

The **Curse** of the **Golden crown**

Once upon a time, in the prosperous land of Umunya, there lived a young woman named Ann.

She is the only daughter of Mr and Mrs Uzorwulu Azuka, though she had two brothers.

This family was known to be an industrious family and a family worthy of emulation in the village of Umunya.

“One can say the family is a blessing to the villagers.

The children of this family also served as a role model to other children in the community.

Ann on her own part was not left out,

She followed the ways of her parents, making sure she stayed away from bad friends but always around with the good.

She was a type that is always curious to learn new things, which made her father to love her the most.

Ann started her education from kindergarten and furthered to secondary school till she entered the university.

While she entered the university, she kept on to the teachings of her parents, she didn't miss any single class or indulge in an examination malpractice

She graduated with first class as a law student of the University of Nigeria Nsukka, the school wanted to retain her as a lecturer but she refused the offer

She did all the necessary training and was called to the bar, and indeed a pride to the community and her family.

One day after the church service, a man who came to the church for the first time fell in love with her voice, she was actually leading the church service that day.

He immediately made plans to get married to her, at last everything worked out as expected, they got married.

Ann had everything she could ever want: a loving family, a comfortable home, and a steady job. but despite all her blessings felt something was missing from her life.

She longed for a child of her own, someone to love and care for. but month after month, she was disappointed to find that she was not pregnant. she began to fear that she would never be a mother

Ann and her husband, Daniel, decided to seek help from a specialist. After many tests and appointments, the doctor told them the heartbreaking news: Ann was unable to have children. She was devastated, and Daniel was heartbroken for her.

She felt bad because all her life,she has not slept with any Man at all, not even to think of a romantic affair.

She remained a virgin till she married Daniel.

They felt lost and uncertain of what to do next. But deep down, Ann had a spark of hope that refused to be extinguished.

Ann and Daniel visited many hospitals,prayer houses but nothing happened.

She began to question God, all her life serving him with all her heart, would it be vain? She remembers her fellow graduate in the tertiary institution,her name is Nkechi.

Nkechi was one of the happening babes in the university, there's no club house you won't find her.

Most times she sleeps with men for money, same with lecturers for high grades.

Ann remembered the day Nkechi wanted them to go to a club together, but she refused. This made Nkechi say abominable words, telling her that God she is calling would abandon her one day.

"Are her words actually true?" Ann said

"Where is Nkechi now?"

"She is married with 4 kids,she also had an abortion in our school days, God why is my case different?" Ann laments.

Weeks turned to months and months into years and she is still childless.

One cold evening, Ann and her husband were watching a program in the television,

There were a series of testimonies, these testimonies really proved that what God cannot do doesn't exist.

This gave them hope and they decided to attend the church the next day, after the service for the day, they met the pastor and tabled their problems.

The pastor smiled and said that their case is nothing before God.

He prayed for them, then gave them a task of visiting the motherless home with gifts. He also gave them prayer points to pray at midnight.

These couples never doubted the words of the man of God, they completed all tasks given to them, they visited many motherless babies' homes and made them smile.

After some months, Ann conceived and was carrying a baby boy.

Daniel, her husband, was very much happy, there was a massive celebration.

But tragedy struck, in the fifth month of her pregnancy, Ann had a miscarriage.

"God why? What wrong have I done? Please have mercy on me "Ann cried out that night, but she never stopped believing in God's plans.

These couples kept on doing good and hoping that God would smile on them.

On the twelfth month of their twelve years of marriage, God surprised them, this time Ann was carrying triplets, two boys and a girl.

The family are overjoyed when she becomes pregnant and gives birth to three healthy babies.

There were a lot of celebrations, the whole community knew that a great thing had happened.

The naming ceremony was one of the memorable ones in the history of Umunya, a lot of cows and goats were killed, and food and drinks were excess.

The whole world was there to celebrate the naming ceremony of the triplets.

When it was time to give the babies names in their dialect (Igbo) Ann looking at her children and gave these names:

The girl was named "Chmdiuto" meaning my God is sweet.

One of the boys was named "Chimdal" meaning my God thank you.

The other was named "Chikasiemobi" meaning God has comforted me

There were tears of joy in her eyes and that of her parents.

The merriment continued until everyone was tired and retired to their various places of rest.

The children were properly taken care of by their parents both financially and morally.

But just as they're settling into their new life as parents, tragedy strikes.

Daniel, a business man and the breadwinner of the family, had a business meeting abroad.

His wife pleaded with him not to go for it but he refused, assuring her he would return the upper week.

He traveled for the business meeting at London, he never knew he would meet his waterloo.

His friend Mark never wanted him to have an heir or even see him progress, so he poisoned the drink of Daniel.

Daniel never knew what was at stake for him, during the meeting, he drank the poison.

As minutes passed, Daniel started vomiting blood and he was rushed to the hospital, but he didn't survive it, he gave up the ghost.

Ann received this news with a broken heart, "who would take care of the kids?" "what am I to do?"

All these questions kept coming to her, she felt devastated and overwhelmed, but she leaned on her family and friends for support. And she finds strength in her love for her children.

An autopsy was done on Daniel's corpse, it was discovered it was a strong poison, when the case was being looked into, Mark was already on the run.

He was later caught at the airport where he was trying to come back to Nigeria, he was sentenced to death by hanging.

After Daniel's death, Ann fell into a deep depression. She struggled to care for her four babies, and she felt overwhelmed and alone, imagining being a young widow.

But slowly, with the help of her family and friends, she began to heal.

The children brought her joy and laughter, and they gave her a reason to get out of bed every morning.

As they grew, Ann watched them develop their own unique personalities and interests. She felt proud of them, and she felt like Daniel was with her in spirit.

The triplets grew in wisdom and fear of God, Ann made sure they lacked nothing.

She persevered and trained her children from kindergarten to tertiary institution.

All of them became graduates with first class in their area of profession.

Chimdiuto became a medical doctor and got married, God blessed her with fruits of the womb.

Chimdalu a Lawyer, Chikasiemobi became an Architect.

God blessed Ann with many grandchildren.

"Grandma, you promised to tell us a story today".... This was Chiagozie the grandson of Mrs Ann talking, serving as the mouthpiece of other grandchildren gathered around.

"But not today please, I'm tired let's leave it tomorrow " said Mrs Ann

"Mama please naw, we are doing nothing now, just tell us any adventurous story you know" This time it was Chiedozi speaking.

"hmmmm..... okay I would, so listen attentively" she replied.

This story is about Alina, a lady in love with adventures.....

Once upon a time, in a small village, there lived a girl named Alina. Alina was curious and brave, and she dreamed of exploring the world beyond her village.

One day, she set off on a journey, little knowing that her path would lead her to a mysterious village, where she would face a choice that would change her life forever.

As she approached the mysterious village, she noticed something strange. There were no birds singing, and the trees were bare and silent.

The air was heavy and still, and she could feel a sense of foreboding. Despite her fear, she forged ahead, determined to find out what lay ahead.....

"Okay I would stop here for tonight, you should go and sleep tomorrow we continue" said Mrs Ann.

"Mama, please you have barely told us anything, let's complete the story " Chiagozie responded.

"But I'm tired and I haven't taken my medications" she replied.

"Please grandma" the grandchildren said in unison.

"Okay I would continue, now open your ears " The children are already anxious to know more, with their mouths slightly open too.....

As Alina stepped into the village, she saw something strange that made her heart stop. In the middle of the village square, there was a golden crown, glinting in the sun.

But there was something strange about the crown. It seemed to be calling to her, whispering her name in a voice that was both sweet and sinister.

Alina knew that she should turn back, but she couldn't resist the pull of the crown.

She walked towards the crown, drawn to it like a moth to a flame. As she reached out to touch it, a voice rang out, booming and deep. "Foolish girl. You dare to touch what is not yours?"

Alina spun around, searching for the source of the voice. And there, in the shadow of a nearby house, stood a man, tall and imposing, clad in black robes.

"Who are you?" Alina asked, her voice trembling. The man smiled, and his eyes flashed red. "I am the keeper of the golden crown.

"And who are you to lay claim to it?" the man asked, his voice rumbling like thunder. Alina drew herself up to her full height and said, "I am Alina, a traveler, and I claim nothing.

But I ask you, what is the purpose of this crown?" The man's eyes narrowed, and he said, "The crown is a symbol of power. It grants the wearer the ability to command others, to bend them to their will.

It is a dangerous thing, and should not be wielded by the weak of heart." Alina's heart quickened at the thought of such power. "

Alina was conflicted. On the one hand, the thought of having such power was intoxicating.

But on the other hand, she didn't want to use it to control others. She looked up at the man and said, "I don't want to control anyone. I simply want to travel and explore the world.

Please, may I leave this place in peace?" The man's eyes flashed red again, and he laughed, a deep and mocking laugh.

"You think you can simply walk away from here? You think you can escape the call of the crown?"

"Okayyy kids it's 10pm, tomorrow we continue, so you won't be late for school tomorrow" said Ann.

"But Mama.....

"Would you go and sleep now please?"

So everyone went to bed and Mrs Ann had a night's rest that night.

After the day's activities, as the moon was smiling brightly in the sky, everywhere was calm and noiseless, only the sounds of cricket could be heard.

The children came out from their various places of rest, then gathered round their grandmother, who was already waiting for them.

"Who can tell me where I stopped yesterday?" She asked.

"Mama , you stopped at where she was asked to accept the call of the crown," Chiagozie answered.

"That's very good , you got it correctly so let's continue, listen and pay attention" Mama said.

Alina felt a chill run down her spine. She had a sinking feeling that she was not going to be able to leave as easily as she had hoped.

She turned to run, but the man grabbed her arm, his grip like iron. "You cannot escape," he hissed. "The crown has chosen you. You must wear it, or face the consequences."

Alina struggled against the man's grip, but he was too strong. In desperation, she closed her eyes and thought of home. "Please," she whispered. "I just want to go home."

As Alina pleaded, something strange happened. A warm light filled the air around her, and she felt herself being lifted off the ground.

She opened her eyes and saw that she was floating above the village, high in the sky. She looked down and saw the man standing below her, his face twisted in anger and frustration.

"No!" he shouted, his voice echoing in the night. "You cannot escape!" But Alina was already too far away to hear him.

And then, she was home. She was standing in her village, in the very same spot where she had started her journey.

Alina looked around in wonder. Everything was as she had left it, but something felt different.

She felt stronger, braver, and more determined than ever before. And as she looked down at her hand, she saw something that took her breath away. A small, golden crown was resting on her palm, shining like a tiny sun.

She knew what she had to do. She would take the crown and use its power for good, to help those who needed it most. She would be a true hero, and she would never be afraid again.

"This is the end of Alina's story.... " Mrs Ann said

"But mama, what happened to the crown and its guardian?" One of the grandchildren asked.

"Well nothing happened,Alina took the crown and served the people diligently, she never used it to hurt people " she replied.

"Mama this story is very interesting, maybe next time you tell us about papa" Chiagozie said in innocence.

Ann smiled and said,"It is a long story and it would be for another day".