

The Wedding Party!

Twilight rolled off her blanket like a fog and soon, dawn arrived, calmly and softly. The gentle passing breeze made the hairs on my tender skin slip and I realised quickly that the long night was finally over.

Exhilaration enveloped my whole being and immediately I abandoned my bed of pink fluffy sheets. I wanted to behold the sunrise, it was a day I have always dreamt of. Sleep finally left my eyes after it stayed for only a few hours as I spent my whole night counting the stars and admiring the splendor of the moon's magnificent glow.

My room shone in rare brightness from the glare of the sun that morning as I ajar my beautiful black curtains from the window. The whole house hummed with life as different sounds from unknown voices waved into my eager ears. The chirping of flying birds, the noise from the fowls that were continually in search of food and the harmonious rhythm from the music that played.

Everything tailored my day into a tapestry of perfection.

"Hmmmmmm." I sighed in respite and a ghost of smile angled on the edge of my lips. It was the best day of my life, it was my wedding party.

My phone buzzed while I stood and I hurried to get it from under the pillow where it lay. My heart skipped beat and I was completely swept off my feet. My smiles were in countless barrels when I read the text from Daniel.

"I have always wanted to be by your side forever and today is that day when it all begins." I read it again and again and my heart was glad. It was full of love and concrete melody. Daniel is my dream man and I felt so delighted to do life with him.

After a while, I went out to greet the ocean of people that heaped all around the house in different locations. My parents were public figures and people from far and near honored their invitation. It was not just a wedding anymore, it was a festival of love.

All their faces radiated in genuine happiness as they sat and they all responded in chorus like a choir band when I greeted, "Our wife, our wife!"

Being the only daughter of the family, many women also came all the way to share in my Mum's joy. She was full to the brim with pure pleasure and could not help but smile at every passing joke making the atmosphere infected with inexplicable bliss.

I returned into my room after greeting some people and dropped dead on my bed. My phone buzzed again and this time my friends were the ones on the other end.

"We are on our way." They said and I couldn't wait to see them.

"The bride herself." They added in a friendly tone and I chuckled before ending the conversation.

Before their arrival, Mum walked into my room. She sat on the bed and pulled me close. Her hands were wrapped around mine and she looked straight into my eyes.

"Hey, Mum, what's going on?" I asked, softly and smiled at her tenderly.

Silence separated us for a while and then she let out, gently, "I am going to miss you, my child." Mum and I were best friends. Being the only child I had no one to play with while growing up. Mum was my all in all. Despite her tight schedules I never felt unloved, not even for a day. We play games together, dance together, eat together and interestingly, she tells me beautiful stories.

"Mum, I will miss you too." I cooed.
My voice shaky and my eyes teary.

"When I was getting married to your father many years ago, I was still very young. I wasn't sure if I was ready to tie the knots because all that crammed my heart was the dread of marriage. Different questions raged on my mind and I didn't know if I was doing the right thing." Mum narrated.

I listened keenly and wouldn't take my gaze off her. "Wow, I feel the same way Mum, so many questions jumping around on the walls of my naive heart." I said.

She only smiled, placed her legs on top of each other, fixed her stare on me and then continued.

"That morning was so beautiful. I was sincerely happy because I was going to spend the rest of my life with the only man I have ever loved and that's your Father. But in the midst of my plenteous happiness, there was a twinge of worry. Worries about uncertainties, worries about whether our marriage will work because the rate of divorce was getting so high." She said.

"Hmmm, Mum, I can't imagine a life without Daniel." I whispered and stared blankly. My face devoid of every expression.

"My dear, I felt the same too. Your Dad was second to none." She talked.

"Before taking our vows on the altar my Mum held my hand firmly and her lips curved with smile as she taled something into my ears. I will do same with you today." Mum added.

This time she reached for my shoulders and she rubbed it with her hands, slowly.

"No marriage is without challenges; you only settle whatever it is and move on. No home is perfect; you can only find a way of refilling your love tank when it gets dried. You can always reawaken the butterflies and they will come flying in your garden again.

She paused for a while, heaved in a deep breath and spoke further.

"My dear, make Daniel the happiest man on earth." She let out.

I got enveloped in her warm motherly bosom and for a moment I just wanted to be a baby again to sit on her succulent lovely lap and have a taste of the natural milk.

"Thanks so much, Mum. That was all I needed to hear today. I will make my husband a happy man." I said.

"That's my girl." She let out and I felt the warmth of her bosom again as I coiled myself into her embrace.

"We are here." My friends hollered from the sitting room and the house hummed some more with life. I ran out at the speed of light on hearing their voices and it was another moment of pure bliss.

I ushered all of them into my room and we gossiped for a while before earnest preparation. Mum served them with fried rice well seasoned and conformed with chicken. Dorcas, one of my friends who was my chief maid, had an allergy to rice. She requested fried plantain and eggs and Mum made sure she ate to her fill.

"It's so good to see you all again. Thanks so much girls for coming." I let out. The atmosphere became so effusive and it still felt like a dream being the subject matter of the gathering but this time, a good dream turned to a reality, gradually.

It was almost time to walk down the aisle and exchange vows with Daniel, the only man I have ever loved. I needed to get ready as well as my friends.

I had my cannonade and I was ready to slide my slender body into my wedding gown. I couldn't help but beam in genuine excitement. My gown was dazzling in radiant twinkles like a constellation of white stars lighting the blue sky. It was perfectly fitted and it hovered right behind my back. I felt like Cinderella and I could only imagine how happy she must have felt being given to her charming prince.

My wedding heels glimmered in a unique shade of silvery white. The beads formed what peeked like a flower at the top. It was so exquisite that even a blind eye could wear a smile and give a wave of pristine joy.

My bridal bouquet was the paragon of my appearance. It was full of pretty rosemary lavender sage. It's a product of *Amaranthus* made up of dense clusters of magenta-colored flowers. It filled every nostril with a light, bright feminine fragrance and it was also soothing to the soul.

Daniel and I agreed to whisper some words into each other's ears before walking down the aisle. I was set and so I walked out of my room and my face was covered with a veil. Mum said it means a lot to every mother so I made sure mine was long and full enough.

Soon Daniel was out and for the first time in my life I stared at a man so keenly. His smiles were charming, no jokes. From his white set of teeth to his pink lips, I stood in awe at God's creativity.

Daniel is a tall, dark and handsome young man full of vibes. He fits me so well because we share the same dream and aspirations. He is also an ardent lover of God and he is born again.

I got attracted and overly immersed in him because he is so versatile and intelligent. He could do everything and anything one can think of.

There I stood, lost in complete Thanksgiving to God for giving me a man like Daniel. When he finally got to me, his fragrance coiled around me and swirled in the dense atmosphere of love.

"Hey, how do you feel? What's going on in your mind?" he asked, quietly and his tender voice pierced my heart like a flaming sword.

I was wrapped in absolute admiration and my smiles could fill a basket. "I have never been more loved than I am right now." I whispered into his ever-listening ears and his lips conveyed a message of companionate friendship as he gave my chubby cheeks a peck.

"Hmmm." An unknown voice sighed and disrupted. "Can't you wait until after the church wedding? We're running late!"

"We're set Mum." I responded after recognizing the owner of the voice.

We were ushered into different cars and it felt like a ride of royalty. I honestly could not want to say yes I do. I also couldn't wait to be called Mrs Daniel.

The ride was smooth and soon we arrived at the venue. It was called the Chapel of Love. My bridal train alighted the car and I wanted to do so too when I was asked to sit for a while.

Daniel was taken by another car and was right behind mine. Mum, Dad and other dignitaries also drove behind. It looked like some sort of convoy. It made me chuckle in a warm glow of pride.

The Chapel simmered in pleasant melodies and it was time to walk down the aisle. Dad was eager to gird his hands around mine and to officially give me to my dream man, Daniel.

"We are all set, where is the groom?" The officiating minister asked. We all stood in stunned silence and my heart was in my mouth.

"He drove right behind me." I let out and my eyes journeyed to meet my Mum. Bewilderment filled the air and tension swathed every heart.

"Where's Daniel, where's Daniel." Unknown voices chimed one after the other and I didn't know when my bouquet left my hands as strain cuddled my heart. I maintained a good face and I made my chief maid put a call through.

"The number is unreachable." She let out and that news heightened the tunes of pressure that replaced the pure melody hosted in my heart. "Na so they de do this days oh. Maybe the guy just deceive you sorry eh." a passing stranger said.

"Is this a dream?" I muttered as my best day ever was about to be ruined. My both hands on my head and my beautiful smiling face became gloomy and blubbing when Daniel would not return.

"Mum, what's going on? Mum! Mum!"

I called and steered into her warm embrace. She held me compassionately and was bereft for words. The ocean of people that came to attend our wedding were beginning to get nervous. The hall was well decorated and everything else was just perfect. "But where on earth has Daniel gone to?" My heart wandered on a fast lane of worries and anticipation got the best of me.

Dad and some crop of men drove out of the Chapel and they all went in search of Daniel. Mum and my bridesmaids helped to calm my aching soul. I prayed that day like never before. I can't imagine a life without Daniel and I just hope they find him.

We waited until dusk and it was like a long rope of years to me. The guests that came to share in our joy were tired of waiting. The food of different kinds and taste well assorted and steamed became cold and unattractive. My bridesmaids too became fatigued and I was not ungrateful, I knew sincerely they had done their best.

"We're so sorry about how your day was ruined. We need to take our leave now." Some of the guests said to my Mum and walked out of the ceremony. Their faces wore pity and it made my state more bleak.

Dad returned helplessly and all he could say was "sorry, we couldn't find him." My whole world crumbled and I could see how it fell into countless pieces. The sound were so piercing and every tune shattered my tender love that was about to take flight.

"Take it easy, Daniel will be back, let's be hopeful...!" Mum said and her voice was caught in mid-sentence as we heard loud screams from the gate door.

It sounded like jingles of glee and curiosity wouldn't let me be. "What's going on?" I wondered and stood. My legs could no longer carry me but I forced it anyway.

I was almost at the gate door when I heard someone call my name. "My jewel." He said. My legs froze and I was too startled to turn around. "No one calls me that except Daniel, could that be him?" I asked.

My face burned in sincere elation when I turned and saw Daniel, standing right in front of me. "Babe, where have you been?" I quarreled in a lovely tone and all he did was to silence me with a kiss.

The whole auditorium became full of light and its brightness was radiant. I don't know how, but I could see all the guests return. Mum was alive again and Dad was set for the walk.

"Babe don't tell me all this was a prank because that was completely out of the way." I talked and my voice trailed off when we got the signal to walk in already.

Daniel only smiled and whispered, "I wanted our wedding party to be at night. I know you won't agree with my plan and..." his voice trailed off.

Though the day was far spent the wedding still happened. Dad banded his hands around mine and he walked me down the aisle to meet my charming prince, Daniel.

My tears were gone and my face dazzled with glee. His presence made it all okay and my glare was on him as I moved with Dad slowly, to the altar where our vows will be exchanged.