

UNSPOKEN

Dedication

To Abayomi, with whom it is purely physical.

Prologue

He always said he'd ride for me. That he'd always love me. He called me his "little miss special." He treated me like I was his everything, but what did I do in return? I gave him excuses and torturous nights.

What I didn't realize was, with every laughing emoji at his request, each turning up of my nose, each disbelief and doubt, I was one step closer to losing him. I took him for granted because he was always at the door waiting for permission to come in. I danced around in relationships, got hurt and burnt.

"Why didn't you give me the chance?" he always asked me. "I wouldn't have hurt you" he said but as usual, I will laugh and dismiss him. Changing the topic was my forte. My excuse was my fear to love him because he was too good looking for me, that he would find someone prettier than me and wake up from his admiration of me when in essence, I didn't want to be the fool. I forgot that in love there is never a winner or loser, that life is not a bed of roses.

Desire

I was awakened by the strong smell of earth caused by the fat pelt of rain hitting the ground after an extended period of dry season. I sighed because commuting in Ago was going to be a disaster with this kind of weather. I jumped out of bed in a bid to prepare for my 8:00 AM class, I twisted the tap and to my delight, the water was running as I mentally struck off confronting my landlord off my mental to-do list.

I brushed my teeth while simultaneously filling my bucket with water for my bath as I finished and hurried out of my flat to get a bike that would take me to school.

I got to the university and saw throngs of other students outside the gate and I knew it could never be something good, as I was rummaging in my purse to pay the bike man, I could see some students beginning to curse and throw plastic bottles at the gate while others were indifferent about the drama and having a good time, so I walked up to the security man at the main gate because I knew that Dr Afesuyi's class wasn't one I would like to miss for whatever reason that wasn't tangible enough to be tabled at his office. I greeted the security man at the gate to ask what was happening and apparently, the school authority has slapped a new poster of a ridiculous dress code that I was lucky to meet so I was let in. I almost sprinted to my lecture theatre because I didn't want any lecturer drama and got in moments before Dr Afesuyi showed up and shut the door since it's suicidal to come into the lecture theatre after he does.

Class was a blur but two hours later, it was over so I decided to take a walk into the school hostel to visit some friends since it was just a trek from my lecture theater, but the most interesting thing happened, I saw him.

I thought he stared but as a hard girl that must not be caught slacking, I walked past without a second look.

Dayo

Coming into campus early today was not a good idea since both of my classes for the day were slated for 2:00 PM and later, but I wanted to see her.

The most beautiful girl in microbiology as was rumored among the male freshers from the Faculty of science and because my wing man Bolaji was also in microbiology, I asked him for first hand information about her like what the lecture calendar was like, what direction he observes her going in after lectures and who her friends are.

I knew that microbiology students were going to finish their lecture for the day at 10:00 AM and I didn't want to wait until Thursday to see her since they had no lecture on Tuesday and I would be very busy with class on Wednesday. I knew that this girl does not waste time hanging around in the lecture theater like the other students so I was walking adjacent to the lecture theater pretending to have a conversation with Bolaji when he spotted her and whispered to me.

I froze because the boys didn't lie, she was the most beautiful woman I have ever laid my eyes on. 5'4 ft thereabout with a radiant bronze skin that glowed like glazed donuts under the sun, large bust, a rounded moderately sized buttocks, the perfect thigh gap and lips that looked soft and inviting which made my legs wobble a bit as I tried to regain my composure, I couldn't

remember any of the things that I had planned to say so I watched her walk past and I knew genuinely, that I wanted her.

Desire

Back at my shared flat, my flatmates Fifunmi and Tise were back, with Tise laying in bed with her door ajar and her headset on scribbling something that I couldn't see in her note while Fifunmi laid grumpy in the sitting room, I hesitated for a moment and shrugged because after all, Fifunmi was always grumpy, we exchanged pleasantries while I went into my room to freshen up then come and disturb Tise with details of my day.

I knocked on the Tise's door, walked in and plopped on her bed which caught her attention, she removed her headset smiling, "How are you smallie?" She asked and even though I hated people calling me smallie, my face broke into a wide grin, supplying her with details about how my day went because Tise was a people person, the type that knew every and anybody, the one that makes you regret ever deciding to take a stroll with her because of the ridiculous amount of people that she always had to greet, even sometimes stop to have full blown conversations with while you wait awkwardly if you're not much of a social person like me, I decided to ask her about my mystery guy so I went on to describe him and one of the people I remembered seeing with him that afternoon apparently, many men on campus almost fit the description I gave so I let it go promising Tise that I will do a proper investigation to gather more info about him to see if it is someone she knows so that she can introduce us.

Dayo

The semester's examination is fast approaching and as the class representative of the computer science department, the whole department seemed like an increased bubble of never ending activities, if it's not impromptu tests, then it's a truckload of assignment with little to no ample deadlines hence I have not been able to see the most beautiful girl in microbiology whom I have now found to be named Desireoluwa, Desire for short.

A befitting name if you ask me, I thought and chuckled to myself, the days without seeing her face seemed unending, making me unable to focus. The picture of her face has been permanently stamped into my head because that was all that I could think of even though I had to bring myself to the present to the book open in front of me, my assignment which was due tomorrow morning, Friday.

I got multiple WhatsApp notifications which caused my phone to beep non stop so I picked it to check and it was from the class group chat. Apparently, Yemisi, my coursemate had asked if I would be kind enough to come to the girl's hostel that night to collect the assignment so that the assignment would be organized by tomorrow to save time instead of trying to do all that knowing that some students will still default or delay, meanwhile a lot of people already signified in agreement to Yemisi's question so I checked the time and it was 7:47 PM, I told them I was on my way to them and will be only a moment.

Desire

I came out of my room to see Fifunmi eyes glistening, it looked like she had been crying so I asked her what was wrong then she told me that someone had showed her dad a tik tok video that she made last weekend where she was twerking and her dad already called her, shaking with anger and threatening to remove her from the university since it looked like the freedom she had was getting into her head . I tried to comfort her to the best of my abilities, being the youngest in the flat and one whose parents instructed everyone to cater for upon her arrival into the university, I volunteered to call her dad to beg on her behalf since myself and Tise were older and believed to be model examples to his daughter. I asked her to dry her eyes because I had to get to the junction to collect my laptop from Josh whom I had lent two days prior since I didn't want him knowing where I lived, I thought it was safer if men didn't know where myself and my flatmate stayed seeing that we are all ladies and the world is a crazy place.

I returned with my laptop and I have to go and read up whatever slides Josh has cooked up for me on the laptop, I got into the flat and saw my room door ajar but the lights were off, I called for Fifunmi since I left her at home, but no response, Tise wasn't back yet and I was already panicking so I went next door to get Bimbo since she was a much older student, in her 500 level and had a more sturdy build than me and didn't mind fighting for her friends. I walked back into the apartment with Bimbo beside me and turning on all the lights as we went, I put on the light in my room only to find Fifunmi on the floor with my bottle of Jik next to her, I thought it was a joke so I got close to Fifunmi and I could smell Jik on her, apparently she had come into my room in my absence to drink the Jik and die since her parents were too angry with her. I raised my voice in panic to alert everyone of our neighbors when Bimbo immediately asked that we procure a cup of milk as first aid rather than the red oil which was common knowledge or at least, a remedy I would have used.

I propped Fifunmi's head between my bust and ankle while Bimbo administered the milk in her mouth after which Fifunmi was carried into Bimbo's car with me in tow behind to get her to the school clinic for professional help.

Dayo

Almost everyone of my coursemates in the hostel had submitted to Yemisi before I got to the hostel's gate so collation was easier for me. While waiting with Yemisi for the rest of the ladies to finish up and submit their assignment, I saw her. Huddled just outside the house mistress post, with Olayeni, another girl from the faculty who I am familiar with. I felt a rush of excitement because this is my moment, since I haven't seen Desire in days I asked Yemisi to take over collection for a while because I had to do something urgent so I hurried over to where she was and said hello to Olayeni who in turn introduced us like I hadn't strategically orchestrated the meet.

I felt my joy seep out of me when I realized that her eyes did not look too happy as she greeted me so I asked what the problem was, "I had a long day" she replied so I asked if she would like to talk about it but she just forced a smile and said maybe not tonight, I knew I would not like to

miss this chance so I asked if she could give me her number so that we could talk whenever she was ready to talk, she obliged but gave me her Instagram handle instead.

Desire

We got to the campus clinic in record time and got Fifunmi admitted. I was too shaken to go back to the flat since Tise was going to be away for the night, so I decided to go into the school hostel to sleep in Iyanu's room and maybe read for a bit as Fifunmi was now stable. But I met Olayeni, my course representative so I stopped to have a little chat with her to find out if I am not behind on any classwork and assignments then I saw him walking towards us, my mystery man.

I was taken aback because he is really coming in my direction and I almost bolted until I saw Olayeni smiling at him before I relaxed that he wasn't here for me afterall.

He looked even better that night but I was internally wondering what he was doing outside the girl's hostel and wondered who his lucky girlfriend might be but I shoved the thought aside when I realized he was talking to me but I didn't hear anything he said so I said long day instinctively and willed myself to the present. He seemed genuinely concerned to see that I am okay then he did the most unexpected thing. He asked for my number, blushing, I gave him my instagram handle instead and asked him to reach out to me there.

Dayo

Examinations are now over and it's been four days since I started speaking with Desire everyday on instagram, we couldn't speak as much initially because of our examinations but as soon as the examinations were over, we have been speaking every minute of the day as we are planning to go home for the holidays. She was set to travel to Lagos the next day meanwhile I was scheduled to leave for Lagos in three days and since we stayed in very different parts of Lagos, It was going to be a challenge but I would do my best to make it work, starting from tonight.

Desire

I am going to Lagos tomorrow and I am on my way to Dayo's hostel to see him before we say our goodbyes for the holidays. He looked so cute and serious. What is the problem I am going to ask and he looked me in the eye and said "I want you to be my girlfriend."

I snorted and laughed because I thought he was being funny, how? Why me? These questions swirled in my head. I knew I was not going to resume for 200 level because I will be changing schools so what was the point really? I decided to change the topic and act like nothing happened. He looked hurt, but I felt it must have been my imagination.

I would return to Lagos to resume in the university of Lagos I told him as my admission is already in hand. He stared at me and said I am not resuming for 200 level as well if you won't be resuming. I can't do without you, I laughed again because how do i believe that?

Dayo

I am going to ask her to be my girlfriend again after we return to Lagos. I will relocate to Alberta, Canada with my family for the rest of my university education in a few weeks. I want reassurance from Desire. I want her to be mine but she laughs whenever I bring it up. It is like she doesn't take me seriously. I am hurt, but I will try again after I get to Alberta but she will keep laughing whenever the conversation comes up until I decide to move on with Modupe, another woman I met in my third year in Alberta.

Desire

I realized that I am in love with Dayo three years after he moved. I decided to drop him a text one night, explaining how I have felt within the past three years since we met but I was late because he had eventually decided to take my advice and move on with someone new. My insecurities won.