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| Night Butterflies |
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**Important Notice**

All characters and events depicted in this novel are entirely fictitious; any similarity to names or incidents is entirely coincidental.

**Acknowledgement**

We want to use this opportunity to thank everybody who has made this book a reality, without the valuable assistance they have rendered, this book would not have come out to be a huge success.

**Preface**

‘Night Butterflies’ is a book which concerns everyone most especially secondary school students. It deals with adolescence and the problems associated with it and also the dangers of wrong lifestyle in secondary schools.

As we all are aware, adolescence and negative social vices is rampant in our society today. These teenagers engage themselves in all forms of atrocities and immorality which is being presented to them on a platter of gold and they ignorantly dive into it without considering the consequences. Most teens go to the extent of risking their lives along the line. The book is detailed and written in a simple and straight language such that many countless moral lessons will be learnt from it. The book illustrates the life of five beautiful secondary school girls who were indulging in all forms of atrocities and menace in school. They allowed themselves to be hypnotized by mediocrity, pretense and bad lifestyle.

The book also deals with rising issues and problems among youths in our society today.

**Chapter One**

“Evelyn, what time are we leaving tonight?” Jumoke asked.

“Nine o’ clock pm is okay” answered Evelyn as she stood up to pick up her clothes that fell on the floor.

“I hope there is not going to be any hitches tonight like the last time?” Ezinne asked without expecting an answer from any of them.

Evelyn, Maryjane, Jumoke, Nicole and Ezinne were students of Justice College. They were very beautiful girls of about the same age. Evelyn was tall, dark and very pretty, her immaculate set of white teeth was glittering like snow. Maryjane was also dark in complexion but was not as dark as Evelyn, she was average in height and also very beautiful. Jumoke was extremely beautiful and attractive, she was just plainly and attractively fair and she was a talkative. Nicole was the most beautiful among all of them; she was very fair in complexion, beautiful set of white teeth, robust and plump, her smile could melt ice and a measuring tape could be used on her hair. Ezinne on the other hand was also pretty and somewhat reluctant in her relationship with the girls and most at times did not attend some of their events.

These five damsels were famous in Justice College and they were just in SS2 and they were already behaving like married women in the sense that the way they carried themselves were too mature for their age. Mr. Okey, the disciplinary teacher at times thought they were very strange for being in such a school. Justice College was a very popular college in the town and was also one of the best schools because of their high moral standard and academic excellence. The school had boarding and day students due to the population of the school.

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“Good morning, staff and students. This morning, we discovered that a fence was broken in pieces and we do not expect such criminal act here because I believe we are training students who are mentally and morally sound.” Mr. Albert said looking at the students sternly.

Mr. Albert had been the principal of the prestigious school for over four years; he had not compromised in the discharge of his duties and had been a strict and stern man. The students knew him as a no nonsense man.

After the assembly, the five girls gathered themselves and Evelyn spoke.

“We are all aware that the latest happening was not from our side and that means someone must have been monitoring us and we need to change strategies.” Evelyn said with a shaky voice.

“I suggest that we change our route for outings, let us start taking the wall adjacent the security post.” Jumoke added.

“But that’s too risky, and even at ….” Maryjane said as she was cut short by Ezinne.

“See, I am tired of this kind of lifestyle, we are soon going to be caught, I can see the signs.” Ezinne said.

“Madam, hold your sermon, you need to get smarter day by day.” Nicole countered and stood up.

“Enough, I think we should take that small gate at the back of the school, although it is locked.” Evelyn said amidst their disagreements.

“Yes that is nice; we are going to get acid for the padlock.” Nicole snapped and they all dispersed.

These five girls had been into this practice for two years in secondary school without being caught or harmed. They went for any latest party in the town, any occasion that involved young boys and girls. They had even met with some popular musicians but none of their relations knew. Their make-up was their secret, each time they prepared to go out and applied make-up, not even their biological mother would identify them because it changed them completely and made them look mature. Most students in school usually gave them names because of their strange behavior. They were quite jovial and social except Evelyn who did not like to talk too much and she behaved as if she was their elder sister.

Jumoke ran into the hostel with the container of acid she had gotten from their usual supplier, the science laboratory prefect who kept their nefarious activities secret in school.

“I hope it is the original one?” Evelyn asked.

“Yes, it is.” Jumoke answered with a grin on her face.

“I just hope there are no mess ups tonight.” Nicole added as she closed her make up kit.

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“Hey, stop there, stop, stop and identify yourself quickly before I identify myself.” Justin called from afar in the dark close to the gate the girls wanted to follow.

“The judge, why are you out by this time?” Nicole asked offering him a handshake.

“Look at you asking me what I am doing outside by this time, am I not meant to be asking you that question?” Justin retorted sipping his bottle of beer.

Justin was popularly called ‘The Judge’ because he was a very notorious SS3 student in Justice College; he was given the nickname after the school name. He was seen as the boss of the students and teachers got tired of him because of his nonchalant and careless lifestyle.

“So, where una dey go dis night?” Justin asked as he stood to lead them to the small gate.

“As usual, just a normal hangout.” Nicole answered smiling.

“Jummy, bring the acid.” Evelyn ordered speaking in a low tone.

“The judge, just stay around, once it is three o’ clock, we are back. Take this one and just manage.” Ezinne said handing over to him a thousand naira note to him.

“Slay mamas, wish you good luck oo, una don bless my day.” Justin said and chuckled. He quickly pocketed the money given to him.

Early in the morning, the girls came back and put their things in order and dressed up for classes. Jumoke had gotten drunk during the party and she woke up late and did not go to school early that day.

**Chapter Two**

The school was organizing their termly guidance and counseling session for the students and all the staff and students were present. The counseling session was centered on everything about secondary school life, bad lifestyle, distractions and how to overcome them. The five girls sat at a corner of the hall chatting and chewing gums while the counseling was on.

“Hello, the five of you, stand up quickly and follow me.” Mrs. Bridget ordered giving them a stern look.

“Ma, please why have you called us?” Nicole asked with a little courage in her voice.

“You have the effrontery to question me in my office, I never expected this from you students, a very important and vital counseling session was going on and all you could do was to gather yourselves and make noise right?” Mrs. Bridget asked “I never expected this from any of you; you all are good students so why should you behave like that?” Mrs. Bridget asked rhetorically.

Evelyn nudged them to apologize together.

“We are sorry ma.” They all chorused in unison.

“It won’t repeat itself again, we promise.” Evelyn said

“It’s okay; I will not tolerate that again, if it happens, I will call your parents and report you to them.” Mrs. Bridget said pointing to the door for them to leave the office.

The next day at school, Jumoke had been dizzy and lazy, she was finding it difficult to copy her notes and pay attention in class.

“Jummy, please sit up, why are you sleeping in class when your mates are paying attention and participating in the lesson?” Mr. Wilfred asked pulling out his glasses and walking closer to Jumoke.

Jumoke had recently begun taking drugs, cigarettes and alcohol and it had been affecting her health badly.

“See me immediately after the class.” Mr. Wilfred said turning back to the board to continue his lesson.

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“Jummy, your visiting day is next two weeks and if you continue this way, I will like to see your parents and make a complaint to them.” Mr. Wilfred said standing up to leave his office.

“Sir, I promise that it won’t happen again.” Jumoke echoed at his back.

“It better not happen.” Mr. Wilfred muttered and left.

News and rumors about the girls had spread round the school about their incessant misbehaving and defaulting.

“Last night, I saw the five of them gathered under the lemon tree discussing what only God knows.” Chidi said to his classmates.

“Usually, they do pass the kitchen every night and I could hear the sounds of pots screeching.” Chibuike added.

The girls had gradually started losing their identity and secrecy and it was beginning to affect them physically, morally and otherwise. Most at times, when they passed, students call them funny names. Evelyn almost slapped a female junior student for calling her a cultist but was drawn back by Ezinne and Maryjane.

“Enough of all this mess, I can’t take it anymore, since the school says we are a problem to them, then let us become that problem.” Evelyn shouted angrily and was walking away.

“Why is she acting like this, has something come over her, nothing can separate us in this school.” Nicole said pointing at the others

“Hello, night butterflies.” Sandra greeted as she smiled and walked past across them and immediately, Ezinne seized her and gave her a hard knock.

“You shouldn’t have done that.” Maryjane yelled.

“Why would she call us that?” Ezinne asked still holding Sandra on the arm.

“Just let her go.” Nicole said and stood for a while and soliloquized.

“I really like that name she called us; it sounds good, isn’t it?” She asked with a faint smile.

“Yeah, it is, I love it.” Maryjane answered as she stood up from the block.

“I think that is going to be our new name.” Ezinne added.

“That’s by the way, let us get going to the dining hall for lunch.” Jumoke said and they all dispersed.

After the day’s activities, they planned a robbery operation for that night unlike the usual night parties.

“This night, we are going to rob a woman’s kiosk. I have gotten details of her activities from Justin. She opens in the evening around 7:30 pm and closes by 11:00 pm in the night so I believe that the time interval is enough. We are leaving by 7:00 pm immediately; I hope that is very clear.” Evelyn said softly.

“Yeah, we should go because I am quite sure everyone’s cupboard is empty.” Nicole added.

“No mess ups.” Maryjane added.

“Let us get ready quickly.” Jumoke said and they all dispersed to get their things ready.

They immediately made their way through the usual gate and boarded a taxi to where they were going.

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Their operation was successful. They carted away cartons of confectioneries, household items and stationeries. Jumoke even got the chance to get her usual hard drugs and other illicit substances. Evelyn made away with all the alcoholic drinks for the benefit of herself and her boyfriend at school. Ezinne and others simply took all that they needed and they all came back to the school as early as possible.

**Chapter Three**

They all sat quietly under the lemon tree in the school garden waiting for their parents to come for their visiting day.

“Good morning ma.”, “Good morning ma.” They all said to Evelyn’s mother as she quietly spread the mat on the grass.

“Morning, my children, where are your parents?” Mrs. Veronica asked.

“Ma, they should be on their way. Maybe in the next one hour, they should be here.” Nicole answered gracefully.

Evelyn’s mother had always been a woman of integrity and diligence. She was fair and honest in all her dealings with people and so she tried to inculcate and imbibe her good virtues and character in her children. She was a mother of three children, Evelyn was the first child and she had a younger brother, Emmanuel and a younger sister, Emmanuella. Evelyn’s late father worked in the railway for seven years before he was diagnosed of a heart disease which cost him his life. Evelyn’s parents were all good people and were of good characters. So then why was Evelyn so stubborn, arrogant and careless although her mother never knew about it.

“My children, discipline is painful but the reward is gainful.” Mrs. Veronica started.

“You are in secondary school now and what you should focus on is your studies and examinations. Do not allow unnecessary distractions to distract you because they won’t do you any good rather they will destroy you. Try as much as possible to avoid all forms of distractions, do not follow the crowd, be yourself and stop living in pretense. Study hard and make us proud. I believe that you are all going to make us proud?” She asked pointing to each of them.

“Yes ma, we are.” Ezinne answered anxiously.

“As I was saying, you need to focus on your studies and make excellent results, you also need to improve your morals and behavior and have a high self-esteem. Know the background where you come from and try to stand out and be the best. I hope this advice is very clear.” Mrs. Veronica said emptying the contents of her fancy basket for them.

“Manage these, Evelyn and share this one with your friends.” She said.

The parents of the other girls came and they were all happy to see each other once again. Nicole’s mom brought almost a full cupboard of confectionery for her daughter. In Justice College, Fridays were their inspection day and every house captain was assigned to do the job which involved making sure that their mattresses were clean, their boxes arranged and their room well swept and arranged.

Cynthia was the house captain of the SS2 dormitory and she was very strict and ‘wicked’ as students will say. The five girls wanted to bribe her for their room inspection but they never knew that things would turn out bad for them.

“Jummy, come here quickly.” Cynthia called as Jumoke walked briskly towards her.

“I found some black and greenish stuff like leaves under your pillow and I believe they are hard drugs and substances.” Cynthia said sneering at her.

“I swear, I swear, I have no idea of what you are talking about. It is not me, I swear. It is a set up.” Jumoke denied with tears dropping down her eyes.

“Okay then, we’ll see to that in the principal’s office.” Cynthia said and walked away.

“What sort of nonsense is this, what kind of nonsense is this, what kind of trouble have I put myself into and what will I tell Mr. Albert?” Jumoke asked walking around the room.

Evelyn quickly ran into the room on hearing the news from other students outside the dormitory. Most of the students had started chattering about the happening.

“Jummy, why on earth will you leave your stuff under your pillow and even leave it up to Friday which you know is the inspection day. You made a very big mistake.” Evelyn said speaking in a low tone of despair.

“I did not do it on purpose, I totally forgot it. In fact, I did not even know that I still had that one.” Jumoke said almost screaming.

“Just simply find a way to turn the whole story upside down and try not to implicate us.” Evelyn said patting Jumoke on her back.

“Night butterflies, you guys have refused to stay one place. Now this one has entered problem, it is just the tip of an iceberg.” Nneoma said as she walked past them.

Ezinne had always hated Nneoma with passion. As soon as she called them ‘Night butterflies’, Ezinne was stirred up with anger and rage. The name had gone viral but most people never still understood what the name entailed and what they did at nights. Some said that they had a secret cult meeting while some others said that they loved to work at nights so the activities of the girls were hidden.

They wanted to get freedom at all cost and at a tender age of their lives which was not supposed but their quest for freedom in the long run exposed them to negative social vices. Freedom is to be given to a child but it should be limited.

Later on in the evening, the principal called Jumoke into his office. Mr. Okey the disciplinary teacher and other few notable teachers were there. She felt as if the world had come to an end as she scrutinized the faces of the men.

“Jumoke Oladoju, isn’t that your name?” Mr. Albert asked looking at her from her head to her toe.

“Yes sir.” She answered coldly.

“I got a complaint from your house captain, Cynthia and she said that she found this under your pillow and Mr. Akpan her confirms that it is Indian hemp. What do you have to say about that?” He asked.

“Sir, sir, I can swear that it wasn’t me that put it or used it, It must have been a set up by someone.” She stammered with a little milk of confidence in her voice.

“How did you get it because this cock and bull story is just a fairy tale, you are standing amidst men that are mature and not kids.” Mr. Albert shouted as he got angry.

“Let’s give her a little time to cry, if it gets too bad, we simply call her parents.” Mr. Okey suggested.

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The next day, a guest speaker was invited in the school to speak to the students.

“Hello, good day staff and students. I am glad and happy to be speaking in a great and prestigious school like this, I didn’t hesitate when I was asked to come and speak here because I was confident enough that I will be speaking to people who make good use of their brains and will also be able to listen and apply what they will learn today. That’s by the way; let us get to the main point. Today, many young people in secondary school have allowed themselves to become tools in the devil’s hand in order to commit various atrocities. What I am saying may not be clear to the junior students who are still coming up. I strongly believe that a child in secondary school should be thinking and working hard towards his studies and even a scholarship and how to become a better and responsible person in the future.” The guest speaker spoke as he wiped his face with a handkerchief.

“So, I don’t see the reason why someone like that would be looking for freedom, fame and money at his tender age which will eventually lead him into dirty activities like smoking, robbery, rape and so on. Days back when we were in secondary school, we were not given much opportunity like you guys are been given now. So I urge you to utilize this time and opportunity judiciously and make out something out of it.” Mr. Andrew continued.

All the students applauded him greatly for the little piece of advice he had given to them. The session continued and lasted for two hours and it ended gracefully.

Students started running back to their hostels as the lights would soon be out.

**Chapter Four**

The matter of the Indian hemp found in Jumoke’s custody had died down, she was given two weeks suspension by the principal, Mr. Albert. She tried her possible best not to expose her friends. When she got home, she lied to her mum that she was suspended from the school in order to go for proper treatment for her illness. Her mom gently accepted her into the house without much questioning. After a week, Jumoke actually started feeling ill, she began coughing and sometimes her body temperature ran high. Her mom quickly rushed her to the hospital and the doctor ran a test on her. Few hours later, the test results came out and the doctor carefully handed over the slip to Mrs. Bola, Jumoke’s mum. She quickly put into her handbag and they left the hospital.

While they were in the car on their way home, Mrs. Bola opened the result and read it carefully and it showed that Jumoke had lung problems, some black substances were found in her lungs. She was shocked to the spine to believe what was on the paper. She never expected her daughter to be confirmed of such illness.

“Jumoke, what is this, what am I seeing on this paper, I don’t get this whole story.” Mrs. Bola said with anxiety in her voice.

“Mum, what’s that? Why are you worried and what is the problem?” Jumoke asked.

“Aren’t you seeing what the test result is showing, you are almost close to lung cancer and cardiac arrest.” Mrs. Bola said drawing closer to Jumoke.

“Maybe, it was an oversight from his laboratory equipment; they may not be functioning properly.” Jumoke said trying to deny.

“Shut up your mouth, I took you to a one of the best and standard hospitals in the town and all you can say is that it is an oversight, is something wrong with you?” Mrs. Bola asked

“Mum calm down, that is not the best way to handle this matter. Let us go to another hospital, I am even getting better, Okay.” Jumoke retorted.

“Hmm, let it not be what’s on my mind, anyway let me just remain silent but be aware that my silence is not golden.” Mrs. Bola said.

Jumoke was trying to distract her mother from the fact that she was into smoking and so she tried to avert her discussion with her mother about the hospital test.

After the two weeks suspension, Jumoke came back to school healthy and fresh because she was under the watch of her mother. Her friends were surprised to see her looking bright and lively, they expected her to look depressed and unhappy but reverse was the case.

“Jummy how was your break?” Evelyn asked beaming with smiles.

“It was fine and okay but I was diagnosed of a lung disease and I will have to be going for check up at the end of every month.” Jumoke answered.

“Thanks, you risked your studies to cover us, you did a great job.” Maryjane said hugging Jumoke.

“I will always be there for each and every one of you as long as we stand by each other at all times.” Jumoke assured.

“See how you are just looking fresh, hmm.” Nicole said chuckling.

“It is my mother oo; she has just been taking good care of me.” Jumoke answered.

“We need people like your mom here so that our lives would have been much ‘better’.” Ezinne added.

“Let us go and clean up.” Nicole said and they all stood up and left.

While they were outside their dormitory washing their clothes, dishes and cleaning up their boxes. Students passing by would point at Jumoke and say some things about her. But nonetheless, Jumoke was ready for the worst to happen. She was ready to face any challenge that would come her way.

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Their third term examinations were around the corner and students started reading as if it was a day’s examination. Most students started missed their lunch all because they were studying. Even Justin the notorious student was persistently studying in his hostel with some other of his friends. They burnt the midnight candle carefully. At times, even after the lights out, they would put their small torches and start studying. The night butterflies were also reading but not as serious and persistent as other students. They would just flip pages of their notes and sleep off. It was Ezinne that would wake them up because she was the only one among them that never joked with her academics although she was identifying with them in their activities.

Late at nights, Nicole would wake up and start preparing her little papers for examination malpractice which students called ‘bullets’ in the school. After that, she would fix them in some hidden pockets of her uniform. She did this quietly few weeks before the examination date. The next day, Maryjane brought up an idea for them to give their core subject teachers bribe in order to give them false marks.

“I don’t think we have enough money to give them for bribe and I believe that things are not just going to be perfect as planned. Why don’t we go ahead and steal the question papers instead.” Jumoke suggested.

“This is what we are going to do, after the lights out, let us all got the Dean of Studies’ house and get the papers but if the security there is very tight, then we resort to the alternative.” Evelyn said.

“Brilliant, that is just what we should do. That is a very nice idea; we can even carry out all the plans today.” Nicole exclaimed.

After the lights out, they did as they planned but they were not completely successful with their mission. They were only able to get the Biology and Further Mathematics question paper whereas they wanted their core subjects’ paper. Nevertheless they still made good use of the two papers. They quickly left Mr. Obiora’s house. They went back to their hostel and started checking the answers to the questions on the paper. They carefully did it in order not to make a mistake.

It was finally the day of their examination and all the students wore a bright face except for those who never liked examinations. They all appeared gracefully in their main school uniforms which was a white shirt and a brown trouser or skirt for the girls. All the students gathered themselves on the assembly ground according to their classes. They took the school anthem and the national anthem solemnly as they were anxious for the examination to commence.

All protocols were observed and the announcements were given. Mr. Albert advised the students to focus on their books and strive for the best in the forthcoming examination. He urged them to shun every form of examination malpractice as no student or staff will be tolerated if he or she engages in any form of malpractice.

The students had already begun their first paper which was English Language and the hall was as silent as a graveyard as all the students were keenly focused on their papers. Those that chewed their pen covers were not exempted and also those that had ‘long necks’ were not exempted too.

After about an hour of the examination, a loud noise was heard from the back of the hall and everyone’s attention was drawn to the back. After a while, the hall was quiet once again and it was discovered that the student who had collapsed, fainted because he had been studying for two days without visiting the dining hall. He was quickly rushed to the school dispensary for immediate treatment and he was also served food.

Ezinne was speedily writing as if the time wasn’t enough for her while the other girls were also writing an exchanging glances at each other.

“Pens up, leave your answer booklets on your desk.” Mr. Jide ordered.

Mr. Jide was one of the feared teachers in Justice College, he had a fierce and stern look and his face depicted his readiness to deal with students that were in the act of misbehaving.

The students quickly left the hall as instructed and Mr. Jide quickly assembled all the answer booklets. As he was about to place the last booklet on the others, a very small piece of paper slipped out of the booklet and he quickly picked it, looked at it and discarded it.

The examinations continued and there was no report of any malpractice. Even Nicole who was fond of using ‘bullets’ used them successfully without any hindrances. The term came to an end and the best students were called out and given prizes accordingly. To the greatest surprise of everyone, Maryjane came out second position in her class. She was called upon by the principal.

“How did it happen?” Mr. Albert asked rhetorically.

Maryjane just stood on the platform without speaking a word.

“Anyway, give her a round of applause, she has done great job to arrive at this milestone.” Mr. Albert said and left the assembly.

Maryjane had bribed her form teacher with a sum of five thousand naira just to give her the second position.

**Chapter Five**

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**About the Book**

As we all are aware, adolescence and negative social vices is rampant in our society today. The book illustrates the life of five beautiful secondary school girls who were indulging in all forms of atrocities and menace in school. They allowed themselves to be hypnotized by mediocrity, pretense and bad lifestyle. But surely nemesis still caught up with them. Discover the escapades of their quick adventurous bad lifestyle.