ISLAND OF THE LOST



INIOLUWA EZEKIEL

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On a final note, I appreciate my dear readers and social media followers. If I have no one to read, I have no reason to write. Thanks for reading always. I can't thank you enough.

My prayer for you is that as you go through this book, may your eyes of understanding be enlightened and you will have an encounter with God in Jesus' name.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
I am not ashamed to say I am nothing without the Trinity.

PROLOGUE

"I want to die!!" Oluwakemi screamed out her lung.

Kemi was a young lady in her early 20s, but at the moment, no one would easily be able to tell with the wrinkle on her forehead which she had gotten from the constant expression of sadness. On this day, she was wearing a rough dirty blue gown and her high cheekbones were sunken, her eyes had dark circles staring with bewilderment and fear, and a cloud of depression and weariness seemed to be so visible on Kemi's face, each step she took felt like a heavy weight was tied to her feet. Her voice had been so stressed that it cracked at every pitch.

"Why continue to live when there is no hope for my future?" her eyes welled with tears, her heart stomping with overwhelming guilt. It's been four days since she locked herself inside her room and wasn't able to eat or sleep, suicide had become an only option for her. She threw herself from the bed to the floor in deep anguish while wailing loudly like a wounded elephant. Her eyeballs were red and filled with tears. This situation was beyond her and she wished she could make it disappear.

"I wish I didn't do this" she cried out, hitting her hands on the floor. "Now, I am trapped without a solution. I am seriously in trouble" she said with her body shaking. The floor had begun to hurt her buttocks so it made her stand up from the floor and this time she took position by the wall staring at herself in the mirror with an uncontrollable stream of tears that flowed from her face.

"Holy Spirit, you truly warned me, you told me to resist the devil and be strong in my faith. You tried to save me from this calamity but I was so adamant, I was misled, I trusted humans instead of you. I obeyed and fulfilled my desires. Now, I have led myself into this wilderness" her words

flowed like a mad woman as she was all alone in the room. This conversation with her mirror self went on and on until suddenly, she felt a gentle breeze that brushed through her neck first and became heavy on her skin giving her goosebumps, and finally turned into the wind and then went down. The whole strange scene made her stand still in silence. Now it was not just her pain but now confusion and fear added. It felt like her heart would explode.

As she was staring at the mirror, she saw a book on the table, the word 'Moses' seemed to appear on the front cover of the book.

"Moses" Kemi screamed and held the book, she remembered her memories with Moses and couldn't stop shedding tears. she placed the book on her chest and would not stop crying. "I wish I listened to your pieces of advice, I shouldn't have left you. I was so selfish and impatience. Truly, you warned me and you tried your best. You tried for me, Moses" she shouted.

"Unfortunately, it's too late for me to realize all your words of advice, too late for me to discover how much you love me. I thought all you told me were cooked-up stories and not real, I was frustrated and couldn't trust God enough, now, I have been deceived and trapped. I now understand all what you told me God revealed to you, Moses but it is too late for me now" she screamed, one could have thought she was out of her mind because of the way she was talking to the mirror as if she could see Moses.

She heard a whisper behind her ears “Second Peter 5:7”. The voice felt so faint and yet so clear. It felt like it came from everywhere and yet nowhere. Kemi scrambled through her piles of books for her Bible which she found helplessly laying in the corner filled with dust. She immediately picked it up not minding the dust that covered it.

She quickly opened the scripture and read through it to find out what she had heard. Her desperation would make her wait for any word as it turned out. It was so certain she had no idea if the word was from God, her mind, or the

devil but it felt important.

"Cast all your care on Jesus for He cares for you" Reading the scripture felt like a heavy blow to her as she screamed louder throwing herself at every corner of the room.

"No, this can't be true, I am so unworthy of Him, I am a terrible sinner that has abandoned Him for years, why would he carry my burden or even care?" she kept hitting herself against the wall. Suddenly, she stopped like she remembered something, she searched through her drawer and got out a razor.

"Lord, I deserve to die, I deserve it" The razor went straight to her wrist as she guided it down a vertical line. In a split second, blood had started to rush out dripping down her wrist. Tears were not enough to express the pain she was already feeling at this time.

There was a knock on the door that drew her attention. "Who is there?" she managed to respond. Kemi was already losing a great amount of blood that she had begun to lose strength.

"it is me, my love. Is everything okay in there?" the voice came from behind the door.

"Old man, It is none of your business" she said under her breath. She lay silently on the bed still bleeding muttering to herself "I deserve to die; I deserve to die."

THREE YEARS BEFORE

Moses walked in on Oluwakemi curled up in the corner of the living room

sobbing. He bends over her, taking her warm palms into his in confusion.

"I can't believe this! Are you serious or joking with me right now, Oluwakemi?" speaking in the gentlest voice. Only Moses was known to call out her name in full. I thought you were joking on the phone but this is becoming too real he exclaimed still holding her hands.

Kemi's sobbing had taken a higher pitch as she pulled her hand away from his. With a lot of strength, she stood up from her position moving towards the couch while Moses followed her like a housefly drawn to a pineapple but still trying to figure out why she was crying.

"Babe, I need an answer to my question. Are you serious about our conversation?" he carefully watched her lips waiting for an answer that would favor him but her silence hurt him deep than the present mess they both were in.

Kemi continued shedding tears like a baby hitting her face against a throw pillow. As he couldn't bare waiting for an answer anymore, Moses headed straight for the door.

"Moses!" she called out his name in what almost sounded like a whisper but loud enough for him to hear her.

"Are you ready to talk now or do you need more time to cry? "

"Yes, I am sorry for keeping you waiting" she answered wiping her tears. Moses swallowed his frustration and reluctantly sat down at the opposite end of the living room.

"I am asking the question again for the last time, are you serious about this issue?" He asked.

Her tears would not stop flowing and it hurt Moses to see her that way.

"You know I don't like seeing you in tears. Babe, what exactly is going on here? Please stop crying and talk to me, I am confused!" He moved close to her and wiped her tears.

"I was serious then and I am serious now about the issue, it is not a joke Moses. I went back" she cried out in pain. This time, Moses was short of words.

"I can't believe this, am I dreaming or you are auditioning for a role in a movie?" He joked still hoping it was all a dream but the loud cries of Kemi made reality dawn on him. "Oluwakemi, my love. Please don't do this to me" Tear drops fell from his eyes.

Kemi couldn't stop crying, she looked away to avoid eye contact with Moses.

"After all your convictions and promises to me and everything that you said. I find it hard to believe this!" Moses lamented but Kemi could not stop crying too.

CHAPTER ONE

Moses' first encounter with Kemi was three years ago when they were in school. Oluwakemi's journey was an unusual path as she was born into a family of traditional worshippers where it almost seemed like she was spiritual royalty.

This was because her father was the chief priest of her town in Ajegun village, known and respected in the village as many people in the town visited him for different issues, he prescribed herbal medicines for sick people and healed some of their illnesses with the power of his deity. “strong and powerful” as he calls it.

Ifagbemi was his name, he had always persecuted Christians while forcing most to run from the village with the help of the king claiming that they are making the gods upset and were trying to invade the customs and traditions of the town. Because of this, it was rare for Christians to live peacefully in the town, they all packed their loads and left the town, and strangers were no more allowed to sleep over in the village. If such happens, the stranger will be locked up in the king's palace for six months.

Oluwakemi was born five years after Ifagbemi married Orisayemi her mother and they both loved each other which made them encourage one another during their time of waiting. Orisayemi's wait made many people in the village see her as a bad omen to Ifagbemi. As time began to pass by, his other colleagues advised him to marry another woman but Ifagbemi loved his wife so much that he would not budge. Orisayemi was Ifa's choice for him even though she was older than Ifagbemi and had been previously married to three different husbands that died shortly after they got married.

Ifagbemi was her fourth husband and also the only man she had a child for.

Five years went by and just when things had started to look good with a baby on the way, his wife died immediately after giving birth to the baby. But just as she labored, she implored her husband to make sure their only daughter would get an education so she could be useful to the village and everyone. Ifagbemi promised with all he had in him.

Growing up with an idol worshipper for a father made Ifakemi as she was formerly called a devoted idol worshipper. This did not stop her from gaining admission into the university to become a medical doctor for the entire village since there was no good health care there.

It was in her third year of schooling that she met Moses. A tall but lanky young handsome man, fair in complexion and blessed with the most heart-warming smile that could calm a raging sea supported by a perfect cheekbone. His perfection was crowned with a deep baritone voice and nomad-blue eyes that often twinkled. Even though Kemi was also beautiful, she often wondered why a perfect man like this would want to be her friend.

One day, they were strangers, the next, they were friends and it didn't take long before he preached the salvation message to his 'paddie' (like he normally calls her), to her as led by the Holy Spirit. It took Kemi a long time to agree with him but she got to accept Christ after continuous follow-up and seeing the miracles God did through Moses in healing a young child with epilepsy. It was nothing like she had ever seen before, neither had her father performed such in all his years as an herbalist. He proclaimed that the young boy was suffering as a result of his sins.

“He is just five years old baami” Kemi screamed at her father.

“Even newborn babies can be sinners” his words sent shivers through her

spine.

The shock of the miracle filled the entire campus but it was so real to Kemi because she was there to see the whole thing. That was the day everything changed for her. Accepting Jesus was one step, with the help of Moses, her spiritual journey blossomed.

With a series of church programs and spiritual exercises, even Moses was shocked to see how she changed in a small space in time. Even though she was loving her new-found Faith, it was not easy to avoid her father. This was a man she loved and served idols with since the day she was born. When all means to avoid him failed, she explained her experiences to her father but Ifagbemi sent her out of the house in a heavy rage. His little girl had abandoned his ways.

Four years into their friendship, Moses came to Kemi with the most difficult question she had ever had to encounter.

“Will you be my wife?” his words were so casual and plain with no romantic gesture to back up his request but Kemi's heartbeat doubled. This was a moment she had imagined almost all her life since she was exposed to romantic movies but she didn't think it was coming this fast and from her best friend.

Six months went by and yet there was no response from Kemi.

“But he is like my brother” she kept trying to convince herself. But the long battle with her mind ended when she said yes. By this time, she was very sure Moses loved her and was ready to fight the battles with her. Even though Kemi wasn't a fan of a long courtship, she knew that this was not something she wanted to rush into. Rather, she would take her time for them to build a foundation for marriage. This discussion excited Moses because it made him

proud of her growth. they courted together for three years. They both decided to move the relationship forward by getting married but something happened which is not foreign to both of them.

……..

"Baba! Baba!! Baba!!!" a young woman shouted through the passage of Ifagbemi's mud house in distress but he was nowhere to be found. She checked every room in the house, but still, no sign of him. After searching for him around the house and it was clear that the old man wasn't around, she decided to leave for home. On her way back, she sighted Ifagbemi with three other elderly men all dressed in white with long staffs in their hands headed to his house. They all had their heads shaved and shiny, almost looking identical.

"Is that not Osaafunke?" Fawole, one of the priests asked pointing to the woman's direction.

"Yes, she is the one but why is she running this way?" Awoade another priest asked looking at Ifagbemi

"Maybe that thing has happened to her mum again and I don't think I will be able to attend to any illness for now because I am so tired and need to rest" Ifagbemi mumbled as they all waited for her to approach them.

"Baba, good evening. I have been searching for you in the house and…." she stopped to catch her breath while kneeling before the elderly men in respect and crying for help.

"As you can see, we are all coming from Orisaomo shrine, you also know we are celebrating the festival today. What happened? Why are you searching for me?" he interrupts. "I hope that thing has not happened to your Mum again because…."

"No, sir.” She also interrupts. I saw something unbelievable and I…" she began to cough uncontrollably from the excess air that had accumulated in her lungs. The priests looked at each other in confusion.

"What did you see?" one of the old men asked.

"I saw Ifakemi, your daughter" she managed to mutter.

"Ifakemi!!" they all shouted.

CHAPTER TWO

"Where? How is that possible?" Ifagbemi asked.

"I was cooking in the backyard when I saw her from afar, I thought my eyes were deceiving me until I had a closer look. Immediately, I discovered that I rushed to your house but did not see you"

"I think this girl is right, she sounds serious, Ifagbemi" one of the priests said

"I need to go back home now because of my mother, sir"

"Oh, thank you, my daughter. Extend my regards to your mother" Ifagbemi replied and Osafunke ran as fast as she can. They all watched her till she was out of sight.

"Ifagbemi, I think the gods made Ifakemi come home by this time. You know, this is the right time for her to do the sacrifice"

"You are right, I still don't want to believe my daughter is back. I need to go home, now" he answered back.

"Yes and make sure to do the right thing before she leaves town" one of the priests warned him.

"Daddy!" Kemi called out. She searched everywhere in the house and couldn't find her father, she wondered what could have happened while she paced the sitting room, she picked up her bag and stayed outside. As she stepped out of the house, she sighted her father from far dressed up in a white

cloth and then she realizes he was coming from a festival. Her eyes were filled with tears for it has been two years since she saw him. Her bag dropped to the floor as she hurriedly moved close to him. She was about to hug him when Ifagbemi shouted.

"Don't try it!" he shouted.

"Dad, I know you have not been happy with me. I am sorry but I…" Her father didn't allow her to complete her statement.

"Ifakemi, why have you done this to me?" He said with tears in his eyes. "Is it a sin for me to provide education for you? You know you are my one and only child and you treated me this way, you are not doing well, Kemi. You are not!" he shouted and the tears in his eyes found their way down his cheeks.

Kemi was short of words, she couldn't watch her father shed tears. She held his hands and knelt to him with her head on his knees.

"I am sorry, Dad. I am truly sorry" she said with guilt

"Ifakemi, it is okay" Ifagbemi said and lifted her, he hugged her and wiped her tears.

"Wow, you look stunning and fresh" he teased and they both looked at each other and laughed.

Kemi and her Dad had been very close before she left the town for school, they did almost everything together and shared each other's thoughts and pain. As Ifagbemi was looking at his daughter, he remembered the days of old," I missed you, my dear daughter" he said while staring at her with lots of

emotion in his eyes.

"I missed you too, Dad. Please, let us go inside". She realized some villagers were watching them as they talked, the situation made them forget that they were outside.

"Oh, you are right" They both held each other hands and when they got to the entrance of the house, Kemi bent down to pick up her bag and they entered the house.

"Welcome back home, daughter" Ifagbemi said as he sat on the chair.

"Thanks, Dad" Kemi replied and sat on the chair beside him.

"You are looking good for real, Kemi. What's the secret of this beauty?" He teased and smiled.

"Thanks, Dad. Jesus has been taking good care of me" she replied with a smile on her face but when she realized her Dad was not welcoming her smile she looked down to the floor to avoid eye contact with him.

"Well, I don't want that to spoil my mood today. I am so happy to have you back" he mumbled and stood up from his chair.

"Where are you heading to, Dad?"Kemi asked and was staring at him.

"I want to serve you with anything you want to eat. It won't be polite for you not to take anything before we start our discussion" he smiled

"Daddy, it seems you forget I am a big girl now and I can serve myself with anything I want to eat" she teased and smiled. "Discussion? You want us to

discuss what?" she asked puzzled.

"Yes, there is a lot for us to talk about. Are you staying here till tomorrow?" he asked.

"Yes, Dad. I will be leaving here very early tomorrow morning, it's already late for me to leave tonight, I never knew I will get here this late. The traffic jams disrupted my plans" she replied.

"Okay, after eating, we will talk better" Ifagbemi said and squatted on the chair. Kemi was anxious about what her father had for her, she came to inform her Dad about Moses and the preparation for her wedding but was wondering what her Dad would want them to discuss.

"Ok, Dad. I will go to the kitchen to prepare your favorite food" She smiled.

"I will appreciate that, my dear" he replied and Kemi went to the kitchen.

"What a pity!" Ifagbemi mumbled, shaking his head negatively, and stared at Kemi till she vanished from his sight.

CHAPTER THREE

"Joshua, what is wrong with you? I have been observing you for a week now, you have not been doing well like you used to. What is going on, son?" Mrs. Faith asked with concern, she moved close to him and sat beside him on the bed.

"Mum, it's a mood swing. It is one of those things, I will be fine!" he screamed and stood up, leaving her alone on the bed, he leaned on the wall and starring at himself in his mirror.

"Joshua, this is not you and I can't leave you like this. You have always been a calm and happy son but today, you screamed at me? It seems the situation is more than what I imagined. What happened?" she said and was staring at Joshua.

Joshua was the only child of his parents, he lost his Dad at a very young age, he didn't have the opportunity to know his Dad but heard a lot about him from his mother. The death of his Dad made the family surrender their life to Jesus.

Joshua's Dad was not a good husband to his wife, he maltreated her and blamed her for all his errors. The marriage was hell for Mrs. Faith, they both got married as unbelievers and they married with the leading of their emotions. Mrs Faith's mother was a missionary and she tried all her best to make her daughter live for Christ but Mrs Faith was a troublesome daughter and wanted to live the life that pleased her. She got married to Joshua's Dad after the death of her mother because her mother warned her severally not to marry him, she was not in support of the union.

After the death of Joshua's Father, life was unbearable for her and Joshua. On her way to commit suicide, she met an angel in the form of a man. Pastor Smith was on his way for street evangelism as he did every day, he met her under a tree trying to put a rope on her neck after leaving Joshua at the foot of the tree crying heavily.

Pastor Smith saved her from suicide action and preached the gospel to her, Mrs. Faith cried out and realized how much God loved her. She surrendered her life to Jesus and she grew spiritually with the help of Pastor Smith's teachings and follow-up.

Joshua was a handsome man, a music minister, he was a medical doctor by profession. He was tall and had an attractive tiny voice which made most ladies make him their dream man. He had a manly, Samson physique. The aquiline nose he sported complemented his prominent cheekbones. He was also quick to crack a joke or fire off a humorous retort. His clothes were an amusement to some. He dressed neatly and in an attractive way.

"Mummy, I…" Joshua cried out, Mrs. Faith walked close to him and held his hands.

"My son, feel free to tell me what is going on with you. I am not happy seeing you this way" she said with a gentle voice.

"I got attracted to a lady I met six months ago, we were friends for two months and those two months have been amazing to me, I felt like she is the one for me and I proposed to her three months after, which is last month, she turned down my proposal and told me she is engaged, I love her, mum. I love Joy so much" he shouted and tears rolled down his cheeks.

"Oh! now I understand. Do you know why this happened to you?" Mrs Faith

asked staring at him intently.

"Why mum?"

"Get your Bible now and check the book of Proverbs chapter 3 verses 5-6".

"Ok, mum" he took his Bible from his bed and read it loudly. "Trust in the lord with all your heart, never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do and He will show you the right way" After reading, he breathes out heavily.

"You did not allow God to lead you, my son. I am sure you proposed to the lady by the leading of your emotions. " she said and smiled

"Well, you are right, Mum. I was…." Mrs. Faith didn't allow him to complete his statement.

"You got attracted to her so much and forgot that your life is not yours. Don't ever think you are wise enough, allow God to lead you and He will clear the road for you to follow. You are depressed because it was not God that directed your steps, you went on your way to satisfy your emotions and unfortunately, your emotions failed you. It is not too late for you to retrace your step back to God. Marriage is not something you can do by your strength or wisdom but by the Spirit of God, all things are possible. Joshua, I am your mother and I care so much for you, I don't want you to make the same mistake I made. I wish I listened to my mum when she advised me then" she said in tears, Joshua moved close to her and wiped her tears.

"It's okay, mum" he said.

"Joshua, you were born in answer to my prayers. So listen carefully, Don't

waste your life chasing after women, this has ruined many kings. A successful marriage is the least thing God will do for you. It is much more important for you to seek first the kingdom of God and all other things shall be added to you. Remember, His plans for you are of good and not of evil" she said and held his hands. Joshua couldn't stop looking at his mother with admiration.

"Mum, why do I feel as though it's the first time I'm reading all this Bible verse? Thank you so much, ma. Thanks for showing me the ways of the Lord. My heart is relieved and I can't explain exactly how I feel but your words charge me to pray and my Spirit revived." he said and couldn't control his tears.

"That is Holy Spirit for you, my son. All thanks to God, I will excuse you now to have time to talk to God. He is waiting for you" she said and smiled. Joshua hugged his Mum and stared at her until she closed the door behind her.

He knelt and cried out his heart to God, he prayed and worshipped God for hours. After his prayers, he felt peace in his heart and got out of his room to meet his Mum wherever she was.

****

"Martha! Martha! You need to stop doing all this. Jesus is intentional about you!" Grace said and walked close to her. Martha pretended not to hear her but when Grace touched her shoulder, she rolled her eyes and stood up instantly.

"Hey! I am not interested in this conversation, this is not my first time telling you, Stop bringing up Jesus in our conversation, please!" She screamed. "Seriously, it is not your fault!" She hissed and sat on the chair.

"What do you mean?" Grace inquired.

CHAPTER FOUR

"It's all my fault! If I haven't told you what happened. You would not have the opportunity to preach, and also, I haven't gotten enough money to rent an apartment, I would have left your house for you" she replied and rolled her eyes to the wall.

"No, this is not right Martha. You have been my best friend since childhood, it is unfair when you think this way" she said and moved close to her.

"Don't touch me, please. I can bear all this because of our relationship" She lamented.

"Martha, you were not like this before. I am not using what happened to preach Christ to you, you know I have been telling you this since you lost...." Martha didn't allow her to complete her words, her eyeballs were filled with tears.

"My dear Grace, please don't add more fuel to this conversation!" She said and walked out of her sight.

"Martha!" Grace screamed and looked at her till she was out of sight. "Martha, I won't allow you to keep risking your life for that man, he doesn't worth you!" She shouted.

"It is my life, not yours!" Martha replied with a loud voice from the bedroom.

Martha and Grace have been best friends since childhood. Their parents lived together in Abuja, they were so close and lived like a family. They both attended the same church. The bond between the parents made Martha and Grace the best of friends. They did almost everything together.

Mr. and Mrs Maxwell were Martha's parents, they were respected and loved by everyone in Church and environment. They were well-known as an evangelist. They traveled everywhere together with Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey, Grace's parents for crusades and evangelism.

They were not only best friends but co-workers in God's vineyard, their relationship with one another preached love to many people living in their environment. They were always happy for kingdom business and the Holy Spirit has been helping them all through.
One day, Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell were invited to minister in a crusade, Grace's parents would have followed them but they were given some work to do in the church, they were told to check up and pray together with some families in the church. The Maxwells didn't bother to invite them to follow them but they informed them about their trip and invitation. They were willing to go with them as usual but they couldn't because of their assignments.

After Maxwell's ministration, on their way back home, they had a fatal accident that claimed their lives. Martha was fifteen years old at the time, it was amazing that Martha was not injured in the accident. Before her mum died, she looked around in search of her husband and saw him lying on a bed not too far from her with no sign of life in him; he was dead. She cried softly and asked the Doctor about her daughter. She was informed that she is hale and healthy. She was happy and smiled, she requested to see her and within a short time, Martha came in looking all worried and tensed up.

"Mummy!" Martha rushed to her Mum and held her hand. She was happy to

see her alive, she was unable to see her Dad.

"My baby" she smiled at her. "I am happy you are fine. Your Dad is no more" she said and pointed her hand to her husband's body.

"Daddy!" She shouted and cried, she stood up to go to meet him but the nurses stopped her.

"Martha, don't worry about us. We will be fine and I believe Jesus will take good care of you. Always remember Jesus loves you and will always be with you" She said and gave her last breath.

"Mummy! Mummy!" Martha screamed as her mum couldn't reply to her anymore. The nurses couldn't control their tears. "I hate Jesus!" Martha shouted. "Aunty, please help me check my mum" She touched one of the nurses but she took her out of the hospital instead.

The Godfrey's were shocked about the news, they were unhappy but they rejoiced because they know that they will meet again. They treated Martha as their daughter and they all lived together. They were not happy with Martha's strange behavior and her habit of not being interested in things of God. They kept praying for her and Grace never stopped counseling her since then.

"She needs Jesus, not counsel" Mr Godfrey said. "My dear Grace, all she needs is Jesus. Keep praying for her as I and your Mum always do. I believe there is nothing God can not do, the scriptures say the heart of a king is in his hands. I'm sure Jesus will touch her heart and minister to her"

"Alright, Daddy. I will pray for her" she said and smiled.

"Also, both of you should always remember the children of whom you are

when you get to school" Mrs Godfrey said.

"Martha! Hurry up, we are waiting for you!" Mr. Godfrey shouted.

In a few seconds, Martha rushed out and they both knelt for Mr and Mrs Godfrey to pray for them.

Martha graduated as a medical student at the University of Abuja. Grace graduated as a law student at the same university. Grace's father died due to an illness a month after their graduation. They were not happy about this but the family submitted to the will of God.

When they were in school, Martha and David were involved in a relationship that Grace was not happy about. Martha had done several abortions for him, she was not interested in things of God and had never attended church.

David was a churchgoer, his parents forced him to attend church in school. If not for his parents, he wouldn't attend Sunday services, hearing the message of the Gospel was not foreign to him but he is not saved. He only attended church to satisfy his parents. He has tried to force Martha to his church but she never agreed and he saw nothing to it.

Presently, Martha is a week pregnant for David, her colleagues at work warned her not to remove it because it is risky for her health having done several abortions for him. She explained this to Grace but she still wasn't in support of the abortion.

"Martha, please don't abort this pregnancy," Grace said as she opened the door. She walked close to Martha and sat beside her on the bed.

"I am not ready to have a baby now and David is also not ready." She replied and stood up beside her. "I have to abort this, I am sure I will be careful for

such not to happen anymore" She said and kept pacing the room.

"But the doctors warned you not to do it anymore. Please stop risking your life for a man that doesn't worth you" Grace lamented.

"Remember I am a medical doctor too. Although, I understand it is risky but I need to get rid of this" She yelled.

"My dear, Martha" Grace whispered to her ear softly and held her hands. "Have you ever thought of what David would do if anything happens to you after the abortion?" She stared at her without blinking. There was silence in the room, Martha was short of words but cleared her throat to end the silence in the room.

"I don't think David can leave me despite all my sacrifices in our relationship" Martha thoughts inwardly. "Erm.. David loves me, Grace. I am sure no matter what will happen after the abortion, as long as I am still alive. David will never leave me" She replied and removed her hands"

"Well, you are joking Martha. Whether you like to hear this truth or not, I will never stop telling you that David does not love you.. If he does, he will never allow you to go through all this stress, he will not make you a murderer by aborting pregnancies. I..." Martha walked close to her, she didn't allow her to complete the statement.

"Don't ever say such anymore, if you don't want me to leave this house for you" She pointed her index finger to Grace and hissed.

"I am sorry, Martha. I never meant to hurt you" she said and hugged her. Martha's eyes were filled with tears.

"You are crying? Why?" Grace wiped her tears with her handkerchief.

"I am nervous, Grace. Anything can happen after the abortion, it's a matter of life and death" she answered back and sat on the bed.

"Matha, this burden is too heavy for you to carry. Please surrender all to Jesus. He's willing to give you rest. His rest is all you need, He has been calling you to come to Him and He will never stop reaching out to you. He's waiting for you to open the door of your heart for Him to enter. Jesus loves you, Martha. He cares about you" She said and sat beside her.

"No! No! Jesus hates me! He does not care about me! And I don't care about this! He couldn't save my parents from dying years ago! They served him till death! I hate Him and please I am not interested in talking about Him" She felt a flash of irritation.

"You are wrong, my dear! You are listening to the wrong voice, Martha. This is how the devil wants you to feel, he is a liar. It is appointed for a man to die once, your parents died at their appointed time. I hope you remember you were also there at the accident scene. You were not harmed or injured. Have you ever thought of why this happened to you? Jesus saved you from death. You were not harmed for you to realize He is too faithful to fail. You have allowed the devil to rule over your emotions and you keep obeying his voice and lies. He is a liar! Jesus is interested in you. Please surrender your heart to Him"

Martha's eyes were filled with tears, Grace's words made her remember the memories of her parents. Most especially her mother's last words before she died. She couldn't stop crying and hit herself with the pillow. She stood up and walked out of the room, slamming the door.

"Martha!" Grace screamed but she didn't reply. "Lord Jesus, please arrest her heart and open her eyes to understand the great love you have for her" Tears

rolled down her cheeks. She knelt and prayed in the spirit

IFAGBEMI HOUSE

"The food was so delicious, my daughter. I so much enjoyed it" he said and smiled at her. Kemi moved close to him and sat beside his chair.

"Thank you, dad"

"My dear Kemi, I sincerely missed everything about you. I tried my best to get in touch with you but it was all in vain. I am sure it is the gods I serve that directed your steps here" he said but Kemi didn't reply to him. She was going to kick against his thought but wanted her father to tell her about his discussion before she open up her self and plans to him. "There's something I have been hiding from you, I have not been able to tell you because it wasn't the right time but now the timing is right for you to know the truth." He adjusted himself on the chair and cleared his throats

"The truth? What is the truth you didn't tell me?" she inquired and stared at her Dad without blinking.

"huh, Kemi" he breathes out heavily

CHAPTER FIVE

"Help! Help me!" Martha screamed from her sleep.

She jumped up from her bed in fear, Grace was in the living room having her midnight prayers. She was dazed to hear Martha scream so loud, she hurriedly rushed to the room to see what happened.

"Martha, are you okay?" She walked close to her and squatted on the bed, holding her hands.

"Water, please I need water" Martha replied and breathe out heavily. She was sweating all over her body.

"Oh, okay" Grace stood up and hurriedly got a glass of water for her to drink. She drank the water and was sweating more. Her breathing was fast and she kept looking everywhere in the room as if someone was hidden there.

"I need you to relax, dear. It's just a nightmare but calm down, please" Grace said and moved close to her.

"I had a strange and scary dream, Grace" she lamented and picked up a handkerchief to wipe her sweat.

"Ok, what's it all about?" Grace answered and was staring at her intently.

"I don't know what it is all about but I will tell you what happened" She retorted.

"Alright, I'm all ears" She said and held her hands.

"I found myself in a strange place, Standing in between the dark room and a room full of light. The light was so bright that I couldn't stare at it too much. I was heading to the light room when I heard a loud voice, the voice said the room is not for me, there are a lot of dangers in the room, many people have been trapped in it and no one goes in and returns back alive." She said and breathed out heavily.

"Are you okay? Do you need another water?" Grace asked.

"Not yet, dear. I am okay" she replied and adjusted herself on the bed. "As soon as I heard this voice, I left the entrance of the light room and moved towards the dark room. I heard another voice different from the earlier one again, the voice said I should not be deceived, the light room was the way he prepared for me. He said the eyes are like a lamp for the body, if the eyes are sound, the whole body will be full of light. But if the eyes are not good the body will be in darkness, imagine how dark it'd be. To be honest with you, Grace. I did not understand the words of the voice but after a few minutes, I heard another voice that sound like the first one I heard. The voice said I should not be confused, the dark room is meant for me, I will be saved there and no one will see or harm me. I entered the dark room, it was full of silence, and couldn't see anything. Not long, my legs were trapped in a pit as I was screaming in pain for help. I heard a loud voice laughing and rejoicing, I screamed till I woke up." She said panting as she remembered the scenario. "I need water, please" Martha requested.

Grace stood up to get her another glass of water, she drank and relaxed her back on the pillow. Grace cleared her throat to talk.

"Thank you, Jesus!" This was the first word she uttered.

She moved close to Martha.

"I am glad you had this dream yourself. The voice you heard when you were heading to the dark room was the voice of Jesus. And the word He spoke to you was the Word of God, it is in the book of Matthew 6:22 Jesus does not want you to walk in darkness anymore, He is calling you to be what he created you; The light of the world. Devil has blinded your eyes from seeing the Truth and he ruled over your emotions because you have allowed him by listening and obeying him. You are the slave of whom you obey. The Truth is that Jesus is willing to set you free and open your eyes to know the truth but you couldn't understand him because the devil has manipulated your thoughts and emotions. God gave all men the power of choice when you met yourself in between the light and dark room. You were to choose life or death. Anyone that chooses Life walks in light and anyone that chooses death path walks in darkness. Sadly, you choose the dark room and it is not the way God prepared for you. Martha, this is exactly what is happening to you now, you have allowed your emotions and the death of your parents to make you obey the lies of the devil and walk in darkness, Jesus kept calling you but you couldn't hear and understand. The only solution for you to be set free from where your legs are trapped is to accept the life of Christ and go back to the room of Light you rejected, which means, you have to walk in the light but if..." Martha didn't allow her to complete her statement.

"Grace, this is just a dream. Stop being too spiritual over this, whatever we think of before going to sleep happens in our dreams. I was quite nervous about the abortion and was giving it a lot of thought, I'm sure that's why all these happened. It's normal dear. I will be fine" she said and rolled her eyes to the wall.

"Martha, you are wrong. Jesus loves you and he is intentional about you! And about the pregnancy, Don't abort it because..."

"I need to sleep, please" She said and rested her body on the bed ignoring Grace. "Thanks for the water," She said as she turned around to change her position on the bed.

"Now, I understand the Word of God that says the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit, for they are foolishness unto them because they are spiritually discerned" Grace mumbled and breathe out heavily.

She went to the living room to pray for her friend.

PHONE RINGS

The sound of Martha's phone woke her up from sleep, she yawned and picked up her call.

"Good morning, my love" David mumbled softly

"Morning dear, I hope you slept well" Martha replied

"Yes, hope you had a great night" he inquired

"yes.. oh.." she remembered her dream "Not really, I had a scary dream tonight"

"Oh, sorry about that. What was it all about?"

"David, I am not feeling good about the abortion"

"Really? Unbelievable! Are you saying this because of the dream you had?"

"Yes, it was so scary. I feel we…" David didn't allow her to complete her statement.

"Oh, baby. Stop behaving like a kid, a dream is a normal thing that happens to everyone. You don't need to be nervous about anything" he said

"Are you sure I should go for the abortion?"

"Yes, darling. The abortion is a distraction to our relationship, we need to get rid of it as soon as possible"

"All right, I will get rid of it today. I will give you a call when I am done"

"Alright love, I will be expecting your call. And also, remember I love you so much and there is nothing you can do about it" he whispered silently.

"Aww I love you, more" she replied and smiled.

"Ok, have a great day"
"You too, bye" she hung up.

She checked Grace beside her, she realized she was still sleeping, she decided not to wake her up. She rushed to the bathroom, had her bath, and got dressed for work. When she was about to leave the house she woke Grace up.

"Babe, you are still in bed. Are you not going to work today?" She asked. Grace was amazed to see her dressed up, she quickly checked the time on the wall and realized she still had an hour to prepare herself for the day.

"Why are you going to work early today? I thought you have the afternoon

shift every Wednesday, why are you in a hurry today?"

"Oh, that's true but I had an emergency call this morning to attend to a patient. So, I need to be in hospital early" she lied, she wanted to avoid Grace's teachings if she told her she was going for an abortion. She quickly styled her hair and checked herself in the mirror.

"Martha, always remember Jesus loves you. He…" Martha didn't allow her to complete her statement.

"Babe, Not again" she screamed. "take care of yourself, dear" She hugged Grace and swiftly leave the room.

"I am sure that one day, the Lord will arrest your heart and you will willingly open your heart for Jesus. Just the way Apostle Paul encountered Jesus, you will have an encounter with him soon" Grace mumbled silently and was staring at the door Martha slammed.

Grace stood up from the bed and had her morning prayers, she rushed to the bathroom and a few minutes later, she left the house.

As she was about to step out of the compound, the sound of her phone stopped her and she was searching for her phone in the bag when she got it she swiftly picked up her call.

"Hello, mum" she greeted.

"Hello, dear. Where is Martha?" Grace was surprised and confused, she expected her to say how are you but the question was strange to her and she didn't know how to answer her.

"Mum, what is wrong?" she asked.

CHAPTER SIX

"I have been trying her number for a while now but she is not picking up my calls. God revealed to me something about her today after my devotion. What I felt and saw in the spirit was not good and it is a matter of urgency. This is why I have been calling her number, is she with you?" she inquired.

Grace was shocked to hear this from her mum, her mum has been her favorite prophet since when she was a child, and she knows that her mum was right. She remembered Martha's dream and the issue of abortion.

"Does it mean that Martha is planning to go for the abortion, today?" she soliloquized, she had forgotten that she was on a call with her mum.

"What abortion are you talking about?" Mrs. Godfrey shouted. Grace thought she said it inwardly but her mum's question made her realize she heard her. She did not know how to answer her mum's question but she was not planning to lie to cover up Martha. "Grace, are you there?" She screamed. Grace jerked back to reality.

"Mum, she told me she was going to the office early today which is very unusual of her. When I questioned her, she said she had an emergency call to treat a patient. I couldn't stop her from going to work this morning. i.." Mrs. Godfrey didn't allow her to complete her statement.

"This does not answer my question. Which abortion were you talking about

the other time?" she asked impatiently.

"Martha is pregnant, mum" she replied.

"What?!? Unbelievable!! Why are you both hiding this from me?" she screamed and Grace's legs were shaking. Mrs. Godfrey stood up from her bed.

"I am sorry, ma. I couldn't inform you about this because I just get to know about this also yesterday. She said she had done several abortions for him, her colleagues warned her not to abort anymore. She was able to tell me this yesterday because she was nervous and needed someone to talk to. I tried my best to counsel her not to abort but she turned deaf ears to my words. But with the way everything is now, I sense danger, Mum"

"My God. I can't believe this. What I saw this morning is related to the present situation. I saw her dead in the pool of her blood" Mrs Godfrey cried out as she paced the room.

"Jesus! Mum, I need to call her now. I will give you a call soon" she said and hung up.

Grace called her number several times but she didn't pick up, she called her office number too but there was no response. When she checked the time, she realized she was getting late for court. She had a case to address in court. She quickly called her mum to inform her.

"Hello, mum. I have tried getting across to her all to no avail. I am late to court ma. This is already 9 am, I should be done by 2 pm. I will rush to her office by 2 pm when I am done. Everything will be fine, mum"

"No, Grace. I don't feel good about this at all, I will have to be in Abuja in the next 1hour. I will go to the airport soon. Don't worry, I will call you when I get to her hospital" she said.

"Alright, mum. Bye" she hung up.

Mrs. Geofrey didn't bother to change her clothes, she quickly picked up her bag and some amount of money and hurriedly left the house.

AT THE HOSPITAL

Martha was lying down on the bed, there was a pregnancy scanning machine beside her and also the instruments for abortions. The doctor was checking the movement of the baby in her womb. Martha closed her eyes because she was getting emotional after seeing the scan.

"Doctor Martha, are you sure you want to do this?" Doctor Peace asked.

Doctor Peace was a close friend to Martha in the office, she was the only friend Martha revealed all that happened in her relationship because she has been secretly helping her to abort her pregnancies. Peace warned her severally to stop aborting and settle down with the man she loves and wants to marry but she wouldn't listen, her excuse was that her man is not ready and she had no choice but to keep aborting it for him for the sake of the relationship. Peace is not a believer and that's why the matter gets worse because most of her advice to Martha was of human knowledge.

Peace had a shapely figure and glossy skin, her hair was ebony black and had a soothing voice. She was dressed in a white short-sleeved collared shirt and

blue color trousers, wearing a white long sleeve lab coat. Peace is not a friendly doctor, she doesn't smile or laugh with anyone in the office, and no one easily gets to her except Martha. That happened because it was love the first time her seeing Martha in the office, she couldn't explain the feeling but the more she tried to avoid her, the more Martha got closer to her.

No one understood why Peace was like that, everyone thought it was her personality. Every morning in the office, her eyes were stiff, devoid of emotion, her skin looked pale and wrinkled and her hair looked dull too. No one cared to greet her or ask her question because she would transfer her aggression to them. Whenever Martha asked her, she changed the discussion and pretended to be fine.

"Yes, please." She replied swiftly without opening her eyes.

"Please, I will want you to open your eyes to see what I want to show you. Your reply after our brief conversation will make me carry out the operation" she said and held her hand.

"Why are you showing me all this? I don't want to see the scan or anything in my womb. I want to get rid of the shit, that's all" she screamed.

"Shit? Really? You called this shit. You of all people know that this is against the hospital rules, I have been doing this for you because you are my friend but whenever I see this scan in your womb. My heart bleeds. Being a woman, I do get emotional about this but now, your health is too delicate and the chances for you to survive this are too low. I am sure if you survive this, it would surely cause a lot of damage to your womb. Why don't you try talking to your partner and keep this pregnancy for your own sake? Getting…" Martha cuts in.

"Are you here to do your job or to advise? Remember I have paid you a lot of

money for this. I am ready, I don't care about the consequences. I need to get rid of this as soon as possible" Anger stirred within her.

"No problem, I will do it now" she said and stood up from the bed. Martha was rushed to the theatre room.

A few minutes later

Mrs. Godfrey rushed into the hospital, it was like she was chased by an invisible being.

"Where is my daughter?" she screamed at the nurse who was on her way to attend to a patient.

"Ma, you need to stop screaming. You are in a hospital. Please go to that place you will be attended to there" She pointed her index finger to a place where two nurses were sitting.

"I am sorry, my dear" she apologized and rushed to where she was directed. "Please, I want to see my daughter. Doctor Martha Maxwell" she asked one of the nurses in a low voice but she was breathing fast.

"Hello, ma. Doctor Martha is busy right now, you can sit there to wait for…" Mrs. Godfrey didn't allow her to complete her statement.

"It is urgent and important to see her now." She shouted and used her right hand to beat the table. The sound and her voice were loud, all eyes were on her but she didn't care, all she wanted was to see Martha and hear the good news that she had not aborted the pregnancy.

"Ma, you are not the only one here. Your shouting will not solve anything but

only distract the patient. So, please to avoid embarrassment, you have to sit down and wait for Doctor Martha to attend to you whenever she is ready" A nurse shouted and walked out of her.

Mrs Godfrey was short of words, she gently sat down on the chair, she was bittered and praying inwardly for Martha. After a few hours of waiting, she spotted Grace coming towards her.

"Mummy, have you been able to see her?" Grace inquired as she walked close to her Mum.

"Not at all, I wasn't allowed to see her. I'm afraid something bad has happened to my daughter" tears rolled down her cheeks.

"Why will they.." she left her mum as she was about to talk to one of the nurses, she sighted a doctor coming towards her. "oh, Doctor Peace" she said softly as she moved close to her.

"Grace, how are you doing?" she said and hugged her.

"That is not important for now. Please, where is my sister, Martha? We were unable to see her"

"Yeah, I was about to call you to inform you of her present condition. I was…." Mrs. Godfrey heard their conversation and didn't allow Peace to complete her statement.

"I know! I suspected. I know something is wrong somewhere, I have been here for hours and haven't seen my daughter. What happens to her present situation? What is going on here?" she shouted and inquired.

CHAPTER SEVEN

"What?!? Dad, are you for real?" she stood up in anger

"Yes dear, this is your reality. You have to stop the daydreaming of your Jesus and do the right thing or else.." Kemi didn't allow him to complete his statement.

"Or else what?" she stared at him without blinking.

"I am afraid to lose you. Death is the consequence, you have to do it, my dear daughter" he stood up and held her hands. Kemi laughed, Ifagbemi was shocked and withdrew his hands from hers, Kemi couldn't stop laughing and it annoyed him. "You think this is a joke?" Ifagbemi shouted

"It is a joke to me. Dad, this is not the Kemi you used to know. I am now born of God and my reality is what the Word of God says not your words or the family traditions." She shouted and looked at her Dad eyeballs.

"You are out of your senses. As long as I am still your father, you have to do what I say" he screamed at her

"Dad, you think you can scare me with the family traditions or death" she laughed "I have been crucified with Jesus and the life I live now is not mine, not even for your gods. I now live by Faith in the son of God who has loved me and died for me at the cross. Jesus has set me free from this family bondages and ignorance two years ago" she declared with all boldness. Ifagbemi was losing his cool listening to her and slapped Kemi on her cheeks.

"How dare you? How dare you talk to your father like this? It is Ifa that gave you to me not the Jesus you scream about. The blood and life in you were given to you by Ifa. If not because you are my daughter, I would have slapped you with a charm and you will run mad for 10 years" he shouted and his eyeballs were getting wider.

"Dad, I forgive you for slapping me but for your information, I died with Christ and no forces of the universe have power over me and so because of this, I will not live my life in obedience to your rules and family traditions" she replied with a calm but very stern voice and walked out of his sight to her room.

"Ifakemi! Kemi!!" Ifagbemi shouted and watched Kemi till she was out of his sight. "Unbelievable!! This girl is getting more dangerous than I imagined" he was shocked. "I truly have a lot of work to do" he soliloquized.

"Who is there?" the sound of the door distracted Kemi as she was arranging her clothes in her bag.

"Kemi, only you and I are in this house. Can I come in, please?" Ifagbemi said softly and Kemi breathe out heavily.

"You can come in, Dad" she said softly.

"Ifakemi, I am sorry for being too harsh with you. I never realized you have gone too far with your Jesus" he pleaded and moved close to her.

"It's okay, Dad. She rolled her eyeballs and sat on her bed.

"huh, my daughter. The way you rolled your eyes made me remember

something when you were too young" he smiled and sat beside her on the bed

"And what is that, Dad?" she stared at him without expression.

"You rolled your eyeballs then whenever I warned you to stop giving too much of our palm oil to the Esu [the devil] shrine. You loved his shrine to the extent of overfeeding him" he said and smiled but it was not funny to Kemi, she turned her head to the wall to avoid eye contact with her Dad. "Oh, I am sorry if that didn't sound good" Kemi didn't reply him, her eyes were focused on the wall, she must have read what was written on the wall several times.

"Dad, I need to sleep" she said in a low voice and still avoid eye contact.

"Kemi, you should know that I love you and I don't want to lose you. This tradition is a must for you to do, please. After this, I promise not to disturb you anymore" he held her hands.

"Dad, I can never do it and I will not die because with long life shall my God will satisfy me. How will you expect me to have sex with a demon for seven days in that dirty room? No. Impossible, I will never agree to this, no matter what" she shouted and stood up. "You know what Dad, I am done with this conversation because it gets me angry in my spirit" she mumbled.

"It is not a demon, Kemi. It is our forefather's deity and it has always been happening to all females in our family even before you were born. Nothing will happen to you after the sex, you'll be healthier and serve your Jesus better. Nobody will know about this, it is only me, you, and other priests" he said and stared at her.

"Dad, it's like you are not getting me. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in me and was given to me by God. I am not of my own." She shouted

"Kemi, you have only a week for this. You will be 25 years by next week Friday. Friday is the deadline for you, please consider me, I don't want to lose you"

"Don't worry about me, Dad. I will not die. And also, I am engaged and I am here to talk to you about my fiancée and wedding preparations and you are telling me something else which…." Ifagbemi stood up and didn't allow her to complete her statement.

"You said you are what?" He inquired.

"I am engaged, is there any problem with that?" she stood up and stared at her Father.

"Abomination!!!" he shouted.

……..

"Mum, what have you been doing here alone?" Joshua said as he sighted his mum in the dining room sitting alone there.

"I am okay, son. I am only happy and thank God for all He has done for me. It is a privilege to be His daughter. I am only counting my blessings" she replied smiling.

"That is good, Mum. Sometimes, it is good to reflect on all God has done. Let me get my keyboard for us to use this as a medium to worship God" he stood up but his mum held his hand.

"Joshua, how about our last discussion? Have you been able to get over it?"

She inquired and gazed at him without blinking. Joshua sat on a chair next to his mum and breathe out.

"Mum, all I have to say is to thank you for allowing God to use you for me. After our conversation that day, I cried to God for help and prayed. Then I noticed the emotions started to fizzle out slowly until I completely got over it, I was shocked too. All I could feel in my heart was peace, I never know that I could get out of the emotional entanglement as soon as possible. Truly, there is nothing impossible for God to do" he said and smiled.
"You are right, my son. The emotion has to leave because it wasn't God that put it there, if it was God, it would have been there till you fulfilled his Will but because it was not of God. It has to leave".

"Yes, Mum. The situation also strengthened my Faith in God, I realized I can do nothing without Jesus" .

"I am glad you are saying this. All you need to do is continually build your Faith and completely surrender yourself to His Will. Abraham never stopped having Faith in God even when he was 100 years old. He knew he was old and his wife Sarah couldn't have children. But Abraham never doubted or questioned God's promise. He surrender his existence to God and had Faith in him. It was his Faith in God that made him acceptable to God. I don't know what God has promised you but never doubt his promises over your life. God is not a man that can fail, He is a promise keeper" she said and smiled at him. She put her right hand on his shoulder.

"huh, I am blessed to have you, Mum. That was powerful. You have opened my eyes of understanding to the importance of Faith in God. I will keep trusting the Lord even when I don't understand his way by His Grace" he whispered to her ear in a low voice.

"Very good, son. Now, you can get the keyboard" she smiled. As Joshua

stood up, the sound of his phone distracted him and he picked up his call.

After picking up his call, he rushed to his room but his mother did not understand what happened, she was surprised and called out to him but he didn't reply. She stood up from the dining room and rushed to meet him in his room. When she got there she was shocked to see him dressed swiftly.

CHAPTER EIGHT

"What is going on here? Who called you?" she inquired.

"Mum, I have to be in the hospital in the next 30 minutes or else it will be too late for the patient" he replied and hurriedly picked up his shoe.

"Wow, that must be an emergency" she said.

"Yes, Mum. We will talk later when I am back" he whispered to her ear and hugged his mum. He slammed the door and dashed out of the house.

"Be careful, my son. Drive gently, please" she shouted.

AT THE HOSPITAL

"What happened to my daughter?" Mrs. Godfrey asked

"It is a critical matter which I can't discuss here. Kindly meet me in my office now" Peace said and walked out of their sight. Grace and her mother stared at each other, their faces were full of questions. They stood to go meet Dr peace in her office and entered the office without knocking. Peace didn't feel good about it even though she was expecting them but decided to overlook their mistake.

"You can have your sit, please" Peace said and pointed her index finger to the chairs in front of her.

"What happened, doctor?" Grace asked in a low voice.

"Martha's condition is critical and I mean extremely critical" she mumbled. Grace and her mum stared at each other at the same time, Grace's eyes were filled with tears.

"Is she dead and she does not know how she will inform us" Mrs Godfrey soliloquized. It was Peace's reply that made her realize that she didn't think inwardly.

"No, she is not dead yet but the chances of her survival are very low. She has to be in the theatre room in the next 20 mins. Unfortunately, I am not the doctor that will do that, the doctor in charge of the operation room is on leave. I had to inform the management about the situation on the ground and they told me they will get in touch with the doctor, I hope he'll be here soon else Martha may not survive" she said and adjusted herself on the chair.

"Doctor, what happened to my sister?" Grace shouted and tears couldn't stop flowing out of her eyes.

"Well, because of the complications of several and constant abortions. A lot of damage has been done to her womb and her body. This is all I can say for now, we can only know more after the operation and chances of the operation being successful is low" she answered back.

"Jesus!" Grace and her mum shouted at the same time.

"Something is wrong with me, what have I been doing when she was having several abortions? Why am I… haa" she shouted and cried.

"Mum, I warned her. I did but she never listened, she was blinded by love with a man that doesn't worth her. So painful" Grace said and couldn't

control her tears.

"This is not the solution to this issue. You know it is God that heals, we only care. Let us keep waiting for the doctor. I hope he will be here on time" she said in a low voice

Grace and her mum stood up from their sit to leave Peace's office but the knock on the door made them wait, Dr peace answered the person and the man came in. The man was shocked to see Grace.
"My God. Grace, is this you?" Joshua said and walked close to her

"Joshua, I can't believe this" she replied with surprise and they both hugged.

"How are you and what are you doing here?" he asked and didn't notice Grace's mother. Mrs. Godfrey was watching both of them.

"I and, I was…" Grace stammered, she didn't know how to answer his questions. Joshua checked the time on his wrist and starred at Dr. Peace

"Where is the patient please?" he said to Peace and held Grace's hand. "Please, you will have to wait for me, I was called for a serious emergency and I need to leave now" he said apologetically.

"Doctor, I am glad you know each other. This is the family of the patient" Peace said and pointed her finger to Grace and her mum.

"What?" Joshua shouted and stared at Grace and her mum.

"Oh, this is the doctor" Grace exclaimed.

"Doctor, please help me to save my daughter's life. We are ready to pay any

amount" Grace's Mum held his hand and cried out.

"Well, mum you don't need to bother yourself about the payment. The patient is a medical doctor here and also a friend too. All we need is to keep praying because as it is, her condition is critical" he said and stared at Grace. She couldn't control her tears. "It is well, Grace" Joshua whispered to her ears.

"Yes, come in" Peace replied the person at the door.

"Oh, Doctor you are here too?" The nurse stared at Joshua. "I don't understand Doctor Martha anymore, she is hyperventilating that is why I rushed to call you to check on her" the nurse said.

"Jesus, what did you say happen to her?" Mrs Godfrey shouted but Peace and Joshua rushed to the ward while Grace followed them. The Nurse and Mrs. Godfrey were left behind at the office.

IFAGBEMI HOUSE

"Abomination? I don't understand you" Kemi said and stood up from her seat and stared at her father.

"Kemi, it is an abomination for you to choose a husband for yourself. Don't try it" he shouted.

"And why is that?" she inquired

"It is a tradition in this family, it is Ifa that will choose a husband for you. And I have helped you to do that when you were very young, I didn't tell you because you were very young then" Ifagbemi stood up and held her hands.

"there is a lot you need to know, my daughter"

"Who is the person ifa choose?" she withdrew her hands from his and starred at him

CHAPTER NINE

"Awoyinka is your husband, the one Ifa choose for you" he replied. Kemi was shocked, she stepped back from her father and leaned against the wall.

Awoyinka was a close friend to Ifagbemi, he has been too caring to Kemi when she was young, most of the time he visited them at home, he mostly came to see Kemi but Kemi thought he was only acting caring cause he was her father's friend. Sometimes, he bought her clothes, shoes, and pieces of jewelry and when she was in school he sent her money to take care of herself. It was unknown to Kemi that he was the one who sponsored her education. Awoyinka instructed Ifagbemi not to inform her. Kemi had never liked Awoyinka but she loved his money. She didn't pick up his calls whenever he called her and they both lost contact since when Kemi surrendered her life to Christ. He looked everywhere in search of her but couldn't find her. He blamed his friend for sending her away from home.

Awoyinka had a strange appearance, almost as if it was contrived. His hair was wizened and straw-like, nearly fossilized it was so dry. He had sad, wayworn eyes and a distinctive beard, it wasn't stick but rather something a lunatic might have; straggly unkempt and spittle-flecked. His face was worn and tanned from exposure to the elements and he walked with a weary, lethargic air until he would explode in a burst of rage. His fingers were gnarled and knobbly and the clothes he wore were musty and minging judging by the reaction of the people he passed. Their noses would crinkle in disgust and they would peel away from his presence.

"You mean your friend, that old man?" Kemi shouted and was shaking her bones.

"Yes, he is the one for you. He is not yet married and he has been waiting for you" he said and walked close to her.

"Don't come near me, please. This is unbelievable. Me? That dirty old man. Your Ifa is wicked" she screamed and her eyes were filled with tears.

"Hope you have not had sex with the man you are engaged with?" he asked and was staring at her, praying inwardly for such not to happen. "Talk to me, Kemi" he shouted and Kemi's hands and legs were shaking.

"No, we are children of God. We honor God with our body that is why it has never happened" she replied swiftly

"Thank you, Ifa" he mumbled silently and held his chest with his hand. Kemi stared at him without blinking.

"What could have happened if we had sex?" she asked and put her index finger on her mouth.

"haa" he screamed. "You could have been barren forever and the man will run mad after seven days. No one in this world will be able to heal him" he answered.

"Oh, whatever" Kemi said and turned her eyeballs to the wall. "Dad, please leave. I need some privacy" she said in a low voice.

"That is not a problem, make sure you think about it very well. Good night" he said and slammed the door.

Kemi sat on the floor and cried out.

"God, why did you allow me to be born into this family? What is my offense?" she shouted and her eyes were filled with tears. The sound of her phone distracted her from crying. When she checked her phone and realized it was Moses, she cried out in a loud voice. And then, she remember her memory verse which she study in the morning, and recited it loudly. 'Do not worry about anything but pray over everything" After a few minutes of repeating the words, she stood up from the floor and prayed in the spirit.

"Hello, Awoyinka" Ifagbemi said with a low voice.

"My friend, hope there is no problem? Why are you calling at this time of the day?" he asked.

"I am in front of your house, open the door for me, please" he answered back and knocked on the door.

After a few minutes of the call, Awoyinka sluggishly opened the door for his friend.

"You never change, my friend" Ifagbemi said and entered the house.

"You know it is not my fault for being sluggish, I'm used to it" he replied and locked the door. Ifagbemi was standing in front of Awoyinka's room waiting for him to lock his entrance door, when Ifagbemi realized he was taking too much time at the entrance, he walked close to him and helped him to lock it.

"It is not too late for you to work on yourself" Ifagbemi teased and smiled.

"Thank you, my friend" he replied and they both laughed and walked to Awoyinka's room but as the door opened, Ifagbemi couldn't withstand the

odor coming out of Awowoinka's room, he checked the room and used his cloth to cover his nose, he saw untidy clothes scattered everywhere in the room and unpacked plates.

Ifagbemi rushed out of the room and his friend was staring at him without blinking, he didn't perceive the odor because he is used to it.

"This is one of the reasons I detest coming to your house. You are such a dirty soul" he mumbled and leaned his back on the wall.

"What is wrong and why are you having a strange cough?" he inquired.

'Really? You don't know why I coughed?' He placed his hand on his chest and stared at Awoyinka in shock.

"Why are you here?"Awoyinka swayed slightly from where he stood and avoid eye contact with Ifagbemi.

"I am sorry, I know you are upset with me but please I…" he walked close to him but Awoyinka didn't allow him to complete his statement.

"Don't come near me, I am a dirty soul." he shouted with a shaky voice.

"I am sorry, my friend." He pleaded but Awoyinka didn't reply him. "Ifa, what have I done to you for you to give my daughter this kind of irritating man to marry" he thought silently when Awoyinka noticed that his friend was deep in thought. He tapped him on his back and Ifagbemi jerked to reality.

"What are you thinking about? You were lost in thought" he asked.

"Awo, there is trouble for us and if we don't deal with it now, it will deal with

us later" he said quite disturbed.

"Trouble? Where is it coming from?" he inquired and stared at Ifagbemi without blinking.

"Ifakemi is back" he whispered to him and breathe out heavily.

"What? Where is she?" he walked close to him.

"She is at home and.." Awoyinka's reaction didn't allow him to complete his words, Awoyinka swiftly wore his scandal.

"Where are you heading to?" he asked as Awogbemi was about to enter his room.

"I am heading to meet my wife, you said she is back" he answered.

"Don't try to move an inch, my friend. Kemi is now dangerous to move with, she is not the same person you knew before and that is why I am here" he shouted.

"What happened to her, is she sick? Has she run mad? What is wrong with her?" he walked close to him and fidgeted with his cloth

"She said she is now a Christian and ridiculed our traditions, she said a lot I don't want to remember but the reason why I am here is to inform you that she is engaged and getting ready for marriage"

"Abomination! Unbelievable!!" Awoyinka shouted. "After all, I have done for her, after all my patience and everything, this is how you and your daughter want to repay my kind deeds" Awoyinka knotted his friend's cloth

"Awo, this is not the solution. I shouted more than you when she told me, you should let us make plans on what to do. All these words are not the solution to this issue" he said and Awoyinka released his cloth.

"What do you think we can do? I must not suffer in vain, my friend" he mumbled. His hands and voice were shaking as he stared at Ifagbemi who was thinking of a way out.

"oh, I've got an idea" Ifayemi shouted. "Bring your ear closer, let me whisper the solution to you" he said.

Awoyinka moved close to him and he whispered in his ear. After a few minutes, they both laughed deceitfully and kept staring at each other.
"What a brilliant idea!" Awoyinka said with delight while rubbing his protruded stomach.

"Yes, I am sure that will be the beginning of defeating her." He teased and laughed.

"You know what? It is 2 am already, you will not be able to go back to your house, let me get you the new mat I bought today for you to sleep here peacefully" he said and smiled.

"Oh, thanks so much" Ifagbemi smiled and Awoyinka went to his room and brought out the new mat, he spread it on the floor and Ifagbemi laid down to sleep. "Awo, sleep well" he said as he yawned widely and closed his eyes.

"You too, my friend" he replied and watched him till he slept. Awoyinka couldn't sleep early, he paced around his room, and he cried silently not to wake his friend from his sleep. A few hours later, he slept and they both woke up late the next day.

"Hope you slept well?" Awoyemi asked as he saw Ifagbemi open his mouth widely on the mat.

"Yes, I need to be at home as soon as possible" he got up from the mat.

"Oh, you are right. Make sure you act fast before she takes any steps, my friend"

"I will try." He said and swiftly walked out of Awoyemi's house.

"Be careful, please" he shouted and watched him till he was out of sight.

Ifagbemi rushed to his house but was shocked to see his doors open. He searched everywhere in the living room if anyone had entered the house because he locked Kemi in her room and locked the entrance of his house. When he didn't see anybody, he rushed to Kemi's room and realized her door was open, he entered the room and didn't see Kemi.

"Where is my daughter?" he mumbled silently as he was beginning to panic. "Kemi! Kemi!! kemi!!!" he shouted as he was searching everywhere in the room.

CHAPTER TEN

"Doctor, what is wrong with my daughter?" Mrs. Godfrey asked as she walked close to him, Grace sighted Joshua with his mum and rushed to meet them.

"Grace, I am sorry. We lost Doctor Martha. She bled a lot after the abortion, she fought for her life but unfortunately, it was too late" Joshua mumbled silently and patted Grace's shoulder.

"Noooo" Mrs. Godfrey screamed in pain and slumped instantly. She held her chest till she fainted. The scenario was too much for Grace, she didn't know who to rush to. Her mum or her sister. She was standing, transfixed to a spot watching her mum as the nurses rushed her to the ward. She couldn't move her body because she could feel the weight in every step she took.

Joshua was short of words and left Grace to attend to her mum before it got too late for her also. As Grace was standing and leaning her back against the hospital wall, she remembered the good memories she shared with Martha. As she cried out in pain, she heard a voice whisper to her ears, she jerked up immediately and looked around to see if anyone was with her but she could only see some unattended patients and they were far from where she stood.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." She spoke out what the voice whispered to her, the statement kept coming to her mind and her spirit, she couldn't comprehend what the voice was trying to say but after a few minutes of silence, she changed her posture and stood straight. "Does it mean that there is still hope for Martha?" she questioned herself in thought.

"Do you remember the man, Lazarus? He was dead and buried for four days but Jesus healed him from death. There is nothing Jesus can not do, rely on your Faith in Him and pray for your sister" She heard the reply somewhere inside her, so calm and reassuring, she was sure it was the Holy Spirit communicating to her. She paced around for a few minutes and entered Martha's ward.

When she got there, she saw two nurses packing Martha's corpse, the tears wouldn't just stop flowing. She walked close to them and told them to excuse her and give her 30 minutes to do what she wanted to do there. The nurses agreed and promised to come back in the next 30mins.

"Martha, you can not die now. Jesus has died for you and has forgiven all your sins" she shouted and held her right hand, she couldn't control her tears but as she was crying, she remembered the words Holy Spirit told her and she started praying in the Spirit.

She was moving to and fro around her bed and was praying for her sister, her eyes were closed and she was sweating profusely till her face was filled with her sweat. Suddenly in a vision, she saw the body of Martha run out of the ward, she swiftly followed her and met her outside.

"Martha! Martha!!" she shouted.

Martha was staring at her and was crying, she couldn't talk.

"Come back here, Martha. You are going nowhere" Grace shouted and walked close to her, she realized Martha couldn't move her body and she didn't know what was happening. When she got close to her, she realized someone held her hand. She wanted to touch Martha but a voice stopped her.

"Don't try it" the man shouted. The man seems invisible but only his fingers and hand were visible.

"Who are you and where are you taking her?" Grace inquired but Martha was only crying because she was feeling pain as the man held her.

"I am her master, she obeyed me and lived her life for me while she was alive. I am here to take her to our kingdom where she belongs" he answered. The voice of the man was so thick and loud, Grace was bold and was not moved by his voice, Grace tried her best to see the man but yet, it was only his hands that were visible.

"You are taking her nowhere, Jesus is interested in her soul and He is ready to save her from you spirit of death. And so, for the Lord has given me the keys to the kingdom of heaven and earth that whatever I bind in this earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever I lose on earth shall be lose in heaven. In the name of Jesus, I release Martha from your grip." She shouted and there was a loud thunder strike, the strange man screamed and release Martha. Martha fell and Grace moved close to her, she couldn't see the strange hands and fingers anymore but she knew he was still around. As she bent to raise Martha, a loud voice stopped her.

"Don't touch her. Have you not read in your scripture what relationship light has to do with darkness? Or can clean water and dirty water both flow from the same spring. Martha is my prey and she has lived all her life for me, she is my slave and I have all right to own her. She is an enemy of God as I am too, we both belong to darkness. Stay away from us now" the voice threatened but Grace stood her ground.

"Well, you are right but the Lord has mercy on whom he chooses to have mercy for, Jesus has set Martha free and that is why I am here to speak on her behalf. God accept people only because they have Faith in Jesus, for we

have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory but God has treated us much better than we deserve. And also, the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective, because I am here for my sister you have no right to take her to your kingdom. Jesus was nailed to the cross for her and he died for her, what a blessing when God forgives our sins and evil deeds, her sins and evil deeds has been erased and so it is time for her to live for Jesus. Finally, I command you to leave now in the name of Jesus" Grace shouted and the voice screamed and left instantly.

Grace raised Martha from the ground and wiped her tears.

"You are free" Grace said to her and hugged her. Martha looked at her sister as she smiled at her, "Now, go inside to live the life I have created you for". After this statement, Grace vanished and Martha walked inside the ward.

Grace was still praying in the spirit and her sweat was dripping on the floor. She couldn't control herself to stop praying. It was the tap of a warm hand at her back that brought her back to reality. As she opened her eyes. She was shocked to see Martha on her feet.

She stepped back a little and looked around the ward, she saw the nurses trying to enter the ward. As they saw Martha, they both screamed and ran outside, they forget to close the door. Grace moved close to Martha and touched her hands, she was checking her and looking at the room strangely. Martha hugged her and cried out.

"Thanks for saving me" Martha said and cried out.
"Me? Save you? Only Jesus is capable of saving you, I was only following His instructions by praying. All thanks to Jesus" she said and wiped her tears. They both sat down on the hospital bed and looked at each other as if it was their first time meeting.

"I need Jesus, Grace. I am ready to succumb to His Will and surrender my all to Him" Martha said as tears couldn't stop flowing from her eyes.

"I am indeed happy to hear this from you. Only Jesus can do this" she said and hugged her. "you will have to recite these prayers with me, with all your heart"

She held her hands and closed her eyes. "Dear heavenly Father, I have come to you in the name of Jesus [your son], I acknowledge I'm a sinner, please forgive me all my sins, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and He died on the cross to save me, I do believe in my heart and I confess Jesus now as my Lord and personal Savior…." After the prayers, Grace hugged her and wiped her tears.

Martha felt peace in her heart and she felt like a new baby and everything seemed innocent to her, she smiled beautifully at Grace and held her hands.

"You are the best sister anyone could ever pray to have. Your yes to Jesus saved me today, thanks for saying yes to Him, you are such a blessing" Martha said. "I know I will…" the sound of the door distracted them and they both looked at the nurses and doctors that entered the ward. They were all stunned and opened their mouths widely.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

"My God. This is unbelievable. Grace, what is going on, here?" Joshua asked as he walked close to them, other people were dumbfounded and unable to move.

"You are the doctor here and I think you should be able to answer that" Grace teased and smiled.

"Stop the joke, please, and tell me what happened" he mumbled silently.

"Well, I am not the person to answer your question" She turned her face to Martha. "Please answer his questions"

"Actually, all I can say for now is that Jesus saved me from the power of death" she said and adjusted her posture on the bed.

'Unbelievable! Martha, did I hear you say Jesus in your statement?' Peace said and moved close to her. "you know I am your close friend and I know much about you. I could remember those times when Joshua invited you to his church of which you rejected his invitation and kept malice with him till today"

"Please, I will not want us to go into that. I was not keeping malice with her and I believed she is now a new creature. I don't think that information is needed now" Joshua said to Peace. "Martha, I am happy you are back to life, how are you feeling? how about the pains and the blood?" he inquired.

"Oh, when Jesus touched me and lifted me from the ground. The pain left me and the blood stopped" she replied.

"Wow!! This is wonderful" he said and nodded his head positively. "Grace, I will like to see you in my office as soon as you are through here" Joshua said and left, the nurses followed him but Peace stayed.

"Martha, I am stunned to see you back alive" Peace said and burst into tears.

"Doctor, it is okay. You don't need to cry over it, all we need do is to thank Jesus for being merciful and faithful" Grace said but Peace didn't stop crying. "Are you fine?" Grace asked and moved close to her.

"I am not fine at all. It seems I also need the Jesus you talked about. I am sure if Jesus could raise Martha from death, He is capable of solving all my issues" she cried out.

"You are right but what is wrong with you?" Grace asked.

"huh, I was born into a Christian home. My parents were devoted workers in the Church of God and they were always ready to serve God with all their hearts. I was brought up in the ways of the Lord but when I was sixteen years of age, I had no choice but to leave my parent's house and move to my aunt's house because my education was at stake. She was so good to me and took good care of me, she treated me like her child and I was so comfortable with her. My aunt lost her husband before I got to her place, that is why my parents willingly allowed me to stay with her for her not to feel lonely but after 3 years, she got married to another man, and the man also cared for me even more than my aunt which made me feel he loved me as a daughter not until 3 weeks after their weddings, I went through hell in the house" she cried out bitterly and at this time, her eyeballs were red.

"It's okay, please. What is the hell you are talking about?" Grace asked Martha adjusted herself on the bed and they both stared at Peace without blinking. Peace couldn't stop crying but Grace wiped her tears with her handkerchief.

"The man was a pretender, he pretended to be a devoted Christian to my aunt, I could remember my mum telling her to pray well before she got married, I am sure she got married out of depression and pressure, she wanted to have someone to share her pains with, besides, her friends were not helping the situation, they were always on her neck to get married again before it gets too late for her. Whenever my aunt traveled or went to the office, her husband forcefully had sex with me" she cried out.

"Jesus!" Grace shouted and covered her mouth with her hands.

"I couldn't tell my aunt because she didn't have my time like she used to before she got married, she often complained of tiredness due to work in the office and I had no choice but to keep quiet. My Aunt's husband had sex with me forcefully at his convenient time. Life was becoming unbearable for me, he aborted pregnancies for me several times without my aunt knowing about this. The worst part of everything was that whenever he had sex with me, I bled a lot, but he would take me to a doctor who was his friend for treatment. He had sex with me together with his two friends. The three of them had sex with me roughly and when I regained consciousness, I met myself at the hospital. Before opening my eyes, I heard the doctor tell my aunt's husband that my womb has been damaged and I was diagnosed with cervical cancer due to vaginal bleeding after sexual intercourse and pain during intercourse. And the cause of it for me was having sex and abortions at an early age." She cried out, Martha and Grace were in tears too.

"Then, how did you survive this and how did you become a doctor?" Martha asked in tears.

"That is another long story, Martha" she replied and cried out.

CHAPTER TWELVE

AT KEMI'S HOUSE

"This is getting more interesting and unbelievable. You want to break up this relationship because of what you just narrated. I can't believe you can do this, your excuses are not genuine, I know there is more to this" Moses said as his eyes welled with tears.

"Moses, I need to do this because I am nervous and I don't want you dead because of me. It is more serious than whatever you can imagine" Kemi said and held his hands.

"Really? Why are you talking like you don't know God? You have been so selfish that you forgot we are in this together. Did you forget that God is involved in this relationship? Why will you break it up because of your emotions and present situation? Don't you believe in God anymore" Moses said and stared at her without blinking, his words struck Kemi deep in her heart. She cried out.

"Stop it, please. I love you so much and I am not in support of your idea of breaking this relationship, we are in it together and we have to fight the battle together" he said and walked close to her, he lifted her from the floor and made her sit on the chair. Moses's words of encouragement were all she needed at that moment.

"I love you too but.." Moses held her hands tightly to stop her from completing her statement.

"It is okay. No matter what the situation may be, always trust the Lord with all your heart and not your judgment or emotions. The truth is that giving up

on this relationship will not solve this issue but will only add more problems"

"What do you mean by that?" she inquired and adjusted herself on the seat.

"You see, the devil is not happy with us and doesn't want us to be together. That is the meaning of all your family traditions. He always opposes a Christian home or relationship because he knows we will not allow his kingdom to rest but when we continue to keep walking in the light of God and not in his darkness, he can never overcome us. We are conquerors through Christ that strengthen us" he said and smiled.

"Wow, your words are powerful and have always helped to build my Faith in God. It is a great privilege to have you with me" she hugged him and tears rolled down her cheeks.

"You can say that again, babe" Moses teased and wiped her tears and they both looked at each other and laughed. " But you haven't told me how you left your father's house" he asked and stared at her.

"Oh, yeah. You are right." She adjusted her posture on the chair and cleared her throat. "As I was praying, I never knew it was already dawn. I got carried away with my prayers that I didn't know it was already 6 am. I heard…"

"Wow! My fire lady" he teased and they both laughed.

"You can also say that again" They both laughed and stared at each other. "I heard a thunder in the room, that was how I got distracted from my prayers. When I opened my eyes, I realized the door was wide open, I wanted to close it back then I heard the Spirit of God say I should leave the house as soon as possible. At first, I thought it was my mind but the thunder didn't stop then I swiftly carried my bag and left the house. Fortunately for me, I met a bus on my way, it seemed like God had it all planned out for me. and then, I found

myself here in my house" she said and smiled at Moses.

"Wow! Amazing Father, he always comes through for his children" Moses replied.

"You are right about that, I am sure there is a reason why God made all this happen" she said and held his right hand.

"Yes, I think I am getting more understanding about this scenario" he said and adjusted himself on his seat.

"Really? Tell me more, please" Kemi stared at him without blinking.

"You see, God instructed you to visit your father for you to know all these secrets. You remember Jeremiah 33;3 says, we should call unto Him and He will show us great and mighty things that we do not know. I want to believe this is the way God wants you to know some mysteries about your family. I am very sure He didn't reveal this for us to fear or break up our relationship but He wants us to be aware of the vices of the devil and for us to watch and pray" Kemi breathe out and couldn't stop staring at Moses. "And about God telling you to leave the house means a lot and we need to find out about this from him. Probably, it may be that your Dad secretly planned evil for you or he is up to something" he said and put one of his fingers in his mouth

'Hmm, is it possible for my Dad to plan evil for me?' she inquired.

…….

"Unbelievable!! Are you sure you locked the door very well or maybe you thought you did but you were mistaken" one of the chief priests shouted.

There were seven priests in the house and they were all dressed in white

cloth, each holding their staff. The chief priest was an old man and was highly respected in the town and among the priest, he was known as the most powerful amongst them all. According to the traditions, the chief priest doesn't die unless he kills himself willingly with poison. It was well believed that the chief priest was empowered by the deity and that was why they had such high authority.

The chief priest is well known as Baba Awodiran, he was a man that should be in his late 90s. He had smoky grey hair, blood-flecked eyes, a devil's fork beard, and time-worn skin. He used to limp when walking and was well known for scruffy clothes, he had twisted fingers, twinkling eyes, and a trembling voice because of his old age.

Everyone bowed their heads to the ground when he spoke, no one dared look him in the eye if he didn't order them to, it was rare to see Baba Awodiran joke around with people, he didn't have a wife nor children because of his high post, it was part of the sacrifice for the post of a chief priest.

"I did baba and I made sure she didn't notice I locked her in the house" he said softly and looked down to the floor to avoid eye contact with the chief priest.

"This is unbelievable. We have to be quick with our plans before this girl gets out of hand. Or else.. you also know what will happen to your Family Ifagbemi" he shouted.

"Yes, Baba" he answered back.

"The girl was supposed to be locked in the deity room for a week, this could have made our work much easier and better but now that she is nowhere to be found we need to attack her spiritually." He mumbled silently.

"We are all in support of it" they all echoed and bowed their heads.

"Thank you, everyone. You see, we should not be afraid of the words that came out of her mouth. I have dealt with most of those people that call themselves Christians. Most of them are not strong in their Faith, some of them are carried away with challenges and tribulations, others are pretenders, and they truly don't have Faith in whom they claim they serve. Many of them easily get carried away with fame, gold, and wealth. All we need is wisdom and patience to disengage your daughter from such belief" he said and turned his face to Ifagbemi.

"You are right, sir" he answered back.

"So, you will be the one to do the major assignment here. You will have to inflict your daughter with any sickness of your choice. The tougher the sickness, the weaker your daughter's Faith becomes. I am sure by the time we deal with her mercilessly she will run back to the kingdom she belongs" he said and they all laughed.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

DAVID'S HOUSE

"Please come in and stop disturbing me with the sound of the door" David shouted. He was leaning his back on the chair. His tear-stained face was puffy and swollen with grief.

"Guy, what's wrong with you? Why are you starring at me as if you received bad news?" Femi mumbled as he walked close to him. "Where is Mimi? Is she inside the room? Why are you here alone? I left you both in the house this morning. Talk to me, please" he asked puzzled, and sat beside him.

Femi and David have been together as friends for five years, Femi worked as an accountant in a Barter craft company in Lagos, and he has been a supportive and lovely friend to David. They both lived together in a well-furnished and beautiful three-bedroom flat. Femi was also carnal like his friend David but he was a well-disciplined man and not a womanizer. He was very different from David. He was handsome, perhaps not in the conventional sense but he had that appearance which could make him stand out in the crowd. He was fair, his unfathomable golden brown eyes contrasted exceptionally with his light-toned face. His eyes were as deep and expressive as you could get lost if you stared long enough. His face had that faraway look in it that can not be described in words.

David also envied his handsomeness and always teased him he would have loved to be like him. Femi was such a hardworking man that doesn't have time to waste with ladies. The only problem he has is anger Management, he can't control himself once he loses his temper. He had hurt David countless times whenever he offended him. He was good at compensating and

apologizing whenever it happens.

Femi lost his mum at a young age. Everyone thought his mum died a natural death but he knew his father was the cause of her death. He maltreated her and often left them in the house for days. The night his mum died, Femi watched his mum as she slumped on the floor when she was trying to run away from his dad's beatings. He was bitter to his father and left the house for him and lived with his mother's best friend.
Mrs. Bimbo was his mother's best friend and she took good care of Femi, she was unable to have her children because she lost her husband two years after marriage and decided not to remarry because of the love she had for him, Femi was all she had and she sponsored his education.

Mrs. Bimbo got born again five years before her death, she tried her best to make sure Femi received salvation but he never gave her the opportunity for them to discuss better, he made excuses for being busy. Before she had her last breath, her last word for him was a prayer; that the Lord will arrest his heart and make him live for Christ as He had done to Paul. Femi didn't understand the prayer point and didn't bother about it. He cried so much after her death and always remembered her from time to time.

"It is Mimi, Femi" he lumped in his throat and was blinking away the tears.
"What happened to her?" he inquired and stared at him without blinking.

"You won't believe it. She didn't agree to what I told you, I am not happy at all" he said and was choked with tears.

"Wow. I can't believe you are crying because of that. Seriously?" he shouted and opened his mouth widely.

"You can't understand. I so much love her and every day, I die with the anticipation of being intimate with her. I can't…" he groaned in misery.

"I can see you truly love her, I never believe you can shed tears because of sex, David. Anyway, what was her reply when you told her your intention?" he inquired and adjusted his posture on the chair.

"Well, she said no sex till after marriage. You also know that Mimi is too religious and decent not like…."

"not like Martha?" he teased and they both laughed.

"Yes, not like Martha. That's why I love Mimi so much" he explained.

"But I still don't want to believe you are depressed because of sex, there is something you are not telling me. I know you well, David. What else happened after her reply?" he asked.

"You always get me" he said and they both smiled. "She also said she was highly disappointed in me, she left me angrily. Angrily, Femi" he shouted.

"Oh, now I get you. So you are sad because of the anger, right?"

"Something like that" he said and bowed down his head.

"You must truly love Mimi. Don't worry about that, I will help you to talk to her" he said and smiled.

"My God, you are such an amazing friend. Is there anything I can do without you? You never stop supporting me, I want you to know I love you so much and nothing can nullify that." He said smiling and hugged him.

"I love you too, bro but I have a question for you" he said and David stared at

him. "What are your plans for Martha?"

"Oh, that girl? Well, I got a plan for her too" he smiled

"Really? What's that?" he inquired.

"It's like you are getting more interested in Martha's affair these days. Let me get myself water and come back to our discussion".

"You are wicked. You want to leave me here in suspense. Please go and come back quick" They both stared at each other at the same time and laughed. A few minutes later, he left to drink water.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

"Babe, I am so sorry for the way I talked to you earlier, I was not in the right frame of mind" Florence pleaded and stared at her.

"I know and I'm not upset. So, what is the problem?" she inquired.

"It is David, Florence" she retorted and breathe out heavily.

"Oh, that guy again? What happened to him?"

"Again? What do you mean by that? I don't like it, please" she yelled

"I am sorry, what did he do?"

"He.. well, he was and.. he told me he truly loves me" she lied. She knows if she reveals the truth to Florence, she will discourage or go against her relationship as she used to. To avoid too much talk from her, she lied.

"I don't understand. How does that make you sad and lost in thoughts?"

"I think, I was like…." She stammered and pause a little bit.

"When did you start hiding things from me, Mimi?" she asked. At this point, Mimi realized she has been caught and all she needed to do is to speak the truth for her.

"For months, David has been pressurizing me for sex, but I have been

rejecting it. Three days ago, when I visited him. He made his intention known to me, he said he can't be in a relationship without sex, he is not a baby" she cried out.

"My dear, can you now see for yourself? I warned you severally to stay away from David but you wouldn't listen. Please what does darkness have to do with light? Everything about you has changed negatively ever since you started this relationship. Firstly, you stopped producing books, you stopped having your quiet time and studying Bible like you used to. Recently, spiritual things have been too difficult for you. You have to stop your relationship with him, God is not in support of it. Do not allow your emotions control you, be led by the Holy Spirit" Florence lamented.

"Did I tell you I was not led to be in a relationship with David? David was a gift from God to me, it is my convictions, not yours. So, you have no right to judge. Meanwhile, God wants to use me to change his life and it will happen soon. I believe in God" Mimi shouted and turned her face to the wall.
"You are getting it wrong, Mimi. I am sorry if I sounded too judgemental but you need to understand that you have no power to change anyone's life" she said calmly and put her right hand at her back.

"Well, I have the power of God in me and I believe that with Him, nothing is impossible" she retorted and stared at the wall to avoid eye contact with Florence.

"Why are you twisting the scripture, Mimi? Stop deceiving yourself, please. Do you remember the dream I said I had about you?" She inquired.

"I can't remember" she replied and turned her face to Florence.

"It's obvious you didn't pray about it. My dear Miracle, why are you not serious about yourself?" she said and held her hands, Miracle didn't talk, she

stared at her without blinking. "I saw you in a beautiful and colorful garden" she breathe out heavily and stood up. "You were…." The sound of Miracle's phone distracted them.

"Oh God, who's calling?" Miracle shouted and picked up her phone when she checked the phone screen, she realized it was David. She hissed, rejected his call, and switch off her phone. "Continue please" she said and stared at Florence without blinking.

"Ok, you were in a beautiful garden, you looked so beautiful, you were dressed in a beautiful blue gown that looked fitted and comfortable. The garden was spacious, and everything you needed for shelter was in the garden, I remember I saw you smiling beautifully. As I was staring at you from outside the garden, I was so happy for you. And then, I saw a man dressed in a beautiful brown suit, his appearance could grab anyone's attention. Immediately you sighted him, you didn't stop staring at him, you walked close to him, as I saw you walking close to him. I realized the man's cloth changed to different colors, brown to white, white to black.. I did not understand this but I felt the man's intention for you is not good. What shocked me most is that you couldn't see his color-changed cloth. You were so carried away with his appearance and handsome face. When you walked close to him, he told you to open the gate for him, you did not care about who he is and where he was coming from. All your attention was on his physical appearance, as you were about to open the door, a voice shouted at you not to open the gate for him and be watchful but you disregarded the voice. I also shouted your name but you ignored me also. You opened the door for him and the man entered, when he entered your house, all I heard was your loud voice screaming in pain and agony. I was shouting your name to come out of the house but you didn't. I shouted your name till I woke up that night" she explained. Miracle cleared her throat and stood up.

"What is the dream about?" she inquired and couldn't stop staring at Florence.

"I also do not understand the dream but when I prayed. The Holy Spirit made me understand it better. Let's check the book of Mattew 26;41 and 1 Peter 5;8" Florence said and took two Bibles on the table, she gave one to Miracle and she held the other one, they both stared at each other and sat on the bed. "Mimi, let us start from Mattew 26;41 and please I will want you to be the one to read them"

"No problem" she answered back and opened the scripture. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation because the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" she read loudly and breathed out heavily. Her eyes welled up with tears as the scripture touched her soul and spirit. She paused for a while and kept staring at the glass cup in front of her mirror, she couldn't control the tears and didn't understand why she was crying but as she was lost in thought she knew God was referring to her relationship with David. "David." She said as she thought silently but didn't know that Florence heard her and tapped her on her back as she was lost in thought. Miracle jerked as she regained consciousness

"Now, you are getting the dream, please let us check 1Peter 5;8" she said. Miracle looked at her Bible and opened the scripture.

"Be alert and watchful, your enemy the devil roams around like a roaring lion seeking for whom to devour" As Miracle was reading the scripture, her voice was shaky. Florence realized the Holy Spirit was at work and touched her heart.

"Miracle, you are not ignorant of the vices of the devil, I had no rest in my spirit from the first day I set my eyes on David. Although, he looked handsome and well-behaved but the Holy Spirit was trying to pass across a message to me which I didn't understand but after my dream and prayers, I understood what the Holy Spirit was trying to inform me" she said and breathe out.

Miracle cried out and her lips were quivering. "Mimi, I understand that you got carried away with his physical appearance, you allowed your emotions to control you, you ignored the voice of the Holy Spirit, and became a slave to your desires and emotions. Your emotions made it look like it was God speaking to you. You forgot that if our minds are ruled by the Holy Spirit, we would have life and peace. God wants you to have life and peace and this can only happen if you allow the Spirit of God to control your emotions. I understand it may seem painful to you that you have gone too far with David but in the dream, you entered the house with him. As the situation is now, you are still walking with him and haven't entered the house, which means you are not yet married to him, you have the grace to leave the relationship now before you both enter the house, I do not want to hear you scream as you did in the dream. Jesus is interested in you and wants to deliver you from the devil so he doesn't devour you but then, he needs your permission to interfere, It is now left to you to choose the right thing. Choose between life and death" she said and Miracle cried out. As she was talking she remembered her mother and all her pieces of advice, Florence was talking to her the same way her mother talked to her. Also, she felt like it was God speaking to her through Florence.

"Florence" she cleared her throat as her voice cracked. "I am short of words right now but to be candid with you, your message woke me up from slumber. You are right I allowed my emotions to rule over me, I also tried to control it but it seemed impossible" she said and her eyes welled with tears.

"To control your emotions, you need to understand that it's only Jesus that can help you, not your strength. You were unable to control it because you trusted your strength. You will have to allow God to rule over your desires by doing the right thing and whatever He instructs you. If God tells you to break up with him, do it instantly without thinking twice. If you can do this, it is a sign that you are allowing the Holy Spirit to take control of your emotions" she said and wiped her tears.

"I now understand how I missed it. Thanks for yielding to God, Florence" she said and hugged her. As she embraced her, she was crying loudly.

"It's okay, Mimi" she replied and stared at her. "now, I will excuse you for you to cry your heart to God, tell him how sorry you are for neglecting Him over your decision, and surrender your heart to him" she said and smiled.

"I will do that" Mimi replied and Florence got up from the bed.

Florence left the room and shut the door, Mimi was staring at her till she left the room. Mimi stood up from her bed and was pacing to and fro in the room when she did it for a few minutes, she leaned her back on the wall and kept staring at the mirror. As she was staring at the mirror, she remembered her relationship with God, how she got excited whenever He had a conversation with her, how God has rescued her in the past, all the revelations she got in her secret place, how her heart leaped for Joy whenever she worshipped God with all her heart.

"Holy spirit, I miss you" she said in a whisper and her eyes were filled with tears. She sat on the bed and rested her hand on her pillow, as she was staring at the wall in front of her, she remember she wrote a dream she had before she met David in her diary. She quickly rushed to her wardrobe for her diary.

She had a beautiful diary, and the cover of the diary was royal blue with a touch of pink in color, she opened the diary on the 23rd of October, 2022. It was two years earlier. She read it loudly.

"I had a dream, I saw myself busy taking care of fish, I was cleaning up their water and renewing it, I was giving them food and as they were eating I was happy those fish were getting bigger, I was enjoying myself watching those fish until a man tapped me at my back. As soon as I saw him I smiled at him, he was looking amazing and handsome, he told me he wanted us to go to a

place together which is much better than where I was, I looked at my fish and wanted to reject him but his smile and teeth captivated me and got my attention which made me follow him to where he talked about. On our way, there was a loud sound of thunder, it was so loud that nothing else could be heard but the man told me not to bother and that we will soon get to his place and when we got there, my legs crossed over a tree which made me fall to the ground, I tried all my best to stand up but I couldn't and I realized the man was laughing and told me this was where he wanted to bring me to. I shouted for help and screamed till I woke up" As soon as she read the dream, she closed the diary and placed it on her bed, she couldn't control her tears and cried out.

"Is this dream referring to my relationship with David? Does it mean that David is not the right person for me? The relationship is two years now, how will I break up with him? What will be my excuse? What will happen to me after the breakup? Will it not sound foolish if I break the relationship with him for no reason? What will.." she said and hit herself with the pillow.

As she was crying, she heard a small voice, she swiftly controlled herself to be calm to hear what the voice wanted to say.

"My dear Miracle, you must not live to satisfy your desires, if you do, you will die but if by the Spirit you say no to your desires, you will live. Allow the Spirit of God to control you, surrender your heart to Him and He will lead you to the right path, remember the thoughts God has for you is of good and not of evil" the voice said and she stood up instantly, she checked the widows and realized no one was outside, the voice didn't sound like Florence and she rushed out to call Florence but she realized she had gone out, she went to her room and lay on the bed.

"Definitely, this is the voice of God" she said as tears didn't stop flowing from her eyes. "So, this is how the relationship of two years will end?" she raised her head and stared at the mirror. The memories of her and David filled her

mind.

The more she tried to forget him, the more she remembered him. She remembered how much David looked after her whenever she was sick. As she was staring at the mirror, it was like she was looking at David.

"I love you, David" she said and screamed.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

"Please, I need you to stop crying and explain what happened" Grace mumbled silently and wiped her tears.

"I was in the hospital for three weeks without my aunt knowing about it because she traveled outside the country for her office meetings. I cried all day when I was in the hospital whenever I remember the doctor's statements about my health, I pretended to my aunt's husband to be innocent and when we got home, I asked him for the doctor's prescription about my health and all he could tell me was it is malaria and it happened because of the last sex stress with him and his friends. I couldn't hold my tears when he told me. I had cervical cancer due to my early sex and several abortions he did for me and he dared to lie to me about what happened" she cried out and sneezed. Martha and Grace stood up together and held her hands, Grace wiped her tears and put her right hand on her shoulder.

"What a wicked man!" Martha shouted.

"Wickedness is too low to qualify him, Martha. You can't believe that after all that happened, he did not stop molesting me" she said and her eyes were filled with tears.

"What?!?" Martha and Grace shouted and looked at each other at the same time.

"I left the house after a week we got home from the hospital, my aunt's

husband had raped me countless times in that week. And then, I didn't stop bleeding after sex, the pain was too much for me" she cried out and tears wouldn't stop pouring out of Martha and Grace's eyes.

"It's okay, please. Bleeding after sex and those pains are the symptoms of cervical cancer" Martha said and she was shocked in tears.

"You are right, Martha. When I left, I couldn't go back to my parents because I didn't want to feed them with the sad news, I know my mum's health condition. I became a lady that walked around in the streets but after a few days, I met a woman, the woman seemed to be an angel in the form of a human being to me. She noticed me sleeping beside her neighbor's house every night, whenever she passed I was asleep. When I saw her for the first time, I was shocked she knew so much about me, she took me home and treated me like her child. Her husband was completely different from my aunt's husband. When I realized the family was people I could trust, I narrated my plights to them. They also felt sad and cried too because I was too young to experience such. The woman took me to the hospital and it was truly confirmed I had cervical cancer but fortunately, I was at the early stage. Cervical cancer has stages, the doctor told us, she will have to do conization for me which means she will remove the infected part of my cervix through surgery. I was sad to hear such but that is the only way to save my life before it got worse. I agreed to do the surgery and after everything, the doctor also informed us that my womb had been removed, hope I was aware of that. I couldn't stop the tears, my aunt's husband not only damaged my womb but he removed it without my consent." She cried, at this point, her eyes had turned red.

"This is too much" Martha cried out.

"The good news was that the surgery was a success and I was given medications for some time. The woman wanted to arrest my aunt's husband but I told her I didn't want to get involved with such because of my parents

who I didn't inform about the issue. To crown it all, the woman sponsored my education and I studied medicine at the university and that is how I became a medical doctor." She said and cried, she bent her head to be comfortable on the chair. Martha couldn't stop staring at her with tears in her eyes. Grace patted her back with her hand while she was also choked with tears. The whole room was gloomy.

"Now, I understand why you always look unhappy in the hospital every day" Martha lamented.

"Oh, you are wrong about that. It was not this situation that made me look unhappy. Although, whenever I remember this, my heart is always heavy but there is more fire on the mountain for me" she said and raised her head, she stood from her seat and paced around the ward. Martha and Grace were staring at Peace without blinking.

"What are you talking about?" Grace inquired.

"My husband" she shouted and cried out.

"What happened to him?" Martha asked, staring at Peace anticipating what she was about to say.

"I met my husband at school and I got married to my husband five years ago, immediately after my service. I married him because he was God-fearing, he has been the best thing that happened to me, and he has loved me unconditionally. His love made me forget my past and released me from being a prisoner of my past. I didn't hesitate to marry him when he proposed marriage. He told me he was led by God to marry me" she mumbled and sniffed.

"That sounds good, what now happened?" Martha inquired as she couldn't

stop staring at Peace.

"He was the one that made me have an interest in church activities, the woman and her husband that took care of me were not Christians but devoted Muslims. When I informed them about my religion, they didn't force me to be a Muslim but told me to be free to serve my God. But then, I do not know anything about God and the last time I attended church was when I was in my parent's house. So, every Sunday, I'd leave the house and tell them I'm going to church but I didn't. I went to my friend's house instead. They didn't suspect me and believed I have been a devoted Christian till I left their house. My husband seemed to be a religious man to me, I didn't feel good being in a relationship with him at first but when I get closer to him, I realized he was a God-fearing and a man any lady could pray to have" she said and breathe out.

"Hope he knows you were not a believer?" Grace asked.

"Well, he knows and that bothered me a lot too but he told me he never had the intention of being in a relationship with me but God instructed him to marry me. He explained to me how much he loved to have a lady that is well spiritually balanced and full of the wisdom of God but proposing marriage to me was an instruction of God he had to obey" Peace answered back.

"This is getting more interesting, your story made me remember Hosea in the bible" Grace said.

"Who is Hosea?" Martha asked.

"Hosea was a prophet that God used in a very unique way, God turned his very life and marriage into a living parable for the people of God to see and witness how great his love is for all creatures. The Lord told Hosea to marry a prostitute named Gomer." She said and stared at Martha without blinking. "Don't worry, as you study the scriptures, you will understand me better" she

smiled at Martha. "please, continue your story" she said and they all turned their face to Peace.

"In summary, three years of our relationship was the best thing that ever happened to me. Everyone in the church, and at home were jealous of the way my husband treated me with so much love but later on, my husband got to know about my past through our family doctor. He told my husband that one of his uncles saw us when we came for checkups, he was also a medical doctor and told him he knows me well and that he was the one that removed my womb. My husband came home with lots of questions that I hid from him since we met. I didn't tell my husband about my past because I did not want to lose him. My house has been on fire now for two years, my husband changed to me and then, my best friend became a stranger. He stopped eating my food, caring for me, talking to me, and a lot. I apologized and tried my best to restore the relationship but it seemed he had made up his mind not to forgive me. The sad news is that he brought a divorce letter to me two weeks ago, I was heartbroken and begged him to forgive me but he didn't allow me to talk. We haven't gone to court because I haven't signed the papers. I love Ade so much, I do not want to lose him" She broke down in tears.

Martha and Grace stared at each other at the same time and felt for Peace. Grace was short of words but as she was staring at Peace, she had a strong feeling to ask her a question.

"Do you believe Jesus loves you?" Grace asked and didn't stop staring at Peace.

"No, He does not. If he loves me, I wouldn't have gone through all I passed through. My parents served him well but he didn't consider that for me" she said and hissed.

"This is the real problem we need to solve. The problem is devil portrayed

Jesus as an evil person to poison your mind. He is doing this because he doesn't want you to be free from his bondage. All he told you is a lie. Jesus loves you unconditionally. He has been knocking on the door of your heart but because you are a slave to your desires, you couldn't open the door of your heart. You allowed your past to show up in your future. You refused to let go and open the door of your heart to Jesus and this is exactly what happened between you and your husband. You didn't let go of your past and that is why you hide it from your husband. Getting back your husband is the least thing Jesus can do for you, the most important thing is to surrender yourself to Him and allow Him to rule your life. With this, I can guarantee you that your problem is solved and you will be free from your past experiences" she explained.

"I am ready to surrender myself to this Jesus I have only been hearing about, I also desire to have an encounter with Him. I believe if he raised Martha from death, He will help me too and give me the peace I desire" she cried out and Grace walked close to her.

"Nothing is impossible for Jesus. He is all you need, the way you are desperate for your husband to return to you it is the same way He is also waiting for you to accept his proposal" The word touched Peace's heart and she cried out. Grace prayed for her and she confessed to Christ.

"Peace, there is a lot for us to do but not now, we will do that later. I will love to meet your husband and also, you need to go back to your parents. It is much more important" Grace spoke with a pearl of gentle wisdom.

"Alright, thanks so much" Peace replied with relief.
"I love all that happened in this hospital today. I have…" The sound of the door distracted them, it was a nurse that entered the ward. They were all staring at her without blinking.

"Doctor Joshua instructed me to call Grace" the nurse said as she entered.

"Oh, I will be there in the next 30 mins" Grace said.

"No, it seems it is urgent" the nurse mumbled.

"Really? I will be on my way now" she said and the nurse left the room.

"I will see you guys soon" Grace said and left the room to see Joshua.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

AT KEMI HOUSE

'Who's calling?' Kemi said as she was just opening her eyes from her sleep, it was the sound of her phone that woke her up. When she realized it was Moses, she swiftly picked up her call.

"Hello, Kemi" he said.

"Good morning, love" she replied and yawned.

"Babe, I am sorry I had to call you at this time but it is much, more important for me to do so".

"What happened?" Kemi asked as she adjusted her posture on the bed, she rested her back on the pillow.

"My mind has been troubled about you since yesterday and this is quite usual. I have been trying to sleep but I can't, as I was praying for you, I had a strong urge to tell you to watch and pray especially at this period. I can sense the devil is making some plans and I am sure he has failed over this" Moses said and Kemi laughed hysterically. "I am serious about…" Kemi didn't allow him to complete his statement.

"I know what caused all this. It is about what we discussed last month. I am sure that troubled mind you had is not from God. Remember, God has not given us the spirit of fear" she snapped.

"Yeah, I know but then, I was so sensitive in the spirit and I am sure this is not about fear but it is about us being watchful and prayerful this season" he exclaimed.

"Ok, I have heard all you said but please I need to rest my brain right now, I am extremely tired" Kemi said and laid her back on the bed."

"No problem but please make sure you pray before you go to bed again" he said.

"Alright my Pastor" she teased and they both laughed.

"You know I love you so much and there is nothing you can do about it" Moses said.

"I love you more" she replied.

"Bye, love. See you tomorrow"

"Sleep well, dear" she hung up.

Kemi stood from her bed and went to the toilet to ease herself. When she entered the room, she remembered Moses' words about prayer.

"It seems Moses is afraid because I don't understand why he would have such strange feelings about me tonight. I will pray later, I don't want to pray in fear" she said to herself and jumped back to bed and slept.

The next day, Kemi was in her room arranging clothes, she was busy listening to songs and dancing. Someone knocked on her door but she didn't realize until Moses called her.

"Seriously? You mean you are at the door of my house?" she shouted.

"Yes, come to open the door" he replied and hung up.

Kemi dropped her clothes on the bed and rushed to the bathroom to rinse her face, she changed her dress and checked herself in the mirror.

"You look beautiful without bathing" she teased herself and smiled, she rushed to the door and opened it for Moses.

"Babe, what have you been doing?" he asked and hugged her.

"I am sorry, I was arranging my clothes and also, I never expected you to be here this early" she mumbled as she was staring at him without blinking.

"oh, I am sorry I didn't inform you but it is important I come here as early as possible" he said and they both walked to the living room.

"Well, you can do this because today is the weekend" Kemi said and they both laughed.

"Can I get water please?" he asked politely as he was sitting on the chair. Kemi went inside the kitchen and came out with a glass of water. She gave the water to him and he drank.

"What happened?" Kemi asked as she sat on the chair next to him.

"You can't believe I couldn't sleep all through yesterday night and till now, my heart is not at rest. So, I am here for us to pray together. I have a strange feeling in my Spirit for you which I can't explain. It seems your Dad is up to something and the Lord wants us to be alert and pray" Moses said and Kemi was staring at him without blinking.

"I don't know why you choose to trouble yourself, Moses" Kemi said and cleared her throat.

"What do you mean?" he inquired and dropped the glass cup on the table.

"I don't like the way you are behaving recently, you are acting like you don't have Faith in God. You called me at midnight, I told you God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power and sound mind. You are stressing yourself too much on this issue this is why you can't sleep. My father can never plan evil for me, the evil he didn't do for me when I was young. It is never possible for him to hurt me, I know how much he loves me even though we are not together for now" Kemi said and turned her face to the Tv in the living room.

"Oluwakemi, I want you to understand that I never wish to trouble myself. It happened which is unusual, we need to pay attention to this and forget whether I am afraid or not. Let us pray, please" he said troubled, and held her hands.

"If it is about the prayers, we will pray about it later because if we pray now, we will only be praying in fear, not by the leading of the spirit. Let your mind be at rest for a while and relax. After that, we can pray together." She said and withdrew his hands from hers.

"Kemi" Moses whispered silently as he was not satisfied with her opinion. "What has come over you?" he inquired.

"I think I am the one that needs to ask you such a question because you are acting strange. Have you forgotten that we are seated with Christ in heavenly places and we are far above all principalities and power? No evil power can overcome us" she snapped.

"You are right but yet, we need to be watchful for the devil prowls around like a lion seeking whom to devour and then we are not ignorant of his devices. It is a good thing to understand our reality in Christ but we need to watch and pray. The Lord is alerting us to be more prayerful at this time and that is why my heart is not at rest, you need to be sensitive to the spirit of God, Kemi. Did you pray after we spoke at midnight?" Moses inquired but Kemi didn't reply. The whole room was silent.

"Your silence means you didn't. Oluwakemi" he mumbled softly and walked close to her.

"You need to be watchful, when you pray it also means you are allowing God to take over the situation knowing that you have no power to save yourself but now, the devil is making it seems like fear to you which is not. Prayer is the only way to fight the battle with these people, we need to be more prayerful and.." Kemi didn't allow him to complete his statement.

"So, you are making me feel like a carnal person. No problem, it is all my fault" she shouted and rolled her eyes to the wall.

"Babe, you are getting me wrong. You are not carnal but I only want you to understand me better" he said and stared at her. As he held her hands, Kemi withdrew.

"Leave me alone, please" she whispered and stood up

"Where are you heading to?" Moses asked as she was walking away from his sight.

"I am thirsty and need to drink water" she replied without looking at him. She went to the kitchen and came out with a glass cup, she sat on the chair and drank her water. Moses was staring at her as she was performing her drama.

"Are we not praying?" he inquired but Kemi didn't reply.

"Are you done with the files you told me about in your office?" Kemi asked to change their discussion.

"Babe, stop all this. How does my office work relates to our discussion?" he shouted.

"Moses, I am sorry for being harsh but you need to understand me. We will pray later" she said

"Why not now?".

"I am feeling discomfort in my tummy and a high temperature. I need to rest, I am sure you couldn't notice this because your concern was only about your heavy heart" she replied and turned her face to the wall, she rested her back on the chair and Moses walked to her.

"I am sorry, I was about to ask because when I touched you I could feel the heat of the temperature but I thought it was because of the atmosphere. Since when have you been feeling this?" he checked her temperature and held her right hand.

"Yesterday" she answered back

"Sorry, dear. I.." the sound of Kemi's phone distracted them.

"That's my phone ringing" she said and stood up to pick it up inside her room. As she got to the living room, she felt dizzy and stood in a place. Moses rushed to her to hold her but he was shocked to see what happened.

"What? You are bleeding!" Moses shouted and Kemi fainted as she was weak and tired.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

"Who is there?" Mimi shouted as she was busy cooking in the kitchen but she didn't hear a response and the person at the door didn't stop knocking. "Oh, I guess Florence is back" she mumbled silently. "Hold on for me, Florence" she shouted.

Miracle switched off the gas cooker and opened the door, she was shocked to see David but his appearance captivated her, David had the kind of face that stopped her in her tracks. There was a sudden pause and silence, they stared at each other for a long time without saying a word. It all seems like, it was their first time meeting each other, David had a strong feeling to hug her for him to express how much he missed Mimi but he was able to control himself. Miracle couldn't take her eyes off David, he was wearing his best color which is white, he looked more attractive to her but then, she heard a loud voice of her name in Florence's voice which made her come back to reality.

"Hey, Mimi" he greeted with a low and calm voice.

"What... Why… and why are you here?" she stammered and avoided eye contact with him

"Come on, Mimi. At least, I deserve to enter the house even if I will answer your question later" he said and smiled.

Mimi stared at him without blinking, she couldn't stop or confront him. She can't deny the fact that she missed David and his voice brought back memories they shared. She allowed him into the house.

"Father, please help me to do the right thing, deliver me from all evil and help me not to fall into temptations" she said a quick prayer silently as David entered the house. She closed the door.

"Miracle, how have you been?" He inquired and sat on the chair.

"I am doing fine" Mimi replied swiftly and sat on a chair but not close to David's chair.

"How is Florence? It's been a long I set my eyes on her" he asked.
"She is fine and also, she will be back soon" she answered back and stared at the wall of the sitting room trying to avoid eye contact with David. David cleared his throat to get her attention.

"Mimi, what have I done? Why are you treating me this way? You know how much I love you, why are you punishing me, my love" he said and couldn't stop staring at her. Miracle was short of words but still avoided eye contact with him.

"I.. I don't think I understand what you are insinuating" She stammered and replied swiftly.

"No, that is a lie. This is not the Mimi I love, everything about you has changed towards me. Mimi, it's been a month since we last talked or see each other, whenever I call, you busy my call, you blocked all means of communication. Do you know what all this has caused to me, I am not emotionally balanced till now. You know I can't do without communicating with you in a day. I love you so much, Mimi. Please stop treating me like this" he said and walked close to her chair. Mimi stood up instantly as he was getting closer.

"David, I am sorry for all that happened. It happened because I didn't break up the relationship in a proper way but now, I am officially telling you I am no longer interested in this relationship. I am sorry for the inconvenience" she said and stared at him without blinking. A little drop of water wanted to flow from her eyes but she tried to control herself.

"What? This is a joke, right?" David shouted and held her left hand.

"I am sorry, David." She said and her eyes were filled with tears. "I love you too but we can no longer be together anymore" she said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

"Mimi, I think I know why all this is happening. Was it because of our last conversation, I didn't mean it, my love. If you surrender your body to me, it is fine and I will appreciate you and if you don't, It is still the same. Please don't break up this relationship because of that. I am ready to do all you wanted me to do. I promise not to have sex or pressure you with sex till we get married. It will never repeat itself." he pleaded and knelt holding her hands. His eyes welled up with tears and Miracle couldn't control her tears as she remembered their memories of being together.

"I am sorry. i…." she cried out.
"Mimi please, this decision of yours will kill me. I can't imagine life without you. I am so addicted to you and I can't let you go. You promised me forever, baby. Forever was our deal, you seem to forget all you told me. I have never loved any girl the way I love you. Please don't do this to me. I promise never to cheat on you anymore" he mumbled and cried. The whole room was filled with heat.

"You mean you have been cheating on me, David?" Mimi asked and stared at him without blinking.

"Let me explain everything to you in detail for you to know how deep my love is for you" he said and cleared his throat. Miracle lifted him and instructed him to sit on a chair, which he did.

"I can hear you now" she mumbled in a low voice and stared at him.

"When I was in school, I got engaged with a lady I didn't love. I was in a relationship with her because of the pressure my friends gave me and also for me not to be innocent about sex matters. The girl was the one that deflowered me and made me so addicted to sex. We had sex several times and she had a lot of abortions for me. I couldn't break up with her because of you" he said and paused. The whole room was filled with silence.

"Me? How is that?" Miracle inquired.

"Yes, you. When I set my eyes on you, it was love at first sight, and then when you said yes to me. My love for you increased and I tried to avoid anything that will cause a breakup. You told me no sex before marriage, I had to agree with you. I am addicted to sex and I know if I break up the relationship with the lady, obeying your rules will be too difficult for me. Unfortunately, when I decided to break up with the lady and focus on you alone, the lady informed me she is pregnant for me, I deceived her to abort the baby which I am sure she did. She is a medical doctor and I know she is capable of solving the problem. I made my intentions known to you because I want to focus on you alone and break up with the lady. I and the lady are no longer together and she hasn't called me since our last conversation about aborting the pregnancy but I am not disturbed about her, what disturbs me most is your new attitude, I thought I needed to give you time but when I couldn't take it any longer I had to come to you to make things right, for us to be together just as we were. Please don't break up with me, my love for you is genuine and everlasting" he said pleadingly and held her hands.

"Jesus!!" Miracle screamed and withdrew her hands from him, she stood up instantly. "I can't believe this. I can't believe this is the man I love with all my heart. David, you did all this even when both of us were still together. You are such a cruel man and I can't believe you can do this to me. You broke the lady's heart after all she did, I am so sure the lady loves you so much. No woman dares to risk her life for a man they don't love. You are wicked David" she shouted and cried out.

"My love, my Joy, My Happiness, and much more. I deserve all and whatever you call me today but the truth is that I love you so much and I can never treat you the same way I treated Martha. Martha was only gullible and that is not my fault. Please don't let her matter complicate the issue here. I love you so much and there is nothing you can do. There is nothing anyone can do about it" he said and knelt. He couldn't stop staring at Miracle as she was choked with tears.

"There is a lot I can do about it and importantly, there is a lot more Jesus can do about it" Florence said as she entered the house. David and Miracle got distracted and stared at her. Mimi was glad Florence was back from work, she felt like she came in at the right time.

"David, really? The lady is gullible to love you to the extent of risking her life. I can't believe this is the real you. Please get up and leave my house now" Mimi shouted.

"No, don't get…"

"Out of my house, now" she shouted and pointed her index finger to the door.

David stood up with tears in his eyes, he stared at Miracle for a while and stepped out of the door with a heavy heart, he prayed for her to call him back but it didn't happen. As he left the house, Miracle sat on the floor and cried

out.

"I can't believe David can be as heartless as this. I can't just imagine and accept this. This is too much for my mind to accept and comprehend" She shouted and hit her hands on the floor. Florence walked close to her and hugged her, she wiped her tears and made her sit on the chair.

"It's okay, dear. Please don't hurt yourself" Florence said and put her head on her chest. As she wrapped Mimi in her body. The spirit of God led her to discuss with David outside. "Is he still waiting outside?" Florence asked the spirit of God in her thoughts.

"Yes, I made him wait for you outside. I need him to repent and accept the life of Christ. If you don't go out to talk to him about Jesus, he is making plans to commit suicide. Go and meet him now" She heard the reply to her thoughts in a loud male voice and jerked up. She looked everywhere and didn't see anyone except Mimi.

"Mimi, I need to do something outside, please. I will be back soon" she mumbled and stood up.

"Alright, dear. Hope you are fine?" she asked as she noticed Florence sweating and shaking.

"Yeah, I am fine" she replied swiftly and rushed out of the house.

Florence sighted David outside the gate of their compound, she rushed to the gate and stared at him for a while, she called him but there was no response as he was lost in thoughts. Florence tapped him on his back and he jerked up in fear.

"David, you need to be easy on yourself" Florence said as she stood beside

him in front of his blue car.

"Florence" he breathed out heavily. "I know I am the worst sinner on earth, I am feeling so condemned right now but I can't accept the fact that I and Mimi are no more together, I can't withstand the woman I truly love neglecting and condemning me. I can't live without Mimi, I love her so much and I am ready to do whatever it takes just to have her. I feel like life is being sniffed out of me, I want to just end it all!" he broke down in tears.

"David, I understand you love Mimi so much but then, do you know that Jesus still loves you despite all you've done?" she asked and stared at him.

"Jesus loves me. me?" he inquired. "I am the worst sinner, Florence. I am one of his enemies, not his fans, I have deceived Martha and forced her to do abortions several times. How can Jesus still love me? It's not possible" he exclaimed.

"Well, I was once His enemy too but He saved me by His grace. My past was also nothing to talk about and of course, I felt like the worst sinner on earth too but then, He loved me unconditionally and accepted me. David, Jesus is intentional about you, He loves you so dearly. You see, everyone in the whole world can condemn and hate you but Jesus will never do so, He loved you before you were born, he died for your sins before you were born. He is all you need at this moment not Miracle. He is the only one that can fill that vacuum inside of you. And most importantly, if you want to have Miracle back in your life you need to Know Jesus, accept him, and allow him to be your Lord. The same way you are seeking the love of Miracle, wanting her to love and accept you. Jesus is much more desperate and seeking your love, He has been waiting at the door of your heart, waiting for you to open the door of your heart for him." Florence's words hit him hard and David couldn't stop crying feeling very remorseful.

"Are you sure Jesus will forgive me of all my sins? My sins are not small, I know the gravity of what I am telling you. There are still some hidden sins I didn't reveal which are.... far terrible. Will he forgive all my sins?" David asked and breathe out heavily.

"David, there is no sin too big for Jesus to forgive. He said in the book of John 6;37 that all that the Father gave him will come to Him and whoever comes to Him, He will never cast out. Jesus will never cast you, He will forgive you all your sins and fill your life with peace and joy. He also said in His Word that all who are heavily laden should come to Him, He will give them rest. His rest is all you need David, His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Open your heart to Jesus and let him fill your heart with His love." Florence said.

"I am ready to open my heart to Jesus" David said and knelt. He couldn't control his tears, Florence's words hit him deep in his heart and made him remember those who have preached about Jesus to him which he ignored.

"Thank you, Jesus." She said and stared at the sky. She held his hands and prayed with him. "Please wipe your tears, David. Congratulations and I am so glad you made the right decision" she said and smiled.

"Thanks so much, Florence. I can't explain exactly how I am feeling right now, I feel light. The joy is unexplainable" he said and they both laughed.

"All thanks to Jesus, that is the work of the Holy Spirit. He is there to comfort you and guide you. The more you develop a relationship with Jesus, the more you yield yourself to the Holy Spirit" she said and David stared at her.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

"You sent for me" Grace said as she entered Joshua's office.

"Yes, I did. Kindly have your seat" he retorted and smiled. "What happened today in this hospital was a miracle" he whispered.

"Yes and all glory to God" Grace replied but she noticed Joshua's face changed. "What happened?" she inquired.

"There is a problem, Grace. I didn't want to inform Martha about it for now that is why I sent for you privately" he exclaimed.

"A problem?" Grace thought inwardly. Suddenly, she remembered her mum in her thoughts. The situation made her forget about her mum, she jerked up on her chair as she remembered. "My mum, how is she doing?" she asked.

"She is not doing fine, Grace. The news of the death of Martha caused a myocardial infarction to her body" he said and stared at her. Grace was short of words, she was freezing on the chair and was unable to move.

"What does that mean?" she mumbled silently.

"It is also known as a heart attack but can be very fatal. It has blocked blood flow and caused a complete blockage of the coronary artery. Her condition is chronic because it has led to heart failure" he explained.

"Jesus!! Heart failure" Grace screamed and her eyes were filled with tears.

"Yes, it has caused permanent damage to her heart. "

"does it means there is no solution to heart failure" she inquired as tears couldn't stop flowing from her eyes.

"Don't get me wrong, there is a solution for it but you know doctors care but only God cures. She has heart valve problems, the heart failure has stopped blood flowing in the right direction and the pressure in her heart is very high. We need to start treatment on her as soon as possible. I need you to keep praying for us and make some payments. I believe Jesus that healed Martha will also do the same to mum" Joshua comforted her in a low voice.

"Why is this happening to me, God?" Grace cried out. Joshua walked close to her and wiped her tears.

"I need you to be strong in Faith, Grace. God that started his good works in your family would surely complete it, don't allow this report to make you lose your faith. Keep praying and be strong. Most importantly, don't inform Martha about this for now to avoid another shock, please." He advised and wiped her tears with his handkerchief.

"Thanks so much, can I see my mum now?" she asked.

"Sure, you can but she needs rest for now. I will not want you to stress her" he answered back

"No problem. I will not disturb her" she said and cried.

"Stop it, please. She will be fine" Joshua said and they both left the office.

Joshua took her to Mrs Geofrey's ward, when Grace saw her mum lying on the sick bed she was close to tears. She wished her mum didn't come to Lagos, her eyes were filled with tears, she wanted to touch her but Joshua didn't allow her. As they were about to leave the ward, Mrs Geofrey coughed which made Joshua and Grace looked at her.

"Mummy" Grace shouted and rushed to her bed. Joshua followed her and checked her.

"How are you feeling ma?" Joshua asked as Mrs. Geoffrey cleared her throat. "I am okay, doctor" she said in a trembling voice and coughed.

"Ma, you need to rest please" Joshua said as she was trying to adjust her posture on the bed.

"I know but I need to talk to my daughter, Doctor" she answered back.

"Mummy, you will be fine" Grace said and hugged her on the bed.

"How is my daughter, Martha?" Mrs. Geofrey asked. Joshua and Grace stared at each other at the same time as they were shocked by her question.

"She is fine, mum but how did you know she is alive?" Grace inquired and looked at her mother without blinking.

"Jesus told me, Grace. He told me Martha has been healed and healthy and the most important thing is that heaven rejoices in her salvation. I saw the angels, the twenty-four elders, and everyone in heaven rejoicing over her life. I was so happy to see all this" She whispered silently and smiled.

"That is true mummy. The scriptures made us understand that heaven

rejoices over a sinner that repents" Grace said and breathe out heavily.

"Yes, Grace. The joy in heaven over a sinner that repent is unexplainable" Mrs Geofrey said. Joshua was staring at both of them and nodding his head positively.

"Mummy, you will be fine too. I believe" Grace said.

"Thank you, Grace. I am so proud of you, you made heaven rejoice and dance. You made me proud and happy. May the Lord continue to strengthen you to do more for His kingdom, and may you continue to grow in wisdom and knowledge of God"

"Amen," Grace and Joshua mumbled.
"Please, I need you to help me tell Martha a message" Mrs Geofrey said and coughed. Joshua gave her the water beside her and she drank the water slowly.

"Thank you, Doctor" She said.

"You are welcome, ma"

"What is the message, mum? Or should I call her for you?" she inquired.

"No, you don't need to call her for me. All I need is for you to deliver my message to her. Help me to tell her not to worry about her parents for they are both with the Lord and in a happy place. They are glad and proud of her for deciding to accept Jesus. The Lord wants to use her mightily for His kingdom, she should seek the Lord with all her heart and serve Him faithfully. My dear Grace, I want you to be strong in Faith. No matter what happens, always remember that God is with you and He will never forsake you. You might call on me one day and I may not be able to answer you but

whenever you call on God, He will always answer. You and Martha must love each other. You need each other to grow spiritually. She needs you more, please be there for her the way I and your Dad helped you grow spiritually. Always be joyful and never stop praying. Whatever happens, keep thanking God for Jesus Christ, this is what God wants you to do. I pray that God who gives peace will make you completely holy and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept healthy and faultless until our lord Jesus returns" She spoke softly and cleared her throat.

"Amen in Jesus' name. Thanks so much, Mum. These words of yours edify my spirit. You are the best mum any child could ever pray to have" Grace said and hugged her.

"Thanks so much, ma. I am blessed, hearing these soul-inspiring words from you" Joshua said and prostrated.

"All thanks to God. Grace, I love you and Martha so much. I may not be wherever both of you will be but always remember my prayers are with you both" Mrs Godfrey said and Grace's eyes were filled with tears.

"Get well soon, Mum. We love you too" Grace said in a shaky voice but her Mum smiled.

"I need to rest, please" she said and laid her back on the bed"
"Alright, ma. I will come back to check on you" Grace said and smiled.

Grace and Joshua left the room holding each other.

"It's a blessing meeting you today" Joshua said and smiled at her.

"All glory to God. Josh, how have you been? The situation on the ground didn't allow us to talk better" Grace replied and stared at him without

blinking.

"I am doing fine, Grace. I got a job here immediately after our service but why did you abandon me? I tried all your numbers but they were not reachable" Joshua said and leaned his back on the wall.

"Well, I am sorry about that. My phone was stolen and I was unable to retrieve my sim card" she replied.

"Oh, sorry about that. God is wonderful, I never knew Martha is your sister, we have been together in this office for years but we never met"

"Yes, she is my sister and I am also stunned to see you here, I have been in her office several times but I never met you at all. Although, I also get busy in the office but I do come here once in a while"

"Wow, what a small world. What do you do?" he inquired.

"I am a lawyer and I'm always busy with court issues" she said and smiled.

"Oh, I understand" Joshua said and they both laughed at the same time.

"How's the…" The noise from the ward distracted their conversation.

"Doctor Joshua!" A nurse shouted and rushed to him.

"Yes, what's wrong?" Joshua inquired as the nurse was breathing heavily.

"The woman in the ward you left some moment ago is having difficulty in breathing. She needs your attention, Doctor". Grace and Joshua stared at each other at the same time.

"That is my mum" Grace shouted and they all rushed to the ward.

"You need to excuse me from here" Joshua said. Grace left the room all worried.

Grace was moving to and fro outside her mum's ward, she was unable to see Joshua and her mum because the glass on the door was tinted. She placed her left ear at the door to listen to their conversations but couldn't hear anything, she didn't know what to do whether she should pray for her mum or enter the ward to see what is going on. As she was doing this, Peace sighted her from afar and wondered why she was disturbed. She walked close to her and called her name in a low voice but it wasn't loud enough for Grace to hear as she was lost in her thought.

"Grace" Peace shouted and tapped her on her shoulder. She jerked up and step back a little bit.

"Oh, thank God you are here. Please help me to go inside the ward and check on my mum. It seems something has happened" she said swiftly and pointed her index finger to the door of the room.

"Alright but calm down, please" she replied and used her right hand to rub her back. As she was about to open the door of the ward, Joshua came out and stared at Peace for a while. Grace rushed to the door as she sighted Joshua.

"What happened Josh?" she inquired and was checking the room as if someone was calling her name inside. She wanted to enter the room but Joshua held her right hand. "Why are you holding me? I want to see my mum" she shouted.

"Grace, I am sorry, we lost her" Joshua announced and stared at her without

blinking. Grace was shocked and was unable to move her body. Her eyes were filled with tears.

"Leave my hand, please" she said in a low voice and her eyes welled up with tears. Joshua released her hand gently and couldn't stop staring at her.

Grace walked slowly to the room while Peace and Joshua looked at each other at the same time and followed her.

"Mummy, I am here. What will you like to eat?" Grace said as she was staring at her mother's body on the sick bed. Her tears couldn't stop flowing. "Talk to me, Mummy. I know you must have been hungry by now, you haven't eaten anything since you got to Lagos" she mumbled silently and held her hands.

Peace's eyes were filled with tears as she was staring at Grace talking to her dead mother's body, She walked close to Grace.

"Peace, please help me to wake up my mum it seems she is angry with me" She lamented and stared at Peace but Peace cried out. "Joshua, will you help me to talk to her?" she asked and turned her face to Joshua but he bowed his head to avoid eye contact with her, he was trying to control his emotions. Grace found it difficult to believe her mum is dead. When she realized her mum didn't move her body or reply to her, it dawned on her that her mum is truly dead. She sat on the floor and screamed out.

"It is well, Grace" Peace comforted and tried to lift Grace from the floor but she insisted.
"Nooooo" she cried out and hit her hands on the floor.

IFAGBEMI HOUSE

Ifagbemi sat on a bench in front of his house under the mango tree. He placed

his left hand on his chin and was staring at the hen feeding and protecting her babies, he couldn't stop staring at the hen because it reminded him of his daughter.

"Ifakemi" he whispered silently and breathe out. He was lost in his thought as he remembered his daughter, Awoyemi sighted him from far as he was about to enter his house.

"What is my friend doing there?" he asked and walked close to Ifagbemi. He stood in front of Ifagbemi for him to notice him but Awoyemi was surprised he was lost in thought. He clapped his hands and Ifagbemi cleared his throat as he came back to reality.

"Haha, my friend, when did you get here?" Ifagbemi asked as he was shocked to his bones to see Awoyemi

"Not long, what happened? Why are you so lost in thought?" he inquired and sat down beside him on the bench. There was silence for a while as Ifagbemi was short of words. "You have not been updating me on what is going on with my wife and this made me worried but seeing you lost in thoughts is strange and I am suspecting you"

"There is a problem Awo" Ifagbemi replied and adjusted his posture on the bench.

"A problem? Where?" Awoyemi asked.

"After a lot of trials done by the priests to get my daughter which was not successful and of course, I was happy it was not a success, the chief priest succeeded in giving my daughter the evil water to drink and you also know what that means" Ifagbemi lamented.

"haaa, how did it happen?"

"Kemi was too careless Awoyemi. The chief priest said the only way we can get through to her is her carelessness which has happened. And you know, no one drinks that water spiritually and gets healthy in physical life. And also, Kemi must be here for the treatment in the next 21 days or else she will die" Ifagbemi said and breathe out.

"This is indeed trouble and very serious, have you called her to inform her about it?" Awoyemi asked.

"I wish I could call her too but I have been strictly warned not to call her or inform her about anything. She must come back to us willingly and perform all the rites that will heal her by herself. And I doubt if Kemi will do all those rites not to even talk of coming back home. I hope I will not lose my one and only daughter" Ifagbemi whispered silently and breathe out.

"Ifa will not allow such happen to us, I also do not want to lose my wife. What do you think we can do now?" Awoyemi asked and they both stared at each other without blinking.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

"When are you signing the divorce papers?" Adesola asked as he entered Peace's room, he didn't bother knocking to avoid conversation with her, when he entered the room he was shocked to see Peace studying the scripture.

She was too focused that she didn't know when Ade entered her room, he leaned his body on the wall and waited for her to be done with whatever she was busy with. As he was staring at her for a long, he couldn't stop himself from smiling at her, her beauty captivated him and made him remember his wedding day. He couldn't stop thinking of his good memories with Peace but as soon as he remembered what Peace did to him, he took his eyes off her and tried to control his temper. He found it difficult to believe that Peace could be so cunning and hide such secrets from him.

"This woman thinks she can deceive me by studying scripture. Well, I am not moved, I am quitting this marriage" he thought inwardly and cleared his throat.

Peace got distracted and was stunned to see her husband in her room, he had been in her room for quite a while. The room was for both of them before the incident, Ade packed his clothes from the room and stays in a separate room because of the hatred he has for her.

Both of them were staring at each other without blinking, Ade's clothes got her attention, he was wearing one of the best clothes she likes him wearing. Peace wished she could get close to him and hug him. As she was staring at him, she remembered the memories they shared, how Ade made everyone

around her jealous of their love. She couldn't control her tears and cried out.

"When are you signing the divorce paper?" he shouted. His loud voice brought Peace back to reality.

"My love, please let us settle this amicably" she begged as she went on her knees.

"Are you okay? Me. Your love? I have warned you severally to stop addressing me that way, I am not your love and I am serious about the divorce. I am quitting this marriage" Ade shouted and turned his face to the wall. Peace couldn't control her tears, she stood up and sat on the bed.

"Ade" she said calmly. "I am sorry for all I did, I love you so much, I never wanted to lose you that is why all this happen. I love you and I am not ready to divorce, please forgive me and let us start over" She pleaded.

"You are definitely out of your senses. I am not here to converse with you at all, the divorce papers have been with you now for a month and you refuse to sign them. Why have you not signed the paper?" his resentment towards her grew inside him.

"I can't sign the paper because I still love you. i.."

"Will you shut up!" He shouted and stared at her without blinking. He walked close to her and stared at her intently. "Woman, I regret getting married to you. How dare you hide your past from me, I was sincere in my love for you and opened up to you, how could you do such a thing to me, didn't I deserve to know? I've had enough. I don't love you anymore and I am ready to quit this marriage as soon as possible" he said.
His words hit Peace deep in her heart, she was short of words for a while, her eyes welled with tears. Ade was about to leave the room but Peace rushed to

him and tapped him at his back.

"You mean you regret obeying God? I remember you told me about your convictions before we got married. You said it was God that instructed you to propose which was not what you wanted but you obeyed His will. Please remember how we started, try to understand me, it was not my fault" she cried out and fell to the ground holding his legs. He tried to withdraw his legs from her but she held him tight.

"You pushed me to the wall, you did" he shouted. "I had to know the woman I married from an outsider, you insulted me and made me realize the place I hold in your heart. I am no more in love with you anymore, the best solution for us is to go out separate ways because living together with you makes me develop more hatred for you. See, I am giving you three days to sign that paper. Or else, you will see the other side of me" he hissed with resentment. He pushed her to the floor and slammed the door of her room.

"It is finished" Peace cried out and hit herself on the floor. "I was only trying to protect my relationship that was why I couldn't tell you everything." She shouted and stood up from the ground.
She was moving to and fro in the room like she lost something in the room.

"Jesus, only you can help me. You raised Martha from death and made her live again. Please my home is dying, wake my husband up and touch his heart. I still love him and I don't want to lose him, I believe there is nothing you can not do. Let love and peace reign in this house, have mercy on me, Lord" she cried out with pain in her heart.

Peace kept praying and confessing the Word of God to her home, few hours later, she heard footsteps from far, she knew it was her husband but stood up to check what he was doing. She sighted Ade in the living room moving to and fro in the house, she knew he was disturbed and walked close to him.

When Ade saw her, he hissed and wanted to leave but she held his hand.

"I know I've hurt you, more than I imagine but divorce is not the solution to this situation. Stay close to God and allow Him to lead you" she said and left his hand. Ade couldn't stop staring at her as the word touched his heart.

'And since when did you start being religious? You think pretending to be born again will make me forgive you.

"Ade, I am not pretending. I am now a new creature, I had…."

"I am not ready to listen to your false story" he hissed and left.

"Ade!" Peace shouted as he was walking towards his room but he didn't turn back. As he opened the door of his room, he slipped and his head hit the floor.

"My head!!" Ade screamed and was bleeding. His loud voice alerted Peace.

"Jesus" Peace shouted and rushed to him.

KEMI'S HOUSE

"Impossible! Unbelievable!!" Kemi shouted as she leaned her body against the wall beside the tv. Moses sat in front of her, staring at her as she was talking to herself.

"Oluwakemi, I find it hard to believe the doctor's report too but still, you need to calm down" Moses said calmly.

"Calm down you say. This is foreign to me, a medical doctor. It's a mystery." she said as she walked close to him and sat beside his chair.

"Moses, it is true that some cancers happen only after symptoms develop, some cancer cells grow with the absence of signals and some of them are genetic causes but this particular case is much different. This is chronic lymphocytic leukemia and it affects the white blood cells and tends to progress slowly over many years. It doesn't just happen to a person without its symptoms. The symptoms of it are anemia, bleeding more easily than normal e.t.c and of course, I have been well and okay, I do my checkups every three months and the last time I did it was two weeks ago which showed nothing but sound health. How come? Where and how did I get CLL Chronic lymphocytic leukemia?" She shouted and sat on the floor.

"This is strange but all that you are doing right now is not the solution. All we need do is to pray and be strong in our Faith, it is not your fault all this is happening but Kemi.." he said and cleared his throat. "we have been too careless and allowed the devil to do all this. Remember when I called you and disturbed you to be alert and pray because the enemy is roaring and seeking whom to devour but then, you were so careless and ignored all I told you" he exclaimed and Kemi cried out.
"My dear, crying is not the solution, it is not too late for us to do the right thing and also, you need to be strong in your Faith this time by believing in the supernatural healing of Jesus. Don't be carried away by the situation. Remember, the scripture says we should not worry over anything at all but pray over it" he said and wiped her tears.

"I am sorry I ignored your words those times, I thought you were telling me all those instructions in fear" Kemi stared at him, and her eyes were filled with tears. "Please, I need you with me more than ever" she cried out.

"Of course, we are in this together but then, God needs us to be strong in our faith more than ever. The cancer reports are not for you, my love. Our Father does not tempt anyone by evil, he doesn't use evil to tempt others. We can only be tempted by the desires that trap us. Every perfect gift comes down from the father. This issue is beyond physical and I am sure it comes from the

devil. Kemi, we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against power, against the ruler of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. We will call on God to fight this battle for us. Stand on your feet and let us pray" Moses said and lifted Kemi on the chair, Kemi couldn't control her tears as her mind kept reminding her of the cancer report.

"I need to drink water, please" she said and went to the kitchen.

When she got there, she was staring at the glass cup for a long time, thinking about the effect and causes of leukemia. "I find it hard to believe this" she said and sat on the floor. Her tears choked her and different thoughts were running through her mind, she felt like committing suicide, ending it all there but then, she remembered the Word of God that says I have been crucified with Christ it is no longer I that lives but Christ lives in me.

This was the verse she recited when Moses entered the kitchen to check on her, as she sighted Moses coming close to her, she remembered he has been waiting for him. She stood up instantly.

"What have you been doing here? I heard you crying Kemi" he asked and was staring at her. Kemi couldn't move her body, tears gushed out of her eyes. Moses saw the empty glass and filled it with water, he gave the water to her and the glass cup fell on Kemi's hand because she was shaking.

"Kemi, crying and overthinking will do nothing but harm. The only solution is to pray, be strong in Faith, and keep trusting God for healing. "he lamented and packed the broken glass while Kemi mopped the floor. "I have been waiting for you in the living room for quite a while for us to pray but you are here thinking and crying, you don't need all these. You are no more a baby Christian."

Moses wiped her tears and they both walked to the living room. They held hands together and prayed for hours.

"Thanks so much, Moses. The prayers boosted my faith, I have this unexplainable Peace of mind that God is with us and He will fight the battle for us" she said and sat on the chair.

"You are right. Can you now see crying does not solve anything? Well, I received a message for you" Moses said and cleared his throat.

"Ok, what is that?" Kemi asked.

"Let us check the book of Romans 13;14" he said and smiled.

"Romans 13;14" she inquired and stared at him without blinking. "Let me get my Bible in the room" she said in a whisper and rushed to her room, she came with a brown-covered Bible. She sat on her chair and gave Moses the Bible but he didn't collect it from her.

"No, I want you to read it loud for us" He said and smiled.

"Let the Lord Jesus Christ be as near to you as the clothes you wear, then you will not try to satisfy your selfish desires" Kemi read loudly and stared at Moses. "I don't understand, how does this relate to the present situation?" She inquired.

"Well, that verse struck my mind as we were praying the other time. I am very sure it was the Holy Spirit that laid this in my heart but I will not want you to think it does not relate with the present situation. The verse means a lot and you need to adhere to the instruction, Let Jesus be too near to you as the clothes you wear for you not to fulfill the desires of the flesh. Be careful with your thoughts, don't allow your thoughts to control you but allow the

spirit of God to control you. This is all I can say for now babe" he said and held her hands.

"This is deep. Thanks so much for the message. You are such a wonderful gift from God to me. I can't wait for all this to be over and spend the rest of my life with you. Thanks for loving me the way Christ loved the church" She said and hugged him.

"I love you and there is nothing you can do about it" he teased and they both laughed. "I need to leave now, I don't want to get home late"

"Alright, love. Thanks for today" she said and she stared at him as he stood from the chair.

"All thanks to God. Promise me not to think or cry over this matter when I leave" he whispered silently to her ears.

"I promise, I won't" she replied and beamed as Moses left the house.

CHAPTER TWENTY

"What are you doing, Martha?" Grace shouted.

Martha sat on the bed, she held the picture of Mrs Geofrey and was quiet. Her eyes were filled with tears, her face contorted as though she was struggling not to cry. She was shaking in grief and shook her head sadly. Grace folded her hands on her chest and was staring at Martha's Drama. It was obvious she was sad about her Mum's death. She walked close to her and sat beside her on the bed.

"You don't need all this, Martha. My mum died two months ago and still, you haven't gotten over it. Ever since you left the hospital when you were healed, you stopped going to work, look at how lean you are, you have lost a lot of weight' she said out of concern and held her hands. "It is getting too much, you need to focus on things that matter, sadness is not the solution to all that happened. Cheer up, please. I am not happy with all this" She placed her right hand on her shoulder.

"I killed her" She mumbled brokenly and her voice cracked.

"What do you mean?" Grace stared at her without blinking.

"I feel guilty about her death, Grace. If nothing happened to me, she wouldn't have come here. I know she was hypertensive and I am sure she was shocked to hear the news of my death and that was the cause of her death. I wish I

adhered to all your pieces of advice when you warned me, now, I killed our mother" she shouted and was choked in tears.

"This is the devil lying to you, Martha. You didn't kill Mummy, she died at her own appointed time. The scripture said, it has been appointed for a man to die once, it was Mummy's time and no one killed her. I am sure the devil framed lies to you so that you will be distracted from doing what God wants you to do" She wiped her tears and stared at her. "Martha, I hope you also remember all Mum told us before her death. She was happy about your salvation and told me heaven rejoiced over your life for making such a decision. All you need to focus on now is your relationship with God. Because of your mourning state, you haven't prayed or studied scriptures for two months, Give yourself to God and resist the devil's lies, he is trying to distract you and fill your heart with guilt. I am sure mummy is now in heaven with the Lord, I believe we shall all meet again at the feet of Jesus, so you have nothing to worry about." Grace explained.

"It seems you are right, Grace" she breathe out heavily. "but how did you become so strong after her death? You didn't mourn or cry for long. I was surprised you resumed work after two weeks of her burial. How were you able to do this?" she inquired.

"Well, I was comforted by the Holy Spirit. I was also hurt like you but Holyspirit comforted me and renewed my strength." Grace smiled. She picked up the pillow and rested her back on the bed, Martha gazed at her without blinking.

"How did He comfort you? I don't understand and also, why did I not receive the same comfort?" Martha asked.

"He comforted me with His words which is the Word of God. When Mum died, I was so sad and the news seemed unbearable for me. I left everyone

and went to a quiet place to talk to God, I surrendered myself to be comforted by Him and then He reminded me of a Bible verse which is 1 Thessalonians 4;13-18" she said and smiled. Martha couldn't stop staring at her, she stood up from the bed and picked the Bible on the table.

"Oh, you mean I was not comforted by the Holyspirit because I didn't surrender myself to be comforted by Him?" She inquired.

"Yes, Martha. God is always ready to comfort anyone that comes to Him " she answered back and smiled.

" I need to check those words too" she whispered silently as she picked the bible from the table. "1 Thessalonians what? Kindly tell me the Bible verse again" she asked and gazed at Grace. Grace moved close to her and rested her hands on the pillow.

"1 Thessalonians 4;13-18" she said and stared at Martha as she glanced through the scripture.

"But we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. For this, we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel and with the blast of the trumpet of God, those who are dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive will be caught together with them in clouds to meet the Lord. Therefore, encourage one another with these words" Martha read the verses over and over again and the Holy Spirit ministered to her through the Word. Grace patiently watched her without interruption. "I am truly comforted with these words, Grace" Martha

said calmly and sat on the bed. She returned the Bible to the table.

"Grace, thanks so much for the eye-opener. Now, I believe Mummy is in a great place and we shall see again. The only reason why I wept was that I won't see her anymore but now I realize I have wasted my time grieving like someone that lost hope" Martha said.

"I am glad you understand better, since we believe Jesus died and was raised to life then, we also have to believe that Jesus will raise everyone dead in Christ when he comes back. It is okay to cry but we mustn't grieve like someone that lost hope" They stared at each other for a while and hugged.

"Grace, I also want to know God the way you know Him so well. I will also love to quote scripture like you and inspire others with His words. What can I do, please?" Martha pleaded and held her hands.

"I am glad this is coming out from your mouth, Martha. To know God, all you need do is to seek Him with all your heart. If you seek him with all your heart, you will find him. You will have to devote yourself to consistent prayers and study of the scriptures. By doing all this, I can fully assure you that you will grow spiritually and be closer to God than your imaginations." She replied and Grace stood up. "I need to check on the beans I am cooking, it should be ready by now"

"Oh, let us go together, I also need to drink water in the kitchen" Martha stood up from the bed. They both went to the kitchen.

"When last did you hear about David?" Grace inquired

"Oh, David. You won't believe it if I told you I forgot about him, he hasn't called or sent me a message since then" Martha replied as she was washing the plates.

"Wow, really?" Grace asked and stared at Martha.

"Yes, let's forget about him for now please" Martha pleaded and gave Grace two plates for her to serve the food.

"Okay dear. We will talk about him next time" she said and smiled. "Is that not your phone ringing?" she asked and Martha rushed to the room to pick up her phone.

"what? David?!" She screamed and stared at her phone without blinking.

AT KEMI'S HOUSE

The sound of her phone woke her from sleep, she ignored the calls but Moses never stopped dialing her number.

"Let me pick up his call so he doesn't suspect anything" she whispered silently and answered the call.

"Why have you been ignoring my calls for a week now Kemi?" he inquired.

"I am sorry, I have been busy" Kemi lied.

"Really? What have you been busy with for you to ignore me for a week, I went to your office on Monday and I was informed you haven't been in the office for two weeks. I went to your house and it has always been locked. Kemi, where are you?" he asked in a loud voice. Kemi's hands were shaking on the phone. She knew Moses does not deserve what she did to him and was scared to inform him before she left home.

"I am sorry Moses, it is over between us" she said and cried out.

"What? Unbelievable!! I hope you are not where I am thinking of"

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

"I am in my father's house, I have been here since Sunday, the pains were too much for me to bear. I called my Dad and he suggested I come home for treatment, I couldn't resist him, Moses." She answered back.

"Kemi, what have you done? Despite all we passed through together and all God told us, you finally do things in your way" He shouted and breathe out. "I will be coming to your town tomorrow, pack all your load and let's meet at the bus stop. You have to leave there as soon as possible, I can sense danger and deceit in my spirit. You have…" Kemi didn't allow him to complete his statement.

"I am sorry, Moses. It is too late for me. I was told the gods are angry with me, the cancer was not ordinary it is beyond physical. For me to be healed from this pain, I have to sleep in the deity room and have sex with the demon for seven days and after this, I will have to sing praises and dance to the deity all around the town for seven days" she mumbled and her eyes were filled with tears.

"What??? This must be a dream. Kemi, what did you just say? Are you going back to Egypt, to your vomit? I can't believe this, I can't believe you agree to have sex with a demon for seven days and you will still have to sing praises and dance for the same demon. Can't you see this is deceit and a lie from the devil? Have you forgotten that you must not worship any other gods except the true and the living God? The one that made His son die for your sins and by His stripes, you have been healed, Kemi. Surrender yourself to God and the devil will flee from you. Please don't do this, allow me to pick you out of

the town tomorrow" he pleaded and cried out.

"Moses, I will start sleeping with the deity as from tonight, tomorrow is too late for me. My Dad is right, I belong to the devil because I was born in it. After all the sacrifices, I have to marry the husband the deity choose for me. You are different from me, our background is different. Forget about me, please. Bye" she said and hung up.

"Kemi, No! you can't… hello, hello" he shouted but there was no response. He tried her number but it wasn't reachable "Dear Lord, this burden is too much for me to bear. Please help me" He cried out and stood up from the bed. "I believe there is nothing prayer can not do, God, you have to arrest her heart and open her eyes of understanding" he said and prayed for her.

"I am sorry, Moses" Kemi said and couldn't stop crying as she lay on the bed. She cried till she slept.

"Baba, I can't believe my daughter will come back home after a lot of trials. I so much appreciate you" Ifagbemi said and prostrated.

"All thanks to the devil that made it possible. You know I told you the other day that one of the easiest ways to defeat her is through her carelessness and from there, the devil succeeded in deceiving her and brought her back home. She does not know that nothing is wrong with her. The pain was only there to torment her till she surrenders herself to us willingly. She was the one that opened the door for us to enter because if she didn't open the door for us, we can't succeed in getting her" he said and laughed.

"How did she open the door of her heart, I don't get you, Baba" Ifagbemi inquired.

"She worried a lot and then, the devil was able to convince and deceive her.

Do you know that if she endured the pains for 14 days more, she would have been healed completely and the pains and afflictions will backfire on you but then, all thanks to her for fulfilling her desires" he said and smiled.

"You are right, Baba. I would have been in pain now" Ifagebmi said and bite his index nail.

"Hope she is ready for the sacrifices" he asked.

"Yes, she is fully ready for it" Ifagbemi replied.

"Alright, we will meet tonight at your house"

"Yes, Baba. Thanks so much" he prostrated.

……

"What are you doing here, Kemi?" the voice asked. Kemi found herself in the dark room, she sat there and was crying. She stood up searching for the voice but she couldn't see the person. "You can't see me but I am right beside you, talk to me"

"I don't know how I got here too but I remember I saw someone outside and told me to enter here to ease my pains, I have been sitting here waiting for the healer" she replied.

"Oluwakemi, I brought you out of darkness to the light but still, you allowed the devil to deceive you to this dark room again. You didn't have Faith in me and allowed your situation to control you. There is nothing wrong with you, you have no pain in your body. You carelessly opened the door for the devil to afflict you with sickness. Only if you surrender yourself to me, you would have resisted the devil and he will flee. But now that you stuck yourself in this room, you will experience more pains and afflictions. I don't want you to

go through those pains and that is why I have come to help you. All I need you to do is to surrender yourself to me, the devil will flee from you and you will be healed from all pains. I am waiting for you, Kemi. Surrender" the voice said and Kemi woke up from her sleep.

"Surrender" she mumbled silently. She raised her head and rested her back on the pillow. "It is too late for you to surrender yourself to God, Kemi" she heard the voice in her mind. "Yes, it is too late for me to surrender" She shouted and cried out. The sound of the door distracted her, she hurriedly wiped her tears and stood up to open the door.

"Ifakemi!!" Ifagbemi said as he entered the room.

"Daddy, why are you here?" she shouted.

"It seems I came at the wrong time, what is wrong with you? Are you upset with me?" he inquired and sat on her bed. Kemi leaned on the wall and stared at him.

"I am sorry, I woke up not long and I'm surprised to see you here" she replied.

"Oh, I understand. I am here to remind you that you have 1 hour for the sacrifices. Are you ready?" he inquired and there was silence in the room. Kemi didn't know what to say and remembered her dream then she was lost in thought.

"Kemi" Ifagbemi shouted and his voice brought her back to reality.

"Daddy, I had a dream recently" she said, and squatted beside him.
'What is the dream all about?" He asked and couldn't stop staring at her. Kemi narrated the dream to him and he breathe out.

"After the dream, I am not feeling too good about the sacrifices, I feel like something bad will happen to me" she said.

"Kemi, nothing will happen to you. This tradition is important for you if you don't want to die, you can only sleep and have a nightmare because you are still alive, my daughter. The dream you had is nothing to think about. Not all dreams are meaningful. I will want you to cheer up and stop crying. Everything will be fine" he explained.

"Are you sure Dad?" she asked and wiped her tears.

"I am very sure, Kemi. Trust me, I am your father and I can't want you dead or allow any bad things happen to you" he said and smiled.

"Thank you, sir" she mumbled silently and knelt.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

"Dear Lord, have mercy on me and my husband" Peace shouted and couldn't control her tears, it's been four days her mind has not been stable.

Her husband has been hospitalized for four days and he had not opened his eyes. She did a lot of tests and checkups for him but nothing seem to be wrong with him medically. The fall didn't affect anything on him not even his brain, except that he was injured and it had been attended to.

"What could have happened? Why is he still unconscious? I don't know what to do" She lamented and cried out. Her eyes were filled with tears, she left the hospital in the morning for her Colleagues to continue the treatment with her husband.

Peace stood up from the bed and walked down to the living room, she was pacing and biting her fingernails. She couldn't stop crying, as she was pacing, she saw the picture of her wedding day hanging in a corner of the living room. She walked close to it and could not stop staring. In the picture, she and Adesola stared at each other and smiled beautifully. The picture made Peace remember what happened and why they smiled at the moment, as she remembered the scenario, she laughed even with tears in her eyes.

"I love you so much, Adesola. I am sorry I frustrated you and made you do things you did not plan to do. You are truly the best gift that God gave me, I wish I could go back to when we were still courting and do the right thing but now is too late for that" She mumbled silently and couldn't stop staring at the

picture. "Dear Lord, restore my husband's health and have mercy on him, I don't want him to die. Although he maltreated me but I still love him, it wasn't his fault, I caused it all. I allowed the devil to use my past to destroy my home because of the mistake I made; which is not discussing it with him. I was not sincere with him, instead of me to open up to him, I hide a lot from him. But then, I was not born again, I had not surrendered my life to you. I am sure if I had, I wouldn't have made such a mistake. But now, my eyes are opened and I fully understand that a home that is built only on your foundation will last. Dear Lord, I commit and surrender my home to you, build my home and make it stand in you, I believe in you and I know there is nothing impossible for you. Make my home rise again dear Lord. You showed me different houses in my dream last week, I saw those weak and strong houses with my eyes. Those weak houses looked so beautiful outside but they didn't last. When the rain poured, the flood came and the wind blew and beat against them, they all crashed because they were built with sand, and truly, no house is built with sand that will last. Also, I saw another house which you told me was built on solid rock, rain poured, the flood came and the wind beat against that house but it didn't fall because it was built on solid rock. I know you are the solid rock and everyone who builds their house on you is rest assured. Lord, I stand for my family and pray that you help us with the building. The devil is distracting my husband and this building can not be done perfectly without our unity. The more I try to build, the devil uses him to scatter them all. Lord, heal him and touch his heart. Open his eyes of understanding and make him agree with me in building the house together with you." Peace cried out. She felt the urge to pray and leave the sight of the picture, she prayed in the spirit for a while and ended her prayers with praises.

After her prayers, she remembered she had been calling Martha but her number has not been reachable, she walked to her room to call her.

"What could have gone wrong with her? It is unusual for her phone not to be reachable" she said as she squatted on the bed and picked up her phone. She

dialed her number. "oh, thank God it is ringing" she said smiling.

"Peace Darling" Martha teased as she picked the call.

"Glory to God. Finally, your number is reachable. What is wrong with you, Martha? Why have you not resumed? What is wrong with your phone?" She inquired but Martha laughed. "My questions are not funny, are they?" She asked.

"My dear Peace, see how you bombarded me with questions and honestly, I don't know where and how to start answering them but all I can say is I am doing fine, I'm good. You know about all that happened to me and the shock of Mum's death too. The management gave me 3 months' leave and I am using the opportunity to also grow spiritually, dedicating my time to studying the Word of God and praying. Fellowshipping with God together with Grace has also helped me too, she's such a blessing to me. How is your spiritual life?" Martha asked.

"God has been helping me grow too, my Pastor in the church I now attend is a blessing to me. I can say fellowshipping together with brethren in the church and most importantly, my quiet time with God has been of great help to me too." she replied.

"Wow, that is amazing and I am so happy to hear this. I have a lot of gist for you when I resume"

"I can't wait to have you back at the office Sis. I've missed you"

"Me too. How is your husband?" the question made her silent for a while, she didn't know where and how to explain to her. "Are you here?" Martha inquired and Peace breathe out heavily. "Why did you sigh like that? What happened?"

"Well, My husband insisted on divorce and threatened me to sign the divorce paper which I refused. To cut the long story, he is presently hospitalized because he fell at home" Peace said.

"What? I hope he is doing fine now"

"I believe he will be fine, Martha. All I need from you is your prayers. Keep praying for my home and my husband"

"The Lord will take perfect control of the situation and your husband will be healed in Jesus name. God that has started His good works in you will perfect it in Jesus' name. I am so sorry all this is happening to you, I and Grace will keep praying for you and we will also discuss better when we see. I want to remind you that God is with you even during your trials and challenges, He will never leave nor forsake you. It may seem you are alone but you are not my dear Peace. At this time, allow God to comfort you and keep having Faith in Him, never stop praying too. Trust me, no one puts his or her Faith in God and gets disappointed" Martha exclaimed.

"Thank you so much, dear. I appreciate. How's Grace?"

"Grace is doing fine, she is not at home now because she resumed work. You know they are not much in her bar and she works in a private one. She was given two weeks leave and she has been going to work since then".

"oh, that's fine. My regards to her when she gets home"

"I will convey, take care of yourself, and thanks for calling" Martha said smiling.

"You are welcome, bye" Peace replied and hung up.

Peace stood up from the bed to get dressed up so she can go to the hospital to check on her husband. She walked close to the wardrobe to pick clothes when the sound of her phone distracted her.

"Whose number is this?" she said as she was staring at the unknown number on the phone but the number looked familiar to her so she picked up the call.

"Hello, Doctor Peace. This is Doctor Joshua"

"Oh, I am sorry I don't have this your number"

"Yes, it is my new number. Your attention is needed in the hospital as soon as possible, please" he said.

"What happened Doctor?" she inquired

"It is your husband, you need to come right away"

"What? What happened to my husband?" Peace screamed out on the phone.

"I am expecting you as soon as possible" he said and hung up.

"What happened? Hello… hello…" She opened her mouth wide and dropped her phone on the bed. She hurriedly changed her dress, picked up her phone, and rushed out of the room.

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

A FEW MINUTES LATER

As she entered the hospital, she heard a loud voice of a woman crying. The loud voice distracted her and made her pause for a while.

"What is wrong in the hospital, that woman's voice sounds like Nurse Doyin's voice. Is the cry for my husband? What could have happened to my husband? Why is the woman crying so loud? Why does her voice resemble the Nurse's voice? What could have happened?" Peace asked inwardly as she couldn't move. "Lord, whatever might have happened, I trust you and I believe that my husband will be fine" she prayed inwardly and was lost in thoughts. It was the tap of Nurse Doyin that made her come to reality.

"Doctor, what's wrong? I have been here for a while but you didn't notice" she said and stared at her Peace was shocked to see her and was staring at her without blinking.

"Nurse Doyin, why were you crying too loud the other time? Are you fine?" she inquired and looked at her from head to toe.

"Me? crying? Oh, are you referring to the woman that cried recently? It wasn't me, I only went to tell her to lower her voice. The woman lost her husband not long ago that was why she cried out" Nurse Doyin replied.

"Lost her husband. Where is my husband?" she asked and left Nurse Doyin, she rushed to Joshua's office. She entered his office without knocking.

"Oh, Doctor. Good, you are here" Joshua mumbled.

"Yeah, I am sorry I didn't knock. What happened to my husband please?" she asked and didn't sit down. Joshua offered her a seat but she insisted. "I am not here to sit, please. If I want to, I will go to my office to sit. What's going on?" she shouted.

"Ok, your husband opened his eyes as soon as you left the hospital. I didn't want to disturb you that is why I didn't call you earlier but…" Peace didn't allow him to complete his statement, she was too anxious to know what happened to her husband.

"But what?" she asked.

"Please, be calm and allow me to talk" Joshua said

"I am so sorry, please. What happened?"

"I understand your situation. He has been screaming your name ever since then, he didn't allow us to check him, and he refused to talk to anyone. I had to call you when it got out of hand. I think you need to go in and talk to him but then, he seems to be getting much better" he explained.

"Really? Thank you, Jesus. I will go and see him now" she said.

"Please do, I will be waiting for your report on his health" he said and smiled.

"Thanks so much, Doctor. I will see you soon" she replied and left his office.

Peace rushed to her husband's wardroom and when she got there, she was shocked to see him shedding tears on the sick bed.

"Ade, what is wrong?" she asked calmly and walked close to him.

"Peace, you are here" he replied and tried to raise his head but Peace helped him to rest his back with the pillow. "My love" he mumbled and held her right fingers.

Peace was startled and couldn't believe what she heard, it's been a long while since he called her that sweet name. She smiled and her eyes welled up with tears.

"I am sorry for neglecting you, I was sincerely hurt when I got to know your pasts after marriage, I found it so hard to forgive and let go. I know I have maltreated you but please, forgive me with all your heart and allow this marriage to work again" He said and couldn't stop staring at Peace.

"You didn't offend me, Ade. It was the consequence of my sins. Your love was sincere to me and you never hid anything from me but I was the one that has not been faithful and pushed you to the wall. It was all my fault, I never wanted to lose you and let go of my pasts but when I surrendered my life to Jesus, I learned to let go of my pasts and moved on. I realized He has a beautiful future for me. I thought my future will be nothing to write about but then, Jesus told me His thoughts for me is of good and not of evil. He promised me hope and an expected end. Please, forgive me for all I have done to you, I am now a new person in Christ" she said and knelt.

"I have forgiven you, my love" Ade said and wrapped his hands on her head.

Peace stood up and sat on the chair, she took the water from the table and gave it to Ade to drink. He drank the water and cleared his throat.

"How are you feeling now?" Peace asked and stared at the plaster on his

head.

"I am fine, it is just that I am feeling a little pain in the head" he answered back.

"You will be fine, sweetheart. It is a matter of time" she said calmly and couldn't stop staring at him. "I missed you, Ade. You are the best for me" she teased and smiled.
"I missed you too, love. I am glad to have you back" he replied with a smile.
"Dear Lord, thank you for restoring my home" he said as he raised his head.

"Thank you, Jesus" Peace added.

"I had a dream, love" Ade said almost immediately.

"Really? Tell me about it" she said as she couldn't stop staring at him.

"I found myself trying to demolish an uncompleted building. The more I tried to demolish it, the more I feel pain in my body. After a few hours, I got so tired and thirsty. As I was searching for water, a young lady appeared to me and gave me the water to drink. After drinking it, she ordered me to sit down as she want to discuss it with me. She told me I need to forgive and let go of what is behind me and focus on what lies ahead. She explained to me that the building I have been destroying was my house. The more I destroy it, the more I get more pain. I was shocked and stood up in anger. I stared at the house and when I realized I had wasted my time and energy. I screamed till I woke up" he explained.

"Wow, I am so short of words right now" Peace replied as she couldn't stop staring at him.

"I was like you when I woke up too but when I prayed, the Holy Spirit

explained to me to forgive you and allow peace to reign. The more we grow in love together, the more our building will become beautiful. I couldn't hold my tears when I realized all I did to you. I am sincerely sorry once again and now, I am determined to love you more than your imagination. No matter what will happen" Ade said and held her hands. Peace couldn't stop smiling as her husband's words got to her head, her eyes were filled with tears as she keep thanking God in her heart for restoring her home.

"All I can say is thank you, Jesus. I promise to serve you with all my heart" she mumbled her thoughts out and placed her hand on her chest.

"Now, what did I…" the sound of the door distracted them.

"what! Unbelievable!" Peace screamed as she saw Grace and Martha at the entrance of the door. They stared and smiled at each other when they saw Ade and Peace holding hands.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

"Young man, who are you and why are you here for my daughter" Ifagbemi inquired.

"I am her friend when we were in school, It has been long since I hear from her and I am here to check on her" Moses replied and cleared his throat.

"oh, that is good of you. You must be a good friend of hers" he teased and they both smiled. "you have to sit and wait for her because today is her final rituals and she is very busy"

"what!" Moses screamed out his thoughts.

"why did you scream so loud?" Ifagbemi implored and peered intently at Moses

"Well, I thought, er…. I don't know" he tilted his head quizzically. Moses was confused and disappointed.

"you thought what?" Ifagbemi couldn't understand why the young man was lost in his thoughts.

"I mean, I will wait, sir" Moses replied swiftly

"No problem, you can sit there" Ifagbemi pointed his hand to an empty chair. Moses walked to the chair and squatted while Ifagbemi left.

"I am suspecting that young man" Ifagbemi thought silently as he was staring at Moses. When he waited for a few minutes, he waved his hand to him and left.

"I can't believe this, Kemi did the rituals. Which means she had sex with the demon and worshipped the deity. Unbelievable!" he mumbled and put his index finger to his mouth. He was sad and in deep thought after hours of waiting for her, he got distracted as he saw Kemi reaching toward him, and he stood up instantly.

Kemi was in a white cloth attire with a comic hairstyle, his hands and legs were filled with white and green beads. Moses couldn't stop glancing at her in bewilderment.

"is this the person waiting for me?" she implored and swiveled her face to her father.

"Yes, he has been sitting here for a while now. He said he was your friend and here to check on you" Ifagbemi answered her.

"Okay, what do you want?" Kemi asked and gazed at Moses intently without blinking but Moses scratch his head and furrowed his eyebrows.

"Did she have memory loss or what?" He thoughts inwardly for a moment.

"I said what do you want?" Kemi yelled at him and he came back to reality.

"It is me, Kemi. I mean..it's Moses" he stammered as he was stunned to detect this kind of character from her. He felt like he was in a dream and hoping to snap out of his dream as the whole dilemma seems sophisticated and not making sense to him.

"I know, that is why I asked you what you want" Kemi answered back in an intense voice.

"You mean, you know I…. ok, I want us to discuss in private" Moses swallowed his silver and cleared his throat.

"Us? Discuss privately? For what?" she gasped her throat. "For the last time young man, why are you here? What do you want?" Kemi inquired

"i.. I was... er…" Moses stammered

"I don't know him, please send him away" Kemi said as she turned her face to her father. She hissed and entered the house.

Ifagbemi was carried away with their drama and was short of words. He twirled his face to Moses when Kemi left.

"Young man, you have to leave now. I am sorry she reacted that way, it is because she was coming from the deity room that is why she behaved to you that way" he pleaded.

"All right, sir" he replied and breathe out heavily.

Moses was alarmed and couldn't believe it was Kemi he saw. As he was trying to move his legs, he remembered his memories with her, how they studied the word of God together.

"That's not the Kemi I know!" He murmured and couldn't stop glaring at Ifagbemi's small hut.

Kemi used to love God but Moses is struggling to believe the reality of the present situation. He was lost in his thought but the loud voice of a young lady brought back his sensibility

"Baba" Oosafunke sobbed as she endeavored with her mother's dead body.

"What's wrong with your mum this time again?" Ifagbemi whispered and hurried to meet Funke.

Moses was startled and followed Ifagbemi to meet the lady.
."Young man, please help me to hold her leg" Ifagbemi pleaded to Moses

"Baba, my mum must not die!" Funke grumbled as she walked to and fro beside her Mother's body.

"It seems the deity are angry with your mother and they are not ready to forgive her. I am sorry, your mother is dead" Ifagbemi announced and dropped her mother's hand on the floor where she was laid.

"Nooooo, the deity can not do this to me!" Oosafunke cried out and tore her clothes immediately, she hit her body to the ground, and couldn't stop staring at her mother's body.

She moved close to her and struggled to wake her up. Moses peeked at her and the dead body with pity.

"No, she is not dead" Moses whispered silently and seem like he was lost.

"Young man, what are you still doing here?" Ifagbemi interrupted him.

"Now, I know why God wanted me to be here. I thought it was for Kemi but it was for this woman" he explained and patted Funke on her shoulder. "Stop crying, your mother is not dead" Ifagbemi was peering at him and laughed out loud. Oosafunke stood up instantly as she listened to what Moses

enunciated.

"You mean you can raise my mother from dead?" The young lady implored and stared at him.

"No, but Jesus is capable to raise her from dead" Moses retorted swiftly, as he tried to move his leg, Ifagbemi cleared his throat.

"You must be senseless for saying that, there is no Jesus anywhere and this woman is lifeless and gone. I will never allow you to mislead anyone here. Leave the town now and don't ever show your face anymore" a fresh swell of rage rose in him.

"Baba, please stay out of this. You and your gods can not heal my mother, allow this young man to do what you can't do" Oosafunke's resentment grew inside her like a tumor. "I love my mother, I don't want her to die. If your Jesus heals her, I am ready to do anything you ask for, no matter the amount you charge, I will make sure I get and pay you" Funke pleaded and knelt, her eyes filled with tears.

"Please, Stand up and stop crying" Moses lifted her and walked to the dead woman, he held her right hand. His hands were trembling as he touched her dead body.

"Rise and be healed in Jesus' name" Moses said and the woman's body moves. She stood up on the ground hale and healthy.

Oosafunke and Ifagbemi were astonished, they peeked at each other at the same time, Funke walked backward a little bit as she sighted her mother rise on her feet, she used her hands to wipe her face, it was like a nightmare to her, it was her first time to witness a such miracle. As her Mother stepped close to her, she swiftly threw sand at her, she believed if she is a ghost, she will

disappear but nothing of such happened. She hugged her mother and couldn't stop shouting.

Ifagbemi couldn't believe what happened, it was like a drama to him.

"This is impossible!" he shouted and couldn't stop staring at Moses. "Young man, who are you? A demon or devil? Because no one in the world is more powerful than the devil itself" he interrogated.

"You are mistaken, sir" Moses said confidently. '
"Only Jesus is the most powerful one both in heaven and on earth. And he has put everything under our power" he replied with composure. Ifagbemi glared at him without blinking.

"Sir, thank you for saving me" the woman said softly with tears in her eyes. "I never know I will survive today but please I have a question to ask you"

"You can go ahead, ma" Moses answered back without hesitation

"How many days, weeks, or months will this healing last?. It always occurred to me after seven days of healing" she implored and couldn't stop glancing at Moses.

Ifagbemi couldn't bear to keep watching Moses, he angrily left and rushed to his house like a person hunt by invisible.

"Mama!" Moses held her hands. "You are free from sickness. Whoever Jesus sets free, they are free forever" he replied and smiled.

"This is incredible, it seems this Jesus is more powerful than our gods" Oosafunke sobbed. "Sir, how much will it cost us to see this Jesus?" she

inquired and they all focused attention on Moses's eyeball.

"it will cost you your lives" he responded and they were both stunned.

"Our lives? You mean we will have to die" Funke questioned.

"Yes, but not physical death, you have to be dead to sin and alive in Christ"

"what do you mean by physical death?" Mama Funke asked.

Moses preached the gospel to them and they both surrendered their lives to Jesus, he collected their numbers for follow-up as he may not be able to visit the village anymore. The whole village heard about the incident, most of them were angry with Moses's deeds while few of them were happy and ready to serve the living God.

The presence of Moses was a huge blessing for those who accepted the life of Christ but the priests and most people who were ignorant were bittered and had the plans to kill Moses whenever he entered the village again

KEMI'S ROOM

"That was Moses!" Kemi cried out.
"I shouldn't have denied him" She hit herself on the ground and tears filled her eyes. "I warned him not to come here, he should have left me but now, he has created a spectacle for the villagers which they will never forget. I missed Moses, I truly do but if I don't do what I did. I would have died" she kept talking to herself and couldn't control her tears as she remembered how kind Moses treated her.

"Kemi! Ifakemi!" ' Someone screamed her name which made her carelessly

wipe her tears and walked close to the door.

"Who is that?" she replied the voice.

"it is me, Ifakemi. Please come out to see your Father…. I don't understand what happened to him" The unknown person answered back in a shaky voice.

"what happened to my Dad?" she yelled and scrambled out of the room.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

"I am amazed to see you both here today" Peace said and stood up from the chair. Martha and Grace keep smiling at each other.

"I called your number before leaving home but it has been busy. I had to call Doctor Joshua to verify if you are around but he informed me you are in the hospital with your husband. Luckily, Grace was at home and agreed to be here together with me" Martha whispered and smiled.

"I am glad to have you both here" Peace said in a soft voice and hugged them.

Grace couldn't stop glaring at Peace's husband. She was trying to remember his name but her dialogue with Peace distracted her to remember. Peace squatted beside her husband on the bed while Martha and grace crouched on the two empty chairs beside the bed.

"Darling, meet my friends, Martha, and Grace" she said and pointed her index finger at them. Adesola couldn't stop staring at Grace, her name and face reminded him of who she is.

"Grace, I can't believe I will meet you here" Ade said and adjusted his body on the bed. He glanced at her without blinking. "it is me, Adesola, Do you remember?" he muttered silently.

"My God! I have been trying to recall your name but I seem to forget. What a small world!" Grace said as they both stared at each other and smiled.

Martha and Peace seem lost and gazed at them.

"Do you know my husband?" Peace inquired.

"Yes, babe. He is someone I should not forget' she answered back and smiled.

"oh, someone you should not forget? I don't…" She stopped and peered intently at Grace without blinking.

"You remember when we were in school" Grace whirled her face to Martha and she nodded her head positively and stared at her with curiosity.
"I was in my first year in school when I met him, I remember he told me he was a 300l student then, he preached the gospel to me. Although, I thought I was a Christian he made me understand the part of being saved and growing spiritually. We only met maybe thrice in school before he graduated and left the school" Grace mumbled and smiled at Peace.

"Wow, it is indeed a small world" Martha retorted.

"I am glad to hear this, I can't believe Grace knows my husband" Peace whispered.

"I also didn't know I will ever meet her anymore or she will be your friend, darling" ' Ade said and couldn't stop smiling. "All glory to Jesus, I am glad to see you again" he said.

"Me too, I am not only glad to see you but happy to know you are my friend's husband" She teased and they all laughed.

"Anyway, from the look of things it seems everything is now favorable with you and your husband" Martha said and stared at Peace.

"Yes, dear. Jesus took control of the whole situation and restored my home. I was also shocked too and it was all beyond my imagination. Truly, it is good to serve a faithful God" She smiled and held her husband's fingers.

"you are right, my love. It seems they also know our story" Ade teased and smirked at Peace.

"Yes, love. Meet Doctor Martha, she is my friend and colleague here in this hospital. I don't need to introduce Grace to you because you guys already know each other but she is a sister to Doctor Martha" Peace grinned and Martha leaned her head to greet him.

"Glad to meet you, Doctor" Ade muttered.

Martha and Grace were short of words and couldn't say anything but glance at the two love birds.

"I allowed the devil to control my thoughts, I found it difficult to let go and forgive my wife but I am grateful to God for restoring my home. If not for all that happened, Peace is the best gift of God for me, she is a lady any man could pray to have, and my proverb 31 spec" He flickered his eyeball and they all giggled.

"Before and after we got married, I had peace of mind not until what happened disturbed my peace. I am glad I didn't lose her despite the storms. My love" he stared at Peace without blinking and held her hands.

"Thanks for not agreeing with the divorce, thanks for hanging in there and allowing the holy spirit to restore our home. I promise to build our beautiful house together with you and love you the same way Christ Loved the church" he confessed and hugged her. Peace's eyes were filled with tears but within her she was excited.

"I am glad this marriage is renewed with the fact that I am saved too not like when you were the only one growing spiritually. I am so happy to be in this marriage with you and I am blessed to have you, my love" She retorted.

"This is sweet and wonderful" Grace said and Martha nodded his head positively to Grace's statement.

"We thank God for his enormous gift, which is to be saved. I am…" Martha couldn't complete her statement as the sound of her phone distracted them, she hurriedly picked it out from her purse and was stunned to see the name that appeared on her phone screen. "David!?" she yelled and stared at Grace. She silenced her phone and put it back in her bag.

"We are glad to see you both and how are you feeling now?" Grace starred at Ade.

"I am feeling better apart from the scar" he pointed his finger to his forehead. There was plaster in it and it was as a result of the injury.

"it will heal up soon and you will be fine" Martha said and smiled.

"thanks so much for coming, I appreciate you both" Peace mumbled and giggled, exposing her white teeth.

"it seems we have to leave now, I need to work with some files at home" Grace announced and they both stood up from the chair.

"All right, dear. When are you resuming back to work" Peace twirled her face to Martha and glanced at her.

"Next week Monday" she replied with a smile.

"All right, see you next week, and thanks so much for coming. I will call you guys later"

"I appreciate you both" Ade said and waved his hand to them. Peace sees them off to the door.

"Are you not hungry?" Peace asked.

"Yes, I am but I will like to discuss something with you before you leave"

"Okay, what is that?" Peace inquired and couldn't stop blinking her eyes while staring at her husband's eyeball.

"I don't want you to worry about the condition of your womb. I know you are a medical doctor but there is nothing impossible for God to do, he promised Sarah a child in her old age and she later gave birth to Isaac, he made Mary, a virgin to be pregnant and safely gave birth to Jesus. Jesus made Peter walk on the water and he did a lot of countless miracles. Whether we have a child or not, I will keep loving you and serve the faithful God. I will not want you to worry about anything but to keep trusting God, it is not his will for us to go through this but he will surely make a way for us and give us Children at his own appointed time" Adesola mumbled and his words comforted Peace, she was short of words and hugged him.

"Thanks for everything, my love" She said and they both smiled.

As Grace and Martha were about to step out of the hospital door, they sighted Doctor Joshua coming towards them and they patiently waited for him.

"Hello, Doctor. Trust you are doing great" Martha asked and they shake hands.

"Yes, I am. I am glad to see you both here today. Gracie, how are you doing?" he smiled at Grace

"I am fine, Joshua. Thanks so much for the other day, I have not been a chance to appreciate you after we left here the other day.

"All thanks to God. You?" he starred at Martha. "are you back to work?"

"Oh, not yet but will resume on Monday" she answered back.

"All right, I will be looking forward till then. Let's go to my office" he stared intently at both of them.

"Oh, no. we have to leave now, Joshua. We will visit someday again" Grace retorted

"No problem. You guys should take care of yourself, I also need to leave now. Patients are waiting" he replied with a smile.

"All right, bye"' Grace and Martha echoed together and waved hands. They walked down to their car which was parked close to Doctor Joshua's car.

"why are you not moving?" Martha asked as she couldn't stop staring at Grace, they have been in the car for five minutes but Grace was staring at her without saying a word.

"I am waiting for you to tell me why you have been ignoring David's calls" she exclaimed.

"Oh, I have no explanation about that. It is just that whenever he called, he reminded me of my past and I am trying to avoid him" she retorted.

"Martha, are you sure you have not been harboring resentment in your heart?" she inquired.

"why will you say that?" she inquired and tried to avoid eye contact with Grace.

"I noticed those looks on your face whenever he called most especially when we were in the kitchen that day, you hissed and switched off your phone to prevent his calls. All these reactions are nothing but anger, my dear. You need to stop all this. Don't forget the book of Colossians 3:13 that says we should bear with each other and forgive one another, if anyone offends you, you have to forgive as the Lord forgave you" She mumbled silently and held her left hand, starred at her without blinking. Martha couldn't control her tears.

"it is unfair, Grace. I do not like to feel the way I am feeling right now. Whenever he calls, it made me remember all that happened between us and the fact that I was deceived by him despite all my sacrifices. It hurt me most, and made me feel like a fool and loser" she cried out.

"I understand, my love. You are not a loser or fool, those feelings are lies of the devil. It is not easy but you have to forgive and forget what lies behind. I am not saying you should get closer to him again but want you to forgive him with all your heart. I believe there is a beautiful future for you. It is okay, stop crying." She moved her body close to her and wiped her tears with a handkerchief.

"Thanks, darling. Let's go home" Martha said and they both smiled. Martha's phone rang loudly and she jerked in fear.

"I was startled" she said as she put her hand on her chest. "who is the caller?"

she inquired and picked her phone from her bag.

"Pick your call, customer care" Grace teased and they both laughed.

"oh, it is an unknown number" she said as she stared at her phone and picked up the call.

"Hello, Martha" Martha glared at Grace as she heard the caller's voice.

"David!" she snapped and couldn't stop staring at Grace.

"Yes, Martha. Please do not hang up the call" David responded swiftly and pleaded. Grace put her hands together and pleaded with Martha silently to hear from him.

Martha did not know what to do, she wanted to shout and speak out a lot of negative things to him but she can't explain the feeling that prevented her from doing that.

"how are you doing, David?" she mumbled softly with tears in her eyes, she didn't believe she could ask such a question, she was sure it was the holy spirit that took control of her bitterness. David was also shocked to hear such from her. Grace smiled at Martha and wiped her tears.

"Please, I need to discuss this with you physically, I will be happy if you will allow me to meet you again" he said in a low voice.

Martha stared at Grace and she nodded her head positively.

"Okay, where do you want us to meet?" she inquired.

"I can come to your house in the next two hours if you will be available"

"My house? I don't think that is a…" Grace made an obvious and silent sound with her mouth which made Martha agree to meet David

"All right, I will be expecting you" she answered back and hung up.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

IFAGBEMI'S HOUSE

"Daddy, how are you feeling?" Kemi's eyes appeared larger than usual, her head pounded with tension.

She has been disturbed ever since her Dad was sick, she has not been eating well for days now because his Dad's illness keeps getting worse daily.

"Daddy, you must not die now" Ominous thoughts squirmed at the back of her mind. Ifagbemi couldn't stop staring at her face, as if he knew her thoughts. He slowly tapped Kemi's hand, his cold hand made her jerked up as she was lost in thoughts.

Ifagbemi has been in sick bed for a few weeks, he slumped on the floor in his room after getting dressed to attend one of his meetings. His health condition get worse daily, he refused to go to the hospitals for treatment and warned her daughter not to treat him medically, for days, he recited incantations and hoped to get better with charms, other priests in the town also checked on him and tried all their best to heal him but their effort proved abortive.

He was covered with a white wrapper on his sick bed, his heart beats stubbornly within his pigeon's chest, and his skin was so fragile. The open eyes were not focused but moved randomly, white, obscured with cataracts so completely that you can tell his eye's color, his hair was wispy over his scalp which shows signs of pressure sores. He could feel the weight of his body because of pain, his body was so weak that he found it difficult to breathe and talk better.

"Daddy" Kemi turned her face to him and her eyes were filled with tears. "you haven't eaten anything for two days now. Please try to drink this Pap"

She pleaded and stared at the Pap beside her father's bed. Ifagbemi held her right hand tightly and coughed.

“I am in serious pain, my daughter” he said softly and his eyes were filled with tears.

“I know, Daddy. You stopped me from treating you medically, it is a shame for me as a medical doctor to keep staring at you as you groaned in pain. Please allow me, Dad. This is unfair” she yelled and couldn't control her tears.

“Give me the pap to drink,” he said to avoid her from being worried.

Kemi's hands were frailty and cautious shaking gently as she reached for the hot pap, it was obvious she was nervous and worried. She moved close to her Dad to lift her to drink the pap but he couldn't stop himself from screaming in pain.

“Dear daughter, I want to be like this for a few minutes before drinking the pap” he said in a shaky voice.

Kemi nodded in tears and wanted to rest his back with the pillow but he didn't allow her, he held her hands tightly to disapprove.

“I want to rest my head in your hands, it felt warm” he said with teary eyeballs.

“no problem, Daddy” she retorted and couldn't stop staring at him without blinking.

“I have a lot to tell you, my daughter, but unfortunately, I don't think I will be

able to discuss much with you now”

“Daddy, you don't need to stress yourself to talk now. Save your energy, we'll talk better when you feel better” she replied.

“Ifakemi” he breathes out heavily. “I am not sure if I have enough time anymore but I will love to discuss some important things with you now”
“important things? Your health is more important than the discussion. Daddy, please I will love to hear the important things later. Please stop making me nervous” Her eyes were filled with tears, she was breathing heavily and tried to hide her tears.

“My daughter, I wish I could… I….” he coughed and couldn't complete his statement.

“Daddy!” Kemi shouted and rushed to the kitchen to get a cup of water. “What! Daddy!” she screamed and dropped the water on the floor as she was shocked to see her father vomiting blood. “I warned you to stop talking, Daddy. This is unfair” she yelled and couldn't stop crying. Her father couldn't stop staring at her and breathed out heavily. Kemi noticed changes in his body and realized he has stop breathing. “no! Daddy! Somebody help!” she screamed out heavily and couldn't stop hitting her fingers on the floor.

As she rushed out to call any of their neighbors, she saw a lot of priests in front of her house, they were all in white and bend their heads to the ground. She couldn't stop staring at them, her brain stuttered for a moment and every part of her paused while her thoughts catch up with the reality. The chief priest noticed her presence and he raised his head.

“don't be surprised, Ifakemi. We have been here before your father breathe his last, we are all aware he will be dead today, and I am sure your father was

fully aware too but it is our custom to be here before his death and leave here with his dead body. We have to perform rites for his body for seven days for him to rest in peace" The Chief priest explained.

Kemi could feel the weight of her body in her leg because she was unable to move or say a word, her eyes were filled with tears, and was difficult for her to cry out loud, her mouth and lips were shaking and moving. She found it difficult to believe her father is gone. She remembered her memories with her father, and tears gushed out of her eyes.

"Take heart, Ifakemi" The chief priest murmured. He tapped the two priests beside him and communicate to them by rolling his eyeballs which means, they should go inside and bring out Ifagbemi's dead body.

They went inside and did what they were commanded to do. As they brought out his body, Kemi wanted to hold his father's dead body but two women rushed to her and stopped her.

"Haaaa" she screamed and struggled to rescue her body from the women's hands but they held her tightly.

MARTHA'S HOUSE

"Wow! This is an amazing story!" Grace smiled and folded her arms.

"I am happy for you" Martha said and couldn't stop staring at David, she smiled and tried to hide her pain but her eyes gushed out tears as she blinked. She stood up but David held her right hand.

"Martha, I am sincerely sorry for all I did to you, I know I don't deserve to be here and plead for forgiveness but I am deeply sorry I hurt you, please

forgive me with all your heart" he murmured and knelt before her. Martha covered her mouth with her left hand to avoid crying out loud.

"This is unfair!" Martha cried out. Grace stood up from her sit and walked close to her sister, she lay her hand on her shoulder and wiped her tears.

"Let it go, my darling. I am sure the Lord that started his good work in you will continue till Jesus comes. Everything will be fine, it might seem too harsh now and I understand how you feel but you have to forgive him and let go of the pains, pasts, and bitterness" Grace smiled at her but Martha caressed her and cried out.

Martha wiped her tears and left the sitting room without saying anything, Grace and David stared at her till she vanished from their sight. David's eyes were filled with tears and punched his hands on the table.

"You don't need to worry, David. She will be fine" Grace whispered.

"Thank you, Grace. Please help me to beg her, I sincerely wish I could turn the time to when we were together for me to make amendments to my mistakes but unfortunately..." His eyes were filled with tears and his lips were shaking.

"It's okay, I am sure she was being emotional and it's understandable. It seems you'll have to leave now, she will call and talk to you later"

"All right, thanks so much for today" he stood up and left the house.

Grace locked the door and went to meet Martha, she wasn't shocked to see her eyeballs filled with tears and red. She walked close to her slowly and hugged her.

"It's okay, Martha" she said and caressed her back.

"I don't know why it seems difficult to forgive and let go" Martha shouted and couldn't stop crying.

"I understand how you feel right now but my dear, you have to submit your pains to Jesus and allow him to carry it for you, you can only have peace and rest in him. Matthew 11:28 says, Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Don't give room to unforgiveness or bitterness. Remember, when Jesus forgives all your sins too, he did it for you to forgive David also. Once you submit your pains at his feet, it will be easier for you to forgive" She smiled at her and wiped her tears but Martha's tears seems unstoppable. "Stop crying, please. You know I don't like seeing you in tears"

"Thank you so much" She sniffed and her voice was shaking.

"It's fine, dear. I will leave you now for you to talk to God." She said and Martha nodded her head positively, wiping her tears with her hands.

Grace left the room, Martha couldn't stop glancing at the door of her room. She rested her back on her pillow and the memories of her and David flashed to her sight like a movie. After a few minutes of water work, she knelt and stretched her hands.

"Dear Lord, I submit my pains at your feet, it's too much for me to bear. David hurt me, and my body find is endeavoring to forget the pain. Please help me, I don't want to harbor bitterness in my heart, I want to be free from the pain in my heart. Heal me, Lord." She continued in prayers till she slept.

JOSHUA'S HOUSE

“Joshua! Where are you?” Mrs Faith Screamed, she searched for his son everywhere in the house but couldn't find him. “But, he told me he will be home today. Or did he go out without informing me?” she thought inwardly and bite her fingers. “no, I don't think so. Let me check him outside” She replied her thoughts. “what! What is wrong with him?” She whispered silently and couldn't stop staring at Joshua.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

Joshua was wearing a white round-neck top and a pair of short trousers which convinced his mother that he will not be going out, Mrs. Faith watched him for a few minutes to know what he has been doing outside but she was shocked to see his son's eyes flared with excitement. He was staring at the sky and couldn't stop smiling.

Mrs Faith walked close to him but Joshua lifted his arm and closed his eyes as he prayed silently, after that, he jumped up and walked with a bounce in his step. As he swiveled his face, he was shocked to realize his Mum has been watching him.

“Mummy!” he shouted and place his hand on his chest. “I was startled, when did you get here?” he was beaming like a personal assistant when the boss is on holiday. He couldn't hide his excitement.

“Well, I have been here for a few minutes, but wait, what's the wearing of this white top? Why have you been smiling here? What's going on?” She winked and smiled at him. Joshua was not a lover of white color, but have a lot of it because of his profession. It has been a long he wore a white dress at home, this was why his mum questioned him.

“Actually.. i.. ehmm” he stammered but couldn't stop smiling, he felt like his voice was cracked but his mum noticed his twinkling eyes.

“I am sure it is a good thing, so, spit it out. I want to be happy too” she teased and they both laughed.

“Okay, Mummy. It was about that my friend I told you about” he said and

couldn't stop staring at his Mum.

“Which of your friend?” she place one of her fingers on her lips. “oh, you mean Grace?” she inquired. Joshua narrated all that happened in the hospital the day Martha was saved from death.

“yes, ma. I remember I told you we were close friends before we lost our contact. But after we met again, I have been having strange feelings for her Sister, though, we have been together in the hospital as a friend and co-workers and I have never had such kind of affection towards her. A few months after the incident, I thought I was only feeling empathy about what happened to her but now, I realized it is beyond empathy” he explained and sat down on the chair next to his Mum

“wow, that is fine but what is God saying about this your strange feeling” she stared at him and smiled.

“though I haven't seen any vision or dream about her but whenever I talk to God about Martha, there is always this peace that is beyond my understanding. I keep wondering why I never had such feelings for her all this while. I am still praying about her but I am convinced she is the one for me. We have been having a serious conversation after the incident, we discussed the purpose and I am surprised when she came up with the plan God has put in my mind for a long time to do for him” he adjusted himself on the chair and cleared his throat.

“Okay, what's that?” she asked and looked at him with curiosity.

“The Lord told me to do medical outreach yearly, reaching out to people for Christ, enlightening them about their health, free consultation, and supernatural healing for those who have terminal diseases. I was shocked when Martha told me that she is presently writing a book about people

understanding their health and supernatural healing, she told me God led her to me for us to work about it together, this is part of my conviction, Mummy" he explained and rested his back on the chair.

"Wow, this is amazing. I am glad to hear this, my son. I want you to understand that choosing a partner doesn't have to do with dreams or hearing a loud voice that, this is your wife. But God has given every one of us the power of choice, you can choose right or wrong but what differentiates a child of God from unbelievers is in the book of Proverb 3:6 which say In all your ways submit to God, and he will make your path straight. Importantly, Submission to Christ differentiates us from unbelievers. This was my mistake when I was single, I got married to your father because of emotions, I didn't submit my emotions to God and you can also see what happened which I never wanted you to go through. When it comes to choosing a partner as a child of God, submitting to him is important, because if you don't submit, your path can't be straight. Then, lean, trust, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart will not make you lean in your understanding or do things in your way. I am sure you were unable to notice her because you didn't submit your emotions to God, if you remember, you once told me you got distracted by loving a lady that later turned down your proposal. I am glad she did because if she didn't, maybe you would have been wasting your time and not aligned with God's will. I am proud of you, my son" She smiled at him and hugged each other.

"you are right, Mummy but I need clarity about something. I noticed ever since I was intentional about my relationship with God, a lot of things have changed about me, I find myself doing the right thing at the right time, things I was blind to become clearer, and things work out well for me, and there is always Joy and peace"

"yes, it has to be like that because that is the kind of life God created you to live, a life full of joy and peace. Even when there are circumstances, he

wants you to rejoice and understand he has overcome the world for you. Let's check Romans 12:2 and I want you to read it loud for us" Joshua picked up his phone, and open his bible application.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing, and perfect will. This is deep" he exclaimed and nodded his head positively.

"Yes, it is. You were able to discern and align to God's will because you do not conform to the pattern of the world, I mean you didn't live your life in a worldly way, it's worldly to see fornication as a normal thing, it is worldly to be ruled by emotions, and many more. But because you allow the spirit of God to rule your life, submitting to Christ, renewing your mind by studying scriptures and listening to messages, or reading spirit-filled books transformed your mind and help you to discern his perfect will for your life. Do you understand now?" She grinned.

"wow, I understand perfectly now" he put his hand on his lips and nodded his head.

"Good, so, have you talked to her about your intentions?" She inquired

"not yet, ma. I am planning to tell her physically at work on Monday" he retorted and rubbed his neck with his fingers.

"All right, I will be looking forward to her reply too" she teased and they both smiled.

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

IFAGEMI'S HOUSE

"it is finished for me, my Dad is dead. There is no hope of living anymore" Kemi's eyes were filled with tears, she tried to scream but she was choked with tears. "Daddy, why will you do this to me? You shouldn't have died, where will I start from? Who will I look up to? I am alone and I doubt if I will survive without you" She couldn't stop staring at her father's grave. She hit her body with her hands and her tearstained face was puffy and swollen with grief.

After a few hours of waterworks, her eyes were shining with the threat of tears. She could feel the weight of her body in her legs, she was walking slowly and staring at the sky as she couldn't stop remembering the memories of his father. It was as if she could see her father appear to her in the sky.

"Kemi! Kemi!" Funke shouted from afar but Kemi's mind has traveled far away, she ran close to Kemi and still, she didn't notice her but when she tapped her shoulder.

Kemi breathe out heavily and stared at her with wide-open eyes which seems impossible to shut, it was like the whole world crumbled around him, she couldn't move her body, she was in total paralysis without realizing what will happen to her body, and she almost fell from her shock but Funke grasped her.

"you are not looking good, Kemi. I will take you home" She said, and helped her to walk little by little till they got home. Kemi insisted to sit under the tree in the house's backyard.

"Oosafunke, thank you so much," Kemi said in a low and tiny voice, she rested her head on the chair and couldn't stop staring at the sky.

“you are welcome, Kemi. Firstly, I will appreciate it if you'll stop calling me that name, my name is now OLUWAFUNMIKE [God gives me care]“ Kemi was shocked and rolled her eyeball to Funke, she beat her chest with her right hand and coughed. Funke dashed to the house to get her water and she drank it.

“what do you mean by that?” she inquired and stared at her with curiosity.

“Okay, I am confident to say I am now a child of God. There was a man that came here two or three years ago to see you, when left your house I met him on the way and she prayed for my mum and she was healed. If you remember, the news spread everywhere in the town, and all the priests decided to kill the man if he ever appear on his face again.” She said and stared at Kemi's eyes ball for a few minutes, waiting for her to remember the story.

“Oh, the man.. you mean that man that said he was my friend” Kemi pretended and swallowed her throat.

“Yes, his name is Moses”

“yes, oh.. I mean he said so that day” Kemi's voice changed and she speak faster, rubbed her neck with her hand, and avoided eye contact with her.

“He was the one God used for me and my mother. He preached the gospel to us and we are now born again. He never gives up on checking on us through calls and messages. But when I got to school, I was able to grow spiritually because of the church I attend. When I heard about the death of your father, I was sad and have to come home because of you” she smiled.

“Oh, that is nice. Thank you” she responded and turned her face away from her as she remembered her relationship with God, that life was more

peaceful than the one she is living, many times, she wish she could die because she believed death is the end solution to the problem of her life. “it is three years now” she thought inwardly but didn't know her thought was loud enough for Funke to hear.

“what do you mean?” Funke replied to her thought.

“I mean it is three years now that I have been in this Bondage” she replied. Kemi thought she was talking to herself but forgot that Funke was with her.

“Bondage? What does that mean?” Funke held her hands but she jerked up in response and reality dawned on her.

“Oh, I mean. It is… I.. my Father's… I mean I remembered his last words” She had a lump in her throat and was blinking away the tears.

“Kemi, I have a lot to tell you. I understand your pains right now and I am sincerely praying for you. I want you to know that Jesus still loves you and he is patiently waiting for you to return to him because it is never too late for you” She wiped her tears but Kemi withdrew her hands from her.

“it is late already, Funke. I have gone too far and I can't go back anymore. And please, I will not want to continue this conversation anymore” She yelled and turned her face to the other side but Funke walked close to her.

“The Lord said, I should remind you that he didn't die for the righteous but for sinners to repent, he is waiting for you to go back to him, he will never cast you out. No matter how far and deep you think you are in sin. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow, though they are red as crimson but if you go back to him, they shall be like wool. Jesus is ready to bring you out of darkness to his marvelous light. Please kemi” she pleaded and couldn't stop staring at her.

Funke words touched her, it was like her wounded sore was opened, she wish she could go back to Christ but remembered how she slept with the demon, and a lot of terrible things she did. The chief priest told her she is no longer an ordinary being anymore because the demon that slept with her resided in her. The word Impossible screamed out of her head.

“Impossible!” she shouted and her eyes were filled with tears. She stood up but Funke held her hand.

“I understand how annoyed you are right now but I have another message for you. Moses always asks of you from me but when I told him about your father's death, he..” Kemi couldn't allow her to finish her statement.

“wait, which Moses are you talking about” she stared at her without blinking.

“The man we talked about recently. He said, I should tell you those messages I delivered earlier and lastly, he is waiting for you and ready to continue the relationship from where you both stopped.”

“What!” Her heartbeat got increased and she couldn't move her body.

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

Martha was walking to and fro in the room, few minutes after moving around she squatted on the bed and stared at her mirror for a long time without saying anything. Grace entered and called her name but she didn't reply, she rested her body on the wall and watched her friend, she seems to be worried but didn't want to interrupt her privacy.

“I hope I will not regret this decision” Martha mumbled and couldn't stop staring at the mirror, she put her index finger in her mouth and was bitting it.

“Are you still thinking about our yesterday's discussion?” Grace whispered calmly to her ear and Martha breathe out heavily and gave her a quick nervous glance. “oh, I can see that you are bothered about it” Grace nodded her head and crouched behind her

“Babe, to be candid with you, I have prayed and am fully convinced to say YES to Joshua but I….” Grace held her hands for her not to complete her statement

“You are nervous, you have already told me this sentence uncountable times since yesterday. I can hear the slow, dragging beat of your heart. Thank God you are a medical doctor, I don't need to lecture you about hypertension. You have to calm down o” she smiled and they both laughed. “why are you nervous, dear?” she stared at her without blinking but Martha swallowed her throat.

“I keep asking myself questions like, what if it will not work out between us? What if what happened in my past relationship happened again? My heart is nervous for heartbreak” she said and stood up from the bed, resting her body on the wall.

“Okay, I understand how you feel right now. But you are not meant to judge your future because of what happened to you in the past. The scripture says in the book of Philippians 3:13 I do not consider that I have made it on my own, but one thing I do is forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead. This is what you are meant to do, forget your past and move on to the best future God has prepared for you. We both prayed about Joshua and I am convinced about him too, it is close to two months since he proposed but you haven't reply him which is unfair. I think you need to pray against the spirit of fear because it's not from God but from the devil and one of the strategies the devil uses to distract the child of God to align to God's will is the spirit of fear. God didn't give us the spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind. Deal with that foul spirit for it not to distract you, don't give fear a chance at all. Don't allow your emotions, and pasts to rule over God's Spirit in you.” Grace explained. Martha couldn't stop staring at her because the word hit her deeply.

“Thanks so much, my love. Can we pray together now?” Martha said and Grace nodded her head positively. They held hands together and prayed.

Two hours later after the prayers, they rested their body on the bed.

“wow, the fear disappeared and there is an unexplainable peace in my heart now” Martha said and couldn't stop staring at Grace.

“I am glad you are feeling better and I hope you will do the right thing soon” she teased and they both laughed together.

“I will reply him on Monday at work” Martha whispered silently and smiled.

“well, your smile has assured me it will be a positive response” Grace winked and grinned but Martha breathe out heavily. “what is it again?” she

inquired but Martha raised her head.

“I will miss you, babe. You will be leaving me in the next three months. It's so painful but I am happy for you”

“look at you, you don't want me to go to my husband's house” she laughed but Martha stared at her intently. “Darling, I will miss you too. I am also trying to hide the tears in my eyes, I am missing you already but you know I have to go”

“you are right, somebody's son will find me too o” she teased and they laughed.

“you are found already but your shakara is too much” They laughed together.

Grace will be getting married in the next three months, her fiance is not in the country with her but working in the Netherlands, Australia. He was a believer and they have been friends since their university days, they courted for two years which Martha was aware of it too. She wishes she could shift her wedding date but it is impossible. Grace was the only family she had after the death of her parent and Grace's Parents too. They both promise to carry each other along by communicating through the phone.
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“Impossible! I can't and will never marry that old man” Kemi shouted. She was walking to and fro in the room, one will think she was trying to find her lost money. She remembered the chief priest's last commandment which is that she must marry her Father's friend because Ifa choose him for her. “I will rather die than marry that old man.” She screamed.

"I want to die!!" Oluwakemi screamed out her lung.

Kemi was a young lady in her early 20s, but at the moment, no one would easily be able to tell with the wrinkle on her forehead which she had gotten from the constant expression of sadness. On this day, she was wearing a rough dirty blue gown and her high cheekbones were sunken, her eyes had dark circles staring with bewilderment and fear, and a cloud of depression and weariness seemed to be so visible on Kemi's face, each step she took felt like a heavy weight was tied to her feet. Her voice had been so stressed that it cracked at every pitch.

"Why continue to live when there is no hope for my future?" her eyes welled with tears, her heart stomping with a pang of overwhelming guilt. It's been four days since she locked herself inside her room and wasn't able to eat or sleep, suicide had become an only option for her. She threw herself from the bed to the floor in deep anguish while wailing loudly like a wounded elephant. Her eyeballs were red and filled with tears. This situation was beyond her and she wished she could make it disappear.

"I wish I didn't do this" she cried out, hitting her hands on the floor. "Now, I am trapped without a solution. I am seriously in trouble" she said with her body shaking. The floor had begun to hurt her buttocks so it made her stand up from the floor and this time she took position by the wall staring at herself in the mirror with an uncontrollable stream of tears that flowed from her face.

"Holy Spirit, you truly warned me, you told me to resist the devil and be strong in my faith. You tried to save me from this calamity but I was so adamant, I was misled, I trusted humans instead of you. I obeyed and fulfilled my desires. Now, I have led myself into this wilderness" her words flowed like a mad woman as she was all alone in the room. This conversation with her mirror self went on and on until suddenly, she felt a gentle breeze

that brushed through her neck first and became heavy on her skin giving her goosebumps, and finally turned into the wind and then went down. The whole strange scene made her stand still in silence. Now it was not just her pain but now confusion and fear added. It felt like her heart would explode.

As she was staring at the mirror, she saw a book on the table, the word 'Moses' seemed to appear on the front cover of the book.

"Moses" Kemi screamed and held the book, she remembered her memories with Moses and couldn't stop shedding tears. she placed the book on her chest and would not stop crying. "I wish I listened to your advice, I shouldn't have left you. I was so selfish and impatience. Truly, you warned me and you tried your best. You tried for me, Moses" she shouted.

"Unfortunately, it's too late for me to realize all your words of advice, too late for me to discover how much you love me. I thought all you told me were cooked-up stories and not real, I was frustrated and couldn't trust God enough, now, I have been deceived and trapped. I now understand all that you told me God revealed to you, Moses but it is too late for me now" she screamed, one could have thought she was out of her mind because of the way she was talking to the mirror as if she could see Moses.

She heard a whisper behind her ears “First Peter 5:7”. The voice felt so faint and yet so clear. It felt like it came from everywhere and yet nowhere. Kemi scrambled through her piles of books for her Bible which she found helplessly laying in the corner filled with dust. She immediately picked it up not minding the dust that covered it.

She quickly opened the scripture and read through it to find out what she had heard. Her desperation would make her wait for any word as it turned out. It was so certain she had no idea if the word was from God, her mind, or the devil but it felt important.

"Cast all your care on Jesus for He cares for you" Reading the scripture felt like a heavy blow to her as she screamed louder throwing herself at every corner of the room.

"No, this can't be true, I am so unworthy of Him, I am a terrible sinner that has abandoned Him for years, why would he carry my burden or even care?" she kept hitting herself against the wall. Suddenly, she stopped like she remembered something, she searched through her drawer and got out a razor.

"Lord, I deserve to die, I deserve it" The razor went straight to her wrist as she guided it down a vertical line. In a split second, blood had started to rush out dripping down her wrist. Tears were not enough to express the pain she was already feeling at this time.

There was a knock on the door that drew her attention. "Who is there?" she managed to respond. Kemi was already losing a great amount of blood that she had begun to lose strength.

"it is me, my love. Is everything okay in there?" the voice came from behind the door.

"Old man, It is none of your business" she said under her breath. She lay silently on the bed still bleeding muttering to herself "I deserve to die; I deserve to die."
“I can see you are not in a good mood now, I am only here to check on you, my love. I will come back later in the evening” he said and left the house.

CHAPTER THIRTY

"Kemi!" Funke shouted. When she heard no response, she entered the house and knock Kemi's room. She heard her breathing loud and saw blood at the entrance of the room. She broke the door and entered. "what!" she shouted and covered her mouth.

Kemi was unconscious, Funke called a cab man and took her to the nearby hospital.

"I hope and pray Kemi will not die" She whispered silently as she left the Doctor's office. The doctor told her she is in a coma because she lost too much blood and hoped she will be able to survive. Funke sent a message to Moses and a few minutes later, the phone rang.

"Hello, Funke. Which hospital are you now?" Moses inquired with a shaky voice.

"I already sent the location to you at the end of the message" she replied.

"Oh, I am sorry. I will be there soon" Moses replied and hung up.
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Kemi found herself in a land full of water, her heart was clenching with dread. She glanced through the place and realized she dare not move forward because if she do, she will drown in the water. She was confused and do not know what to do. Her body was shaking and wobbling with shock.

"how did I get myself to this point of no return?" she tried to speak but was

choked with tears. She sat down on the floor but was filled with a little water, sitting there alone, misery was written all over her face.

“stand up and enter the water” she heard the voice loud and clear, stood up and searched around her but couldn't find anyone. A few minutes after searching for the invisible voice, she concluded it was her thought that sounded loud to her.

“I should enter the water? If I do, I will die” she replied to the invisible voice

“Die! You have no reason to be alive anymore, death is the only solution for you” the voice responded and she felt a sharp bolt of fear which give her chills.

“Who are you?” she inquired with a shaking voice and was turning her head to search for the person.

“don't bother yourself to find me, I am your master, Ifakemi. The one you serve! You are of no use to me anymore and this is why I brought you to this Island of the lost” he retorted.

“island of the lost? What does that mean?” kemi asked

“This is the place I dump all my servants after being used by me, your father drowned here too, I brought him to this land and he obeyed my command without hesitation, he was such an obedient servant” the voice laughed hysterically.

“my Dad perished here?” she thought inwardly and she had a lump in her throat and was blinking away the tears.

“your mother was one of my obedient servants too, I brought her here when

she was in labor but she pleaded with me to make you stay alive and promise to obey my commandment. If not, you would have died in your mother's womb but her decision saved your life. I was hurt when you left me, ridiculed me, and serve another master. But, I am consoled now because I won your soul and that is a victory for me. Now, I command you as your boss to perish in this island of the lost, enter that water!" The voice shouted.

Kemi's eyes were filled with tears, and the memories of how Jesus saved her flashed in her thought, she wish someone should save her but it seems it is impossible.

"it is finished for me" she cried out.

"Yes, it is. You have no reason to live anymore, no hope, nothing. It is better you die now" the voice replied her.

As she was about to step forward, she remembered Funke's message which Moses sent to her, and turned her face to the sky.

"Dear Jesus, I don't know if you can hear me anymore because I know I hurt you, left you, and disobey you but I am sorry. Please, if you can help me this time again, I promise to serve you forever, I will do all you want me to do. Please save me, I have no one else to turn my face to but you. Moses said you have been waiting for me to come back to you though I know I don't deserve it but I am back to you now, please save me!" she shouted and cried out heavily.

"shut up and enter that water now!" the voice screamed.

After a few minutes of Kemi's water work, she move forward to the water and when she got close to it, she felt the warm hand of someone pushing her back. She turned her face and was shocked to see Moses.

“Moses!” she screamed and cried.

“Lord, why did you save my filthy servant?” The invisible voice questioned.

“Lord?” Kemi thought inwardly and couldn't stop staring at Moses.

“I will reply to your thought later, Kemi.” He smiled at her and turned his face to the other side. “She is no more your servant anymore because she now belongs to me”

“Impossible, she serve me not you” the voice answered back, Kemi was watching the scene and couldn't say anything.

“you are right, she served you, and that is why you were able to bring her to this ISLAND OF THE LOST but I have been waiting for her to call on me to repent which she did not long, and I will never cast out anyone that comes to me. She was your servant in the past but now that she repent, she belongs to me. You are her past and I am her present and future. And whoever is in Christ the old things have passed away and behold, all things become new. Your session with her has passed away, you have no right over any of my appointed ones. Kemi is now my appointed one, you have no right to touch her anymore. I command you to vanish now!” he said and turned her face to Kemi. Kemi was shocked to her bones when she didn't hear anything from the invisible voice anymore.

“you are not Moses?” Kemi implored and stared at him without blinking.

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. I am glad you choose life over death, I am delighted to have you back, I have been waiting for you ever since you left me when you were with me, Devil has no right to touch you because it has been written that touch not my appointed one and do my prophet no harm. You were able to fall into temptation because you didn't watch and pray. Anyway, you made heaven and angels rejoice over your life today

because you surrender your life to me. Before you were born in your mother's womb, I knew you and appointed you. Moses belongs to me, he is one with me, I dwell in his body and it is my temple, this is why I can use his body to save you. Now, let us leave this ISLAND OF THE LOST, I will take you back. You are free, Go and sin no more." He explained and smiled at her.

Three weeks later, Kemi opened her eyes and was shocked to see Moses and Funke beside her.

"Moses?" she said in a low and tiny voice

"Thank you, Jesus" Moses mumbled and raised his hands.

"I am sorry, Moses. I am sincerely sorry" she pleaded and her eyes were filled with tears. Moses held her hand and wiped her tears.

"I don't want you to think about all that for now. You need a lot of rest, please stop crying" he replied. Funke was staring at them without blinking.

"Kemi, thank you for coming back alive," Funke said and held her left hand.

"Thanks so much for all you do, Funke. I am grateful" she said as she stared at Funke but later turned her face to Moses. " I had a dream"

"Oh, really?"

"Yes," she raised her head and rested her back on the pillow. She narrated the dream to Moses and Funke and they were all in awe.

"wow! ISLAND OF THE LOST!" Funke exclaimed and was shaking her head.

JOSHUA'S HOUSE

“Babe, what are you doing there?” Joshua asked when he sighted Martha sitting alone in the dining room staring at the wall.

“Nothing, honey. It is just that the memories of my past flashed in my sight not long” she replied and smiled but Joshua walked close to her.

“what have you been thinking of, my big baby?” he teased and they both smiled.

“I can't stop thanking Jesus, the way he transformed my life from grass to grace amaze me always. After all, I did in the past, I never imagined living a happy life anymore but the Lord has blessed me with my handsome husband and my beautiful twin girl. Who could have thought that a murderer like me, who aborted several times because of my love for my ex will ever live a peaceful life? I am in awe. But Darling” she turned her face to Joshua. “I am blessed to have you in my life, your existence in my life is proof of God's love for me. I am glad I say Yes to you though I was clouded with fear but happy to choose God's perfect will over my emotions” She smiled and hugged him.

“Well, I am not only blessed to have you but also favored. With you in my life, I have been able to align with God's will and purpose. The Lord has helped us to reach out to many souls through your health books and my free medical outreach. I have only been experiencing Joy and I can't wait to see Many things we will do together for God. I love you so much, my love. Thanks for being a woman every man prays for” Joshua said and they couldn't stop staring at each other. “where did you get this envelope?” his eyes peeked at the white envelope on the dining table.

“oh, David sent his wedding invitation card to us through a dispatch rider”

she answered back and handed the envelope to her husband.

“Wow! David weds Miracle” Joshua read it loud. “This is beautiful, the wedding is next week Saturday. Wow, thank God I am on night work that day, I will be able to attend it together with you”

“Thanks so much, honey. I love you too” she retorted and they hugged each other.
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“I am glad you are feeling better now and we'll be leaving the hospital tomorrow” Moses smiled at Kemi and held her hand.

“Thanks so much for all you do, Moses. I am grateful”

“Don't mention, dear. I have an important question to ask you” he said and couldn't stop glancing at her.

“What is that?” she retorted and squatted on the bed.

“Will you marry me, Kemi?” he inquired and knelt. He brought out the ring in his pocket. It was an unexpected question for Kemi, her heart beat faster and short of words. “Please” Moses pleaded and her eyes were filled with tears, Moses gave her a handkerchief, wiped her tears, and she cleared her throat.

“Moses, it is not God's will for me to say NO” She answered back and they both smiled.

THE END

END NOTE

No matter how far or how deep you think you are in sin, Jesus is waiting for you to come back to him, it is never too late for you in as much you are still alive. Jesus is ready to bring you out of the ISLAND OF THE LOST, he is willing to save you. In the same way, Moses proposed his love to Kemi, Jesus is proposing his love to you now, say Yes to him today and you will never regret it. Without Jesus, life makes no sense and a life without Christ is full of crises.

If you haven't surrendered your life to Christ, please do now and recite these prayers with all your heart.
Dear Heavenly Father,
I have come to you in the name of Jesus (Your Son),
Forgive me of all my sins,
I believe that Jesus is the Son of God,
I believe he was raised from the dead for my justification,
I do believe with all my heart and I confess Jesus now as my Lord, therefore, I am saved.
Thank you, Father.

Congratulations! You're now saved and have the right to communicate to God as your Father.

If this story has blessed and touched your life, please feel free to share your testimonies and also remember to pray for the author, Ezekiel Inioluwa.
You can also support the author in your little way, both in cash and kind as it'll go a long way in helping to do hard copies, and publish more stories.

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God bless y'all.

ABOUT THE BOOK

"ISLAND OF THE LOST" is a fascinating story. Kemi was the only daughter of a powerful herbalist in Ajegun Village, she went through a lot of difficulties with her father when she became born again. But in the long run, she found herself back on the ISLAND OF THE LOST. What does ISLAND OF THE LOST mean? How did she get there? What later happened to Kemi?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Inioluwa Ezekiel was brought up in a Christian family, she is a passionate lover of Jesus and a gospel writer enthusiast.She studied the English language at the University Of Ibadan.

She desires to see her stories bring about positive changes in people's lives all over the world. She has a burning passion for souls and loves sharing with everyone the gospel truth.