rest drive on.

MR. AGUOBODO IN HIS LIVING ROOM AND MRS.AGUOBODO EATS ON A DINNING TABLE

DISSOLVES TO:

AFTERNOON: INT

Mrs. Aguobodo eating on the dining table, her phone rings and she picks her call.

SYLVIA

“Good afternoon mama. How are you and papa doing?”.

MRS. AGUOBODO

"We are fine my daughter. How are you and family doing?"

SYLVIA

"Mama, i don't know. We are not all that fine".

MRS. AGUOBODO

"What do you mean by that my daughter". (Sips a little water from a glass cup)

SYLVIA

"Mum it is not something i can tell you on phone". (Mr. Aguobodo rise from the sofa and walks towards the dinning from the room)

MRS. AGUOBODO

"Your dad is here my daughter, what is going on. Are you having problem with your Husband?"

SYLVIA

"Mama please i will explain when i come to the house".

MR. AGUOBODO

"What is the matter?, Is there any problem. How is our daughter doing?". (Worried)

MRS. AGUOBODO

"I don't know what is going on, she won't say".

MR. AGUOBODO

Let me speak with her. (She hands the phone over to him)

MR. AGUOBODO

"Sylvia, how are you doing? Hope everything is alright?"

SYLVIA

"Dad, it is not something to talk on phone. I will make chance and visit".

MR.AGUOBODO

"I want to see you here as soon as possible".

SYLVIA

"Okay dad. I will try to come".

MR. AGUOBODO

"You sound unhappy. I suspect something is bothering you".

SYLVIA

“Dad please, let me speak with mum”.

MR. AGUOBODO

“Okay, speak with her”. (Hands the phone back to his wife)

Sylvia and her mum continue to talk as her father walks back towards the room.

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

CHIEF AGUOBODO'S HOME: MORNING: INT

Mrs. Aguobodo on phone, talks and gesticulates, her voice sounds angry. Her husband, Chief Aguobodo listens, sits on the edge of the long sofa.

MRS AGUOBODO

“Silvia!, you said your husband hit you and after that he left the house?”.

SILVIA

“Yes mum, he finds pleasure in hitting me any time we have any little misunderstanding”.

MRS AGUOBODO

“So your husband has forgotten all my warnings to him to never beat my daughter, but you should seat down and talk things out”.

SILVIA

“I don't know what has turned my husband into a bad man, he use to be so caring and loving”.

MRS AGUOBODO

“I must see him to explain everything to me. I can't wait until he kills my daughter for me”.

Chief Aguobodo can't hold it any longer, he signals his wife to hand over the phone to him.

MRS AGUOBODO

“Hold on Silvia, you father wants to talk to you”. (Handing over the phone to him)

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Hello!, my daughter, what do you say is going on between you and your husband Maja?”. (Sits back fully into the sofa)

(Silvia's voice comes back on)

SILVIA

“Daddy, my husband hit me yesterday and left the house with a small bag”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Did two of you quarrel, what was the problem between you two?”.

SILVIA

“Daddy, my husband has changed from his loving self, he doesn't care for the family, He hardly provides for his family anymore”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Have you being doing something wrong which he complains about?. Do you do your own part as wife?”.

SILVIA

“Yes Daddy, I try my best to keep the home, i don't disrespect him”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Then why did he change?, have you tried to talk to him, find out his reasons for the change in character?”.

SILVIA

“I have done that several occasions but he keeps getting worst. Daddy his friends made him changes”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“His friends?; and Why do you say that?”. (Mrs. Aguobodo listens attentively, then she stands up and comes and sits near her husband, just to hear better)

SILVIA

“Since some of his friends reconnected with him a year ago, my husband has become another man i never knew”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“How do you mean?”

SILVIA

“Daddy!, they are into womanizing, many occasions he comes home drunk”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“What!, you mean your husband is into women and wine?”. (Mrs. Aguobodo shifts uneasily on the sofa, stares at her husband with a lot of unspoken words in her mouth)

SILVIA

“Yes daddy, he hardly performs his marital duties at home any more. I have been calling his number since yesterday but it is switched off”.

Chief Aguobodo remains silent momentarily. (Then he speaks)

CHIEF AGUOBODO

'Let me know when he is in the house, he needs to explain to me why he laid his hands on my daughter".

Mrs Aguobodo quickly collects the phone from her husband.

MRS AGUOBODO

"Hello Silvia, don't worry. He will face me when i get to your house. I didn't give him my daughter to kill for me".

SILVIA

"Mum, i pray he will listen to you. I don't want to lose him to another woman. That's why i call. He doesn't give me chance to love him anymore".

MRS AGUOBODO

"Don't worry my daughter. Everything will be alright. Pray for him. The devil wants to destroy him".

SILVIA

"Okay mum, i do pray for him. I am having emotional trauma that's why i called. I need help".

MRS AGUOBODO

"God will bring back peace to your home. Trust God, He never fails".

SILVIA

"Amen mummy. I pray so".

MRS AGUOBODO

"Just let us know when he is back to the house, and keep calling his number to see if you can reach him".

SILVIA

"Okay mum, thank you for your encouragement".

MRS AGUOBODO

"You are my daughter and your happiness is paramount to me. Go relax, put everything into prayer. Okay bye".

she cuts call and turns to her husband, holds him by the arm and starts to discuss with him)

CUT TO:

EVENING: DAVID'S HOME: INT

Lizzy, David's wife talks to someone on Phone. David walks into the living room as Lizzy have just finish talking to the person from the other end. David is ready to go out.

LIZZY

“Are you going out?. Please can we talk?”

DAVID

“About what?, i don't have much time. Please make it snappy”. (Indifference)

LIZZY

“Please sit down, i won't take long”.

David reluctantly sits down, looking at the Led tv on the wall

LIZZY

“My husband, we have no food in the house and i have exhausted the money in my bank savings. Give me some money to buy stuffs for the house”.

(David flares up and Lizzy is taking aback by the sudden outburst)

DAVID

“What do you mean there is no food in the house, have you used up all the money i gave you last time”.

LIZZY

“Please when last did you give me money? Three months ago. I have been spending all my money to provide for the family, since the eight thousand you gave me finished”.

DAVID

“What's the big deal in you spending your money? Is this not your family?”

LIZZY

“Honestly, the way you talk, i am wondering if you are the same man i married few years ago”.
(Shakes her head in disgust)

DAVID

“Please woman, i didn't sit here to listen to your nagging. I am not in the mood for that”.

LIZZY

“Where has our love gone, no caring, no attention, i am practically alone in this house”.

DAVID

“Woman did i do wrong by sitting down and listen to you?. I warn you no try any rubbish this evening”.

LIZZY

“Oh you don't want me to complain, you want me to die in silence. No way!”.

DAVID

“Haven't i been showing you love and care?”.

LIZZY

“David, when last did we make love, you sleep out, comes back any time you choose without any remorse”.

DAVID

“Oh you monitor me now abi”.

LIZZY

“Those Ladies you mess around with; are they more beautiful than me. I do my bit to help in the house. Still you prefer to see me as nobody”.

David sprang to his feet.

DAVID

“No. no. no, i can't seat and hear this nonsense from you. Haven't i been showing you love?”.

LIZZY

“Showing me love by sleeping with other women; sleeping out and comes back any time you want. Not providing for your family even when God bless you with wealth. Is that what you call love?”.

DAVID

“Because you spend small money to buy few things for our kid; is what is bugging you. Will i kill myself for you?”.

LIZZY

“You have become someone else, finds pleasure in hitting me, bruising me, trampling on my emotion”.

CHRIS AND HIS WIFE JOY COMING OUT FROM A SHOPPING MALL AND WALK TO CHRIS CAR
WHILE DAVID AND WIFE LIZZY QUARREL BITTERLY IN THEIR HOME.

DAVID

“I came back from business trip and i can't rest in my house. Enough of this woman!”.

LIZZY

“Give me money to buy food for the house; i am not talking anymore. Continue with your immoral life”.

David angrily steps close to her.

DAVID

“Who is living immoral life?, you dare talk to me like that”.

Before Lizzy know what is coming, David slaps her hard, she wails and holds her face in her palm, her eyes spinning.

LIZZY

“You slap me? David you slap me?”.

DAVID

“I will slap you again if you say any rubbish word to me, Idiot”.

LIZZY

“What a cruel man you have become. I am married to a beast”.

DAVID

“You called me a beast?; so you can still run your mouth?”.

He descends on her, hitting her left and right) She cries, wailing, trying to free herself from his beating. She falls back to the sofa and immediately she tries to stand up to him. David pulls her wig off her head and throws it to the ground.

DAVID

“Stupid woman!. I am tired of this marriage!! No i will not die because of a useless wife”.

LIZZY

“You are the useless husband”. (Crying)

DAVID

“Idiot, i will deal with you when i come back”. (Picks his phone on the table)

Suddenly junior emerges in the living room from his room. The noise and cry awoke him from sleep.

He looks confused and innocently asks to his crying mum.

JUNIOR

“Mummy, why are you crying?. Daddy why is mummy crying?”.

DAVID

“Junior go back to sleep”.

(He Storming out of the door)

Junior consoles his mum as she keeps crying.

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

GREG'S APARTMENT: AFTERNOON: WEEKEND: INT

Greg and his wife sit on long sofa, back of Pauline lying on Greg's legs as Greg talks on the phone while Pauline chats on social media.

GREG

"Chris, i know we all are friends but since i don't have money like you guys; i don't think our friendship is working".

CHRIS

"Money has nothing to do here in this matter".

GREG

"It have, a man without money has no friends. I prefer friends with benefits".

CHRIS

"Common Greg; come around let's talk about it. You can come with your wife let all friends and their wives hang out. Let's spoil our wives with sumptuous meals and choice wines".

GREG

"This is your idea or others too?".

CHRIS

"My idea, i want to inform others immediately we finish talking. You in?".

Brief silence:. (Greg looks at his wife who is already starring up at him). Greg weighs it in his mind quickly. He has not taking his loving wife out in a long while. This is an opportunity; it will provide chance for her to meet his friends after a long while, since after their wedding.

Chris speaks on the line again.

CHRIS

"Are you there Greg?".

GREG

"Yes i am here; Okay i am in, since you insist".

CHRIS

"It will be fun to have all friends and wives around. Don't worry, bill is on me".

GREG

"Okay, thank you. So what time?".

CHRIS

"I suggest 6 pm today." EMERALDS"

GREG

"Okay, fine with me".

CHRIS

"Okay bye, let me talk to others.(He cuts call)

Greg puts the phone down and holds Pauline's hand.

GREG

"Darling you heard the discussion; Chris my friend invites all other friends and wives out for dinner".

We have not gone out to unwind in a long while. Let's go out to have some fresh air.

PAULINE

"No problem, we need it; especially after all the busy hours in the office".

GREG

"Yes, you need it to relax. Time is 6pm".

PAULINE

Okay.

CUT TO:

EMERALD GARDENS: EVENING: EXT.

Greg and wife with Chris and wife, Tony and wife with Edmund and Maja who did not come with his wife, and David who sits with Cynthia, not his wife Lizzy. Michael is present with his wife Diamond. They sit in circles round table, enjoying their meals. (All men in Suit)

David and Tony stand up and walk few feet away from the rest.

TONY

"Guy you didn't bring your wife along?".

DAVID

“No, I left her at home. In fact I like it she is not here. Cynthia keeps me better company”.

TONY

“Does she still mess up?”

DAVID

“Big time; honestly I am fed up with her. She nags, complains too much about my life style”. (Tony chuckles)

TONY

“I don’t allow my wife any chance to say rubbish to me. I even beat her black and blue last night. The other time she reported me to her parents, and i vehemently denied beating her”.

DAVID

“Wives should not be allowed by their husbands to have say in the house”.

TONY

“My wife is just like a trophy to me. Allow them one yard they demand eight”. (They both chuckles)

DAVID

“I hardly give her money for upkeep. The other time she complained; I nearly killed her. She ended up at the hospital. Me I can’t tolerate nonsense”.

TONY

“I enjoy big girls with big front and back; my wife can’t offer me what they offer”. (The both roars into laughter)

DAVID

“I am ready to enjoy my life to the fullest; no wife can stop me. If she doesn’t like what I do, she has option to leave”.

TONY

“Abeg let’s go back to the table; I was curious about your wife’s absence that’s why I decides to ask”.

DAVID

“I am just waiting to go balling with Cynthia; immediately we leave here”.

TONY

“Dangerous Peeler”

(They roar into laughter, walking back to their seats)

Pauline whispers to Greg who has mouthful of food.

PAULINE

“Honey, please that lady there with your friend; the one in white T shirt”.

Greg steals a glance towards David and Cynthia.

GREG

“His name is David”.

PAULINE

“Is that his wife?; i met her once when they came to our wedding. I don't think that is her. She's more beautiful and elegant”.

Greg steals a glance again towards David and Cynthia who is obviously busy with each other, laughing, playing and Peck, even while their meals are unfinished. Greg decides to be honest.

GREG

“That's not his wife, he have a very beautiful wife; but not as beautiful as my wife. (Pauline smiles and playfully and gently hit Greg on the back of his palm on the Table, yet in appreciation.

PAULINE

“Thank you and i have the most handsome man as husband. I am blessed”.

They both held hands, smiling to each other.

GREG

“I love you my sweetest honey; the wonderful gift from God”.

PAULINE

“I love you too my king; I am blessed to have a loving husband”.

GREG

“One day, i know God will bless us with our child, then children. Jehovah is never late”.

PAULINE

“Amen. He is only one who can help”.

Chris and wife are laughing happily. Maja and Edmund busy with their foods.

Michael spoon feeds his wife and there is happiness in the air. Maja remains silent and Maja eats slowly, and occasionally steals glances at them. Many thoughts of his family run through his mind.

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

MONDAY MORNING: GREG'S HOME: INT

Greg writes on a small sheet of paper, when his wife Pauline enters into the scene from the room.
Greg looks up and she comes and sits beside him.

PAULINE

"Honey there is something i want to discuss with you".

(Greg becomes more attentive)

GREG

"What is it honey?"

PAULINE

"Since your business is not flourishing; and you may lose your office space soon, what other plans do you have?"

GREG

(Sighs)" Honestly i am very confused; since i don't have enough money to start something else".

PAULINE

"I am thinking if possible you go into buying and selling".

GREG

"I'd like that; but it still buoys down to money".

PAULINE

"The first thing knows what business to do; do some feasibility studies".

GREG

"I have a friend who travels to China to import goods. If i can raise some money, I'd like to beg him to be buying for me".

PAULINE

"Okay, try finding things out. Let's know what it requires".

(Standing up and walking towards the room)

GREG

"Okay darling i will do that".

(She stops walking and turns to face him)

PAULINE

Will you be able to travel too to start importing from China?.

GREG

“That will be splendid; buying things by myself”.

PAULINE

“Okay makes your inquiries; let's see how it goes”.

GREG

“Okay, i will do that today”.

PAULINE

“Let me go get ready for work, i am running late already”.

GREG

“Okay love”.

(She works on into the bedroom) (Greg sits in silence) why all this questions from his wife. Is there someone she knows who will help financially. Few minutes later she comes out dressed and ready to go. (They peck and she hurriedly leaves for work). Minutes later Greg picks his phone and dials a number. He speaks extensively with the person at the other end. Some minutes later, He rises and enters the room to dresses up and leaves for business.

CUT TO:

MORNING: SAME DAY: DAVID'S HOME: INT

David walks into his home from the hotel, where he lodged with Cynthia since Saturday night after the friends' dinner at the Emeralds.

Lizzy watching him as he walks in straight faced.

LIZZY

“Good morning”

DAVID

“Uhhmm”

(As he walks towards the room without looking at his wife)

Lizzy continues her chores, cleaning and dusting. Some few minute later David comes out from the room into the living room, his clothes changed. He is putting on fresh clothes. Suddenly his phone starts ring. He picks the call and a voice comes on from the other end, talking quickly.

DAVID

“Sunday, talk slowly i am not hearing you. Calm down and speak”.

SUNDAY

“Oga fire has burnt everything in our office; all the goods, cars and in short nothing is left”.

DAVID

“What do you mean fire burnt everything?”

(Slowly sits down on the sofa)

SUNDAY

“Everything, nothing is left. I have been calling you since last night when the fire started, but your number was not available”.

(Greg wails out painfully and Lizzy quickly rushes to him)

LIZZY

“Darling takes it easy, what is the problem”.

DAVID

“My business; everything has been consumed by fire. I lost everything in the fire, all my goods”.
(He begins to cry).

LIZZY

“Darling you didn't lose everything; you are alive, you have the most important”.

GREG

“What good is my life if I lost millions of Naira i worked for to fire? My new stocks just arrived and all got burnt too, i have no money in the Bank. Oh my God”

(He cries out the more. Lowers himself to the floor and rolls on the floor while crying)

Lizzy stands and confused, thinking on the best way to handle this. Junior has left for School, Thank God he won't witness his Father crying, and that will bring so many questions to be answered.

Lizzy tries to help him sit down but David prefers the floor. Suddenly his phone rings again, he lazily picks the call, it is his Shop Assistant Sunday.

SUNDAY

“Hello sir, the police and firemen are here, they want to see you sir”.

DAVID

“They should all go to hell! ; What do they want from me!?!?. Where were they when fire gutted my place?” (He cuts call and lies down sprawl on the floor)

DISSOLVE TO:

MORNING: TONY'S APARTMENT: INT:

Tony lazily just wakes up from sleep in his bedroom. He yawns and stretches. His wife Ann doing some washing and cooking in the kitchen. Tony slowly steps his feet down from the bed. He walks to the kitchen and sights his wife busy in the kitchen. She greets him but he did not respond. She stands and stares at him.

ANN

"Good morning! (She repeats but he hisses and rather walks away to the bathroom). (Few second Later, Tony walks pass towards the living room. Ann follows him into the living room.

ANN

"Honey did I offend you, you didn't respond to my greetings". (Tony stares at her hard, suddenly he says)

TONY

"Look, I advise you don't bother me this morning. Must I respond when you greets me?".

ANN

"But it was you who slap me the other time, complaining I didn't greet you audibly".

TONY

"Look woman; I am not in the mood for your rants. Get out of here before I descend on you. I told you not to bother me and you still want to try". (Standing up angrily) Ann quickly scurries towards the kitchen to continue what she was doing. Suddenly Tony Calls her back.

TONY

"Come back here"

(She walks back and stands before him)

TONY

"Why is my breakfast not ready?".

ANN

"That is what I am trying to fix before you came out from the bedroom".

TONY

"How many times I warn you to make sure my breakfast is ready before I wake up in the morning?".

ANN

"Sorry the reason it is not ready is because I woke up bit late; 5:30 am, I have a pounding headache".

TONY

“A mere headache is your reason for preparing my breakfast late. You are trying my patient”.

(Waves a finger angrily at her)

ANN

Sorry (Walking off)

TONY

Come back here, you got the effrontery to walk out on me when I am not done talking. (She stops and stands) He steps closer and like lightning he slaps her on the face. (She yells and ran into the kitchen and starts to sobs in the kitchen.

TONY

“Idiot, I don’t know why I married you in the first place; while other beautiful women out there are begging to have better relationship with me”. (Tony quickly enters into the bedroom and puts on his t shirt and comes out) As he walks towards to the door Ann ran and calls his attention.

ANN

Where are you going?. The breakfast is ready.

TONY

Eat your breakfast woman. I lost my appetite.

ANN

I explained to you why it was not ready before you awoke. (Tony hiss and opens the door and walks out the apartment.

DISSOLVE TO:

EVENING: TONY’S APARTMENT: INT

ANN’S Mother knocks on the door of Tony’s Apartment. Ann quickly opens the door to see who is at the door. Seeing her mum at the door she excitedly exclaims. Rushes and holds her mum in warm embrace.

ANN

“Ah mum, welcome; this is a surprise, how is dad?” (Collects her bag from her and precedes her into the Apartment. (Ann’s mum, Rose gently lowers herself on the sofa)

ROSE

“How are you my daughter?. I didn’t want to inform you before coming”.

ANN

“Mum I am happy to see you. I missed you so much”.

ROSE

"If you miss me, why have you not come to see me? By the way, how is your husband?". (Throws her gaze towards the door that leads to the rooms)

ANN

"He is sleeping; he just got back few minutes ago".

Tony hides behind the door, peeping on them. (He mumbles to himself that his Mother In-law is here with her wahala. As his wife walks towards the door to the room, He quickly runs into the bedroom to lie on the bed and pretends to still asleep.

On keeping her mum's bag inside Ann came back and sat with her mum.

ANN

"Mum you look good; you are taking care of yourself. I am happy about that".

ROSE

"My daughter; don't judge a book by its cover. I am not as good as you believe. Your mum has no money to take care of herself".

ANN

"Mum I know it's been long I sent any money to you. It's because I am not working. I don't have money even to take care of my needs".

ROSE

"Why did you decides to stop working?. I don't like such idea". (Ann bends low to her mother's ear)

ANN

"Mum, he refused me to work" (She spoke softly so her Husband won't hear her if he comes into the living room.

ROSE

"Why?. You are young and every woman needs to have her own purse. You can't be depending only on his money to take care of your needs".

ANN

"Mum I know that but he beats me any time I bring up the issue".

ROSE

"What! You mean your Husband beats you?".

ANN

"Hmm he hits me on any slight misunderstanding".

ROSE

"I can't believe it. Why didn't you inform me about it?"

ANN

"I didn't want to disturb you and Dad with such bad information".

ROSE

"Don't worry; he will explain to me why he beats my daughter. Aaah No wonder you looks a bit lin. Stand up let me see you well". (Ann stands up for her mum to size her properly)

ROSE

"Don't worry my daughter; if he lays his hand on you again, he will beat me too".

ANN

"Mum what should I get you to eat?"

ROSE

"Would I be able to eat after hearing this? I don't have appetite".

ANN

"Please mum you have to eat and rest from your journey. Let me go and prepare something for you to eat". (Walking off)

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

SAME EVENING: TONY'S APRTMENT: INT

Ann's mum speaks on phone when Tony walks into scene from the bedroom, yarning and stretching

TONY

"Ah mother when did you arrive?; Welcome, how is my Father in-law?". (Ann's mum cut call and nods at Tony)

ROSE

"Everybody is good. When i came in your wife told me you were asleep".

TONY

"Yes, I came back weak, so decides to rest and I fell asleep".

ROSE

"Okay. How is your business?"

TONY

"It is flourishing. I glorify the name of the Lord".

ROSE

"I decide to visit to see how my daughter is faring; since she refuses to come see her mum and dad".

TONY

"Welcome. She is fine; I take good care of her". (Smiling proudly)

ROSE

"I can see very well how you take care of her. It shows all over her. You still beat my daughter after we warn you not to try".

TONY

"I am one of the best husbands around. I have not laid my hand on her since your last visit".
(Beams with smile) (As he said that Ann enters in from the Room).

ANN

"Hmmm I heard someone claiming what he is not; Liar of the century". (Tony turns to look at her).
(He turns back to Ann's mum)

TONY

"Mama, I am going out; See you later. I no wan trouble with her. She finds it easy to insult me".

ROSE

"Tony so you disregarded our warnings and continue to beat my daughter?"..

TONY

"Mama, please try and believe me; I changed after you warn me. I don't know why she likes to lie against me".

ANN

"Honestly I am getting fed up with this marriage; you lie against me and have the gut to rub it on my face. Jesus".

Suddenly Tony's phone rang and he checks the caller id and his Father in law on line.

He reluctantly picks call.

TONY

"Hello sir. Good evening sir".

CHIEF PATRICK

"What is good about the evening?. So you continued to lay your hands on my daughter after I warned you.

TONY

"She said lie against me sir".

CHIEF PATRICK

You will see the other side of me when I come to your house. How can you be so wicked? (He yelled)

TONY

“But she is my wife; I only caution her. Why is she lying against me?.

CHIEF PATRICK

“Nonsense” (He angrily cuts call)

TONY

“Hello! Hello!”.

(He angrily looks at his wife and stuns out of the Apartment)

DISSOLVES TO:

SAME MORNING: MAJA'S CAR:

Maja stands near his car at the driver's side. He's been thinking, wondering how to face his wife. He has done her wrong. He opens his car door and steps in, roars the engine to life and put the gear lever in one and drives on. Driving through the streets, he keeps thinking, how bad he has been to his wife.

CLOSE ON:

To his sad looking face, as he drives. He drives through Oak Street, down to Alhaji Tunde Ojo road, down the road. Suddenly traffics start to build up down the road. Pedestrians walk to and from. Maja talks to himself. Chastises himself for the way he had been treating his wife. He hisses and chuckles, trying hard to concentrate on the road until he pulls up in front of his rented crib. He kills the engine, opens the door and alights, and walks to his Apartment. He glances at his watch on his wrist and ambles towards the gate. He gently enters and heads to his door. Reaching his door, he gently taps it, no answer, another tap, still no answer. He waits and cut his eyes back to the gate. Few seconds later the door thrown open and his wife stands at the door. (He smiles sheepishly at her as she steps aside to let him in). Walking away into the house, she leaves the door open for him, as he steps into his living room and she walks into the kitchen. He quickly enters into the room to change and shower.

BACK TO:

Silvia steps out into the living room, her phone on to her ears. She speaks gently into mouth piece.

SILVIA

“Mum, he is home just now. Brief pause, listen, then answers " Okay Mummy". She cuts call.

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

DAVID'S HOME: EVENING: INT

David sips from a glass of wine, while the half empty bottle lay on the table; he sits on the edge of the sofa. Second later, his wife Lizzy gently opens the front door and walks in, bible in hand. David relaxes back into the sofa staring at her, frowning.

DAVID

“Where are you coming from?”.

(She stops abruptly, hearing that voice in him which is ready to fight)

LIZZY

“I am coming from the church; went to pray and see my pastor”

DAVID

“And you are coming back now; no food prepared what time to you plan to serve your husband food?”

eehh?

LIZZY

“Sorry i came a bit late; i couldn't see my pastor on time, so many people were waiting before my turn”.

DAVID

“You witch, it is now you wants to pray eeh?. After you destroyed my business you want to be a church goer now”. (Lizzy stands, astounded)

DAVID

Idiot of a wife; now i lost everything, hope you are happy. (She found her voice)

LIZZY

“My husband how can you say all those things to me. What have i done wrong?”.

David flares up and angrily picks the bottle of wine which is almost empty and flings it at her.

DAVID

“Stupid woman; you have the guts to stand and ask me questions”.

(As the bottle fly towards her, she manages to dodge and the bottle lands on the Led tv on the wall which is not on, smashing the screen to pieces. The symphony of destruction and the splinter of the glasses wakes junior from sleep. It is mummy and Daddy again. He falls back to sleep. He is used to mummy crying and daddy shouting.

DAVID

“I can't take this any longer; you bewitched my business, and since I married you it is bad luck”.

LIZZY

“You accuse me of what i don't know about; i am innocent”. (She yells back)

DAVID

“You go inside and pick your clothes and” (Suddenly her phone starts ringing). (She picks her call and he stops talking)

A man’s voice came through from the other end.

LIZZY

“Hello, oh brother, how are you and family doing?”. (Her phone is on speaker, David hears their conversation and the caller is her brother who lives in US.

LIZZY'S BROTHER. BRIAN.

We are fine over here. Mum called me and told me about the fire that gutted your husband's business.

LIZZY

“Yes, he lost everything. We are barely surviving”.

BRIAN

Don't worry; i will be sending you some money to start up again. I will send 15,000 dollars to you and 20, 000 to your husband. (David sits back well into the seat, eyes open and ears wide)

LIZZY

“Okay thank you brother, I am very happy. God bless you”.

BRIAN

“Okay, take care, i am driving to work; Will call you later”. (Call cut)

(Then Lizzy turns to her husband)

LIZZY

“Eheen what did you say i should go inside and do?”.

(Looking very serious)

DAVID

“Go inside and pack all your dirty clothes, i want to take them to the dry cleaner”.

(She hisses and walks into the room to change)

DISSOLVES TO:

NEXT DAY: MORNING: MAJA'S HOME: INT

Maja pecks on his laptop when a knock sounds at the door. He stops and stands up and heads to answer the door. Opening the door, he comes face to face with his father and mother in- laws,

surprises to see them, and he manages to smile and welcomes them. Just fraction of seconds, another knock on the door and Maja's Father walks in. Maja is surprised to see his father. Silvia stands and curtseys, smiling.

SILVIA

"Welcome sir".

BARRISTER HENRY

"Thank you my daughter. How are you doing?".

SILVIA

"I am fine sir"

MAJA

"Welcome dad; I was not expecting you".

(His Father ignores his comment and walks to his in-laws to shake hands)

MR AGUOBODO

"Good morning Barrister; How are you doing?".

BARRISTER HENRY

"I am doing great and you; my in law. You look good. I can see it myself (smiling at Mrs. Aguobodo)

MRS. AGUOBODO

"My in-law, Na clothe cover body o. Well I thank God for his care".

MR. AGUOBODO

"How is your wife? Hope she is fine".

BARRISTER HENRY

"She is fine. She is out of the Country. She visited our daughter in the States".

MR. AGUOBODO

"Oh okay"

(Barrister Henry sits, Maja too, while Silvia walks into the kitchen)

MR.AGUOBODO

"Maja, I know you will be wondering why we are here. My daughter Reported to me that you beats her. Is it true?".

(Silence)

BARRISTER HENRY

“Welcome my in-laws. Emm Maja, I called for this meeting so we can talk to you and your wife. I wanted to come alone but think it wise to invite your wife’s parents too”.

MR.AGUOBODO

“As if a coincidence; we planned to come here this morning before you called”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“Oh is that so?. I am happy you came, all the same”.

Mrs. AGUOBODO

“I wanted to come here and beat him myself. Why this change, I don’t understand”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“Let Maja tell us, why he decides to live bad life with his Friends. I’ve wanted to come alone to ask him this question, but it is pertinent you come too. He is your son too, after all”.

MR.AGUOBODO

“My son, why do you beat my daughter, and you choses to live an immoral life?”.

(Maja steals a quick glance at his father)

MAJA

“Honestly I have no reason and, no excuse to give”.

MRS.AGUOBODO

“What do you mean no reason?. There must be a reason. Is my daughter not a good wife to you?”.

MAJA

“She is ma’am”.

MR.AGUOBODO

“Then why have you chosen the wrong part to life?. A blessed young man, you have loving parents, and you know we all care for you”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“I felt bad when his wife complained to me about it”.

MAJA

“ I changed after we spoke; honestly believe me dad. I am a new man now”

MRS AGUOBODO

“It is for the interest of you and my daughter we came. Tell us if she disrespects you”.

MAJA

“No ma’am”

BARRISTER HENRY

“My son, Marriage is meant to be enjoyed not endured. Be a loving Husband to your wife”.

MR.AGUOBODO

“If you treat your wife well she won’t have any reason to complain”.

MRS. AGUOBODO

“I wonder what is wrong with some young men of these days; they don’t care for the happiness of their spouse anymore”.

MAJA

“Mama not that I don’t care for her”. (Silvia walks into scene)

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“I have come to warn you, not to lay your hand on my daughter again; I didn’t give her to you to kill for me”.

MRS.AGUOBODO

“Honestly if you beat my daughter again; I won’t take it lightly with you”.

MAJA

“It hasn’t come to that ma’am; I am a changed person now”.

BARRISTER AGUOBODO

“My in-laws calm down; I promise that It won’t happen again”.

Mr. Aguobodo and his wife remain silent and stare at Maja, looking very unhappy.

MRS AGUOBODO

“By the way, How is my grandson?”.

SILVIA

“He is good mum. He has gone to School”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“We don't have much time to stay here; we have somewhere we must get to before 12 noon”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“Okay my In-laws; I have a meeting by 1pm, I believe he has heard all we said”.

Maja starts to feel unease. He is annoyed inside him, wondering why His wife chose to report him to them.

Chief Aguobodo clears his throat and says.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Maja, my daughter is my treasure; I won’t tolerate it next time”.

(Maja looks down to the floor then raise his head).

MAJA

“It was anger issue sir, i made a mistake”.

MRS AGUOBODO

“Anger issue and you turn my daughter to a punch bag all the time”. (She ask him angrily)

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“I learnt you find pleasure in hitting her each time you have misunderstanding”.

(Maja remain silent. Mrs. Aguobodo stares at him intently, angry)

Suddenly she burst out.

MRS AGUOBODO

“Please i didn't give you my daughter to kill for me o!, you go see the other side of me if it happens again”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Misunderstanding arises in a home; but you can't settle it by fighting, but dialogue, talking things out”.

MAJA

“Yes sir”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“We didn't come to ask what the issue is between you two; but to ask you to find solution to the issue”.

MRS AGUOBODO

“If you beat my daughter again then get ready to beat me too”. (Repeats her threats just to scare Maja)

MAJA

“It hasn't come to that ma; no need for that, I realized my mistake and I am sorry for my wrong doings”.

BARRISTER HENRY

"I apologize for my son's immaturity. He won't do that again".

SILVIA

"Let it be true o because i am tired of it, i can't endure any longer".

MRS AGUOBODO

"You should be enjoying your young marriage not enduring".

BARRISTER HENRY

"My daughter; I believe he won't hit you again. If you have misunderstandings try and talk it out, not fight".

CHIEF AGUOBODO

"Maja you used to be nice and a caring young man; what has happened? Are you keeping bad friends?".

MAJA

"Sir i must confess; i made a mistake by the choice of friends i made. I am a changed man now. I realized i wronged my wife and I promise to make it up to her".

CHIEF AGUOBODO

"I am happy to hear you speak this way. All i want is happiness for you and my daughter".

BARRISTER HENRY

"I am happy to hear this".

MR. AGUOBODO

"Since you've realized your mistake and retraces your steps; there won't be problem. Go back to your loving self and enjoy your marriage".

MAJA

"I promise you ma; I am changed from the bad ways. Honestly old things are passed away".

BARRISTER HENRY

"My son, I want you know that bad friends can destroy your home; Ruin your happiness".

MAJA

"Dad believe me; I am a new man now".

CHIEF AGUOBODO

"Good, no need to flog the issue. We should be going". (Even when they already did)

SILVIA

“Daddy and mummy, please wait let me prepare something for you to eat”.

MRS AGUOBODO

“Don't worry my daughter; we fed well before we left home. We will come some other time”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Make out time to visit us with my grandson. Maja hope you can have time to come with them?”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“My In-laws, we need to make out time to have dinner together in my house someday”.

MR.AGUOBODO

“Yes, we will try and come together to dine. Maja, I hope your business is flourishing”

MAJA

“Yes sir, it is sir, glory is to God almighty”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Okay, that is good; let's go darling”. (Stands up and his wife doing same, Barrister Henry too)

MRS AGUOBODO

“Silvia, call me later; we don't have much time, we must reach to our destination before 11.30 am”. (Maja's Father and Silvia's parent's depart from the house. Immediately they close the door

Maja goes to sit with his wife.

MAJA

“Honey, i am sorry i hurt you; please forgive me. It won't happen again”. (They hug and hold each other tight, tears of joy flows from Silvia's eyes)

DISSOLVES TO:

EATERY: EVENING: INTERIOR.

Chris wife, Joy and another woman talk in low tones besides a car parked some distance to the entrance of an eatery.

JOY

“Are you sure they are inside?”

THE WOMAN

“Yes, i saw them walk in hand in hand, laughing”.

JOY

“Okay, thank you my good friend; Let me surprise them”. (Pats her on the back as she walks towards the entrance)

Chris with his girlfriend eats in the Eatery when his wife walks in. Joy looks around until she spots her husband with a girl eating at a table at the left corner of the hall. Not noticing her approach their table, Joy gently walks up to her husband. (Smile plays on her lips)

JOY

“Darling, how is your evening going”.

(Chris looks up in shock, Stupid smile flicker on his lips)

CHRIS

“Ehmm honey, fine, it is going fine”. (He is very uncomfortable and the girl looks surprise, she quickly stands up)

GIRL

“Please, who is this woman?”.(Points at Joy)

CHRIS

“Eeem she is my.. My.... (He stutters)

JOY

“Tell her who i am!” (Angrily staring at him, waiting for him to answer the girl’s question)

GIRL

“I am waiting for your answer” (Other people close to their table waiting too for his answer) “Who is this woman?”.(The girl repeats)

(Chris tries to talk but suddenly starts coughing as if something is about to choke him. He suddenly runs off towards the exit door)

(Joy turns and looks at the girl who stood confused)

JOY

“I am his wife. Now will you get away from my face before i deal with you”.

GIRL

“I am sorry ma; he is married?. Honestly i don't do married men. He lied to me; sorry ma”. (Walks off quickly)

Before Joy could reach the outside of the eatery Chris has driven off.

CUT TO:

GREG'S HOME: EVENING: EXT

Pauline relaxes on the long sofa when Greg walks in from outside. He put his phone down on the table, at the center of the living room, and sits with his wife. He pecks her and unbuttons his shirt, two buttons up.

PAULINE

“Welcome honey; how did it go?”.

GREG

“I discussed with my friend; and he said if i can raise the money, he will help me with visa”.

PAULINE

“Oh that’s good; God is in control”. (Standing up)” I am coming let me go to the rest room”. Then she walks off.

Greg relaxes more on the sofa.

(Few minutes later, she returns back and sits close to him. She brings out an envelope from her pocket and hands it to him. He is surprised and looks at her again quizzically)

PAULINE

“Open it”.

(Greg obeys and does as he is directed, and another paper which is a Cheque is in it)

PAULINE

“Our company gave all the senior staffs a house loan; so i collect mine so you can use the money to start another business”. (Greg exclaims happily and hugs her and she smiling, hugs him too)

GREG

“Thank you my love; oh i am very happy. By the grace of God; my travelling to China to buy goods is realistic”.

PAULINE

“Let's pray and hand everything to the hands of God”. (The hold hands and says a prayer to God to bless their plans and their home)

GREG Pulls out the check and kiss it. “4million naira” (He yells happily)

PAULINE

“My company will be deducting two third of my salary to service the loan; so i will have little left for transportation.

GREG

“By God's grace; everything will be alright. I can't wait to start buying from China”.

They happily hug each other again.

DISSOLVES TO:

TONY'S APRTMENT: EVENING: EXT

Tony alights from his vehicle and closes the door hastily and walks towards his apartment door.

(He rubs his temple. He has a Headache. Instantly his wife Ann opens the door, and sees him, almost immediately Tony tries to grab the door handle. She stops and stares at him, as he shivers.

ANN

"Welcome darling; what is wrong?. Are you alright?".

TONY

"I have a headache; all my body ache me seriously". (Ann helps him open the door)

ANN

"Sorry, it might be malaria".

(Holds the door wide as he walks into the living room and gently lowers himself into the sofa)

TONY

"I hope the concoction you prepared for me in the morning in the name of breakfast; is not reacting in my system". (Ann looks so sad and stands and stares at him. (She shakes her head and wipes the tears from her eyes)

ANN

"You blame me on any slightest opportunity; it is unfair". (Suddenly he burst out in fury)

TONY

"Don't provoke me woman; I am becoming too lenient, I see; you can talk back at me at will. Don't worry it is my fault. If I had stayed with friends and enjoy some Isiewu, I won't be here listening to your trash".

(She walks away into the bedroom. (Some seconds later, he calls her). (She appears looking gloomy and downcast)

BACK TO:

TONY

"You evil woman; I came back sick, and you left me shivering here. Can't you find some malaria medicine for me?".

ANN

“We have no malaria medicine in the house. I suggest you do a lab test first, to know if it is malaria”.

TONY

“Must you argue on everything?; Do you know my body better than me?, It must be malaria. If I get angry and descend on you now, you will call your parents. Look I will not allow your parents to run my home for me”.

ANN

“If you insist; then give me some money to go the pharmacy to buy some malaria medicine. I don’t want argument”.

TONY

“I don’t have money; if you can’t use your money to buy medicine for me; then leave it”.

ANN

“I am saying the truth; you refuse me to work, you don’t give me money but only for food. Where will I get the money?”.

TONY

“Didn’t I give you some money five days ago?”.

ANN

“You gave me money to buy most things you need in the house; you already priced the items before asking me to buy”.

TONY

“This is what a man gets when he marries a liability as a wife”.

ANN

“Oh I am a liability?, Me?. You refused to allow me get a job; you insisted until I am done with child bearing. Now you call me a liability”.

TONY

“Woman!, You are worsening my headache. Get out of here”. (He yells at her)

ANN

“I know you are maltreating me because you know I love you”. (Sobbing)

(She walks into the bedroom and continues sobbing)

CUT TO:

STREET: EVENING: EXT:

MICHAEL and Ojoma laughs, hold hands as they enter a restaurant. They sit on plastic chairs and Michael beckons the service and places order for both of them. The service walks off to bring their order and they relax, waits for their order to arrive. Suddenly a bike pulls up nearby and Michael's wife, Tonia disembarks and pays the bike man and quickly heads to her husband and Ojoma's table. The place is open bar and so many other customers are busy with their food and drinks. Before they can notice her, she angrily grabs Ojoma by her dress from the back. Michael turns immediately to see his wife. Ojoma freezes with fear and momentarily tries to see the assailant but a slap lands on her back. She struggles to see who holds her dress from behind. Tonia slaps her again. Ojoma struggles and finally tries and turns in pain to face her attacker.

DIAMOND

"You idiot; so you are the one destroying my home" ..

(She slaps Ojoma again and fight ensues). Ojoma quickly tries to free herself even when Michael is trying to separate them and other people trying to stop the fight. Tonia bites Michael's hand as he tries to come between her and Ojoma.

Ojoma pushes Tonia to the wall; trying to free herself. She picks a glass cup and hits Diamond on her forehead. Blood appears on Tonia's forehead and she screams in pain and her grip on Ojoma drops. That allows Ojoma the opportunity to move away from her. More People gather to watch the fight.

DIAMOND

"My head!, i will kill you today; Ashawo!".

(She touches her forehead and blood follows her palm) Michael did not think right. He gets closer to his wife Tonia and speaks harshly, trying to hold her.

MICHAEL

"Stop embarrassing yourself here". (Places his hand on her shoulders in other to stop her) and she grabs his hand and bite him hard). (Michael yells and pulls his hand away in pain). (Ojoma witnesses what happened and immediately dash off, running along the street to escape). (Onlookers jeer at her as she run. Some people try to help to calm Tonia down)

DISSOLVES TO:

EVENING: CHIEF AGUOBODO'S HOME: EXT

Chief Aguobodo and his wife drive home along their street. On getting to the gate, he hoots the car horn twice, and quickly the gate man throws open the gate. They drive in and he eases the car to a stop in the parking space. Chief Aguobodo kills the engine, and then turns to his wife.

MRS AGUOBODO

“Darling, why are you staring at me like that?”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“I am just thinking”.

MRS AGUOBODO

“Thinking what?; my husband”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Holiday on my mind; the stress in this Country can kill a weak heart”. (She smiles on hearing of Holiday)

MRS. AGUOBODO

“That will be good for us. We haven't had any holiday in 2 years”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“I am thinking we travel to the states to spend some time with Damian and his family; from there we travel to Canada”.

MRS. AGUOBODO

“Can i tell you something my love?”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“What?”.

MRS. AGUOBODO

“I think i want to have a white Christmas”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Christmas is still few months away”.

MRS. AGUOBODO

“I am suggesting; let's go to the Caribbean, after that we travel to US and Canada for the Christmas”.(Chief Aguobodo frowns)

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“And where the money for all the travels will come from?”.

MRS. AGUOBODO

“From you of course; ah ah, my good husband” (Holds his arms, touches his cheek, smiling) God already blessed us; All we do is take care of ourselves. Please don't deny me this joy”. (She blow him kiss in the air) (Chief Aguobodo smiles)

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“No i don't want that kiss in the air”. (Points to his Lips)

MRS. AGUOBODO

“Darling, the Gate man might be watching; just mange this. When we get into the house then i kiss you properly. (Kisses him on the cheek)

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Oya oya, i can't wait to get into the house (Throws the car door open, alights quickly and his flowing Lace mini Baba Riga swivel in the air. He steps down and quickly rounds the car to the front door, opens the door for his wife who alights gently and slowly. Her Native wear looks beautiful on her.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Darling let's go up into the house”. (Practically dragging her)

MRS. AGUOBODO

“So you opened the car door for me; because i promised you a better kiss inside?”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“Noo!, so you want to label it a tokenism”.

MRS. AGUOBODO

“I am surprised you can remember to help me open the car door”.

CHIEF AGUOBODO

“This is blackmail; abeg let's go jare”.

(Holds her hand and precede the way to the stairs; both laughing). The Gate man watching from near the gate, smiling generously as the love birds heads to the stairs.

CUT TO:

EVENING: MAJA AND HIS FATHER: EXT.

Maja and his Father stand beside His car in discuss.

BARRISTER HENRY

“My son, I am proud of you; you really have changed to a good man”.

MAJA

“Yes dad, my wife is happy now. I am no longer sleeping out, we resolve our misunderstanding maturely.

BARRISTER HENRY

“Good. I am happy to hear that. Plan and go on vacation with her”.

MAJA

“I am thinking of that dad; but my issue is, fund. I don’t have enough money”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“You work towards it; maybe you do that next year”.

MAJA

“I called Charity last night; and she wants me to visit with my wife”

BARRISTER HENRY

“It will be good if you take your wife to the states. Spoil her a little”.

MAJA

“I was thinking of UK”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“Okay, but she is a UK citizen. She was born there; why not try US”

MAJA

“I am thinking of the Bahamas or UK”.

BARRISTER HENRY

Bahamas is a nice destination; but it will be fun if you visit Charity and family. She really wants to see you and your wife. She misses you”.

MAJA

“Okay dad; I will plan towards that”.

BARRISTER HENRY

“If it is money; I will help you when you are ready”.

MAJA

“Thank you dad; I am happy now”. (Smiling happily)

BARRISTER HENRY

(Barrister Henry parts Maja’s back)” Try come to the house with your family. I am missing your mum”.

MAJA

“Okay dad, I will bring then next weekend”.

(His Father opens his car door and slides in and the engine starts)

BARRISTER HENRY

“I will be expecting you my son”.

(The puts the gear to drive and slowly drives out of the office complex)

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

3 YEARS LATER: EVENING: GREG'S HOME: INT:

Greg returns home from a visit to his business friend. The day is Saturday and it is Pauline's birthday. The Loan has been repaid and life is becoming more comfortable for Greg and Pauline. Greg still remains Faithful to his wife and Pauline Loves him the more.

Pauline pressing her phone when Greg walks in closes the door behind him. She stops pressing her phone and looks up to him. She is not happy but managing to conceal her disappointment. For the first time, Greg forgot her birthday. She will not let him know she is not happy.

GREG

“Darling, please i want you to come with me; let’s go meet my friend who came back from the states”. (She feels reluctant)

GREG

“Darling pleases nah”.

(He eggs her, and tries to help her up)

She reluctantly stands up, and still conceals her disappointment.

PAULINE

“Okay love; let me go get dressed”.

GREG

“That's my girl!”.

(Feeling very happy)

Minutes Later, she comes out from the room, looking very beautiful in her dress. Greg hugs her and pecks her on the cheek.

GREG

“This is my queen; whom i love so much”. (She smiles)

PAULINE

“I love you too”.

They leave and lock the door and heads to a waiting taxi.

CUT TO:

FEW MINUTES LATER: EXT

Greg and Pauline in a taxi, and the taxi pull up few meters before a busy road.

They alight and Greg leads the way; walks towards an open space parked with cars.

On getting to the open space with cars; a man walks over to them and smiles.

Greg holds her hand and takes her to a beautiful red Toyota Venza, and the man brings out a key and hands it over to Greg.

PAULINE

“What are we doing here darling, are we not meeting your friend anymore?”

Greg ignores her question and collects the car key, and turns to Pauline, Points to the red Toyota Venza.

GREG

“This is my friend i told you about”.

(She looks confused)

PAULINE

“I see no one in the car; where is the friend we came to meet”.

GREG

“This is for you my beautiful wife; the owner of my heart, Happy Birthday to you”.

(She screams in excitement and hugs him and Collects the keys)

PAULINE

“Thank you! Thank you my love. Oh oo you are a wonderful man. (She hugs him again and opens the front door of the car. A big Birthday card with roses lay on the front seat)

PAULINE

“My God, what a wonderful husband you blessed me with”.(Tears well up in her eyes)

(Greg holds her shoulders and looks into her eyes)

GREG

“You are more wonderful and you deserve the best from me. I love you so much”.

PAULINE

“I am so blessed to have you as my husband”.

GREG

“I want us to go have some sumptuous meal to celebrate your special day. The driver will deliver the car at our house later”.

The car seller appears in the scene and collects the keys back, smiling.

CAR SELLER

“Happy birthday ma”

PAULINE

“Thank you very much sir”.

(Greg holds her hand as they walk away)

Greg and Pauline walk out towards same taxi which parks few meters, waiting on them.

They slide in and the driver gently drives unto the road toward the address Greg deposited on his dashboard earlier.

Minutes Later, the taxi pulls up in front of a beautiful house. They alight and Greg holds her hand and leads the way. They walk up till the reach a gate and enter into the compound and head towards the main entrance. (Pauline eyes cuts in all direction)

PAULINE

"Honey thought you said we are going to eat out to celebrate; Where is this?".

Greg smiles, holds her hand as he walks on, leading the way.

GREG

"Yes love, this is a new place someone directed me; they sale nice foods here. This place is newly opened".

PAULINE

"But this place looks like a residence house".

GREG

"Yea, they said it was built to give people a feel of home".

She cuts her eyes around, and few cars parked some feet away.

Getting close to the entrance door, the door swings open inward. As they steps into the nice furnished space, a happy birthday song starts, and blares from a loud speaker somewhere in the large room. All of Greg's friends and wives are there, standing and smiling.

The cab driver lowers his seat and slides lowers, the brim of his hat nearly toughing his nose. He closes his eyes for short rest

BACK TO:

Some new faces. Pauline stands, spell bound momentarily. This is a big surprise to her. SUDDENLY Shouts of Happy birthday rent the air. Greg stands smiling; on impulse she hugs him tight and tears of joy starts to flow down her cheek.

The rest roars out Laughing and clapping. She disengages herself and cuts her eyes at people and furnishing. A birthday cake lay on a table and Red rose flowers adorn it round.

GREG

"Come and cut your birthday cake, love"

(Holds her hand and leads the way, She smiles and waves at everybody cheering her.

The small crowd turns and all attention focus on her as she is about to cut her birthday cake.

Michael goes closer and speaks.

MICHAEL

"You will cut the cake after the spelling of the last alphabet in Jesus".

MICHAEL

"J. E. S. U. S"

(Everyone chorus Jesus) Pauline cuts the cake, feeling very happy, as clapping, cheers, fill the air)

(Greg steps forward and kiss her. He clears his throat and silence fall around)

GREG

“I want us to use this opportunity to warm and dedicate this house to God almighty. Special thanks to God and my loving wife who made me who i am today”.

Pauline looks at him quizzically. “A new house” (she says to herself)

GREG

“Darling, i know it is a big surprise to you. I am doing everything to surprise you; to show my appreciation for all your love and support”.

“Yes!” someone shouts from the small crowd). (Greg continues to speak)

GREG

“You are a wonderful woman; and I am so proud of you. I will forever appreciate all you've done for me”.

Pauline hugs him. The little sadness building up in her heart because he hides the construction of a house from her dies down immediately. She understands him; everything is done to surprise her. He has been a wonderful husband to her. She cuts her eyes around and the house is already furnished. Suddenly David steps out and stands beside them. He cleared his throat. (Silence, the he says)

DAVID

“Today we are gathered here to celebrate with our friend and his wife”. "A wonderful friend" Maja interjects.

DAVID

“His way of life, commitment to marriage, really changed me to a better person. I wronged him some time ago; but i have asked God to forgive me. Not helping a friend when he needs help is wrong”.

David's wife smiles and comes close and hugs Pauline. Other wives join her, laughter fill the air.

LIZZY

“We are happy for you; God bless you in your new home”. “Amen!” (Other chorus)

Food and drinks and friends and celebrant start to eat, as happiness fills the air. Some few minutes later, Maja and wife stop eating and rise; walks forward to where Greg and Pauline sit.

MAJA

“We have to run; my mother is coming in from the states. We have to be at the Airport before 8pm. Her flight is arriving 8.45pm”.

They shake hands and Silvia and Pauline hugs. All smile and Maja and wife wave at others and head to exit.

GREG

“Thank you for honoring us with your presence”

(Greg says as they leave)

MAJA

“It’s our pleasure”.

PAULINE

“Thank you and goodbye”.

Maja and wife left and others continue to enjoy themselves. (Some minutes later, others stand and ready to go home. Greg and wife join others, ready to go too.

CUT TO:

Some minutes on as the cab drives on,

In the cab as the driver drives Greg and Pauline home, after others has left. Pauline holds his hand and smiles to him. He smiles back at her, holding her hand tight.

PAULINE

“Thank you very much my darling for all these surprises; for your love and care. What a beautiful house”.

GREG

“You deserve more my love; you are the best of all women. I love you”

The driver smiles and steals a glance at the mirror right above his head.

PAULINE

“I love you too; you filled my heart with happiness (But feign to be sad)

Greg becomes quite, waiting to hear her talk but she looks more distant out the window.

PAULINE

“When we get home we talk”

(She manages to say, still looking out the window to far away Land of Unseen)

Greg notices her Doldrums.

GREG

“Darling, why the sudden change in mood?. Did i say something wrong?”.

PAULINE

“No you didn't say anything wrong sweet, just something bothering me”.

(Holds his hand tighter)

Few minutes later, the driver slows the cab and stops in front of their rented abode. Greg brings out his phone and dials a number.

(She precedes him to the front door). She brings out the key and unlocks the door, and steps into the Apartment.

BACK TO:

GREG

“We are home now; don't worry bringing the car today. You will bring it to our new address. (He speaks briefly and cuts call)

Inside, in the living room, Greg (Holds her waist by the waist as they sit on the long sofa) her beautiful blue dress contrast the burgundy sofa. Greg still wears his black blazer unbuttoned.

GREG

“My love, i am the luckiest man to have a wonderful woman like you”.

(He kisses her neck and she turns)

PAULINE

“I can't ask for a better man”.

(Little smile playing on her lips)

GREG

“Oh my love; am i that a good man?”.

PAULINE

“Yes”

GREG

“Honey why are you looking sad; something is bothering you. Don't pretend; I know you. You are not so happy”. (She gently slides off the sofa and holds her head in her hands. Stands and her face look very bland. Greg quickly slide off the sofa too and stands near her and gently places his arm on her shoulder, looking worried.

GREG

“Talk to me babe; please. What is the matter?”.

Pauline shakes her head and sits back on the sofa (Her head in her palms and elbow on knees. Head trust forward. Greg sits beside her too and continues to prod.

GREG

“Please Honey; don't kill me with this silence. I am becoming so worried. Please talk to me”. (Holds her closer to him) (Suddenly she gently rises and walks to the back of the single Sofa few feet away, and picks up an envelope from its back and quietly walks back to him.

PAULINE

“Yesterday, the Admin manager called me and spoke with me, after few minutes the Personnel manager spoke with me. Later i received this (Hands the envelope to him) Greg grabs it.

GREG

“Sack letter!?, Oh my God; so they continued with the retrenchment”. (Quickly removing the paper from the brown envelope) (She steals a quick glance at him and looks away) Suddenly Greg exclaims.

GREG

“Oh my God!; you are pregnant”.

(Hugs her joyously) (She is smiling now, and then she turns and hugs him too)

GREG

“Thank you God!. You are a wonderful and kind Father. Glory be to your name”.(Waving into the air)

PAULINE

God is kind to us; I am so happy. We are going to be parents. Thank you Lord”. (He kisses her on the cheek and she kisses him on the lips)

GREG

“What a big surprise. Babe you got me. I swear”.

PAULINE

“You started the Surprise thing my Love”. (Smiling)

GREG

“We are going to be parents; I am so happy!”.

PAULINE

“I am so happy; God has answered our prayer. I went to our company hospital to collect the pregnancy test yesterday. Wanted to tell you immediately i got home but something held me back. I decide to tell you today my birthday but I felt sad; thought you forgot my Birthday”.

GREG

“How can i forget the birthday of my beautiful woman? I pass that level Nah”.

She laughs out loud, he laughing too.

GREG

“Thank you Jesus! Thank you Jesus!!. Glory is to your name, Lord God almighty”.

(Kneels down in supplication and Pauline kneels beside him too, her hands up too in supplication.

FADE OUT: