



On A Search for Love



Prologue

The wind blew softly on September 25th as Shola moved down the street; despair filled her heart, just like the darkness all around her. As she walked down to the church, she couldn't just realize how she got into that mess. They were definitely going to know, she thought. But first of all, how about God? She questioned herself as guilt accompanied her as she walked. Being a pastor's daughter, she was supposed to have it all right, godly and all. But could she ever get it right again? She had made a big mistake and definitely was not sure where else she was to turn to. How could she have fallen into something like this?

Not her, she thought to herself. Could she ever turn back to God? What's next for her and her career? Definitely, her dreams were already over. She couldn't face God again nor enter the church because God was definitely annoyed with her. As tears streamed down her face, she decided to at least tell God what she had done, even though he may not listen or help her



Chapter 1

Akintola Shola is the third child of Mr. and Mrs. Akintola. Being the second female child out of five children and a pastor's child, she always felt like her parents didn't love all their children equally, and she received the lowest amount of love from them. Though she loved God, how strong was her faith? She was going to find out. Shola was a very light-skinned, pretty girl with an hourglass figure. She always received attention from guys claiming to love her to the moon, but she really couldn't differentiate which one was true, so she didn't embark on any relationships.

Being a girl with an ambivert personality, Shola found it difficult to go out or have a social life apart from church. However, she was very outgoing, a good communicator, and also a great listener. She was a very observant lady with a love for nature, down-to-earth, and very pretty.

Shola also loved reading novels, although planning on studying journalism, she always knew she had a thing for English language and history, especially writing but she couldn't venture into that career path all because her parents thought they were not professional courses.

Watching her parents and seeing how their relationship was, and how her dad mistreated her mum at home, despite being a pastor, Shola decided that she was going to be an independent, working-class lady who does not rely on a man. Someone who helps people, and to do all of that and become the best journalist in her field, getting married was not an option. Her love for children also prompted her to aspire to become a novelist and open an orphanage. Because of all these aspirations, she was known as the lady with a heart of gold by her friends.

Being a girl from a half-divided home on the inside, Shola has always found herself seeking love. "What is true love all about?" she asked herself. She loved attention and also wanted validation from people. She was a people-pleaser; she could go the extra mile for someone, even though it was detrimental to herself. She lacked self-esteem and confidence in herself because she didn't know her value. Occasionally, she always found herself asking questions like, "What was she living for? Why did God create her and what is her purpose? How would she accomplish it? Would she fail God and betray His trust in her?"

She always wanted to do it on her own, not realizing that for a person to get anywhere, God is the ultimate guide because you can't do it on your own. Shola's quest for finding what true love is, and also finding herself, made her make a lot of mistakes and lose her innocence.



Chapter 2

Shola gained admission to the University of Lagos, Nigeria, at the age of 18 to study mass communication. She was not given the course of her choice, which was journalism. Being a first-year student, she faced some challenges because she had to find passion for the course that the school gave her (given that she had no prior knowledge of mass communication), and she had to learn how to cope with academic pressure.

The first semester passed, and Shola successfully coped, passing her exams. After a brief two-week holiday, she returned for the next session, starting with a class on February 14th. The timing puzzled her – why schedule a class on Valentine's Day, a day traditionally reserved for celebration and companionship? It stung even more because she had no one to celebrate it with, intensifying her feelings of loneliness. As she rode to the school gate, seeing her classmates with their boyfriends annoyed her the most and made her wished for someone special.

The class lasted for an hour, and she decided to go home, but she was short of transport fare. She decided to walk home, thinking, "e no far we go soon reach." At the gate, she met a guy who struck up a conversation with her. She really didn't want to talk because she was hungry, but she decided to answer him at least. She later learned his name was Ola, and they exchanged numbers. To her surprise he even paid her fare, as if he knew she didn't have money.

Three days passed, and Ola called her, asking about her well-being. They began talking more often. Ola was a theater arts student, and while he wasn't Shola's usual type, she liked him because he cared for her and kept her company.

A month passed, and they began seeing each other daily to discuss academics, God, and everything in general. Shola started developing feelings for Ola but kept them to herself, fearing rejection. Everyone around them assumed they were dating, but she didn't want to jump to conclusions.

Chapter 3



One day, Ola called her. He said that he wanted them to meet because he had something important to tell her. Shola asked if they could discuss on the phone, but he insisted on meeting in person. So, she agreed and went to meet him, her heart racing with anticipation. She didn't know what he wanted to say, but she waited patiently.

When Shola arrived, Ola told her that he had something important to confess: he was in love with her and had been struggling to keep it a secret. He finally asked her if she would be his girlfriend, and Shola joyfully said yes. They officially started dating.

Finally, Shola had found someone who loved her, and she met him every day. They spent time together in his off-campus hostel. However, their relationship was built on a no-intimacy basis, though they held hands frequently. Ola wasn't entirely pleased with this arrangement, leading to arguments. However, he would often apologize afterward.

One day, Shola tried calling Ola, but he didn't answer. So, she decided to visit him. Upon arriving at his hostel, Ola apologized for missing her call and pleaded with Shola to allow physical intimacy. Although hesitant, she eventually agreed, influenced by peer pressure.

Afterward, Shola felt guilty but didn't want to end her relationship with Ola because she loved him, and he was nice to her. As their physical intimacy grew, so did Shola's guilt, but she rationalized it by convincing herself that since they were in love, nothing was wrong.

Unbeknownst to Shola, Ola was cheating on her with another woman. On September 21, Shola realized she missed her monthly cycle and decided to take a pregnancy test. The test came back positive, leaving her disappointed and devastated. She was uncertain about how to tell Ola, who had been acting distant lately.

The next day, Shola decided to confront Ola about her pregnancy. When she unexpectedly visited his hostel, she heard suspicious sounds coming from his room. Ignoring her instincts, she opened the door and found Ola in an intimate position with another woman. Shocked and hurt, she threw the pregnancy test results at him and left. Since it was late, she decided to seek solace in the church, a place she hadn't visited in a long time.

Chapter 4



As she walked down to the church that evening, luckily, it was not a service day. Tears streamed down her eyes. How was she pregnant? Ola had cheated on her, and now she was carrying his child. Her career was definitely on hold when her parents found out. She was literally the black sheep of the house. The thoughts of suicide crossed her mind; at least nobody would care, as she was a failure now. She was so depressed, and the tears just couldn't stop. But a little voice told her that she should keep walking to the church.

When she got to the church, she went to the altar and cried herself to sleep. She was lost and decided to tell God about her mistakes.

With a broken heart, she told Him that she was in despair and lost. She spent the night in the church that day and decided to go to her hostel the next morning. Before she left the church, she felt this peace that she should keep the child, tell her parents, and not think of committing suicide. So she went home.

As she got home, she decided to check if Ola had called her, but he didn't. She tried calling his number, but then she realized that he had sent her a message that said she was a prostitute, and then he blocked her. She put down her phone and burst into tears again.

She called Bukky, her elder sister, and told her what happened. Bukky could not believe her ears; she was annoyed and disappointed. Bukky told the rest of the family members. Shola was so scared, so she decided to fall asleep, but sleep eluded her.

So, she resorted to prayers, the only thing she knew. As she prayed, she felt inner peace being restored to her. A few minutes later, her elder brother called her. He was so angry. How could she, after everything had been given to her on a platter of gold? She felt dejected. After his call ended, her dad and mum called her, and the sermon continued. They said since she had decided to stain their name, they would disown her. Everybody called her to share their own points of disappointment.

After the calls, she was asked to come back home immediately after she was done with her exams.



Chapter 5

Shola arrived home on the 20th of October. As she stepped into the house, she felt something hard hit her face, and she fell to the ground. Her dad had just slapped her and was beating her mercilessly, while her mom pleaded with him. Shola lay on the ground, crying her eyes out. She had disgraced the family and stained her parents' godly name. A family meeting was arranged, and as she knelt in the middle, she felt the look of disgrace sweep from her family to her. A decision was taken that she should put a pause on her education and go to her aunt's house in Lagos until she gives birth. She would work to earn the money to raise both her child and pay for university fees if she still wanted to study.

After enduring a week of insults, she finally traveled to Lagos. As she got there, she expected to receive insults from her aunt, but instead, her aunt comforted her, though she expressed her disappointment. Her aunt was a strong believing Christian. She comforted her with the love of Christ, encouraged her, and made her promise to work hard, follow God, and be of good cheer. She said that there was no mistake too hard for God to rectify and that He has a plan for every aspect of her life. He loved her much more because He said in the word, 'What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. It doesn't matter which tribulation.' That God loves her above everything and in everything. Then they prayed together.

Shola decided to follow God with all her heart, trust Him, and lean not on her own understanding. Staying with her aunt, she learned more about God and followed Him. She heard from Him, and He helped her.

Months passed, and Shola's pregnancy was already in full-blown mode. She was just a few weeks away from her delivery date. By God's grace, she was able to get a job in an international media company, even though she was pregnant. The organization loved her very much because she was godly and honest. They told her that after her pregnancy, they would be willing to sponsor her education abroad. Her family also forgave her and wanted to be around her. Overwhelmed with joy, she gave praises to God.

The D-day of her labor arrived, and her water broke. She was rushed to the hospital, and her family was informed. They immediately traveled to Lagos to be with her. In the labor room, Shola looked around, and she saw her beloved aunt and her family; every single one of them was there. Minutes passed, and the cry of a baby girl was heard from a labor room. The Akintola family held smiles on their faces, and shouts of joy were heard, despite the hospital rules. Shola was given her baby. As she held her child, all she could do was weep for joy. She remembered her history and came to a conclusion that God is good, His mercy endures forever, and He is love.

So, the child was called Akintola Anuoluwapo Love. She was a very pretty baby, and indeed, love flowed around her.



Chapter 6

Months after delivery, the international media company flew Shola and her baby out of the country so that she could study journalism. Four years later, Shola came back to the country because God told her that she should, that He was not yet done with her life.

While she was at the airport, she met a Nigerian man named Harry, who was also coming back to the country. Love immediately grew attached to him and called him daddy. When they landed, they exchanged contacts and bid themselves goodbye.

While in Nigeria, Harry and Shola became good friends and saw each other very often because of baby Love. Shola was very careful about catching feelings; she prayed very well and told her aunt about it but decided to be calm until she heard a word from God and until Harry said something.

One day, as Shola, Love, and Harry were in a restaurant, Love made a statement: She said, daddy would get married to mum." Shola scolded her because she felt uncomfortable, but right there, Harry went on his knees and proposed to her. He said that he was in love with her but had to pray if it was God's will. He got a go-ahead from God and was sorry he delayed because he was afraid of her response. With tears in her eyes, she said yes.

The wedding date was fixed between Harry and Shola. It was a glorious day, and Shola was overwhelmed with joy. She couldn't believe that she would ever be able to put on a wedding dress. Everybody was so happy, and the Akintola family rejoiced. Shola told everybody her story and how God had helped her tremendously. Most people came to give their lives to Christ because of her story, and they rejoiced to the glory of God.

Few years after her wedding, Shola bumped into Ola. She was shocked but listened to his apology. He said that he couldn't handle it at that time and that he was so sorry. He asked for her forgiveness, and she forgave him and told him of God's goodness in her life despite the challenges she faced. He gave his life to Christ, and they parted ways but exchanged numbers.

When she got home, she told Harry, and they gave God all the glory.

The end.



A final message from author:

NIV: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart

Jeremiah 1vs 5