

PRINCE OF AVABA  
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## PRINCE OF AVABA

FADE IN

MORNING: EXT.

GROUP OF MEN SIT TOGETHER IN AN OPEN SPACE, NEAR A DIRTY STREET. DRINKING GIN IN PLASTIC CUPS, AND LAUGHING HAPPILY. Sharing jokes in front of a locked shop, in a shanty Area of Mini-ro. Some have no shirts on them, some smoke weed, some cigarettes. The man sitting at the center is few feet away from the rest, while other men are sitting spread before him from left and right. Much attention is giving to him as he talks. Other men remain silent, listening to him until he is done talking. They burst out laughing as he says something funny. He is handsome, but looks tough. He is tall and looks sportive, with broad chest and a Crew cut hair. He is in his late twenties. A heavy set old Lady walks along the tiny dirty street and glances at them and some of the men glare at her and she walks faster to move away. A man lights a cigar already between python's lips. (Python drags and inhales and puffs thick smoke up into the air). (Glances around as silence fell all around him) All wait for him to speak. (He puffs some more smoke into the air once again and finally he speaks.

PYTHON

"I am tired of this small environment. It is right time i move". (Some of the men start to murmur)

PYTHON

"If anyone wishes to go with me, he is welcome, but note!" (Silence everywhere, all listening attentively) Raises his finger up, flick it" I don't know where i am going". (First man whose name is Dennis speaks first)

DENNIS

"Oga i dey go with you. Me self, here don tire me".

PYTHON

"Let's do it this way. Raise your hand if you want to go with me".

ABOUT THREE MEN RAISE THEIR HANDS INCLUDING DENNIS. OTHERS KEEP THEIR HANDS DOWN. WITH VARIOUS REASONS WHY THEY CAN'T GO, LEAVING THEIR FAMILIES BEHIND.

**PYTHON**

**“Alright, those who want to go with me must know that this journey won't be easy”.  
(Silence)**

**PYTHON**

**“You still have the chance to change your mind. Think well”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Wetin i de do here?, another place go bring fresh challenge and fun”. (Another man  
speaks, his name is Ejiro)**

**EJIRO**

**“I am very ready for the adventure. When are we moving, Python?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Anyone who wishes to go with me should go put his house in other. Any moment from  
now, we move”.**

**EJIRO**

**“Me i no get house, nothing to put in other”.**

**THE MEN CHUCKLES**

**EJIRO**

**“Na true i talk oh. Person wey no get money no de fear pick pocket!”**

**PYTHON**

**“Alright men, i am going to rest. I will inform you when we are moving”. (Standing up,  
others start to rise too)**

**EJIRO**

**“Python!, what about your numerous girls here. What do you do with them?”.**

**PYTHON SITS BACK (OTHERS SIT BACK TOO) ANXIOUS TO HEAR HIS ANSWER)**

**PYTHON**

**“Oh they are no longer useful. I will acquire another set for my pleasure wherever i will  
settle”.**

**THE REST BURST OUT LAUGHING, HAILING HIM. PYTHON PYTHON!! PYTHON!!!**

**DENNIS**

**“Me i no care for my Rosa again, i dash you guys, any one wey like go carry am”. (They laugh out the more, (Dennis takes a swig of the gin in his plastic cup and drops the empty cup to the ground and match it to squeeze)**

**PYTHON**

**“I will miss you guys who will not be coming with us. (Pause) Kodo i want you to be in charge now” (pointing to a man sitting far right end).**

**KODO**

**“Thank you Python, we go hold here wella”. (Throws his hands at his colleagues and waits for their assurance. They nod in affirmation)**

**PYTHON STANDS UP ONCE MORE FROM HIS SITTING POSITION AND STRETCHES, YARNS AND STARTS TO WALK OFF.**

**PYTHON**

**“Python is going into his hole”. (He walks on)**

**KODO**

**“Python, please tell us when you settle at the new place, in case you go need our assistance, or we need your own”.**

**PYTHON**

**“No problem, we are still one nah”. (Puffs his cigar as he walks off) (Suddenly he stops and silence fell in the already rowdy circle of men and all men fixe their gaze on him)**

**PYTHON**

**“Tell this to no one. Catch it?” (Looks at them hard) (No one dare annoy Python. He is merciless whenever he chose to punish offender)**

**THEY START TO SPEAK QUICKLY. (All assures him of the secrecy of their discussion)**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**FEW DAYS LATER: AFTERNOON: EXT**

**A WHITE BUS DRIVES ALONG A ROAD.** The road is not a busy one, only few vehicle drives by. Python and Dennis, ejiro and another man, whose name is Agunkwo sit with other passengers. They share jokes and laugh loudly, not minding that other people in the bus are uncomfortable with their noise. The driver glances in the rear view mirror to see the faces of the noise makers. He is not ready to complain, the men looks dangerous.

**(Suddenly python speaks)**

**PYTHON**

**“Driver!, we are almost late to the train station, drive faster please”.**

**DRIVER**

**“Okay sir!. I de try”.**

The driver accelerates more, Silence returns once more as the noise makers are relaxing now. Every passenger thinks their different thoughts.

The journey to unknown continues. Python closes his eyes and relaxes back on his seat, different thoughts playing in his mind. Minutes later, the driver slows down and pulls the bus to a stop near another connecting junction.

**DRIVER**

**“Na here una go follow reach train station”**

**(Pointing to another road that links to the one they came coming from.( PYTHON LAZILY OPENS HIS EYES AND PICKS HIS SMALL BAG as Dennis, ejiro and Agunkwo already start to alight from the bus. He joins them, as they step down from the bus, one after the other.**

The other passengers heaves sighs of relief. A woman in the bus gives sign language to another woman sitting beside her. Python alights last and the driver drives off. The four men stand glancing around. The road to the train station lay ahead and it is not busy with human movement. Few vehicles drive to and from the direction of the train station.

**PYTHON**

**“Let’s walk that way, maybe the train station is still far”.** (OTHERS OBEY HIM)

**DENNIS**

**“Python, if we reach train station, where we go tell them we dey go?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I don't know where we are going; we just get on and maybe, alight at the next stop. The train will be traveling down south. We can make do with the scenery”.**

**AGUNKWO**

**“As long as we are in another place, anywhere will be okay. I am tired of this place”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Let's go!”**

**(HE SAYS, LOOKING MORE SERIOUS AS HE POINTS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO THE TRAIN STATION)**

**THEY WALK OFF TOWARDS THE TRAIN STATION.**

**CUT TO:**

**INT: AFTERNOON: INSIDE THE TRAIN:**

**PYTHON SITTING BESIDES A MAN, while others sit on various seats in the coach. The train blare its horn as it moves, to warm people off its part. Smoke billows up from the smoke pole, like a chimney. Python shifts his weight on his seat trying to relax better, and as his foot touches the man sitting beside him. The man snares at him, angry and unfriendly.**

**PASSANGER**

**Why are you disturbing me here?, You are not in your bedroom. (Angry)**

**Python glares at him with a hard face**

**PYTHON**

**Are you talking to me, did you just talk now?**

**PASSANGER**

**Who else is sitting with us here?.” You are trying to disturb my space; . You can request for first class if you wants to lie down and sleep.**

**OTHER PASSANGERS, Dennis, Ejiro and Agunkwo, some girls in the coach stare on anxiously, at python and the man.**

**Python stands up, looks down at the man. The man stares up at Python.**

**PYTHON**

**“You must be mad!; “Who the hell are you talking to in such rudeness?.**

**THE MAN RISES UP TOO, READY TO CLAIM HIS PLACE.**

**PASSANGER**

**“Are you deaf?, you heard me well”.**

**(Before the man realizes what is coming, python slaps him hard, punches him on his belly.**

**The man momentarily loose balance but regains his posture. Like a lion he springs at python and fights back fiercely. Ejiro and Dennis moves quickly to stop the fight. The man already has a blooded mouth. The fighters disengage and everyone step back to his sitting positions. The train continues its journey as the brush recedes, the train speeds on and normalcy returns in the passengers’ section**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**SOME HOURS LATER: EVENING: EXT**

**The train glides to a stop at the next stopping point, which is a small town, and python signals to others to alight, even though they don't know the place. They all pick their bags, which have little important contents in them and steps down. Walk off, looking for any restaurant to eat. They are all famished. Dennis Sights one small restaurant and they walks in to eat. Minutes later, python and the rest continues to eat. Python have some money with him; others have too but some few thousand notes. Python had been saving for this trip to unknown. They need the change of environment and now they are enjoying a meal in another little town, which its name is Okpe. Very soon darkness will start gathering. Python pulls back his chair and walks up to the woman who runs the small restaurant.**

**PYTHON**

**Madam!**

**(She straightens up from what she is doing and looks at python)**

**RESTAURANT OWNER**

**“Oga, una want more food?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“No madam, we are new here in town. Please is there anywhere we can get any cheap lodging?”.**

**RESTAURANT OWNER**

Prince of Avaba

“Ah ah noo, our town na small town. No hotel; emmm, i no know where una go fit sleep o”.

PYTHON

“Is there any church here, maybe we can go and sleep there till morning?”

RESTAURANT OWNER

“The small church wey we get, the roof don spoil. Dem de repair am. Na under tree we de use now”.

EJIRO AND THE REST LOOK AT THEM AND LISTENING TO THEIR CONVERSATION.

THE RESTAURANT OWNER SPEAKS AGAIN.

RESTAURANT OWNER

“Oga, where una come from?. Where una dey go?”.

(THE QUESTION DIDIN'T GOES DOWN WELL WITH PYTHON. HE DOSE'T LIKES HER QUESTION BUT HE NEEDS TO PLAY COOL.

PYTHON

“We came with the last train and it left us as we got down buying some food”.

RESTAURANT OWNER

“Eyaa, so the train leave una?. Emm”

(SHE SEEMS TO BE COMTEMPLATING)

RESTAURANT OWNER

“Me i no know una, i just wan do dis because of God”. (Silence) Then she says,

“Ehmm, i get one small place for back of my shop; wey i dey pack things. As nothing dey there, If una go fit manage it till morning”. (PYTHON SMILES RICHLY)

PYTHON

“Thank you very much. We can manage there; God bless you”.

(Turns to others who are already smiling happily)

RESTAURANT OWNER

**DISSOLVES TO:**

**“No problem. Na God gets the glory. Make una relax, when i wan go i go show una the place”.**

**Python walks back and sits down with the rest and orders drinks for all of them.**

**When the restaurant owner starts to close for the day after python paid their bills. The woman takes them to a small locked shop. She opens the small wooden door for them and Python peers into the small shop.**

**RESTAURANT OWNER**

**“Na the place be dis. Make una manage am”.**

**(A MAN WATCHES THEM FROM SOME FEET AWAY)**

**PYTHON**

**“Thank you madam”**

**(OTHERS CHORUSED)**

**“Thank you madam!”.**

**DENNIS**

**“God bless you”. (He adds)**

**(The man walks away and few seconds later, he returns back with another man in the same spot, but Python and his gang did not notice the presence of the men who watch them. The restaurant owner starts to leave and the two men disappear. (Python and his friends enter into the small empty shop and begin to settle, to lie down)**

**EJIRO**

**“Olboy life no dey easy o”**

**DENNIS**

**“For where, life na serious gbege nah”.**

**AGUMKWO**

**“When the going gets tough, the tough gets going”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Yea!, i like those words, That's the spirit. We are tough men. We try as much as we can to catch enough sleep. The journey is just beginning”.**

**(THEY USE THEIR SMALL BAGS AS PILLOWS. silence as they lay, each thinks his own thought. Darkness starts to envelope everywhere. Some minutes later, they drift into sleep.**

**CUT TO:**

**SAME NIGHT: INT**

**GROUP OF MEN, NUMBERING SIX, EMERGE BY THE CORNER SOME FEW FEET TO THE SHOP WHERE PYTHON AND HIS FRIENDS LIE AND SLEEPING. THE MEN TIP TOES TO THE DOOR OF THE SHOP, where python and his friends are sleeping, all with guns. (They sneak close, whispers to each other),( point at the door of the small shop) One of them steps forward, knocks on the door) python lazily opens his eyes inside the small shop. (He hears it first and wakes with a start, listens as the rap on the door sounds again. Silence everywhere,( others wake up too), they hears the knock now. Another knock sounds again, but this time harder. Python cannot see others well, but he knows they are all awake now, listening. Ejiro who lay besides him but now sitting up, (Taps python by the hand) (python taps him back) as a response that he heard the knock. Whispering filters in through the little opening in the door. Another knock again, but this time more harder, more impatiently.(Python stands up, taps others to do same). (They all stand in different positions and python signals to Dennis to unbolt the door). “Who might be knocking by this hour of the night?. Maybe the restaurant owner forgot something and came back”. (He whispers to Ejiro) Ejiro steps forward in the dark. With hand he locates the tinny wooden door in the dark.**

**DENNIS**

**“Who is that?. Who de knock?”.**

**A tinny voice which sounds like it belongs to a woman replies from the other side.( " na me!). Dennis hesitates, and another knock sounds on the door. He unbolts the door and like lightning the men with the guns rush into the small shop, while some few stand outside watching in the darkness. Guns point at python and his friends. One of the men who act as the leader shushes python and the rest.**

**LEADER OF GUN MEN**

**“If you say pin, i go shoot you immediately. Oya make una walk out gently from this place, any wrong move you are dead”.**

**Wave’s them forward with the gun. Python, Dennis, ejiro and Agumkwo stares in fear. What is happening?, Like in the movies.**

**LEADER OF THE GUN MEN**

**“Oya move!, everybody move!!”.**

**(Waves them on)**

**(THE MEN FILES OUT THE SMALL SHOP, AND MEET OTHER TWO MEN WHO STAND OUTSIDE. Guns ready to fire. Silence everywhere, except the rustling of the dried leaves on the ground. No sign of any other people around. Two of them flash touch lights, and instruct Ejiro is first in line to move, as they starts to walk along a narrow bush part that run all the way down like a snake.**

**PYTHON**

**“Who are you people, what have we done wrong?”.**

**(PYTHON COURAGEOUSLY ASKS)**

**LEADER OF THE GUN MEN**

**“Sharrap, if anyone of you talks again; i go blow his brain off. Keep moving, obey instructions and u no go get hurt”.**

**(SILENTLY THE MEN WALKS ON, ALONG THE TINNY SNAKE LIKE BUSH PART. Only their footfalls and rustling of the grass can be heard as they walk on. Lights’ from the two torch lights shines ahead, pointing the way in the silent night.**

**BACK TO:**

**MINUTES LATER: ALONG THE BUSH PART: EXT**

**PYTHON AND HIS FRIENDS ALL HERDS BY THE KIDNAPPERS WALK ALONG THE BUSH PART. Guns in hand and they are ready to shoot if provoked to. Different thoughts run through pythons mind. Who are these men?, what is their motive, why are they arrested. He says under his breath. Suddenly the leader of the gun men yells an order.**

**LEADER OF THE GUN MEN**

**“Stop here!, all of you sit down here. We go continue when day don dey brake””.**

**(THE GUN MEN STEPS A LITTLE AWAY FROM PYTHON AND HIS FRIENDS, while they still bears the guns at them as they sit on the grass. Python drops his eyes to the ground and closes his eyes in thought. All six men are armed with different makes of guns. The day is breaking gradually. Some of the gun men are tired of standing. Some sit on bare ground, some sit on the grass, and their guns lay beside them, ready for quick pick-ups. Silence everywhere, only occasional sound from a distant place. The men sit, watching and alert. The two torch lights still on, but fading gradually. Gradually ray of light starts to rise from the east; the wee hour of the morning is here.**

**CUT TO:**

**IN A CAMP: EARLY MORNING: EXT**

**PYTHON AND EJIRO SIT ON ONE SIDE while Dennis and Agumkwo sit at the other side, away from them. The kidnappers sit on makeshift stools facing them, with guns pointing. Few minutes later, another man emerges from the tenth near to them. The day has finally come, as the sun rises and its ray splinters all over. The weather is cool and no sound can be heard in the brush, except singing of birds. (The leader of the gun men who came with them walks to the new man and whispers something in his ear. The man nods. He looks tough and dangerous, with dark skin, tall and strong bones. He wears black jacket on black pant; a red barrette cap hangs on rakish angle on his head. His men know him as Poison. None of them knows his real name.**

**The man steps forward and says to Ejiro.**

**POISON**

**“You! (Points to Ejiro) Stand up!”. (Ejiro quickly rises up, envelopes with fear)**

**POISON**

**“Fifteen million from your family or you are dead in 24 hours”.**

**EJIRO**

**“Ah oga, i no get family; na me be my family. I am all alone. Na these people here be my family” (points at Python and Dennis)**

**POISON**

**“Oh you think this is a joke?” (Angrily he brings out a pistol from his jacket and shoots Ejiro on the leg. Ejiro yells in pain and crashes back to the ground. (FEAR GRIPS PYTHON AND DENNIS)**

**POISON**

**“You!, you!! And you!!!” (Finger Points to python, Dennis and Agumkwo) “Fifteen million from each of your families or you all die in no time”. (WALK’S OFF TO THE TENTH AND FEW SECONDS LATER HE WALKS BACK WITH A CELL PHONE AND HANDS IT OVER TO HIS MAN WHO IS KNOWN AS pappy j)**

**POISON**

**“Let them call their families one after the other”.**

**PAPPY J**

**“Yes sir”. (PAPPY J WALKS TO EJIRO WHO IS STILL GRAONING IN PAINS; BLOOD SOAKS THE GROUND WHERE HE LAY. PAPPY J HANDS THE PHONE TO HIM AND SAYS)**

**PAPPY J**

**“Oya, call your family!” (He yells at Ejiro)**

**EJIRO**

**“Oga!, honestly i no get family wey i go call”. (Talks to himself desperately)**

**POISON STEPS FORWARD, BRINGS OUT HIS PISTOL, AND QUICKLY SPEAKS)**

**PYTHON**

**“Sir, he is saying the truth. He has no family”.**

**POISON**

**“Sharrap!, ( He yells at Python, glares at him sternly)**

**POISON**

**“I didn't ask you to speak”. (Points back at Ejiro)**

**POISON**

**“Call your family now! (And he hands over the phone to him to call his family) “You have 5 minutes to do that!”.**

**EJIRO COLLECTS THE CELLPHONE FROM PAPPY J AND DIALS A NUMBER.**

**EJIRO**

**“Hello!, (A female voice comes on at the other end). Na me Ejiro!, Hello!”.** (The female voice replies harshly)

**FEMALE VOICE**

**“So na now you wan call me. When did you call me last?. Abeg no disturb me again. Go meet your new girlfriend”. (She cuts call)**

**PAPPY J COLLECTS BACK THE PHONE AND HANDS IT BACK TO POISON.**

**POISON**

**“He is useless to us. Waste him!”. (He yells)**

**EJIRO**

**“Noooo! oga abeg no kill me!. Please!!, make i serve you!!!”. (He begs)**

**PYTHON**

**“Please sir spear him, don't kill him”. (Others join to plead)**

**POISON**

**“Sharrap everybody!. It is either your family brings money and set you free or you die”. (He steps forward and shoots Ejiro in two quick successions, and sends him into the land of the dead. (Silence and fear settles in in the camp.**

**POISON**

**“Now who is next?”. (Python becomes afraid). Who do he call?. He is far from his family and besides he would prefer to die than to call his father or mother to save him by bringing money as ransom. They won't even care what happens to him. It's been years he parted ways with them. No one from his family knows where he headed. (Poison points at Agumkwo) (He pulls back in fear)**

**POISON**

**“You, dial your family number, call your family to bring me money”. (Eyes wide in rage)**

**AGUMKWO COLLECTS THE PHONE AND DIALS HIS DAD'S NUMBER, BUT IT IS NOT AVAILABLE. POISON COLLECTS THE PHONE FROM HIM.**

**POISON**

**“Oh you wants to play prank too (pointing the gun at Agumkwo) WHILE REDIALING THE NUMBER HIMSELF. (STILL, NOT AVAILABLE)**

**AGUMKWO**

**“No sir, please be patient. My papa number is not available. I will call him again later”.**

**POISON**

**“Oh this is very annoying, so my men suffered to bring you men here to talk rubbish?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please be patient with us, many of us lost contact with our families long ago. It will take time to connect them again”.**

**PAPPY J**

**“So na story una wan de yarn us. Poison; i think it is best to waste them here and look for better people”.**

**POISON**

**“Let's wait another thirty minutes, and then if nothing changes, they all die”. (WALKS OFF INTO THE TENTH, ANGRY)**

**IMMEDIATELY POISON DISAPEARS INTO THE TENT, pappy j STEPS FORWARD.**

**PAPPY J**

**“Oga no get patience o, make una call una families quick quick. We no de allow useless people here o”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Oga abeg help us, na run we run comot where we de. Police de look for us as we stand like this”.**

**PAPPY J**

**“Oh so una wan bring police here, na quick una go die unless una settle us”. (He moves his bulky frame towards them)**

**Python winks at Dennis. He gets the message and pappy j is looking away momentarily then Dennis winks at Agumkwo, who gets the message too. They must take the risk to escape.**

**PYTHON**

**“Oga, make i try call my family whether dem go pick”. (PAPPY J WALKS TOWARDS HIM TO HAND THE PHONE TO PYTHON BUT LIKE LIGHTNING python dives at him. Throws pappy j to the ground and before pappy j can react, python disarms him, holds him by the neck.**

**PYTHON**

**“Drop your guns or i kill him”.**

**PAPPY J**

**“Abeg please make una obey am”.**

**(HE SAYS TO HIS PEOLPLE) Dennis and Agumkwo already stand up and quickly hide behind python. Python behind pappy j's back, holding him by the neck, while using the other hand to point the gun at pappy j's rib. Poison picks his pistol on hearing the raised voices.**

**(IMMEDIATELY HE STEPS OUT OF THE tent) python points the gun on one of the gun men, pulls the trigger, and kills one of poison's men. Poison dashes back into the tent. Before other men can react, Python squeezes more bullets into another two of Poison's men. Dennis and Agumkwo dash off and start to run in zigzag to avoid being easy targets.**

**FROM INSIDE THE TENT, (poison shoots python and the bullet bruises his shoulder). He is taller than pappy j. (python yells as his grip releases from pappy j, who immediately steps away from python). (Dennis and Agumkwo continue to run away from the camp)(The remaining of poison's men starts to shoot at them as they run) but Dennis and Agumkwo dives to the ground, quickly rise up again, running in zigzag form), a bullet bruises Agumkwo's right leg. He yells in pain and continues to run even as the pain in his leg is slowing him down.( python holds the gun backward on his left shoulder with the wounded hand and shoots sporadically towards the men and the tent), giving covering fire to Dennis and Agumkwo.(At the same time running away). He succeeds in taking down two men as he shoots. (He quickly switches the gun to his right shoulder, he turn the barrel backward towards poison and his men).(shooting as he run). Succeeds in, putting poison and his men in check as they stayed away from the line of fire, until the hammer hits an empty chamber. (He starts to run in zigzag), (throws himself to the ground and gingerly gets up, and manages to escape from the camp) Dennis and Agumkwo are already ahead, (Agumkwo's leg is bruised and it is slowing him down from escaping. Rains of bullets keep flying right about them as they run. (Poison angrily dashes out of the tent. His pistol ready in hand)**

**POISON**

**"Don't let those idiots escape!. They must die!".**

**(HIS MEN ARE ALREADY GOING AFTER PYTHON AND DENNIS AND AGUMKWO) SHOOTING RAPIDLY AS THEY RUN AFTER THEM. (PYTHON RUNS INTO THE BRUSH), (AGUMKWO AND DENNIS TAKES ANOTHER DIRECTION INTO THE BUSH TOO). (Python stumbles and fall. quickly gets up and continues to run). The pain in his shoulder is becoming serious. The gun men are close and this is the great opportunity to escape completely. The narrow bush part stretches far. (He hears someone running at the other side of the bush) They need to escape these mad men if they want to live. (Suddenly Dennis yells as Python emerges at the open space where Dennis stops abruptly.**

**DENNIS**

**"Python!, Python!!, Thank God you made it here!". (Python slows down, stares at Dennis and without talking in unison they continues to run farther away) Quickly making their way, away from danger**

**PYTHON**

**"Where is Agumkwo?"**

**DENNIS**

**"He couldn't follow, so he asks me to go, they shot him immediately". (Panting)**

**PYTHON**

**“Oh my God, this is like a nightmare. Let's try and escape from these mad men”.**

**DENNIS**

**“God please help us, i no wan die like this”.**

**As they reach a safe distance, they decide to stop to rest, they are getting tired. The pain is slowing python down and his blood stained tee shirt hugs to his body. He tiredly staggers along.**

**BACK TO:**

**SOME MINUTES LATER: IN THE BUSH: EXT**

**Poison and his men walk in the brush, guns in hand, numbering about five. Suddenly they stop and start to talk amongst themselves.**

**POISON**

**“Those bastards must not escape. I pass death sentence on them”.**

**PAPPY J**

**“If we catch them, we go peel off their skins”.**

**THEY RESUMES WALK, THE SUN IS VERY UP IN THE SKY NOW. Poison and his men resume walking in search of the escaped men; they keep advancing forward while python and Dennis rests under a shed of a tree. Suddenly python picks a noise, very faint but it is there alright. He springs up, strengthens, signals Dennis to get up. Dennis obeys and stands up and steps closer to python.**

**DENNIS**

**“Python, you are wounded. You need treatment urgently but we don't know how long we are going to run in this bush. No sign of any house”.**

**(HE TOUCHES PYTHON ON THE WOUNDED SHOULDER; BLOOD STAIN WHICH HAS STARTED TO DRY COVERS THE SPOT. (PYTHON WINCES IN PAIN)**

**PYTHON**

**“The pain is getting heavier on my shoulder, nothing we can do now than keep running until we are safe”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Yes we go survive first, God help us. They have guns and we have our legs to run”.**  
**(SUDDENLY)**

**PYTHON**

**“I heard a faint noise. They are coming. Not very far. Let's go!”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Abeg make we run now o. If they catch us we are dead”.**

**They begin to run again, running along the narrow brush part which stretches very far ahead. They don't know where they are running to but they must get away from those gun men.**

**DISSOLVES TO:**

**POISON AND HIS MEN KEEP ADVANCING. (SUDDENLY POISON SEES A SHOE MARK ON THE GROUND)**

**POISON**

**“They have gone this way, look at this”.** (POINTS TO PYTHON'S LOAFERS MARKS ON THE GROUND)

**PAPPY J**

**“Yes, they passed this bush part”.** (POISON COLLECTS A TELESCOPE FROM HIS MAN AND PLACES IT TO HIS EYES)

**POISON**

**“We have to spread into two groups; Few meters from here. Pappy j you go with Ojobo and I go with the rest to the right”.**

**PAPPY J**

**“Yes sir!”.**

**BACK TO:**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS RUNS DOWN A SLOPE, A SMALL STREAM STRETCHES FAR ACROSS. PYTHON FEELS HAPPY. THEY NEED THE WATER TO SURVIVE THE HEAT, THIRST ARE BECOMING UNBEARABLE.**

**They wade into the stream, splash some water, immerse in the small water which flows along to unknown destination. Feeling much better, Dennis scoops water into the mouth, to quench the thirst. Few seconds, they wades out of the stream, a small hill awaits them. THE ENVIRONMENT IS HILLY AND QUIET. THEY START TO CLIMB OUT OF THE SMALL Man-made steps which ran all the way up, with signs of human use. This place might lead them to habited area. The sun blazes down on them, Scorching heat bites their skin and make it**

more difficult. As they keep climbing the small hill, trying to get to the other side of the terrain, suddenly a voice yells from their back, down the other side of the stream.

**CUT TO:**

**OJOBO**

**“Oga see dem there!”.**

They are already at the tip of the small hill. Gun shots starts to rent the air. Bullets hit the hard surface of the small hill in torrents, missing the targets, creating bullets marks. Python and Dennis quickly climb out unto a more level ground with road which stretches very far from where they stand.

**BACK TO:**

**AFTERNOON: EXT**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS RUNNING AS FAST AS THEIR STRENGTH CAN CARRY THEM. Poison and his men climb the small hill from the stream. The pain in python’s shoulder is slowing him down, couple with hunger which is biting his belly. Python runs left, signals Dennis to follow. They need to hide and catch some rest. They took left and hide in a shrub, away from the long stretched road, which has no vehicular activity. The road looks lonely and deserted. Poison and his men keep advancing. Poison stops and places the telescope to his eyes. The road stretches very far and no sign of human activity. (Pappy j speaks first)**

**PAPPY J**

**“Oga, i think we done try, i suggest we go back. We are very far away from our base”.**

**POISON**

**“I want us avenge our men's death; we must get them to pay. Those idiots cannot escape from us”.**

**PAPPY J**

**“Okay, if you say so oga, but I suggest we start going back. This type of road leads to a town and police can drive down here for surveillance”.**

**(Poison know whenever pappy j speaks this way it usually come to pass. He can't risk them being arrested by police. They have more chance to continue in the business than being arrested.**

**POISON**

**“Okay, i am doing what you suggested, not course of the police but we have more chances to look for new people to kidnap. After all, those men are useless to us. No families to pay their ransom”. (OJOBO NODS IN AGREEMENT)**

**OJOBO**

**“Yes, i support your decision”.**

**POISON**

**“Let's go, we have a long road to go”.**

**(THEY TURN AND START TO WALK AWAY BACK THE WAY THEY CAME)**

**BACK TO:**

**FEW MINUTES LATER: EXT.**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS START COMING OUT FROM THEIR HIDDEN. THEY OVERHEARD  
POISON DISCUSS WITH HIS MEN.**

**PYTHON**

**“Finally we are free to go, hungry and the pain in my shoulder is becoming unbearable”.**

**DENNIS**

**“I thank God dem no kill us o. This is like in the movies”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I take it as an adventure. This is movie on its own.**

**DENNIS**

**“Na serious adventure o”**

**(THE BOTH LAUGHS HAPPILY)**

**PYTHON**

**“Let's go, we don't know where this road will lead us to, but that is the best option”.**

**(LOOKING FAR INTO THE ROAD) the heat is biting hard on their bodies. (They cut some leaves from the bush and use it to cover their heads to help cool the Sun, and start to walk along the lonely, dusty road. They keep walking, very hungry and tired. The road stretches very far and all the two sides of the road are brushy and blessed with good scenery, some big stones, and trees. The road stretches upward, like walking up a hill. As they continue to walk up the hilly road, suddenly a vehicle appears from some distance ahead, descending the hilly road. (Python says to Dennis)**

**PYTHON**

**“This is our chance to leave here. See that vehicle coming our way”.**

**DENNIS**

**“I pray the driver would agree to help us”.**

**PYTHON**

**“We go try”**

**THE VEHICLE KEEPS APPROACHING; RAISING DUST AS IT DRIVES CLOSE. (PYTHON AND DENNIS FRANTICALLY FLAGS TILL THE DRIVER SLOWS AND PULLS TO A STOP, AND LOOKS OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW.**

**DRIVER**

**“Why una stop me?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please help us drive us to the town”.**

**DRIVER**

**“I no go fit go back now. I de go carry my wife for farm”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please driver, help us, we are tired and hungry”.**

**DRIVER**

**“Who una be self?”. (LOOKS THEM UP FROM THE VEHICLE)**

**PYTHON**

**“We are from another place; bad men with guns chased us to this place. They wanted to kill us”. (THE DRIVER STARES AT PYHTON, SEEING THE DRIED BLOOD ON HIS SHOULDER, HE POINTS)**

**DRIVER**

**“No be blood be that?” (POINTS AT PYTHON’S SHOULDER)**

**DENNIS**

**“Yes the men shoot am for that place, they wanted to kill us”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please, i need to get medical attention before the pains become too much. We are fainting with hunger, Please help us”.**

**THE DRIVER STARES AT PYTHON THEN AT DENNIS TOO. THEY STILL LOOK WET FROM THE IMMERSION. THE SUN IS RAPIDLY DRYING THEIR CLOTHES. (THE DRIVER CONSIDERS, THEN NODS)**

**DRIVER**

**“Make una come inside. Hope una no be armed robbers o. I just de take the risk because of God”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Thank you! Thank you very much. Noooo! We are not armed robbers”.**

**(They quickly turn to passenger’s side and slide in. The driver reverses the car; put the gear into one and heads up the road. The car drives along the dusty road, which still stretches far and hilly. Few minutes later, the car starts to jerk and slow. The engine stops running and died down. The driver tries to start the car again but it won’t start. Python and Dennis alight from the car and start to push, but the car won’t start.**

**THE DRIVER OPENS THE DOOR AND ALIGHTS TO LEND HAND IN PUSHING THE CAR.**

**DRIVER**

**“Make una walk up the hill, you go see another road. Our town is not far from here”.**

**DISAPPOINTED, PYTHON AND DENNIS THANK THE DRIVER AND START TO WALK UP THE HILLY ROAD. TIRED AND HUNGRY THEY CONTINUE ASCENDING THE HILLY ROAD. IT GETS HIGHER AS THEY ADVANCE.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**LATE AFTERNOON: IN THE SMALL TOWN: EXT**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS WALK TIREDLY TOWARDS A WOMAN WHO SELLS HER WARES ON A SMALL TABLE IN THE TOWN OF UBUYA. On reaching where the woman sells her wares, from his trouser pocket, python brings out money and pays for four sachets of water.**

**PYTHON**

**“Food, madam where can we buy food?”. (TOUCH HIS MOUTH WITH HIS FINGER). THE WOMAN LOOKS AT THEM, THEY LOOK TIRED AND DIRTY. (SHE POINTS)**

**WOMAN**

**“Go that side, one woman de sell food there”**

**(They are already moving, and the woman stand, looking at their backs as they walk off) They approach the food vendor, python and Dennis places order for bowls of rice.**

Immediately the food seller sets the plates of rice before them. They hungrily attack it, eating hurriedly, and people stealing glances at them.

**THE TOWN LOOKS SO SMALL WITH ONLY FEW INHABITANTS. Few beat up cars and buses. Few bikes park in various places. Few houses which has no sign of opulence. This place suits him right. (He bends and whispers to Dennis)**

**PYTHON**

**“I like this place, i suggest we settle here”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Me too, I like it. Make we settle here”.**

**FEW MINUTES LATER, THEY FINISHED EATING, PAYS THE FOOD SELLER AND WALK OFF TO SEE MORE OF THE LITTLE TOWN.**

**No police station, nothing much to see but just a small dying town. As they amble along a lonely dirty street, Python nods at Dennis, very satisfied by what they see.**

**PYTHON**

**“I hope to rule this place someday” . (SMILE PLAYING ON HIS LIPS) DENNIS CHUKLES**

**DENNIS**

**“Your royal majesty!; i pray soo” . (LAUGHING, BOWING TO PYTHON)**

**PYTHON**

**“Let's find somewhere and rest. I am very tired, after all the running”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Okay, me too i need to rest, my bones don de weak”.**

**(THEY HEAD OFF TOWARDS A PACKED OPEN BEAT UP VAN.**

**PYTHON**

**“I don't know, but i seem to be attracted to small towns”.**

**DENNIS**

**“One day, i hope to find myself in a big city where there will be more opportunities”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Let's see what this place will offer”.**

**(THEY OPEN THE ABANDONED VAN AND SIT INSIDE, CLOSE THE DOORS AND RELAX IN THE BATTERED SEAT. THEY NEED TO REST FIRST. FEW MINUTES LATER THEY FELL ASLEEP.**

**CUT TO:**

**LATE EVENING: INSIDE THE VAN: EXT**

**Python and Dennis in the van sleeping, suddenly Dennis wakes with a start as if an invincible hand awoke him. It is no longer sunny but getting cooler and darkness setting in gradually. He yawns and feels his body better and stronger. Python slowly opens his eyes, looks out the window of the van.**

**DENNIS**

**“Python, how u de feel now?. Me i de feel very better”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am feeling good, refreshed. The pain is not much now, just there but i can manage”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Is it not better we find somewhere your wound can get treated?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I can manage. If i can get another food to eat, take my bath and sleep well again i will be as fine as before”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Night don de come, make we go check around”.**

**PYTHON**

**“How much do you have with you?”.**

**DENNIS**

**“I no get much, just few thousands i manage to save. It is in my nicker pocket”.**  
**(TOUCHING HIS THIGH)**

**PYTHON**

**“I have some money i saved up before this journey. I suggest we look for a place to rent here and start leaving a normal life”.**

**DENNIS**

**“That will be fine if we go fit get a place to rent”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Let's go find food to eat before it is completely dark”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Okay, make we go”.**

**He pushes the door of the van open, Python doing same from his side. This place suits them, no one seems to care, no prying eyes. They are just left to themselves which is good. The small town has no social amenities and the people are live simple and there seem to be no much property to protect as poor community. Just ordinary Poor people who are barely surviving. Python and Dennis heads out in search of food to eat and hope to make inquiries for a place to rent in the morning. Dennis lights a cigarette and allows it burn between his fingers.**

**DISSOLVES TO:**

**MORNING: UBUYA TOWN: EXT**

**THE SUN IS UP, PYTHON AND DENNIS ENTERS A SMALL RESTAURANT AND SIT DOWN. The restaurant owner approaches to take their orders. About two more men are already eating when they walk in. The man on python's right, glances around, steals a quick glance at python. Minutes later, the man says to python.**

**STRANGER**

**“You people are new here eehm?, i have never seeing you before”.**

**PYTHON (WAITES AWHILE BEFORE RESPONDING)**

**“Yes, we are new. Are you from here?” (The question hangs in the air)**

**(THE MAN NODS, SPOONS THE LAST OF HIS FOOD IN HIS MOUTH)**

**STRANGER**

**“My father is from here Ubuya and my Mother is from the neighboring town”.**

**PYTHON SEES THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INQUIRE OF ANY ROOM TO RENT.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please we are looking for a room to rent. Is there any vacant place you know?” (DENNIS LISTENING ATTENTIVELY)**

**STRANGER**

**“I don't know any place; but if i ask, i may find one. Here in Ubuya town we have small population and even some are migrating to the big cities. So we do get vacant rooms sometimes”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please help us; this is my friend”**

**(POINTS AT DENNIS WHO WAVES AT THE MAN)**

**STRANGER**

**“Please where are you guys from?, in case if i am asked when inquiring for any vacant room”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okpe town!”.**

**(LITTLE SMILE PLAYS ON DENNIS LIPS, PYTHON IS SHARP ENOUGH TO GIVE SUCH ANSWER) SMALL LIES CANNOT KILL)**

**STRANGER**

**“Okay, i will ask somebody if i go out from here. Where will i find you if i get back?”.**

**PYHTON**

**“We will be here in the evening by 5pm. please what is your name?”.**

**STRANGER**

**“My name is Raymond. What about you?”.**

**PYHTON**

**“Friends call me Sunny and my friend here is Henry”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Okay, i will check you guys here in the evening”.**

**(STANDS UP TO PAY HIS BILLS)**

**DENNIS**

**“Thank you Raymond for your help”**

**RAYMOND**

**“Don't mention. It's my pleasure”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I appreciate Raymond. God bless”.**

**(RAYMOND BOWS A LITTLE AND LEAVES).**

Python and Dennis rise up, Dennis signal the restaurant owner to come, hands her some naira notes, they steps out. The woman stand, stares at them as they start to leave.

**DISSOLVES TO:**

**SAME DAY**

**EVENING: RESTAURANT: INT:**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS DEVOURING BIG BOWLS OF RICE, garnished with leaves and meat. Few minutes later, Raymond walks in with another man. They walk straight to same table where python and Dennis are eating. (Pleasantries exchanged, Raymond and the man draw chairs and sit. Python signals the restaurant owner to come serve them. The woman places two plates of rice before them and left.**

**PYTHON**

**“Welcome gentlemen. Raymond how did it go?”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“I greet you all, this is my friend Atama. He helped me see one vacant room, so i ask him to come see you. He asked me some question i could not answer”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Welcome Atama, thank you for the help”. (ATAMA NODS AND SHIFTS ON HIS CHAIR)**

**ATAMA**

**“Eehm my name is Atama as my friend here rightly said. First I will say welcome to our town”.**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS CHORUSES**

**“Thank you very much”. (ALL SMILING)**

**ATAMA**

**“I have forgotten what Raymond told me are your names”.**

**PYTHON**

**“My name is Sunny”**

**DENNIS**

**“My own name is Henry”**

**(PYTHON THROWS A QUICK GLANCE AT DENNIS HOPING HE WON'T FORGET HIS ALIAS)**

**ATAMA**

**“I like you men already; i know you will enjoy our small town”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Yes we like this place”.**

**ALL THE PLATES ON THE TABLE ARE ALMOST EMPTY.**

**ATAMA**

**“Well, the vacant room that is available belongs to my Aunty who is in a big city. Since i already like you guys, let's talk business”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Yea, they look good men to me, the reason why i offered to help”.**

**DENISS**

**“Thank you guys for helping us, God bless you all”.**

**THE RESTAURANT OWNER EAVEDROPS TO THEIR CONVERSATION, AND PRETENDS TO CLEAN THE TABLE AT THE OTHER LEFT END.**

**ATAMA**

**“The price is three thousand a month. How many months do you wants to pay for?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Hope the place is good, can we see the vacant room?”.**

**RAYMOND (INTERJECTS)**

**“I can't find a room that is not good for you. I believe you will like it”.**

**PYTHON**

**“For a start we would pay for four months if we like the space”.**

**ATAMA**

**“Okay, finish up let's go see the room”.**

**THEY ALL START EATING AND IN MINUTES ALL PLATES BECOME EMPTY.**

**Python calls the restaurant owner to bring the bill (she already moved away, farther from them after hearing what they were discussing. He pays the bill and all men rise to leave. The restaurant owner collects her money, smiles and say.**

**RESTAURANT OWNER**

**“Thank you sir, (she says, feels happy for good sells)**

**AS THEY START TO LEAVE, PYTHON SPEAKS TO RAYMOND AS THEY WALK.**

**PYTHON**

**“Is there a chemist shop where i can buy some pain killer medicine?”**

**RAYMOND**

**“The only one here is closed for few days now. I learnt he travelled to see his grandmother who is ill. Are you ill?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“No just a minor bruise and pain. I accidentally fell down and got bruises on my shoulder”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Sorry about that. i will see if i can get you some pain relief”.**

**THEY ALL WALK ON.**

**CUTS TO:**

**SAME**

**FEW MINUTES LATER: EXT**

**THEY WALK BACK FROM THE ROOM THEY WENT TO INSPECT, TALKING AS THEY WALK ON.**

**PYTHON**

**“I like the room, the space is good enough and it is clean”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Yea, i like there too. At all at all naim bad pass. Where you live is your mansion”.**

**SMALL LAUGHTER FILLS THE AIR. ALL MEN ARE HAPPY.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please wait for us here, we will be back in seconds”.**

**(Signals Dennis to come, Raymond and Atama stand waiting, discussing as python and Dennis walk away toward the abandoned vehicle they slept in.**

**CUT TO:**

**THEY START TO DISCUSS IN A LOW TONE.**

**PYTHON**

**“How much do you have with you?”.**

**DENNIS**

**“I can afford five grand”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay, bring it let me make it up to fifteen, so we are paying for five months”.**

**Dennis opens his trouser, from deep inside the pocket of the nicker he is wearing, he brings out some money. Python unzips his trouser and from the nickers pocket he is wearing inside, he brings out some naira notes. Counts ten thousand naira out and put back the rest and zips back his trouser.**

**PYTHON**

**“We have to find some work to survive on, money is running out”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Yes, it is important; make hunger no kill man for jungle”.**

**Add the money together they walk back to Raymond and Atama.**

**BACK TO: SAME**

**PYTHON HANDS THE MONEY TO RAYMOND, WHO COUNTES AND HANDS IT OVER TO ATAMA.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Fifteen thousand”**

**PYTHON**

**“Yes we decide to pay for five months’ rent”.**

**ATAMA**

**“Good, you can come right away to occupy your room; receipt will be issued to you immediately i get home”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Thank you for your help. Please i am curious; i have a question for two of you”. (SILENCE, ALL THE OTHER MEN WAIT FOR HIS QUESTION, DENNIS TOO WHO DID ANTICIPATES SUCH)**

**PYTHON**

**“What are you guys doing in this town, you speak good English, you can adapt well to city life. You sound educated”.**

**RAYMOND AND ATAMA BURST OF LAUGHING HAPPILY. ATAMA SPEAKS FIRST.**

**ATAMA**

**“Everyone is not meant to live in the city. We like it here. Honestly i am not cut out for city life. I can’t endure the traffics and fast life”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Sunny, i will ask you the same question. You sound Educated, bright, handsome too. Being wanting to ask you, what are you doing here?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I have tried city life before; but i am more drawn back to the small small towns. Maybe there is something that keeps drawing me to them”.**

**ATAMA**

**“Maybe someday you will show us round your town, Okpe”.**

**PYTHON**

**“We left Our Small Town Okpe because there is nothing Much to do. I want to go on adventure, see other towns, and enjoy the sceneries”.**

**DENNIS**

**“I am moving on and on, if i like it here i may beg this town to adopt me as citizen”.**

**EVERYONE BURST OUT LAUGHING.**

**PYTHON**

**Let’s go put our new room in order. We need some good rest”.**

**ATAMA**

**“Okay, we leave you to go start work; i will bring the rent receipt later”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay, thank you all for your help. Raymond, you did well for us”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“You are welcome. All glory goes to God”.**

**PYTHON**

**“See you later; i want to go start fixing the room”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Okay, let me know if you need anything, though i will come around in few minutes to see how far you have gone with work”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay, thanks”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Thank you, guys!”**

**(ATAMA AND RAYMOND BEGIN TO LEAVE)**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS START TO LEAVE TOO.**

**DISSOLVES TO:**

**UBUYA TOWN: MORNING: EXT**

**Python and Dennis begin new life at Ubuya town. This is their tenth day in the new environment. Getting used to the towns’ way of life and cementing their new found friendship with Raymond and Atama. Life here is bit easy; the people are friendly and accommodating. PYTHON AND DENNIS, WALKING ALONG A ROAD, Raymond and Atama following from little distance. Raymond whistles and waves at python and Dennis to stop. Python and Dennis stop, talking while Atama and Raymond approach, with smiles on their faces.**

**RAYMOND.**

**‘Where are you guys running off to’.?**

**PYTHON**

**“My friend, man must whack o. we are going to see if they will employ us. Looking for work, we are ten days old here. Money is running out”.**

**ATAMA**

**“No much option in this town; just meager jobs to survive”.**

**DENNIS**

**“That's what we need, to keep body and soul together”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“I am suggesting we check what we can start together. Only mechanic jobs, small restaurants and sales boy jobs are the only thing available here in town. The company i used to work for closed up months ago”.**

**ATAMA**

**“I was working as a foreman with a building contractor. He left for lack of jobs. People are migrating into big cities like Lagos, Potharcourt”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Why are people not staying back to develop here?”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“There were many people here until they started to migrate to the big cities”.**

**ATAMA**

**“There are more to the story but let's leave that to another day” (Steals a glance at Raymond who winks in understanding)**

**RAYMOND**

**“Let's walk back and plan on how to survive in this town. We have been surviving our own way so let's see what we can do together”. ( THEY BEGIN TO WALK BACK THE ROAD THEY CAME)**

**ON REACHING THE CONNECTING PART OF THE ROAD, THEY WALK LEFT AND WENT AND SIT DOWN TOGETHER ON AN ABANDONED VEHICLE.**

**(ATAMA WHO SPEAKS FIRST)**

**ATAMA**

**“There is one secret i have kept even from my parents. I only told it to Raymond who is my good friend few days ago”. (Silence as every man fixe his gaze at Atama, waiting to hear more. Only Raymond knew what Atama is about to say, but still he needs to listen for more info.**

**ATAMA**

**“Many years ago, when i was in school, i went to a small hill in the brush just to have fun. I stood on the small hill like stone, singing. After i got tired of the scene i decide to leave. As I made to walk, I mistakenly fell”. (SILENCE)**

**PYTHON (impatiently asked)**

**“Yes what happened?”.**

**ATAMA**

**“There were stones where i fell, my hands got bruised. One stone caught my attention. It was glistering in the sun”.**

**DENNIS SHIFTS FROM HIS SITTING POSITION. HE IS NOW STANDING LISTENING**

**PYTHON**

**“Stones, shining?”. (He asks, with great interest)**

**ATAMA**

**“Yes, i picked the shining one and came home. Later i forgot it in my trouser pocket”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Hai, hope it didn't get lost?”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Wait for the main story guys”.**

**ATAMA (Continues)**

**“Until the day i brought the trouser out to wash. I felt it in my pocket and brought it out”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I know you are smart not to lose it”.**

**ATAMA**

**“What smartness?”**

**DENNIS**

**“What happened?”**

**ATAMA**

**“Hmmm, one woman came into our compound to greet my parents, she saw it where i placed it and gave me five hundred naira for it. I was happy, i needed the money. The woman wanted to find out where i picked it. She Promise to buy me clothes if i tell her”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Did you tell her?”.**

**“As i was about to tell her, my mother came in from the gate, they started to greet and talk then I left”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Sharp guy, i trust you”.**

**ATAMA**

**“From my search and inquiries i found out it was diamond”.**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS EXCLAIEME LOUDLY, ALL STARE AT ATAMA WITH INTEREST, MOUTH WIDE OPEN.**

**PYTHON**

**“What did you just say?. Diamond?”. (HOLDING ATAMA BY THE SHOULDERS)**

**ATAMA**

**“That's part of the reason i stayed back here in the town”.**

**DENNIS**

**“What did you do next since you find out?”.**

**ATAMA**

**“I have visited the location I found it, looked here and there to see if i can see more but no luck”.**

**RAYMOND (CLEARS HIS THROAT)**

**“That's why i suggest we do something together”.**

**PYHTON**

**“Yes we have to do something, check the place out, and see what we can find. We might be lucky and hit pay dirt”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Good idea!. Riches are hiding somewhere and we have to discover where it is hidden”.**

**ATAMA**

**“Let's meet here in the evening to discuss how to go about it”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Good, i can't wait to begin this adventure” (EVERYONE BURST OUT LAUGHING)**

**ATAMA**

**“Please guys everyone keeps it to you”.**

**DENNIS**

**“This is top secret. I no kuku ma know anyone here”**

**RAYMOND**

**“See you guys in the evening” (WALKING AWAY WITH ATAMA)**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS, SMILING AND HUG EACH OTHER.**

**PYTHON**

**“We might hit it big here man!”. (They yell, hug each other again and continue walking.**

**CUT TO:**

**EVENING: UBUYA TOWN: EXT**

**RAYMOND AND ATAMA WALK TO MEET WITH PYTHON and Dennis. Suddenly a jeep pulls off the express road and drives into the town. The jeep is accompanied by another bus and its seats are filled with people. Raymond and Atama stop abruptly. Only one person drives into THE TOWN THIS WAY. THEY STAND WATCHING AS THE JEEP AND BUS DRIVE PAST THEM.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Our trouble is back. Trouble for Ubuya!”.**

**ATAMA**

**“I thought he will not come back here this year, wicked man”.**

**ATAMA**

**“What do we do now?; maybe we wait and see what he is up to this time”.**

**RAYMAND**

**“Yes i think so too”.**

**ATAMA**

**“Let us go talk to Sunny and Henry”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Okay, let's go”. (THEY WALK OFF TO MEET WITH PYTHON AND DENNIS)**

**CUT TO:**

**UBUYA TOWN: SAME EVENING: EXT**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS ARE SITTING DOWN OUTSIDE THEIR HOUSE WHEN A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WALKS DOWN THE ROAD. A travelling bag hangs on her shoulder. Python rises up and stares at her. She is cute and seems like she is returning from the big city. She walks past them and throws a quick glance toward them and walks on.**

**PYTHON**

**“Good evening beautiful”**

**(SHE LOOKS BACK, WAVES AND WALKS ON)**

**DENNIS**

**“This girl is very beautiful; she might be coming back from one of the big cities”.**

**PYTHON**

**“She is beautiful, yea. I am not keen in having any relationship with any girl. Let's make money first”.**

**(AS HE SAID THIS, HE SUDDENLY BECOMES QUIET AND SAD, HE SITS DOWN AND HOLDS HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS)**

**DENNIS**

**“Olboy what is the matter?; why are you sad suddenly?. What's bothering you?”.  
(Touches him to make him lift his head)**

**Finally he lifts his head; there is untold story begging to spill from him. (In a sad state of melancholy he speaks)**

**PYTHON**

**“Yea, i am okay. No problem, just a little thought”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Olboy, in years since i know you, i have never seeing you in such mood”.**

**PYTHON**

**“It is nothing to worry about. I am okay. Let's go see Raymond and Atama”.**

**(DENNIS OBEYS AND THEY HEADS OUT TO SEE THEIR NEW FRIENDS) AS THEY WALK  
DENNIS SAYS,**

**DENNIS**

**“Python you make me fear o. I never see you feel so sad”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I just remembered our friends, Agumkwo and Ejiro. (HE LIES)**

**NONE OF HIS OLD FRIENDS KNOW HIS REAL STORY.**

**DENNIS**

**“Please be happy”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay man, please let's change this discussion”.**

**As they walk on, discussing, some women walk pass them, talking in a hushed voices  
(Throwing glances at them)**

**DENNIS**

**“Why are those women looking at us like that?”**

**PYTHON**

**“How will i know, maybe they are talking about us. You know we are new here and many  
people have not seeing us before”.**

**DENNIS**

**“You may be right”.**

**(THEY KEEP WALKING)THE EVENING IS FAST TRASCENDING INTO NIGHT, AND THE NIGHT  
IS CALLING THE DAY A THIEF.**

**Reaching another road that connects to the one they are coming from. Suddenly someone  
squeals out in fear from not too far distance, from where they are. Python stops abruptly  
and listens. The voice cries out again in fear, this time louder and the voice belongs to a  
woman. A male voice orders her to keep quiet or be killed. On impulse python dashes off  
towards the direction the voices are coming from. On reaching there, a bulky man holds a  
lady by the hand, trying to force her to stand and walk, but she adamantly lie on the  
ground.**

**PYTHON**

**“Hei, Mr.!, what is with you. Why are you treating that lady in such manner?”**

(Immediately rushes off to the bulky man) the man straightens up from his bending position and looks at python and Dennis. His eyes stare hard and anger registers on his stone face. He keeps staring and glares hard at Python. From the corner of his eyes python recognizes the beautiful girl that walked by him and Dennis. (The man looks bulky like a weight lifter. (He speaks and his vice is deep and hard)

**BULLY**

**“What did you just say?”**

**(PYTHON ALREADY HELPING THE GIRL TO HER FEET)**

**PYTHON**

**“Why are you harassing an innocent girl?”.**

**BULLY**

**“You asks me a question?”,**

**(Pulls out a pistol from under his belt and points it at Python (Python flinches in fear) The Bully points the gun at python and orders the girl to walk on ahead of him, waves the gun the direction he wants her to go.**

**BULLY**

**“If you dare come close, you die. Now run, two of you, run!”.**

**(PYTHON AND DENNIS MOVE AWAY QUICKLY, WATCHING AS THE MAN WALKS OFF WITH THE GIRL)**

**PYTHON**

**“What is going on here?. I am confused”**

**DENNIS**

**“I am more confused. Like a flash in the pan he is gone with her”.**

**PYTHON WIPES HIS FACE WITH BACK OF HIS HAND.**

**PYTHON**

**“Am i dreaming?”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Not A dream but reality”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Let's go after him”.**

**(MOVING TOWARD THE DIRECTION THE MAN WENT WITH THE GIRL)**

**DENNIS**

**“I don’t want to risk my life now, think it over Python”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I can't stand here while that girl is in danger. Let’s rescue her”.**

**They dash off after the gun man who is with the girl. Getting to a place where some women are talking in hush voices, some men stand watching, discussing in hush voices and all looking very afraid. They stand Looking on at a house which the front wooden door is closed.**

**PYTHON WALKS CLOSE TO A WOMAN AND ASKS HER.**

**PYTHON**

**“What is going on here?, did the man enter here with the girl”.**

**WOMAN**

**“Yes, aah i pity her; she just comes from the city to see her sick aunty”.**

**Python yells out, he is now charged, not minding the gun which was pointed at him earlier.**

**PYTHON**

**“Bring out the girl here and now”.**

**(Advances to the house)(THE NATIVES BECOME MORE AFRAID, SHUSHING HIM. THE WOMAN HE SPOKE TO EALIER IN LOW VOICE SAYS TO HIM)**

**WOMAN**

**“Oga no try again o. unless you wan die. Nobody de challenge am”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Why are you all afraid?”.**

**WOMAN**

**“Oga, no one wan die o. If he vex now him go just come out shoot person, abeg make i run commot here”.**

**ON IMPULES PYTHON HEADS TO GO BANG ON THE DOOR, SUDDENLY TWO ARMED MEN WITH GUNS COME OUT FROM THE SIDES, AND BARR HIM FROM ADVANCING.**

**PYTHON (PYTHON YELLS ACROSS)**

**PYTHON**

**“You fool!, you intimidates women and old men with guns, come and fight like a man!”.**

**The natives become more afraid. Who is this young man challenging Black lion? A MAN ASKS.**

**Suddenly the door thrown open and Black Lion walks out and stands by the door. This man is different from the man python and Dennis saw earlier. Black lion stares to python and natives who stand waiting, natives in fear. Dennis stands staring at the guns, still pointing toward their direction.**

**Black lion stands, stares hard at python, his eyes filled with rage. Suddenly he pulls out his pistol from under his belt and hands it over to his man, unbuttons his shirt and hands it over to another of his man, removes the gold chain from his neck and hands it over to same man standing beside him.**

**BLACK LION**

**“You dare challenge me?. You wants to fight?. Okay brings it on”.**

**(HIS PALMS IN BALLS AS HE WALKS TOWARDS PYTHON. PYTHON STANDS WATCHING AND WAITING FOR HIM AS HE APPROACHES.**

**BLACK LION**

**“You win me; you walk free with the girl. I beat you, and you die with her”.**

**(BLACK lion looks strong, with wide chest. He must be doing a great job in the gym. Python is taller and looks very athletic. His chest is wide too but cannot be compared to black lion's own. Suddenly Black lion waves to all his men to retreat to his back. Guns point down and suddenly a gunshot rings out in the air and the natives withdraw to a far corner, all watching with keen interest and fear.**

**CUT TO:**

**Atama and Raymond hear the gunshot and suddenly they spring up from their seating position and dash off towards the direction the gunshot sounds from.**

**BACK TO PYTHON:**

**PYTHON**

**“Come on now!”**

**(HIS FIST CLINCHES IN A BALL, READY TO FIGHT)**

**(Suddenly Black Lion throws the first punch but python avoids the punch) (Begins throwing punches after punches, Karate, kicks, hold and throw each other to the ground) Minutes on (Black Lion quickly pulls out a switch blade from his pocket and on noticing**

that, (python quickly dashes off in quick search for any sharp object) He luckily sees one empty bottle and (he picks it up and shatters the base, as Black Lion angrily advances towards him with the switch blade raise high to the air) ready to stab Python. Python grabs black lion by the wrist which holds the knife high) They struggle.(Dennis stands far from danger, afraid for python who is not doing bad in the staged fight).( In quick instance, python tries to bury the jagged edge of the bottle into the neck of Black Lion, but Black Lion holds Python's hand and kicks him hard on the rib). (Python withdraws back in pain) Raymond and Atama run towards the scene. They hear about the fight and challenge by a new person in town, who is this first person to raise a voice in protest against Black Lion. They anticipate that the new man in town must be their friends, either sunny or Henry. No other new man except the men Black lion drove into town with few hours ago. Suddenly gunshots rent the air from behind Raymond and Atama, who are running without looking back to the fight scene. They stop abruptly in fear as the gun shots sounds a second time.

**CUT TO:**

Atama and Raymond glance back and see some men in uniform advancing in quick movements, guns ready in hands. Suddenly Black Lion and python stops fighting and momentarily look at the advancing uniformed men with gun.

**BACK TO:**

Instantly Black Lion yells an Order to his men and quick movements and they all begin to run off in different directions, away from the advancing uniformed men. Black Lion puts back the switch blade in his trouser pocket and dashes into the house and slams the door shut. Python chases after him, trying to pull the door open. Another back door is open wide; through there Black Lion escapes into the thick brush at the back of the house. Dennis yells at Python to be careful as he also runs after python at least to help him now. Python pulls again and the door opens. He dashes in and sees the girl tied to a chair. He quickly unties the girl and lifts her up in his arms and walks out unto the open space. Seconds on, as the uniformed men, who are Federal anti-robbery squad members sent from the federal to arrest Black Lion, got to the scene, guns ready and natives scatters and hide, very terrified. The federal anti-robbery squad runs in different direction in pursuit of the escaping men. Python places the girl on her feet and holds her hand as **THEY WALK AWAY FROM THE SCENE. ONE OF THE POLICE MEN STOPS THEM AND ASKS.**

**POLICE**

**"Who are you and who is this lady?"**

**PYTHON**

**"She was his captive, i rescued her"**

**POLICE**

**"Did he harm her?"**

**PYTHON**

**"I don't think so".**

**(THE GIRL SHAKES HER HEAD, SHE IS YET TO RECOVER FROM THE SHOCK)**

**POLICE**

**"Move her away, far from here. Our target is dangerous. He is a wanted drug lord, now move"**

**PYTHON**

**"Yes sir".**

**(STILL HOLDING HER, PYTHON WALKS ON)**

**DISSLOVES TO:**

**The policemen number about eight. Some enters into the house, some walks to the back of the house, some away out near the bush. All natives have run away except Raymond and Atama who stand some distance, waiting as python and the girl, Dennis approach.**

**The federal anti-robbery squad men at the far corner of the house tip toeing while Raymond and Atama run to meet python and the girl.**

**RAYMOND**

**"Sunny, hope you are not injured, and the girl too?"**

**(TOUCH HER ARMS) ALL OF THEM WALK AWAY FROM THE DANGEROUS SCENE, DENNIS PRECEDING.**

**DENNIS**

**"Thank God he did not injure you. Those idiots are savages".**

**THE GIRL**

**"Thank you very much for rescuing me. God bless you". (THE GIRL STOPS AND THANK PYTHON, SEEING HIS FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME. THEY WALK ON AWAY FROM THE SCENE.**

**BACK TO:**

**EVENING: IN THE BUSH: EXT.**

**As python and his friends are walking away from the trouble zone with the girl, suddenly gun shots rent the air. The police are exchange fire with Black Lion's men who are giving covering fire for Black Lion, as he moves away from danger. He must not be arrested, not ready to face the drug charges. He is not ready to go to jail. Suddenly a police man gets**

shot in the leg, he yells and falls to the ground, more bullets rent the air. The leader of the police team yells instructions to some of his men by his right side

**POLICE LEADER**

**“Go! Go!! Go!!!**

(Wave them off to the right hand side and with his head give the others sign to move into the left, to cover the escape routes. Black Lion tries to move faster away from danger. He wears only black pant and a white singlet. The federal SARS men move equally as fast as they can go. This is a wonderful opportunity to arrest Black Lion who has eluded them for so long. More gunshots ring out and one of Black Lion's men falls backward by the force of a bullet. He lies stone dead instantly. Blood covers some part of ground he lays. Python and his friends escort the girl to her aunt's place. Few natives who have the courage to come out are there as they reach the girls' aunt's home. They start to congratulate the girl, thanking the men for bringing her home and all stare at Python in awe. They thank and praise Python for his bravery. His friends are not left out, as they too received showers of praises for rescuing an innocent girl who visited from the big city. Python and his friend begin to leave. Suddenly the girl walks up to python. She is tall and light skinned, not fat and not thin, good body built and strong pointing breasts adorn her chest. She smiles and her teeth sparkles.

**GIRL**

**“Excuse me please”. (PYTHON STOPS) OTHERS MOVE AWAY FROM THEM TO NOT FAR DISTANCE)**

**GIRL**

**“Please what is your name?”. (PYTHON SMILES AND LOOKS STRIGHT INTO HER EYES)**

**PYTHON**

**“My real name is Jerry but those friends call me Sunny”.**

**GIRL**

**“Why do they call you sunny when your name is jerry?” (Python throw a quick glance at his friends to make sure they are not eavesdropping. (Python shakes his head, a smile playing on his lips)**

**PYTHON**

**“Because i like the sun; eehm tell me your name too”.**

**GIRL**

**“My name is Tessy”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Happy to meet you Tessa”**

**(HE OFFERS HIS HAND FOR A HAND SHAKE AND SHE GENTLY GRAB HIS HAND AND HOLDS ON LONGER) SMILE PLAYS ON HER LIPS.**

**TESSY**

**“I appreciate your help. God bless you. I don't know what he would have done to me if you had not intervened”. (LEAVES HIS HAND)**

**PYTHON**

**“All glory goes to God”.**

**TESSY**

**“Please what's your phone number, my mum will like to call to thank you when i tell her all that happened”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Oh i don't own a phone; i keep losing it so i decide to stop using them”.**

**TESSY**

**“Please forgive me but if i may ask, what are you doing in this small town?. You sound educated and smart; why not go to the big city?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I lived in the big city some time ago, i don't know, i keep finding myself be drawn to small towns like this”.**

**TESSY**

**“Which city did you lived in?” .**

**PYTHON**

**“Lagos”.**

**TESSY**

**“Oh i am staying in Lagos with my mum”.**

**PYTHON**

**“What part of Lagos are you staying?”**

**TESSY**

**“LEKKI, Will you visit Lagos soon?” (Sounds excited)**

**PYTHON**

**“I never know, never can tell, maybe someday”.**

**TESSY**

**“Please do visit; i am sure my mum will be happy to see the man who saved my life”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay but i am not promising soon”.**

**TESSY**

**“I will drop every info with my aunt incase when you needs them. I will be going back early tomorrow morning”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay, safe journey when you travel, happy to meet you Tessa”. (PUTS OUT HIS HAND TO SHAKE HERS WHICH SHE GRASP WARMLY, SMILING)**

**TESSY**

**“Thank you once again”.**

**PYTHON**

**“You are welcome. Let me go to my friends now. They are waiting”.**

**TESSY**

**“Okay bye!”**

**(She turns and waves to python's friends and starts to walk away) python walks to meet with his friends who are already waiting with smiles on their faces.**

**BACK TO:**

**The federal SARS men and Black Lion's men continue to exchange fire. The police are gaining more ground as they kill more of Black Lion's men who are fast retreating to safe distance. Black Lion is exposed after losing more men. He quickly continues to run deeper into the brush as two SARS men put up a chase, getting closer and closer to Black Lion. Suddenly Black Lion stumbles and fall. He has no gun with him except the knife. He quickly gets up and dives into the left side of the bush. Unfortunately for him two SARS men are close by. They instantly point guns at him.**

**1ST POLICE**

**Freeze or you are dead!. (BLACK LION FREEZES FROM TIP TOEING) PANTING.**

**SECOND POLICE**

**“Raise your hands where we can see them clear!” (BLACK LION RAISES HIS HANDS UP WITH THE KNIFE IN HAND)**

**FIRST POLICE**

**“Throw the knife away or i shoot!”. (Black Lion complies) (The second police rush to him and handcuff his hands behind his back). More shots ring out the other side of the bush and more of Black Lion's men crash dead to the ground. Only two escaped the fire power of the fire power of the federal security agents.**

**The first agent raises the barrel of his gun and shoots three times into the air and others stop. Their target has been arrested. Happy voices starts to trickle in from different directions as the remaining SARS men gather to the scene.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**MORNING: UBUYA TOWN: EXT**

**RAYMOND AND PYTHON STAND AND TALK NEAR THE RESTAURANT. Atama and Dennis sit inside the restaurant, waiting for python and Raymond. Few seconds later, python and Raymond walks into the restaurant and sit with the rest. In low tone they begin to discuss.**

**ATAMA**

**“We have to try our luck today, we might be lucky”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“I agree, no time to waste. We can't keep waiting”.**

**PYTHON**

**“What are we waiting for?. I suggest we set out immediately”.**

**(Dennis nods) Look’s the direction of the restaurant owner, who this time is busy serving another customer at the other end of the restaurant.**

**They rise up and head to the exit. The restaurant owner looks up immediately and walks up hastily towards the exiting men.**

**RESTAURANT OWNER**

**“Oga una no eat today?”. (DISAPPOINTED) (RAYMOND TURNS TO ANSWER HER)**

**RAYMOND.**

**“We go come back later. No be here we de eat every day?. Na we and u de run here nah!”. (THE WOMAN LAUGHS OUT HAPPILY)**

**RESTAURANT OWNER**

**“Na true you talk. I de wait o!”. (RAYMOND TURNS AND FOLLOWS OTHERS)**

**THEY STOP, TALKING ALMOST IN HUSH VOICES. Seconds later they resumes walking, heading out the scene into a long narrow road into the bush. Atama precedes as they all head the way to the small hill, where he saw a shining stone which later he found out to be diamond. The brush is thick, threes and long bamboo trees sway to the rhythm and force of the breeze. Some big stones stand in the distance at the foot of the small hills. Atama and his friends move from spot to spot, checking every stone they can lay their hands to. After about 30minutes of searching and checking, Raymond exclaims from the farther foot of the hill, away from others who are busy in different directions. Others run to him. Raymond holds some shining stones in hand, beaming with smile. Python yells and hugs Atama, Dennis hugs both of them all laughing happily. Atama moves closer to Raymond.**

**ATAMA**

**“How many stones have you there?”. (RAYMOND COUNTS FOUR)**

**PYTHON**

**“Let's begin the real search now”. (Others burst out laughing as they scatter once more in different direction at the foot of the hill. After several minutes of searching, they all gather about forty shinning stones (diamond) Great happiness in the air.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Are you sure there is no cave here. The diamond might pill up there”.**

**ATAMA**

**“No i don't think so, if there is any cave, there would be an opening at the foot of the hill”.**

**DENNIS**

**“If there’s any cave i don't mind to sleep in until i find all the diamonds”.( OTHERS ROAR INTO LAUGHTER)**

**RAYMOND**

**“If this small hill is diamond, i won't wait to lift it and take it to the buyer”.**

**THEY LAUGH OUT THE MORE.**

**PYTHON**

**“I suggest we try once more”. (THEY AGREED AND CONTINUE SEARCHING)**

**AFTER MORE EFFORTS, THEY GATHER 60 STONES IN ALL. ALL HAPPY, THEY LEFT FOR HOME. As the walk through the foot part suddenly Atama shouts.**

**ATAMA**

**Snake!**

**Dennis and Raymond who are closer to Atama quickly dash off towards the back, in terror, to meet Python who is a bit distant from the rest as he keeps cutting his eyes in different directions for more stones. Atama Laughs out Loud in mockery of the fearful men.**

**CUT TO:**

**UBUYA TOWN: AFTERNOON: INT:**

**PYTHON, ATAMA, DENNIS AND RAYMOND ALL SIT ON THE FLOOR OF PYTHON AND DENNIS'S ROOM. The diamonds spread in their front. They count and place the stones in four hips, fifteen in each hip.**

**RAYMOND**

**"We share it equal and everyone is happy".**

**PYTHON**

**"I suggest we add two each to Atama's own. He helps us archive this".**

**DENNIS**

**"I agree with you. He shows he is a good man, not keeping us out of this".**

**RAYMOND AND ATAMA SMILE**

**RAYMOND**

**"You guys have proven to be trustworthy, Men with good judgment".**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS PICKS TWO DIAMONDS EACH AND ADD TO ATAMA'S OWN.  
RAYMOND DID SAME.**

**ATAMA**

**"Thank you all for this honor. You are good friends".**

**PYTHON**

**"Please we should keep this to ourselves; you guys know this town better than us,  
Dangerous men might be looking".**

**RAYMOND**

**"No worry about that. We'll talk to nobody about this".**

**ATAMA**

**“I think it is time to try the big city. If i sell these i will have something to start up a business”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“I am considering the same; one can't continue to live in this small town that doesn't have much to offer”.**

**PYTHON AND DENNIS LOOKS AT EACH OTHER.**

**PYTHON**

**“Since you guys are moving we have nothing to do here”.**

**DENNIS**

**“If you guys are moving we are moving too. No need wasting even a minute”.**

**ATAMA**

**“Where do you intend to go?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am considering Lagos, Or maybe Portharcout”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Why not all of us try Lagos?. Still be together in one city”. (DENNIS LOOKS AT PYTHON FOR AN ANSWER BECAUSE WHEREVER PYTHON GOES HE GOES TOO.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay, that's good. Let us give Lagos a try”.**

**They all shook hands and every man packing his share of the diamond, putting into their trouser pockets. The stood up and hug each other and Raymond and Atama starts to leave. Dennis escorts them.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EVENING: LAGOS: INT**

**A WOMAN TALKING ON PHONE, SITTING ON A BEATIFUL SOFA IN A WELL FURNISHED LIVNG ROOM. Tessy taps at the door from outside and stands waiting for the door to be opened. The woman inside the living room calls a girl's name to check who is at the door. The help quickly walks to the door and unbolts it and throws the door ajar on noticing Tessy at the door. Tessy smiles and the help smiles back, she greets Tessy and collects her**

small bag and steps aside for Tessy to come into the house. Her mother glances at them and still continues to speak with the person at the other end. Tessy ambles to where her mum sits and sits beside her. Tessy's mother finishes talking on phone and turns to her daughter.

TESSY' MOTHER

Tessy you are back. How was your trip? (HUGS TESSY)

TESSY

Good evening mum, i thank God for his mercy. I went and came back safely.

Tessy's mother tries to say something when her phone starts to ring. She picks the call and begins to talk with the caller. Tessy excuses herself and rises to start going to her room.

TESSY

Mum, i am coming let me change my dress. (HER MOTHER WAVES AND CONTINUES WITH HER CONVERSATION ON PHONE)

FADES:

MORNING: UBUYA TOWN: EXT

PYTHON AND DENNIS DISCUSSING OUTSIDE THE SMALL RESTAURANT THEY USUALLY EAT. Python is smoking a cigarette, and Dennis stares at him. For some time now Python have not smoked. Today he feels like doing it. He smokes when something is troubling his mind.

PYTHON

'I am thinking of how to start life when we reach Lagos. Life is not easy in Lagos and besides, we have no enough money for transport''.

DENNIS

''Let's not worry too much about how we start in Lagos. Let's get there first. If we survived in all the small towns, we will definitely survive anywhere''.

PYTHON

''Did we really survived?, would you say we survived. What do we have to show for it? No money, no house, nothing visible''.

DENNIS

''I am now wiser; i see life in a different perspective''.

PYTHON

**“Yea, life is unfair to the good one, most times”.**

**DENNIS**

**“All i know is one day i will make it in Life, living life the hard way has opened my eyes to see and become discreet.**

**PYTHON**

**“I have traversed between the ups and downs, the valleys of life. I am more equipped now to be better”.**

**DENNIS**

**I will start a business with any money i realized from sells of my share of the diamond.**

**PYTHON**

**“Yea, that's a good idea. I may never know what Lagos holds for me until i get there”.**

**RAYMOND WALKS UP TO THEM.**

**RAYMOND**

**“My friends, your faces look gloomy, what's the prob?”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Olboy, your guys de talk about life”.**

**PYHTON**

**“If a man fails to plan, then he plans to fail”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“That's true talk. So what's the plan, when are we going to travel to Lagos”.**

**PYTHON**

**“We need to move before the little money with us gets exhausted”.**

**AS THEY DISCUSS, A WOMAN TALKING ON PHONE WALKS UP BY THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD.**

**WOMAN**

**“Sister, i am looking at the man who saved Tessy talking with friends right now. (Pause)  
Okay let me go give him phone”.**

**(SHE WALKS UP TO PYTHON AND FRIENDS HASTILY) PYTHON LOOKS AND RECOGNISES THE APPROACHING WOMAN AS THE AUNT OF THE GIRL HE RESCUED, WHO SAID HER NAME IS TESSY.**

**WOMAN**

**“Good morning my son, my sister wants to talk with you”. (HANDING THE PHONE OVER TO PYTHON)**

**PYTHON**

**“Hello!, (he says into the mouth piece). WOMAN'S VOICE COMES ON FROM THE OTHER END.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Good morning my son, how are you doing”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am fine ma”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“My daughter Tessa told me all that happened; how you risked your life to rescue her. God bless you my son”.**

**PYTHON**

**“All glory belongs to God, He helped me archive it”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“You have spoken well my son, God bless you. I want to make a proposal to you”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am listening ma”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Why not visit us at Lagos. I would like to see the man that helped my daughter. In-fact I am inviting you to visit us”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I and my friends are planning coming to Lagos in few days from now”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Oh that will be good. You will get my address from my sister who is there with you”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay ma, i promise to visit you when i come over to Lagos”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Okay, i will be glad to see you. Please hand back the phone to my sister”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay ma. Bye”. (HANDS OVER THE PHONE TO TESSY'S AUNT)**

**She walks few yards away from them, then Tessy' aunt talks more on phone. Some seconds later, she cut call and walks back to python**

**TESSY'S AUNT**

**“I need a pen and piece of paper to write you my sister's address”.**

**RAYMOND**

**“I am coming, let me ask the restaurant woman”. (WALKING INTO THE RESTAURNT)**

**Few seconds later, he emerges with a pen and piece of paper and hands it over to Tessy's aunt. She scribbles on it and hands it over to python.**

**TESSY'S AUNT**

**“Abeg, no mind my bad handwriting, i hope you fit read am”. (SMILING) PYTHON SMILING BACK) AND EVERYONE JOINS WITH SMILE)**

**PYTHON**

**“Yes i can read it. Thank you very much ma'am”. (SHE WALKS AWAY)**

**IMMEDIATELY SHE LEFT, RAYMOND SPEAKS**

**RAYMOND**

**“My friend sunny, i de see you de see a new wife”.**

**PYTHON**

**“What made you say that?”**

**RAYMOND**

**“This woman and her sister already like you, and i noticed how that girl was looking at you the other day”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Me i noticed same thing o, she is beautiful. I would like her for your wife”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Me?. No, not thinking of that now. I want to barricade my heart. I am not ready for any relationship”.**

**(Raymond and Dennis stare at him mouth wide open. They are yet to understand this friend. He is handsome. The kind of man any girl will be proud to have as hers.**

**DISSOLVES TO:**

**EVENING: LAGOS: EXT:**

**PYTHON, DENNIS, RAYMOND AND ATAMA ALIGHT FROM A BUS. Their bus just arrive Lagos from Ubuya. Each of them is carrying a small travelling bag. Raymond suggests they go to his brother's house and stay for few days before finding a new place to stay. Raymond talks to a tricycle driver to take them to olodi apapa area. After few seconds of talking, the driver accepts and Atama and python enter into the back while Dennis stands waiting to enter too. Dennis slides unto the front seat close to the driver and the driver drives into the road and heads to their destination. Some minutes later, the tricycle pulls to a stop in front of a house. The men alight and Raymond pays and leads them into a compound. Raymond's brother sights them and comes out to greet them. Pleasantries exchanged and Raymond's brother leads them to his apartment. They walk into the apartment and Raymond's brother says.**

**RAYMOND'S BROTHER**

**"Welcome to my crib gentlemen. Na here i de manage". (SMILING)**

**ATAMA**

**"Thank you for allowing us to your place".**

**PYTHON**

**"Thank you bro"**

**RAYMOND**

**"Guys!, feel at home. My brother is a good man; thank you bro". (NODS AT HIS BROTHER)**

**DENNIS**

**"I appreciate, God bless".**

**RAYMOND'S BROTHER**

**"Gentlemen, just relax and be comfortable; i am running off to a friend. Raymond, help them with anything they might need in the house. I will be right back". (WALKING TO THE DOOR)**

**RAYMOND**

**"Okay bro, we will take our bath first before you come back".**

**RAYMONDS BROTHER**

**“Okay, i will be right back”. (OPENING THE DOOR AND WALKS OUT, CLOSING IT GENTLY BEHIND HIM)**

**CUT TO:**

**MORNING: LAGOS: EXT**

**Python borrows a mobile phone from Raymond's brother, then steps outside and punches the digits that Tessa's aunt wrote on a paper. Few rings and a female voice come from the other end.**

**MAMA TESSY**

**“Hello!, who is on the line?”**

**PYTHON**

**“Good morning ma: This is Jerry. I call to let you know that i am in Lagos now”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Wow! When did you arrive?”**

**PYTHON**

**“Yesterday evening”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Where are you now?. What part of Lagos are you?”**

**PYTHON**

**“Olodi Apapa area; Bade Street, I don't really know this area”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Okay hold on, my daughter wants to talk to you”. (BRIEF WAIT), THEN TESSY CAME ON)**

**TESSY**

**“Hello, good morning Jerry”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Hello Tessa, how are you doing?”**

**TESSY**

**"I am fine, so what is the address, i will come pick you later in the evening after work".**

**PYTHON QUICKLY GLANCES AROUND TO SEE IF ANYONE IS LISTENING.**

**PYTHON**

**"No 47 Bade street Olodi Apapa".**

**TESSY**

**"Okay, can i get you on this number later when i call?"**

**PYTHON**

**"No i borrowed the phone to call and the owner is my host. He is about going out to work".**

**TESSY**

**"Okay be where i can see you when i come. I will try to be there around 5.30pm".**

**PYTHON**

**"Okay. I will be outside the gate by that time".**

**TESSY**

**"Okay, you said number 47 Bade street, right?".**

**PYTHON**

**"Yea",**

**TESSY**

**"Okay, see you later in the evening. Bye!". (CUTS CALL) PYTHON WALKS BACK AND HANDS THE PHONE BACK TO RAYMOND'S BROTHER).**

**PYTHON SAYS TO RAYMOND'S BROTHER.**

**PYTHON**

**"In case if anybody calls, asking of me, please kindly direct the person to this address, a female". (HE ADDS)**

**RAYMOND'S BROTHER SMILES RICHLY.**

**RAYMOND'S BROTHER**

**"Sharp guy!, so quick?" (LAUGHING) PYTHON LAUGHING TOO)**

**PYTHON**

**“Noooo, na somebody i met few days ago. Just an acquaintance”**

**RAYMOND'S BROTHER:**

**“Okay. Good luck. I am running off to work. Take care”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Bye!. Take care too”.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EVENING: BADE STREET: EXT**

**PYTHON SITTING OUTSIDE BY THE HOUSE, NO 47 BADE STREET, ABOUT 5:20PM. Dennis and the rest are in the house playing a card game. People walk to and from the street. It is not a busy street. Cars and bikes drive pass but no one paid attention to python sitting and watching the road. Few minutes later, a car eases up to a stop, few meters away from where he sits. The car window rolls down and the driver speaks to a passerby who points to the building where python sit. The car rolls slowly towards where he sits, and the man on wheels waves at Python. Tessa sitting in the front seat and she looks python’s way and he sees her and she did too. The front door thrown open and she alights and walks towards him as he stands up. Smile playing on her lips.**

**TESSY**

**“Jerry!, i am very happy to meet you again”. (SMILING RICHLY) HER HAND PUT OUT FOR A HAND SHAKE. PYTHON GRABS THE OUTSTRECHED HAND, SMILING TOO. HE SHAKES HER HAND GENTLY.**

**PYTHON**

**“How are you doing Tessa?”.**

**TESSY**

**“I am very okay. Sorry i hope you have not waited for long. The traffic is beginning to grow”.**

**PYTHON**

**“No i have not waited for long. I understand it is not always easy in Lagos traffic”.**

**TESSY**

**“Please are you ready, can we go now?”. (TURNS AND TAKES A QUICK GLANCE AT THE MAN ON THE WHEELS)**

**PYTHON**

**“My friends are here in the house. Let me see them. Hope it won't be late for me to get back”.**

**TESSY**

**“I hope so, it depends. If the traffic is not much, you will surely get back on time before ten pm”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay, let me inform my friends”.**

**TESSY**

**“Okay, we're waiting”.**

**PYTHON WALKS INTO THE HOUSE AND INFORMS HIS FRIENDS WHO SEE HIM OUT TO THE GATE.**

**HIM ENTERS THE CAR AND HIS FRIENDS WAVE HIM BYE, stand watching as the car drives off. The driver of the car greets python as he settles in the car. Driving up the street and enters onto the road and heads towards Lekki. At about 1hr 30 minutes later, they arrive at Tessy's house. The gate man throws open the gate to allow the car drive in. Tessy precedes them as they walk to the entrance door. The compound is large and a beautiful one story house with flower beds, adorn the large space. A black jeep parks under the garage tent. Few seconds later, the help throws the front door open and they walk into the beautiful furnished living room and the driver of the car left to his space and inside of the beautiful living house, Tessy says to him.**

**TESSY**

**“Welcome to our house; Please make yourself comfortable”. (SMILING) (PYTHON SITS ON ONE OF THE SOFAS, CUTTING HIS EYES TO PICTURE FRAMES AND FURNISHINGS.**

**TESSY**

**“My mum will soon join us. Please what do i offer you?”**

**PYTHON**

**“Water will do”.**

**TESSY**

**“Ah just water?. There is wine, soft drinks, juice”**

**PYTHON**

**“Water will do, thank you”.**

**She leaves to get the water, and few seconds later she hands bottle water to him and slides into a sofa. Her mum descends the stairs. As her mum gets close, he rises and**

greet her. She looks rich. She wears a very beautiful dress and she looks about mid-fifties. Tall and beautiful with light skin and a gold necklace hang on her neck and she is aging gracefully. No gray is on her head but a long beautiful blond hair. Some bulbs glow from the chandelier from the ceiling and the air conditioner hums from top, near the edge of the curtain. The Large LED tv on the wall is not on.

PYTHON

“Good evening ma’am!” (BOWING SLIGHTLY)

TESSY'S MOTHER

“Good evening son, how are you doing?”

PYTHON

“I am doing okay ma”. (SITS BACK TO THE SOFA)

TESSY'S MOTHER

“Welcome to my house”. (SHE GENTLY SITS ON A SINGLE SOFA)

TESSY

“Mum, meet Jerry, the man who rescued me”.

TESSY'S MOTHER

“Jerry, my daughter told me everything; how you risked your life to save her. Thank you very much”.

PYTHON

“Welcome ma’am. Glory is to God almighty”.

TESSY'S MOTHER

“Are you from Ubuya?”. (Staring at Python confidently)

PYTHON

“No i am” (AS PYTHON TRIES TO ANSWER HER PHONE STARTS TO RING)

TESSY'S MOTHER

“Excuse me!”(PICKING HER CALL) SHE SPEAKS BRIEFLY TO THE CALLER. “Yes she’s here” (Brief silence) “maybe she left it in her bag”. (SHE CUTS CALL AND SPEAKS TO TESSY)

TESSY'S MOTHER

“It’s Henry; he said he has been calling your number but no response”.

TESSY

**"Oh i forgot my phone in my bag". (RISING UP TO GET HER PHONE)**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**"He said he is on his way. He will get here in few minutes".**

**TESSY**

**"Okay mum". (QUICKLY GOING FOR HER PHONE)**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**"Tessy, please get some food ready, so Jerry can dine with us".**

**TESSY**

**"Okay mum, it'll be ready in few minutes". (SHE SAYS AS SHE WALKS OFF TOWARDS THE KITCHEN)**

**TESSY'S MOTHER (ASKS PYHON)**

**"Are you are graduate?".**

**PYTHON**

**"Yes, ma'am; I have a BA from Uniben.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**"Good, why are you not working?. Or you don't want to work. You Looks good and sounds smart".**

**PYTHON**

**"I only worked during my IT and Youth service year. Getting a job is difficult and after many years of job hunt, I decides to slow things a while".**

**FEW MINUTES SILENCE (TESSY'S MOTHER SAYS)**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**"Will you like to work for me?; I might have an opening for you". (PYTHON GETS ELATED)**

**PYTHON**

**"Oh that will be great ma'am".**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**"You will start as a supervisor at my shopping mall. Let's see how things go".**

**PYTHON**

**“Thank you ma’am, i am very happy for this”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Since you are new in Lagos, I guess you don't a place to stay”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am afraid ma!, no I don’t”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER.**

**“Don't worry about that; you will stay in one of the vacant part of this house. I live alone with Tessy, the driver and help. So the house will be enough for us until I get a new place for you in few months’ time”.**

**PYTHON**

**“God bless you ma’am. I really appreciate”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“What town are you from?. I know you are not from Ubuya”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I was born here in Lagos, and then i have lived from here to there since then. I just came to Lagos yesterday with my Friends from Ubuya”.**

**TESSY'MOTHER**

**“You said you were born here?. Do your parents live here?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“No they no longer live in Lagos”.**

**TESSY' MOTHER**

**“Oh Okay, what of your siblings?”.**

**A doorbell rings somewhere in the house, interrupting them. The help quickly come and open the front door and a young man wearing a black suit and white shirt and tie walks in. He is not tall, about five-six and in his early thirties. He greets Tessy's mother, waves at python and then sit down without been asked to, crosses his leg and starts to press his phone. Few seconds later, Tessy enters into the living room to announce that dinner is ready. Seeing the man sitting, she walks up to him and greets him. She pecks him on the cheek and says.**

**TESSY**

**“Oh welcome Henry. I didn't know you came”.**

**HENRY**

**“I just arrived now, how are you doing?. You got me worried. I have been calling your line”.**

**TESSY**

**“Oh sorry, i forgot my phone in my bag; let me introduce someone to you”. (TURNING, POINTING AT PYTHON)**

**TESSY**

**“This is Jerry, the man who rescued me from the bad men when i visited Ubuya. Jerry please met my fiancé Henry”.**

**HENRY**

**“Oh this is the man you told me about?. (Both men stand up and shake hands) Thank you for rescuing my woman”, Henry says)**

**PYTHON**

**“You are welcome, my pleasure to meet you”. (TESSY SMILES HAPPILY AND HER MUM SMILES TOO AND (BOTH MEN SIT BACK)**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“I am using this opportunity to announce that; Jerry is going to be my new supervisor at the mall”.**

**TESSY AND HENRY EXPRESSES JOY AND HAPPINESS. THIS IS GOOD NEWS.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Let's go to the dining hall. The food is getting cold”.**

**THEY ALL RISE UP AND WALK TO THE DINNING HALL.**

**BACK TO:**

**MORNING: RAYMOND BROTHER'S COMPOUND: EXT**

**PYTHON AND RAYMOND, DENNIS AND ATAMA DISCUSS OUTSIDE IN THE COMPOUND.**

**PYTHON**

**“Gentlemen, the woman employed me instantly without much talk. I am going to be working as supervisor in her mall. She gave me a phone when i was leaving last night’.**

**HIS FRIENDS EXCLAIM, ALL HAPPY FOR HIM. SUDDENLY DENNIS SAYS.**

DENNIS

“Olboy, luck smiled on you within hours your foot touches Lagos soil”.

ATAMA

“We pray to be Lucky like you o”.

RAYMOND

“Me, once i sell my share of the Diamond; i will start a business. I don't want to work for anyone”.

DENNIS

“I will start business too, unless i can get employed on time. i won't have the patience to wait”.

PYTHON

“I will put my diamond away and work for a while to get more experience”.

DENNIS

“If i see work i go work, but if not I will start a business”.

ATAMA

“Me i am already thinking of business to go into, though it depends on how much i can realize from the sale of the diamond”.

PYTHON

“The driver will be here to pick me up any moment from now”.

They yell, congratulating him, all happy for him, smiling richly.

DENNIS

“So what about shelter, what do you plan to do?”.

PYTHON

“She offered to give me somewhere to stay in here house for the time being” . .

ATAMA

“Jerry!, just like that?. Guy this woman like you very much o”.

RAYMOND

“Before you know it, you are married to that her beautiful daughter o”.

DENNIS

“I know the girl likes you so much. The way she was looking into your eyes the other day”.

PYTHON

“I am not interested in relationship stuff. Besides Tessy has a fiancé'. He came to the house when i was there yesterday”.

DENNIS

“Oh no!, i like that girl for you, I am sure that girl likes you too”.

RAYMOND

“If she’s going to be his; she will definitely be his. Never Say never”.

DENNIS STEPS TO ONE SIDE WITH PYTHON T, AWAY FROM OTHERS AND IN A HUSH TONE, HE ASKS.

DENNIS

“Python, what's going on?. You have changed in a short of time”.

PYTHON

“How do you mean?. I do not understand”.

DENNIS

“You keep saying you are not interested in a relationship with girls anymore. I notice you hardly smoke even a cigar. What is the magic?”.

PYTHON

“I never was in any physical relationship with any girl except one; smoking was just a pass time for me. I resolve to stop. It didn't help to heal”.

DENNIS

“What about those girls you had back there before we left?”.

PYTHON

“I was just catching fun; none meant anything to my heart. “Never had any emotional or physical connection with any of them;. My heart is barricaded”.

DENNIS

“I am very surprised. I thought you loved Gloria”.

PYTHON

**“No, Gloria only succeeded in attaching herself to me as a mere friend. I never had sex with any of those girls, my heart is bruised”.**

**DENNIS**

**“You know you never told us about you. I hardly know much about your past. You keep saying barricade and bruised, please what’s going on”.**

**PYTHON**

**“It is better that way. Don’t ask, because you won't get an answer”.**

**As Dennis glance back to see others, a car pulls by and the driver hoots the horn for python to announce his arrival.**

**RAYMOND**

**“Olboy, so na go be this?”**

**PYTHON**

**“Friends, take care; I am setting out to my new job. See you guys later. I will call Raymond's brother to pass my phone number to you guys”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Take care of yourself man. We talk later, in case if it’s possible, put in a word for me. I want to work too”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay, let the will of God be done”.**

**(He waves at them as he walks to the parked car, which the engine is already running. He Slides into the front seat of the car, the driver drives off and python waves more at his friends.**

**CUT TO:**

**ONE MONTH LATER: SHOPPING MALL: MORNING: INT**

**PYTHON SITS IN HIS NEW OFFCE. MONITORS ACTIVITIES in the shopping mall from a security camera on a laptop on his desk. Moments later, Dennis walks in from the entrance door. Attendants busy attending to customers. Some customers busy with selection of goods from the shelf. The cashiers are busy, as Tessy's mother sits in her richly furnished office, somewhere upstairs, talking to someone on phone. She owns several businesses, a very rich woman who started from the scratch and built to the top. Her businesses are worth several hundreds of millions of naira. She has houses in several parts of Lagos.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Oh my friend!, that will be great; I can't wait to welcome you back into the country”.  
(PAUSE) LISTEN FOR A WHILE.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“Abeg come back joor. America is not your Country o”. (THEY BURST OUT LAUGHING)**

**HER FRIEND**

**“Your daughter Christy visited me once when i was in California. (LAUGHS) she is okay”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“I want her to visit Nigeria this year, I hope she will come”.**

**FRIEND**

**“What did she say when you told her that?”.**

**TESSY'S MOTHER**

**“She likes the idea; i hope she won't change her mind”.**

**DENNIS SPEAKS TO A FEMALE ATTENDANT and moments later, she walks off and knocks on pythons door)( python's asks her in. she announces to him that a friend wants to see him).(He asks her to show him in)( she returns to Dennis and seconds later Dennis knocks on his door and steps in and (Closes the door behind him)**

**PYTHON**

**“Welcome to my office” (throws his arms wide. Smile playing on his lips”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Wow, this is wonderful. Just like in the movies, like a dream. In short space of time you are working in an office”.**

**PYTHON**

**“It is the Lords doing. Eem, i put in words for you and she asks me to invite you”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Oh thank you. I pray luck smiles on me”.**

**PYTHON**

**“She is in her office right now. I will let her know you are here immediately we are done talking”.**

**DENNIS**

**“So how is the work going?. Hope you are enjoying your work”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am enjoying it very much; from jungle to an office. I can't complain; God is faithful”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Abeg, go let her know i am here. God may decide to favor me too”.**

**PYTHON**

**“But thought you wants to go into business if you sell your stones?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I think it is wise to work a while and garner experience, to be able to manage my business when i start it”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Wise decision; we knew nothing about management and organization beforehand, so it's wise to have a boss to work for”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Yea, you are right. Please go let her know i am here. I pray i find favor”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay let me go, I will be back”. (WALKS TOWARDS THE STAIRS TO HIS BOSS OFFICE)**

**BACK TO:**

**FEW SECONDS LATER, HE GETS BACK AND ASKS DENNIS TO GO SEE HER IN HER OFFICE. DENNIS IMMEDIATELY SPRING UP, MOVING.**

**PYHTON**

**“Good luck”. (THUMB UP TO HIM AS HE CLOSSES THE DOOR BEHIND HIM. THE RECEPTIONIST ANNOUNCES HIS PRESENCE TO HER AND HE IS ASKED IN.**

**RECEPTIONIST**

**“First door to your right sir!”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Thank you”.**

**(Friendly smile on his lips) In her office, Tessy's mother stares at the door to her office as a light tap sounds on it. She perks on some keys on the laptop on her big office table. (He**

waits and adjusts his shirt) He taps the door again and a voice asks him in from her office.  
He gently pushes the door inward and steps into the beautiful furnished office.,

**PYTHON IN HIS OFFICE CONTINUES TO MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES IN THE SHOPPING MALL.**

Some thirty minutes later, Dennis emerges out from the office, beaming with smile. He happily waves at the receptionist and walks down the stairs to meet Python. His face beams with smile.

**PYTHON LOOKS AT HIS FRIEND, WALKING IN HAPPILY.**

**PYTHON**

**“How did it go?. Any luck”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Yes!, i am gainfully employed now”. (ALL SMILES, SHAKES HANDS) I will be in charge of customer care section”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Wow, that's good news!.” I am happy for you; this calls for celebration”.**

**DENNIS**

**“I am very happy, thank you God. Finally i am having something meaningful to do”.**

**PYTHON**

**“But Dennis wait!, do you have any degree?. You sound educated, though u never told anyone anything about you”.**

**DENNIS**

**“I have my HND, from IMT Enugu. I studied Business admin”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Wow i never knew you are that educated”.**

**DENNIS**

**“What about you. You sound educated but i don't know much about you”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I have a BA from Uniben”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Wow this is surprising, though i know nothing much about you. We were just living our lives, rough life in the ghetto”.**

**PYTHON**

**“So do i, knows nothing much about you”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Mine is a long story which i am not ready to tell now”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I won't talk about my past too, just want it lie low and I want it buried and forgotten”.**

**DENNIS**

**“Better, let's face the future and see what it has in store”.**

**PYTHON**

**“What is your plan about accommodation?”.**

**DENNIS**

**“God is a merciful God. She promised to give me a room in one of the boy's quarters, somewhere in one of her houses, somewhere at Mainland”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Ooh this is great news. God bless her. She is a good woman”.**

**DENNIS RISES UP, PYTHON STANDS UP TOO. THEY HUG AND DISENGAGES.**

**DENNIS**

**“Let me go to give you time concentrate on your work”.**

**PYTHON**

**“So when are you resuming?”.**

**DENNIS**

**“She asks me to start two days today. To allow her time sensitize those i will be heading”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Okay good. So waiting to see you start”.**

**He looks at the monitor, as activities continue on in the mall. Customers and attendants busy, some paying at the counter, some picking stuffs the wants to buy. All look busy.**

**DENNIS**

**“Thank you for the favor. Let me run. I need to get something to wear. You know we were very rich when we left Ubuya”. (PYTHON LAUGHS SOFTLY)**

**PYTHON**

**“Yea, i understand. Good luck. We are survivors”.**

**THEY SHAKE HANDS ONCE MORE AND DENNIS WALKS OUT OF PYTHON'S OFFICE.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**6 MONTHS LATER: EVENING: MURTALA MOHAMED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: EXT**

**CHRISTY WALKS OUT FROM THE ARRIVAL HALL OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. Her mom Anna and their driver were on ground to welcome her and drive her home. Her mum hugs her and both smile happily. The driver helps with her languages and they wheels away from other people flocking to welcome their loved ones. Other people hug and laugh with the new arrivals. The big building of the airport stands some distance as the walk to the car. After depositing her languages in the car boot, they drive on home. The car drives along the airport road, away from the airport building.**

**CUT TO:**

**MORNING: SHOPPING MALL: EXT**

**A JEEP DRIVES IN INTO THE PARKING LOT OF THE SHOPING MALL. It pulls to a stop and two men steps out from the front and back passenger side. The man from the back holds the door open until another man who gently in calculated attempt rolls himself out of the jeep. Closing the car door after the man alights from the car; the first man from the back opens an umbrella above the man, even when the sun is not hot in the sky. The man look's royal in a beautiful agbada lace material. The man from the front seat of the car gently closes his side of door and follows right beside the man with the umbrella. The driver sits behind the wheels, waiting, allowing the engine to cool off. The man in Lacy material in slow and calculated steps walks in a slow pace towards the entrance of the shopping mall. People watch him in admiration. He is very popular with people in the mall. Each time he visits the mall, staffs mile about him and yell his name. They usually call him prince Jide. Immediately he steps into the shopping mall, attendants, begin to hail him, chanting his name. Some chanting omo oba!, some chanting, prince!, prince!!. The noise attracts the attention of python who has never witnessed such since he starts work in the shopping mall. Dennis step's out too from his space to see who the hailing and chanting belongs to. Prince Jide starts to point to items on the counter for his men to pick things he needs. Down the line, a beautiful lady who is shopping too, picks her items too from the counter, and occasionally steals quick glances at Prince Jide. Suddenly she quickly abandons her cart, and steps out unto the scene, to get noticed. Prince Jide steals glances at the beautiful lady too, and then decides to stare and later beckons her to come closer. After few talks and smiles, they exchange phone numbers and agree to talk more,**

after shopping. Few minutes later, prince Jide drives away with her in his jeep. While one of his men, takes a taxi home. Python watches on the security camera. He shakes his head and starts pecking on another laptop on his table.

CUT TO:

EVENING: TESSY'S MOTHER'S HOUSE. EXT

TESSY PRESSING HER PHONE IN THE WELL FURNISHED LIVING ROOM OF THEIR HOME AS CHRISTY WALKS IN FROM A ROOM, FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HOUSE.

CHRISTY

Hey TESSY!, that young man living at the other wing of the house is very humble". (TESSY LOOKS UP FROM HER PHONE)

TESSY

"Oh Jerry?, he is indeed very humble. I am happy mum employed him to work in the shopping mall".

CHRISTY

"Hei TESSY, don't tell me you are in Love with him. I see as your Face glow as you talks of him". (SMILING RICHLY)

TESSY

"Nooo Christy!, why did you say that?, When you know i am about to get married to Henry".

CHRISTY

"I can see it in your eyes baby sister". (SLIDES UNTO A SEAT BESIDE TESSY)

TESSY

"I haven't told you. Jerry rescued me when some bad guys held me hostage, when i went to visit Aunt Elizabeth at Ubuya".

CHRISTY

"What!, you said bad guys?" (Surprised)

TESSY

"Yes, the leader tried to molest me before Jerry came to my rescue".

CHRISTY

**"Thanks to God the idiot did not succeed".**

**TESSY**

**"Christy, when are you showing us your man?. I think it is right time you give love a try again".**

**CHRISTY**

**"I am not ready for a relationship. My heart is fragile, don't want any pain again".**

**TESSY**

**"Do you plan to remain like this because a man hurt you years back?".**

**CHRISTY**

**"Tessy, me i am not ready. Many guys in the states are disturbing me for a relationship but i want to build my future and carrier, am not interested in any love stuff again".**

**TESSY**

**"So you prefer to stay single when i get married?".**

**CHRISTY**

**"I give you my blessing kid sis, if you find love then go on, I am not gonna to feel bad".**

**AS THEY CONTINUE IN THEIR DISCUSSION, THEIR MUM DESCENDS THE STAIRS.THEY STOPS TALKING AND WATCHE HER DESCEND. AS SHE NEARS, THEY START LOOKING AT OTHER THINGS.**

**ANNA**

**CONT"D**

**"I overheard you girls".**

**(SLOWLY DESCENDING THE STAIRS) TESSY AND CHRISTY LOOKS UP, WATCHING HER AS SHE COME TOWARDS THEM. SHE CONTINUES.**

**ANNA**

**"Christy, what did i heard you say?. You doesn't want to marry or what?".**

**CHRISTY**

**"Mum, honestly let's not go there. I am not ready to put my heart on the line any more".**

**ANNA**

**"Christy, all men are not the same. There are still good men out there. Give it another try".**

**CHRISTY**

**“Please mum, can we change this topic. I am not ready for love now, let it stay like that”.**

**ANNA**

**“If you are not ready for love, me i am ready o, I can't continue to be alone since your father died. It's has not being easy for me”.**

**TESSY LAUGHED OUT LOUD.**

**TESSY**

**“Mum did i hear you well?”.**

**ANNA**

**“I mean what i said. This loneliness is not easy on me anymore”.**

**CHRISTY**

**“Mum don't you think your heart is old for that. We are here for you”.**

**ANNA**

**“No time is late for love. I want a good man, an honest companion”.**

**TESSY**

**“Mum you are making me nervous with this your talk”.**

**THEIR MUM SITS AND RELAXES INTO THE SOFA. Suddenly her phone starts to ring. She picks call and rises up, and starts walking away from them as she talks on the phone.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**MONTHS LATER: MORNING: SHOPPING MALL: EXT**

**A WOMAN DRESSED ELEGANTLY ALIGHTS FROM A CAR PARKED IN THE PARKING LOT AT THE SHOPPING MALL. A beautiful girl throws open the front door of the car and alights too. They walk up to the entrance and a security man curtseys as they walk into the mall. From the security camera, python notices their entrance. Something snaps inside him. Like a bolt is been unbolted after a long lock. He watches them walk toward the door. Python steps out to them and their eyes meet and get connected instantly. Python smiles and she smiles too. She is very pretty and young. Mid-twenties and light skin. About five-seven and her white teeth shone when she smiles. Suddenly Python’s heart starts to race and beat. He walks up to them and greets them.**

**PYTHON**

**“Good morning” (PYTHON GREETES THEM, SMILE STILL PLAYING ON HIS LIPS.**

**WOMAN**

**“Good morning, how are you?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am fine ma’am”.**

**WOMAN**

**“Is my friend in her office?”.**

**PYHTON**

**“Who ma’am?”. (CONFUSED)**

**WOMAN**

**“You are new here, oh i mean the owner of the company”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Oh yes ma, she is in her office. Yes ia m new here ma’am” (STEPS ASIDE A BIT TO ALLOW THEM PASSAGE)**

**Their eyes meet again and stays hooked like eternity, but it is just for fraction of seconds.**

**Python’s heart starts to beat beating even faster. He walks and sits back on his office chair. What is happening to him?. This is strange. He likes the girl instantly or even more. Afraid it is not what he is thinking. His heart is barricaded and not ready to love again or for now. After what seem like an hour, all women walks down the stairs. His boss comes to the door to his office and says to her Friend.**

**ANNA**

**“This is Jerry, my new supervisor”. (THE OTHER WOMAN SMILES AT JERRY AND JERRY STANDS UP AND CURTSEYS) THE woman looks about same age with his boss, not tall and not short. She is fleshy and yet beautiful. She is light skin and has beautiful smile like her daughter. She wears a red gown which drops just some inches below her knee.**

**WOMAN**

**“I noticed he is new here when i came and inquire of you. He is well behaved”.**

**ANNA**

**He is a well behaved gentleman. Did I tell you, he saved Tessy from the hands Black Lion and his men as he tries to molest her back in Ubuya”.**

**WOMAN**

**“Is that so?, Did you just say Black Lion?; that dangerous man? Oh very kind of you, thank you young man”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Welcome ma’am (SMILING) Glory is to God Almighty”.**

**ANNA**

**“Jerry, this is my very good friend, Madam Linda. And here is her daughter, Sandra”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Happy to meet you all” (SMILE ON HIS LIPS) Sandra drops her gaze to the floor and her heart starts to beat.**

**As Linda turns to Anna, python steals a quick glance at Sandra. She holds her smile and tries to look serious and hard but her heart is racing. She is captivated and it has not happened before. Madam Linda's voice brings them back to reality.**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“We are going to come tomorrow morning as you requested”.**

**ANNA**

**“Okay, i will be here early, so we can get to the bank on time before it is crowded”.**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“Okay, we should be on our way. The traffic is growing”.**

**ANNA**

**“Okay bye”**

**SANDRA**

**“Bye ma’am”. (WAVES AT ANNA) “Bye!” AND (WAVES AT PYTHON TOO)**

**PYTHON**

**“Bye ma’”. (SITS BACK TO HIS CHAIR) THEN ANNA STARTS GOING BACK TO HER OFFICE.**

**CUT TO:**

**NEXT MORNING: SHOPPING MALL: EXT**

**PYTHON WALKS TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE OF THE SHOPPING MALL AS a car pulls to a stop in the parking lot, not far away. He stops and turns to look; he sees the girl in the front seat of the car. Doors thrown open, and instantly mother and daughter starts to alight from the car. Python stands, waits as mother and daughter walks towards the entrance door.**

**GETTING CLOSER, PYTHON GREETES.**

**PYTHON**

**“Good morning ma’am, Good morning Sandra”. (SMILE PLAYING ON HIS LIPS) He wears a blue jean trouser and white shirt and white sneakers.**

**MADAM LANDA**

**“Good morning young man, please remind me your name again”.**

**PYTHON**

**“My name is Jerry”.**

**SANDRA**

**“Good morning, Jerry”.**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“Oh yes Jerry, It eludes my mind. Has my Friend arrived for work?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am not sure ma’am, though i am just coming, but her car is not in her parking space”.**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“Okay we go in and wait for her”. (WALKING INTO THE SHOPPING MALL)**

**Python and Sandra following behind, both looks at each other momentarily and smiles richly.**

**THEY DOOR OPENS FROM INSIDE AND THEY STEP INTO THE SHOPPING MALL. Some workers are already putting things in other for the days’ business and one or two shoppers are already in, picking stuffs to buy. Immediately python steps into the mall, Dennis waves at him. (Python waves back)**

**PYTHON**

**“See you later!” (HE WALKS AHEAD AND PICKS TWO CHAIRS AND PLACES IT FOR MADAM LINDA AND HER DAUGHTER TO SIT.**

**PYTHON**

**“I believe she won't take long to come. Please wait for her here, or would you prefer to wait in the reception?”.**

**Python prays for an opportunity to steal a quick look at Sandra. His heart is racing. He thought of her most part of the night, couldn't sleep well. Immediately luck smiles on him.**

**Madam Linda stands up to check on a product. She heads to a counter some distance away from them. Python quickly walks to Sandra.**

**PYHTON**

**“Sandra, how was your night?”.**

**SANDRA**

**“My night was good and yours?”. (LOOKING A BIT NERVOURS) SEEING HERSELF ALONE WITH PYTHON MAKES HER UNCOMFORTABLE)**

**PYTHON**

**“My night was not too good”.**

**SANDRA**

**“Why?”**

**(LOOKING QUESTIONLY AT HIM)**

**CUT TO:**

**(Madam Linda quickly cut her eyes at them and smiles to herself, and continues browsing)**

**BACK TO:**

**PYTHON**

**CONT”D**

**“I could not sleep, since i set my eyes on you my heart has not remain same. “The thought of you kept me awake almost all night”. (SHE SMILES AND RELAX HER LOOK, SHYLY LOOKING AWAY)**

**SANDRA**

**“Abeg o, i can't be the one that stopped your from sleeping”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am sure; i know what i am feeling for you. I am crazy for me”.**

**SANDRA**

**“Shuuu, Tell me you are joking please. We just met yesterday”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am very serious about this please. Believe me. I am very interested in you, like i have known you a long time”.**

**SANDRA**

**“Aaah i am becoming real afraid o!” (SMILE STILL PLAYS ON HER LIPS)**

**PYTHON QUICKLY BRINGS OUT HIS PHONE ND HANDS TO HER.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please give me your phone number, i will call you later”.**

**She collects it and types her number and gives the phone back to him) she likes him even from the moment she sets her eyes on him the first day. It is very evident with the way she tries to suppress smile on her face.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please can we go out on a date today?, to have time talk more at a relaxed atmosphere”**

**SANDRA**

**“So soon, sorry i don't think i will be chanced”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please, i am dying to talk to you and watch you smile. You are very beautiful. I have been living in a world where your kind of smile is missing”.**

**SANDRA**

**“Haa abeg o, take it easy Jerry. No games, i hate games”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I am very honest with my words. No games Please. Trust me”.**

**Python dials the number she typed on his phone and her phone begins to ring. She made to try bringing out her phone.**

**PYTHON**

**“It is me calling your line”. (SHE RELAXES AND IMMEDIATELY HER MUM STARTS WALKING BACK.**

**PYTHON**

**“Please do we have a date?”.**

**Seeing her mum coming Approaching**

**SANDRA**

**“What time and where?”.**

**PYTHON**

**"I close six, can you make it here about that time. We can go somewhere very close here".**

**SANDRA**

**"Okay, later"**

**PYTHON**

**"Thank you, see you then".**

**(Walks off to his office)**

**As Madam Linda returns to her seat, Anna's car pulls to a stop at the entrance of the mall. She alights and the driver reverses to park the car well in her parking space.**

**Quickly coming into the mall, sights them and she quickly waves the driver to wait.**

**ANNA**

**"Sorry for coming late, we ran into serious hold up. You know our road, not an easy road to apply once the traffic builds up".**

**MADAM LINDA**

**"No problem, i understand. Living in AJa and Lekki is not easy".**

**ANNA**

**"Oya please let's go immediately".**

**(They rise up to go) python emerges from his office and greets his boss. They quickly start leaving, walking out the mall. Python stands and waves at Sandra who walks behind her mum. She gifts him a warm smile and waves back. The connection between them is instant.**

**DISSOLVES TO:**

**EVENING: EATERY: INT:**

**PYTHON AND SANDRA LAUGH, ALL HAPPY. Open bottles of soft drink lay before them, empty plates too. Seconds later, they stand up to go. Outside, python holds her hand as they walk on for her to take a taxi home.**

**PYTHON**

**"Thank you for honoring my invitation".**

**SANDRA**

**"You are welcome?, it was worth it".**

**PYTHON**

**"I want to see you every minute of the hour. Something is happening to me so fast".**

**SANDRA**

**"What is happening to you?". (FEIGING SURPRISE AND WORRIED)**

**PYTHON**

**"You have arrested my racing heart".**

**SANDRA**

**"As you can see i am not wearing any police uniform".( THROWS HER HAND WIDE FOR HIM TO SEE HER WELL) SMILING) "So i can't arrest anyone".**

**PYTHON**

**"Sandra wait", (SHE STOPS AND WATCH HIM) HE COMES CLOSER AND PLANTS A KISS ON HER LIPS, SHE DIDN'T TRY TO RESIST).**

**PYTHON**

**"I am sure i am falling in love with you".**

**SANDRA**

**"Hmmm please don't wound as you are falling o"( LAUGHING OUT)**

**PYTHON**

**"I am very sure of it; you mean so much to my heart. I know my heart".**

**SUDDENLY SHE STOPS. SHE LOOKS SERIOUS, NO MORE SMILE OR LAUGHTER.**

**SANDRA**

**"Jerry, please no games with me, i am danm serious about that. I don't want any hurt. I am just giving love a try again after a long while, after a big hurt".**

**PYTHON**

**"No i am not out for games; I know what hurt is, and I know what love is too cause i have experienced it before. Just be real with me".**

**SANDRA**

**"If i am not real with you, i won't be standing here with you. My mum knows i am here with you. She noticed us talking this morning and she asked".**

**PYTHON**

**“I am happy the way things are going. I am going to let the whole world know. I am in Love! “(HE SHOUTS INTO THE AIR) SHE HOLDS HIS HAND AND MOMENTRILY LOOKS INTO HIS EYES. HE KISSES HER AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL SHE PULLS AWAY.**

**SANDRA**

**“Jerry, people are watching” (SHE REMINDS HIM)**

**PYTHON**

**“Let them watch, I like it that way”.**

**Their hearts are racing to the land of love together, clinging together and yearning for permanent binding.**

**They hold hands again walking towards the road, oblivious of glares and stares from people.**

**CUT TO:**

**3 MONTHS LATER: AFTERNOON: SHOPPING MALL. EXT**

**A MAN AMBLES INTO THE SHOPING MALL and the security man at the door, steps aside to allow him in. He enters and cuts his eyes left and right, then heads to a shelf to check things to buy. Python walks out from his office. He calls one of the customer care person. a lady, and talks to her briefly, and the man who got in earlier stares at python intently from some distance. Surprise, as he steps forward, to have a clearer view. Not too sure. He quickly walks outside and places a call on his phone.**

**BACK TO:**

**Moments later, he comes back but python have entered his office.**

**DENNIS STARTS WALKING AROUND TO SEE IF ANY CUSTOMER NEEDS HELP. FEW MINUTES LATER THE MAN PAYS FOR HIS BILL AND LEFT.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**2 DAYS LATER. MORNING: SHOPPING MALL:**

**PYTHON AND HIS BOSS STAND TALKING, WITH SOME STAFFS IN THE SHOPPING MALL. AS SHE talks to them, the man who came the previous day enters with another man. Tessy’s mum sights’ them and stops talking, and ask everyone to go back to their posts. Her staffs start to move towards their various posts in the big mall. The two men stand and watch python as he starts to leave. The two men feign to check items on the counter, watching python as he walks towards his office. One of them picks an item and walks to the cashier and pays for it and the two men walks out of the mall.**

**CUT TO:**

**(Outside the two of them talk as they leave)**

**1ST MAN**

**"I am sure it is him".**

**2ND MAN**

**"No doubt about that. He just disappeared a long time ago".**

**1ST MAN**

**"I think it is best we call to confirm".**

**2ND MAN**

**"Do you have any number to call?".**

**1ST MAN**

**"I will call Solomon; he travelled last two days to our town".**

**2ND MAN**

**"Okay, it will be better to call him".**

**1ST MAN**

**"Yes that is what should be done".**

**The first man brings out his mobile phone and steps to a corner and places a call. On third ring, someone comes on from the other end. They talk for some moment, then he cuts call and steps back to meet the other man.**

**1ST MAN**

**"Solomon said he will immediately go and inform his family today, he promised to call me".**

**2ND MAN**

**"Good!, i am sure it is him. But wait, we made a mistake".**

**1ST MAN**

**"What mistake?"**

**2ND MAN**

**"We need a picture to show".**

**1ST MAN**

**“Ooh yea, you are right; I will go try my luck, we need his picture.**

**2ND MAN**

**“Why not we do it another time?”**

**1ST MAN**

**“No, remember Solomon will call back today. Just wait here, let me go alone” (Heads back to the shopping mall)**

**BACK TO:**

**A minute later, he starts running back to his friend.**

**2ND MAN**

**“Any success?, how far?”. (EXCITED)**

**1ST MAN**

**“I couldn’t take picture in there; the security man stopped me (LOOKING SAD)**

**2ND MAN**

**“I thought as much, we try again next time”. (WALKING OFF)**

**1ST MAN**

**“So you no trust me, come back here!”**

**(Laughing) The second man stops and turns to his friend as he brings out his phone and shows him a picture of python.**

**2ND MAN**

**“Wow this is good, we have something now to show as prove”.**

**1ST MAN**

**“This is him no doubt. Though he is changed some bit physically”.**

**2ND MAN**

**“He has matured more into a strong looking man”.**

**They begin to walk away.**

**CUT TO:**

**ONE WEEK LATER: EARLY EVENING: SHOPPING MALL: INT:**

A TOYOTA CAR PULLS UP IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE SHOPPING MALL and a man alights from the front seat and quickly opens the back door of the car, still holding it, hurriedly opens an umbrella. With the umbrella in left hand, he opens the back door of the red Toyota Venza car. Prince Jide steps out, and the same girl he left with from the shopping mall some days ago, steps out too. Holding hands, they walk towards the shopping mall, the other man following with the open royal blue umbrella over them, while the driver waits in the car as usual. Immediately they come closer to the entrance door, the security man at the door throws open the door and clips his legs together and stands at attention. The shout of prince!, prince!!..Prince!!! Immediately rents the air. The girl beams with smile. She is lucky to catch this very important big fish. Instantly another car pulls up too in the parking lot. Sandra throws open the front door and steps out, her mum, madam Linda alights from the driver's side. They hurry to the entrance door, and the chants continue in the shopping mall. The security man at the front door quickly throws the door open for them. They enters and stand, watching as Prince Jide brings out wad of naira notes and hands it to a black lady who stands smiling generously towards the generous prince. The money will be shared amongst the workers in the mall.

**MADAM LINDA SMILES AND SHAKES HER HEAD. SHE TURNS AND SIGNALS SANDRA TO HEADS UP THE STAIRS TO MEET WITH HER FRIEND, ANNA.**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“What is going on here, who is this man?” (SHE ASKS TO NOBODY IN PARTICULAR AS THEY WALK TO THE DOOR THAT LEADS TO THE STAIRS)**

**PYTHON STEPS OUT FROM HIS OFFICE ON NOTICING THEIR ARRIVAL FROM THE SECURITY CAMERA.**

**PYTHON**

**“Good evening ma’am, welcome Sandra, how are you doing?. Welcome”.**

**(They exchange pleasantries and Madam Linda and Sandra walk up the stairs, after python and Sandra hug each other and share smiles.**

**BACK TO:**

**Prince Jide and his girlfriend continue shopping, while attendants smile, happy and grateful for the windfall. Dennis stands by his desk watching this prince.**

**CUT TO:**

**Few minutes later, three cars pull's to a stop by the road opposite the shopping mall. The car in front is a Black 4matic Mercedes Benz. Two girls in yellow dress quickly open the front and back doors and alight and bring out a red carpet from the boot of the car and spread the red carpet and roll it across, near the door of a red Range Rover sport in the middle. The back door of the last car at the back which is a black 4matic Mercedes Benz opens, and three girl's steps down too. All the three girls are in beautiful pink dress. They girls from the third car have in their hands rose flower baskets. A man who happens to be**

the first man, who called his friend to the mall days ago, alights from the front of the red 4matic Mercedes Benz and walks few feet towards the shopping mall. Instantly another man in black suit alights from the front of the Red Range Rover sport at the middle, and walks to the back door, and grabs the handle and yanks it open. The girls with baskets of rose flowers begin to throw rose flowers on the red carpet. Gently a beautiful woman wearing a very long beautiful royal blue dress steps down from the Range Rover sport.

She stands briefly, stares at the shopping mall and then starts to walk towards it elegantly. She is very beautiful and looks mid-fifties.

**CUT TO:**

The security guard at the entrance gate peers through the glass at the amazing scene outside, He quickly beckons another security man who stands some distance away. That one quickly walks over to see what his colleague is staring at. On seeing the approaching royal train he cups his hand to his mouth and stand stares in bewilderment. Immediately they approaching royal entourage get near and are yet to reach the door. One of the customer care lady notices the second security guard and hisses and walks away. He behaves stupidly sometimes.

**BACK TO**

AS THEY APPROACH CLOSE TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE SHOPPING MALL, THE DOOR SWINGS AJAR FROM INSIDE. THE SECURITY MEN AT THE DOOR CLIPS THEIR LEGS AND STAND AT ATTENTION AND SALUTES LIKE SOLDIERS, AS HER RIGHT FEET HIT THE FLOOR INSIDE. Immediately she steps in, silence fell instantly in the shopping mall. Her eyes cut in different directions. All eyes turn to the entourage. Some customers stop shopping and stare at the woman and her entourage. Just then, Anna and Madam Linda are descending from the stairs. Dennis stands and stares from some distance. Prince Jide and his girl all stand starrng. Then the woman speaks.

**WOMAN**

“Where is my son?” (THERE IS AUTHORITY IN HER VOICE) DENNIS COMES FORWARD, WATCHING AND LOOKS BEWILDERED.

Seconds later, madam Linda steps into the shopping mall, follows by Anna at the back. Immediately Madam Linda sees her with her entourage she freezes momentarily and collects herself and then approaches her.

**MADAM LINDA**

“Oooh! Queen Brenda!, what brought you here?” (CURTSYING)

QUEEN BRENDA LOOKS AT HER QUIZZICALLY.

**QUEEN BRENDA**

“Do i know you woman?. Have we met before? How are you doing?”.

(SMILES AT MADAM LINDA AND STRETCHES HER HAND IN GREETING)

**MADAM LINDA**

**"I know you, your Majesty; but you may not know me ma".**

**PYTHON QUICKLY ENTERS THE TOILET. HE NOTICED THEIR ENTRANT (ANNA STEPS FORWARD)**

**ANNA**

**"Welcome your highness; you are very welcome to my shopping mall" (SMILLING)**

**Queen Brenda smiles at her and stretches her white gloved hand for a handshake.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**"Where is my son?". (SHE REPEATS THE QUESTION)**

**EVERYONE LOOKS ON IN GREAT ADMIRATION.**

**ANNA**

**"Please, i am confused your Majesty; Who is your son?".**

**She stretches her hand towards the man who led them to the mall. The 1st man beckons his friend. The man opens his phone and opens a picture from the gallery and hands the phone over to her. Queen Brenda hands the phone over to Anna. She anxiously collects the phone, anxious to see the image in the phone.**

**ANNA**

**"Jerry?. Is he your son?; Oh such a good young man". (HANDS THE PHONE BACK TO HER)**

**ANNA**

**"Let me call him, He must be in his office. She snaps her fingers at one of her female staff who stands few feet from the door. The female staff quickly scurries away to jerry's office) She enters jerry's office but he is not there, but the screen of the laptops glowing. Jerry in the toilet and locks himself in, wondering how come she finds him. He left to live a new life. Why now?. The female staff then seen no Jerry, decides to check the toilet.**

**FEMALE STAFF**

**Jerry!, come out here!. I know you are somewhere. Come out now!.**

**The queen cuts her eyes in different direction in the shopping mall. Other people watch and wait. Her head is adorned with a gold crown and beautiful gold rings on two of her fingers. A beautiful gold necklace hangs on her neck. Minute's passes before the female staff and Python emerge into the mall; all eyes turn to Python and the queen. On seeing Python enter into the scene, the queen moves.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“Oh jerry my son; I am happy to see you”. (GOING TO HUG HIM)**

**JERRY**

**“Mum how did you get here?. How did you find me?”**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“My son, the family misses you. The king is sick and worried since you left home”.**

**DENNIS WALKS CLOSER TO OBSERVE.**

**DENNIS**

**“Jerry is this really you, or am i dreaming?”.**

**PYTHON**

**“We talk later about everything pal, Please”.**

**(DENNIS STEPS BACK LEAVING MOTHER AND SON TO CATCH UP)**

**CO- WORKERS STAND SOME DISTANCE, WATCHING IN GREAT ADMIRATION.**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“I plan to ask you to tell me about you; but now i know better”.**

**THE QUEEN STEPS CLOSER AND HUG JERRY**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“I miss you so much my son”.**

**Suddenly a man angrily enters into the shopping mall. As he steps into the mall, he stands and stares, looking very confused. He stood momentarily looking around and suddenly his eyes picks prince Jide and his girlfriend standing some distance. They are no longer holding hands since the queen came in. Prince Jide sees the man that enters and quickly darts off and hides behind a shelf. The man suddenly yells**

**MAN**

**“Jide!, don't try to hide, i saw you. So this is where you spend all the money i sent to you to build house for me. Come here, na me and you today”.**

**CUT TO:**

**(THE GIRL WITH PRINCE JIDE MOVES AWAY SOME DISTANCE)**

**MAN**

**“I heard you go about claiming to be Prince, spending my hard earned money i worked hard for. Ole!”.**

**(THEN ANNA SPEAKS)**

**ANNA**

**“What is going on here?. Who is this man?” (THE MAN HEARS HER AND APPROACHES HER.**

**MAN**

**“Madam, sorry for the disturbance; I am Jide’s Uncle. He spent all the money i sent him to build house for me. After toiling in America for years to make and save money, he renders my effort useless”.**

**ANNA**

**“Who is Jide?”**

**MAN**

**“He is hiding over there, deceiving people that he is a prince”.**

**ANNA**

**“Cool down sir, you will sort things out later”.**

**MAN**

**“Madam it is not easy o, that boy deceives people that he is a prince, while he is just a son of Asoju”.**

**DENNIS WALKS UP TO THE MAN WHO IS ALREADY MOVING TOWARDS THE PLACE JIDE IS HIDDING.**

**DENNIS**

**“Oga please take it easy”.**

**MAN**

**“Take what easy, come out here Jide. If you no kill me today i go kill you!”.**

**Jide's girlfriend moves closer to where the queen and Jerry stand. (Smiling foolishly to catch Jerry's attention)**

**Queen Brenda turns and faces the people. (Madam Linda and Anna watching)**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“This is my son, the crown Prince of Avaba kingdom”. SHE ANNOUNCES. (ANNA AND MADAM LINDA WATCHING)**

**JERRY**

**“Mum can we talk aside?” (SHE WALKS TO A CORNER WITH JEERY and her entourage waiting patiently close by. Pieces of rose flowers litter the floor.**

**CUT TO:**

**MADAM LINDA HASTILY WALKS UP THE STAIRS TO GET SANDRA. (JERRY AND THE QUEEN STILL STANDS ASIDE TALKING)**

**PYTHON**

**“Please mum, stop announcing who i am to the people”.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“I already did and they know who you are. Stop hiding my son. You are going to be the king soon. Your father the king has been sick and weak since you left home. We’ve searched for you since the day you angrily left the kingdom. He can't wait to see you”.**

**PYTHON**

**“Why are you people caring for me now?. Tell me mum. Nobody cares for my happiness”.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“Stop thinking like that my son; we love you and we want what is best for you”.**

**PYTHON**

**“I loved Sharon so much and you people didn't see that, instead, you rejected her because she is not an Avaban”.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“You know the custom of our land my son. A king cannot marry outside our Land. She must be Avaban”.**

**PYTHON**

**“She killed herself, died because you people rejected her. I can't forget the horrible way she hung from the tree after she committed suicide”.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“My son, please stop thinking about that, just come home with me to your people, to your kingdom”.**

**PYTHON**

**“My happiness died with her. Mum do you know what i have been through because of your selfish decision?”.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“Sorry my son, we love you and never want you to go through any difficulties”.**

**Madam Linda and her daughter Sandra descend the stairs into the shopping mall. Sandra looks bewildered by the scene before her. What is going on?, the picture playing fast in her head.**

**SANDRA**

**“Mum what is going on?”.**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“I called you to meet your queen”. (QUEEN BRENDA AND JERRY TURNS TO THEM)**

**BACK TO:**

**MADA LINDA INTRODUCES THEM**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“This is your queen; Queen Brenda, Queen of Avaba”.**

**SANDRA**

**“Oh i greet you your majesty”. (CURTSYING BEFORE THE QUEEN)**

**PYTHON**

**“Yea mum, i want you to meet someone. Her name is Sandra, My new love”. (PUTS HIS ARM ON HER SHOULDER AND THE QUEEN SMIILES, STARES AT SANDRA WITH LIKENESS)**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“Oh she is very beautiful. Is she your daughter?” (LOOKING AT MADAM LINDA QUESTIONLY)**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“Yes your majesty. She is my only daughter”.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“You said i am her queen, what do you mean by that”.**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“Yes, she is an Avaban, her father was barrister Edwards”.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“Oh, the famous barrister that died many years ago”**

**MADAM LINDA**

**“Yes your majesty”.**

**PYTHON LOOKS SURPRISED; he does not believe what he is hearing. A double winning for him, Sandra an Avaban?. He is now ready to go home.**

**PYTHON**

**“Mum this is great news for me” (HOLDING SANDRA TIGHTER) (SMILE PLAYING ON HIS LIPS)**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“Son you now ready to go home?”**

**PYTHON**

**“Yes mum, i am ready, but not without saying goodbye to some important people who has been very good to me. Like my boss here”. (BECKONS ANNA) SHE SMILES AND COME CLOSER.**

**ANNA**

**“Your majesty, your son has been a good worker here, everyone loves him. He saved my daughter from danger before he came here. I am very proud of him”.**

**THE QUEEN SMILES AND TURNS TO HIS ENTOURAGE WHO STAND WAITING.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“We can now go back with great news. I have found my son, the crown Prince of Avaba”.**

**JIDE'S GIRLFRIEND LOOKS ON, VERY SAD AND REGRETFUL.**

**PYTHON**

**“Mum, there is another important person i want you to meet”. (BECKONS ON DENNIS TO COME CLOSER, DENNIS STEPS CLOSER AND STANDS)**

**PYTHON**

**“This man has been through thick and thin with me. He is a very good friend”.**

**The queen stretches her hand towards Dennis who gently shakes it. Her hand glove holds before for longer releasing his hand.**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“You will visit us later at Avaba. Take care of yourself”. (TURNING TO GO)**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

Prince of Avaba

**“I need to go rest at my hotel. It has been a very long flight”. (TURNS TO MADAM LINDA AND ANNA AND SANDRA)**

**QUEEN BRENDA**

**“I am inviting you all to dinner at ROYAL PLACE, 7.30PM”**

**THE GIRLS WITH BASKET OF ROSES PRECEDES HER, THROWING FLOWERS TO THE GROUND AS SHE WALKS AND THE MAN IN BLACK SUIT FOLLOWS AT HER BACK, WHILE TWO MEN WHO ARE ARMED WITH GUNS WALK BY THE SIDES. THEIR FACES ALL LOOKING STERN. MADAM LINDA AND ANNA WAVE HER BYE AS SHE LEAVES.**

**PYTHON**

**“Mum i will see you later, let me say goodbye to my colleagues”. Turns to face his co-workers) smile on their faces. Suddenly the shout of prince! Prince!! Prince!!! Rent’s the air. They lift Python up from the ground. (Then Jide, the self- made prince and his girlfriend duck and both he and his escort suddenly run towards the exit door, IN OTHER TO ESCAPE THIS GREAT SHAME.**

**FADE OUT.**