

## Upgrade

By

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I finally bought a new phone yesterday. This is my first phone that wasn't used, I launched it myself and it's a phone that I really wanted, I mean I had thought of getting it for a while but I never really had the means to.

Now I needed to get accessories for the phone, I was going to get the accessories yesterday too but it was getting dark and I wasn't going to let these boys on campus turn my joy to tears.

On my way off campus to get accessories for my phone, I noticed my roommate Adanna in front of the canteen near the gate. She was talking to a few people there and I found it weird. Firstly, she hardly ever interacts with anyone, she's one of those that seem too troubled to interact with others and she even has a nickname based off that personality trait. Secondly, it looked like she was trying to make a pitch. The people she was talking to didn't seem friendly, it was like she was trying to sell something to them and that's what that spot is famous for. Marketing goods, stolen goods. Well, I didn't think much of it, she probably needed quick cash and didn't know where else to try. I understand her.

I spent less than three hours getting everything I needed to protect my phone from physical harm and I headed straight to the bole joint at the bus stop on my way back to campus. It's the only bole joint around and even when you're not hungry the scent would always invite you at the bus stop. Iya Gbeborun, the woman that ran the bole stand, was a very jovial and loud woman that I didn't particularly like. I'd grown fond of her over time and now her theatrics don't bother me as much as they did the first time I had to interact with her.

"Ah Auntie Esther! Thank you for yesterday oh! God go bless you oh! You no fit die!"

Pardon? Every time you give this woman anything, she thanks you over and over and over again. I find it extremely annoying when she does it, yesterday, I left only a hundred naira tip for her. Not because I wanted to, but because she didn't have change and I was in a good mood since I just got the phone. I've left up to 800 naira with her in the past, that was because I had heard her child whine about how she really needed new note books for school. So what's so special about this one hundred naira that she's thanking me like this? Did I mistakenly give her more?

"you're welcome ma" I respond politely with a fake smile

"And help me thank auntie Ada and auntie Abigail again for this morning oh. Them say na three of una do am God go too bless una!" I was confused by this, Adanna, Abigail and I have ran into each other here several times and we've interacted enough for her to know that we attend the

same school, but does she now know that we are roommates? what could have happened this morning?

This morning when I woke up I was the only one in the room, Abigail my other roommate is usually out early so I didn't think much of that and I saw Adanna before leaving campus so that satisfied my curiosity about her whereabouts. I'll ask what "we" did for her when I get back, for now I'd like to hurry back with my meal. I looked at Iya Gbeborun properly for the first time since I got to that stand.

I first noticed a wig on her head and laughed in my mind because the hair was definitely good hair, but it looked disorganized on her. If that was my wig, I would be mad as hell. I Just know that she'll ruin that wig by the end of the day and I hope that whoever gave it to her sees her and regrets it. Then I noticed the earrings she wore were similar to the ones I bought yesterday after my cash out, strange. I didn't think that those earrings were common and even if they were, I paid almost ten thousand naira for them, so they couldn't be the same with mine. I won't dwell on that now, I'll just confirm my suspicion when I get back. For now, the image in front of me is laughable.

"This one you dey happy today, your joy no go ever end oh!" I must have laughed out since she said that while wrapping up my meal, "amen oh!" I responded and paid leaving her with a hundred naira tip again

"Thank you oh!" I just waved her off and proceeded to make my way back to campus, I wasn't about to drown in exaggerated praise.

I got back to school and noticed that Adanna was still where I left her when I left campus. I genuinely hope she isn't facing any serious trouble, she's usually quiet and polite and I wasn't sure she had any social skills. I would hate to feel guilty for whatever she could be facing. I took another long look at her and saw that she looked fine, then I proceeded to my room. As soon as I got into my room and set my bole on the table, I got a call from the gate for an order I made yesterday.

The package I received was light, so the walk from the gate back to my hostel was far from troublesome. Still, I manage to trip on nothing and fall with my package. The first thing I checked was my phone. Thanks to this phone case I got, it doesn't fit in my pocket and it landed face down on the floor with my package. My phone was safe, the only thing that suffered was the screen guard. Good thing I got it today with two extras. Now my only worry was the state of my package.

The rest of the trip back to my hostel was safe. When I entered my room, I quickly changed my screen guard and opened my package to check for damage, zero damage. That's good for me, I looked at my table and noticed that the bole I bought earlier wasn't there. There was oil on my table where I left it so that was evidence that I did leave it there. where it was now, I had no clue. I scanned my room carefully, sometimes when I'm on a call I absent mindedly pick things up and place them elsewhere. Since I left the room while on the call with the delivery personnel, there's

a possibility that I probably picked it up from my table and dumped it somewhere else. I know I didn't take it out of the room because I locked the door before leaving and at that point I would notice if I held anything other than my keys and phone. I even sniffed the air hoping to get a hint of where it might be. That wasn't helpful. While I was still investigating Abigail walked into the room.

"What is this one doing? You be bingo?" Abigail and I were cordial with each other since we were roommates but we weren't friends. She had a tendency to speak out of turn so relating with her was a chore.

"No, I'm looking for something. Welcome"

Abigail sat on her bed; her hands were wet so I could tell that she had just washed them. She was in her underwear so she probably came in when I went to the gate. She picked up a tray with a black nylon and she opened it I noticed from the scent and look that it was bole and I was about to lose it. I wanted to believe that it was not my bole that she was eating. She wouldn't dare

"Come and join me" Abigail said before putting a piece of the roasted plantain in her mouth

I should come and join you? "Abigail please is that mine?" I don't care how I sound right now but it's too much of a coincidence

"Is what yours Esther?"

"Is that my bole Abigail?"

"Ah please oh, is your bole missing?" Abigail asked sarcastically while licking her fingers

"Yes, it is. Abigail did you take that bole from my table?"

"Be rest assured that this bole was not paid for with your money"

"Abigail it's not funny"

"I'm not laughing, don't worry if you said you really bought bole I'm sure it will turn up" she coughed a little, drank some water and continued "how bole go loss for this room when nobody here be thief"

That statement infuriated me, it infuriated me because that was the exact same thing I said to her the day before yesterday when she was crying about the 110k that was missing from her bag. To be fair I only said it because she didn't have up to 110k in the bag. Now she's trying to use my words against me

I know that it's my bole she ate and I also know how to deal with her for eating it. I went back to my bed to plot and I slept off in anger.

The smell of burning rubber woke me up, I jumped out of bed in panic and noticed that the box my package came in was open on my table and empty. My box was also open on the floor and

most of my clothes were on the floor outside the box with their tags off, it was like someone was trying my clothes on and throwing the ones they didn't like on the floor, because there was another pile of my clothes on the table with the empty box my package came in. I looked towards Adanna's corner and saw that my ring light was set up there, there was smoke coming from her socket and both she and Abigail were in my clothes. Her socket was burning with my brand new ring light plugged to it.

"What is the meaning of this rubbish????!!!" how could these girls have the nerve to manhandle my stuff like that??? Especially while I was in the room. They didn't even look panicked when I got up.

"What is the meaning of what rubbish?" Adanna asked calmly with genuine confusion on her face

"How can a lady wake up and just be shouting like a mad man?" Abigail asked with an irritated look on her face. Her statement was an irony, because Abigail is usually the loudest one in the room

I was more irritated and to make matters worse I noticed that that idiotic Abigail was holding my brand-new phone

"Abigail, first of all give me my phone" I walked to her and stretched my hand to collect it

"I will not give it to you. We all own this phone. Everyone in this room owns this phone" Adanna nodded in agreement to Abigail's statement and gestured for Abigail to give her the phone, Abigail did.

I was shocked, I didn't know Adanna was this bold. This couldn't be the same person that I shared a room with for the past year.

"Esther what do you take us for?" Adanna remained calm but there was a scary look on her face, she looked angry. Angry enough to do anything. Maybe I found it scary because I had never seen her angry before. And you know what they say about the quiet ones "Abigail and I know that you stole our money, we saw you from the window seal" I was shocked and I probably stumbled a little. I'm sure I looked pale because I could feel all the blood drain from my face.

It took me a few seconds to regain my composure after Adanna made that statement, I had to remind myself that I was careful with my operation. They probably suspected me and were just throwing the accusation to push me to make a confession. The only living thing in the room with me were two cockroaches on the window that I tried to kill. They kept flying and I wasn't going to waste time on them when the time I had was already limited. The only way they would've seen me is if they were the cockroaches on the window.

"I didn't take anything from you girls. Stop your baseless accusations, I'm going to make you pay double for all my stuff that you took and damaged" this time Abigail was the one to speak

"Esther, swear to us that you didn't take our money"

“I swear” it’s not like anything is going to happen

“Esther if you took our money what will happen to you?” Adanna gave me a daring look waiting for my response. I decided to amuse her and amuse myself

“If I took your money let me turn into a cockroach now” I blinked and noticed that both Adanna and Abigail looked like giants. They looked at me with mischief in their eyes, then Abigail said

“so you took our money”