

# CHAPTER ONE

In one of the most popular rural areas of Lagos, precisely the poorly, built and badly maintained apartment the family of Mabel Johnson and seven others pay rent and endure to suffice for a roof over their heads, the usual fights of Mabel's parents filled the dark corridor, most of the tenants out of the apartment.

"Mabel's University bills you did not pay, Joshua's kindergarten school fee, you did not give me anything this man, you this useless man, I regret the day I married you" Mabel's mothers, Mrs Chioma's high pitched voice rang through out the measly self contain apartment.

"Woman! will you calm down and listen to me" Her dad's voiced barked at his mother, she knew what would come next, and just like clock work. Her began the next fits of wailing, she heard crashing.

Grabbing her Oramo headphones and her iphone 6, She Placed her brother properly making sure he won't fall off, placing pillows to act as wall she smiled wiping the tears off her face, she walked passed her fighting parents with spite.

Walking out the living room, into the busy street, she exhaled greeting the neighbors and a few passerby before blocking out the noise of everyone going on about their day with here head phones.

The heavy bass of the song "Vampire by Olivia Rodrigo" Blasted through her head drums as she began the long walk to the estate she clean regular for extra cash

She was a struggling 20 year old trying to keep her admissions In the University of Lagos trying to make most of the strike as, she takes any Job and one of it was to help self obnoxious people clean up their mess.

After what seemed like hours of walking she could see the estate up ahead, walking towards the check point she beamed up at the security guard,he noticed the lanky figure of his nephew approaching him.

"Uncle Phillip, Good afternoon, almost evening though,How's work going today?"...

Pleasantries were exchanged as she changed into her work clothes, picking up the cleaning equipment's provided by the estates management she returned back to her phones blasting a new song as she began cleaning.

Taking a quick detour of work to run a little, she dropped her equipment in a safe place as she began jogging down the almost empty road, she glanced up at the new building, absentmindedly

walking towards it, She was now in the middle of the road, she looked up admiring the black glossy crystal paint of the walls, the balcony was as large as the room she had in school.

Snapping her back to reality was the roar of a bike, the sound was fast, too fast as it zoomed out of the gate of the house she was admiring, she froze.

You know they say happens when you're at the point of death and everything slows down movies do a lot that, Mabel thought quite the contrary as the bike barreled towards her in an uncontrolled speed knocking her back into the side walk head first, the screeching noise of the bike was followed by an immense amount of pain as a her fractured hand was bend in a very backward position, as the blood pooled out of her head, she could see blood making spots in her eyes as they became heavy

"Hopefully this ends it all" she thought as she slowly allowed her self succumb to the darkness and the warmth it provide.

## *Chapter two*

"Alright sure I'll be at basketball training in a few, I just need to grab an apple and I'll be off, I can't believe I've been in this room since yesterday morning Bro call of duty can be very obsessing" He Chuckled to his friend on the other end of the receiver,

"Alright man" Dropping his Iphone back to charge he took a shower changing into an oversized track pants and a sweatshirt grabbing his basketball he walking out of his room.

He walked towards his mum's room to give her the heads up that he was going out.

He wasn't a big fan of his parents but he wasn't the type to leave the house without telling anyone, especially since he wasn't familiar with the street of Lagos having just returned back from school.

Walking towards her room, he felt a bile grow at the back of his throat, as the moans of woman became louder with every step he took, his dad wasn't in the country.

"Mum" He called out the tears now wetting his face, the shocked was evident in the gasp at the other side of the room, he gave her a few seconds to be decent before pushing the door open to be faced by his uncle.

"What the actual Fuck mom?" he yelled drooping the ball to the floor as he ran towards the front door, he picked his bike keys ignoring his mum as she screamed his name.

Zooming into the empty street he took a really wrong and sharp turn losing control of the bike, he saw the girl up ahead but before he could do anything the bike rammed into her the force

sending him off the bike as he fell back first into a metal waste bin his head hitting the floor he watched in the short moment of pain as the girl's body laid in a very bad position he saw his mum's distorted figure run towards him as his uncle attending to the mystery girl. "IREMIDE" He heard his mum scream as the darkness consumed him.

## Chapter three

A weeks had gone by since the accident, a week of both parents being at a tight spot, the injuries they sustained were bad, They had both been in a sleep induced coma due to blood loss.

Iremide was the first to show any sign of recovery as he was able to breathe without any special aid, he was far from being completely healed as he was paralyzed from the leg down and had only said a countable number of words since he woke up.

A slight cough drew the attention of everyone as Mabel eyes peeled open she shut them back almost instantly, feeling her almost numb fingers she tried sitting upright feeling a soft pair of hands hold her down, "Praise be to God, Honey, you are too weak to stand, I'll go get the doctor"

Mabel frowned at the woman who just left the room, taking that chance to look around, she looked down at the oxygen mask, she looked at the walls, tears pooled out of her eyes as they struggled to get used to the light intensity

Iremide watched as she looked around, he observed her, she met with his eyes cocking her head to him, his expression turned cold as he looked out the window.

Recovery had been going well, Mabel's parents still hadn't come to visit yet, she wasn't really surprised, they had better things to do honestly, she just hoped her brother was okay.

"You know it really won't kill you if you apologized for the amount of pain I'm in right now" She deadpanned at the boy in the room, who hasn't said a word.

Iremide looked up from his now cold cereal with a dismissive frown, he parted his lips to speak but decided against it looking back at his food.

"Self obnoxious prick" She muttered to herself, he was about to say something when the nurse walked back in flashing her million dollars smile.

"Mabel can we talk for a minute, Iremide she'll see you now" He nodded wheeling himself out of the room, "Ma'am you wanted to see me?" Mabel asked.

"Yes, Honey you'll need to see a therapist the bills are of course free, the trauma of the accident coupled with your affinity to drugs and the scars you have are scary and you shouldn't have to

deal with that darkness all by yourself"

Mabel gaped at the woman not being able to deny anything, she only gave a slight nod.

Walking slowly towards the said therapist office she was saw Iremide's retreating back, as he wheeled away from the room after a few knocks, she walked in.

## Chapter four

It's been two weeks now, Iremide was finally stable he still couldn't walk, while Mable had two more surgery complications

"What would you want to eat?" she heard Iremide's voice, she gawked at him in utter shock, "you speak full sentences?" she retorted. He rolled his eyes.

"Yes, answer the question I want to order something" He deadpanned but only less harsher than usual, "I'm not hungry" Mabel replied genuinely.

He rolled his eyes ordering for her what He got for His self. Mabel stare at him one thing rich people enjoy is being beautiful because this proud and obnoxious man she was staring at who was also really good looking.

They had them transfered to a much much bigger hospital about a week ago, she missed her brother, she was also grateful for the students strike her institute was on.

"**A**nd what exactly are you doing" Mable jumped at the voice, dropping the marker to the floor, "What does it look like, I'm drawing a Pennywise smile on my face with the marker I stole in the reception, I'm bored and I want to go back to school"

She sighed falling back to the bed, "God Mabel be careful you are still on casts" Iremide reprimanded her, she huffed looking up at him, she could tell he wasn't happy, over the past few weeks they had gotten closer.

They talked about school, around games about things they like but that's all the surface things never personal, each time it got personal one of them would shut up and that would be it.

"I'll tell you one things that's bothering me and you tell me one thing that's bothering you, well say it at the same time you game?" mabel wasn't the type to pry but it's the least she could do his family saved her life.

## Chapter five

"I miss my baby brother"

"I can't play basketball anymore and it kills me"

They both said together, "Come on, Mabel said wheeling him out of the hospital room, "Where exactly are we going" Iremide asked but she ignored him, pushing him till they got to the field outside was a hassle but she did it.

"What are you doing?" he asked again she ignored him taking his arms, "You lack faith that's a problem we'll fix that" She chuckled to her self.

"We'll do this everyday till I get discharged, I think the hospital won't do it because it's risky and your parents are rich, but I don't care and I'm bored" she quipped

"I'll pull you in and we'll practice walking" a without a notice she lifted him put the chair, as she walked with him, on the field it was a bad idea because he was really heavy to support but she got a smile out of him and for some reason it made her happy.

A few days in and the nurse watched her made progress as Iremide took one of his first few steps, he didn't make it far but he was able to use his legs.

They commenced a new wave of medications and they took his exercises seriously, but of course Mabel was always there, they started to grow fond on each other, his parents were starting to notice.

## Chapter Six

Iremide wheeled him self into the doctors office as she walked out excusing his Mom, she didn't look happy, "Mable is going to be moved to another hospital, you are starting to grow to fond of her and her kind is not good for you" His mom said in an as a matter of fact tone.

"You really just can't left me be happy, it kills you to see even the littlest ounce of happiness in my face, I'm 21 and I own my life but you will not let me have that too?"

His mom was perplexed "Because I didn't tell dad about the scandal that caused this, you think I forgive you, do your wish mum I know when you want something you do it"

Iremide wheeled himself out of the room, back to the room he and Mable shared, walking in he noticed she was on the floor, he pushed over to her.

"Mable" he called out to her,. lifting her head up noticed she was bleeding, badly one of her stitches had ruptured, "Help" His voice rang thro the hospital walls.

Doctors flooded the room, watching as they transfer her onto a stretcher, he held her hands for

as long as he could be he wasn't allowed into the operating room.

He wheeled himself back to the room, getting ho to sit on a bed he didn't notice the presence of another person, his body filled with fear.

Looking up at his mum with glossy eye, she looked at him with a frown, "You've falling in love with the girl?" she made a statement and ask a question at the same time.

She could she the fear in his eyes, he had never been like this before, this was different she knows this feeling, "Why?"

She couldn't understand, yes Mable was pretty but he attended a private university pretty girls were a luxury.

"What do you know about love" He said to his mum in spite, "you cheated on dad" He said again with disgust,

She smiled as tears steam down her eyes "that was wrong, and I can't apologize to you enough but your dad never loved me, we were in a marriage of convenience and I was dating your uncle when this happened, your uncle I was in love with but he was poor and parents wouldn't have it, I was about to do the same to you with Mabel"

He just watched his mum, she was sincere he could tell, but he can't just forget it was too much.

"You are free to love who ever you want to but what ever happens is your choice, love is a dangerous game"

She chuckled to her self, "Come to think of it, love can be very disturbing, you were both fated to fall in love explains the accident just grateful I didn't lose you"

"Iremide, Mable wants to see you" Iremide nodded as he looked back at his mom once more, he followed the nurse to the operating room Mabel was in.

"Don't scare me like that every again" He begged as she chuckled weakly, "I can't promise, she smile at him" Placing a gentle kiss on her forehead he smiled.

"I'm falling for you fast it scares me" she smiled at him, "I've fallen for you, and now I'm a lost cause" He kissed her ever so light, as smile filled the room of doctor's and nurse.