

DEEPTHOTS **NOVELS**

THE PUBLISHER OF: NWALA, PAPA LOVES HIS GIRLS, TEACHER CHUKS
AND OTHER AMAZING NOVELS

3 IS A CROWD

AS INSPIRED BY THE LIVING WORD. WRITTEN BY OPEYEMI AKINTUNDE



3 IS A CROWD

PUBLISHED BY:

DEEP THOTS

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DEEP THOTS NOVELS

THOTS MEANS (THE HOLY ONE TELLS STORIES)

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APPRECIATION

I APPRECIATE THE ALMIGHTY GOD FOR THE PRIVILEGE GIVEN TO WRITE THIS MASTERPIECE... ALL GLORY TO GOD...

I APPRECIATE MY WONDERFUL HUSBAND, AKINWALE AKINTUNDE, YOU MAKE MARRIAGE LOOK AND FEEL SO SIMPLE, YOUR UNFLINCHING SUPPORT TOWARDS MY MINISTRY EVEN BAFFLES ME... IT MAKES ME KNOW THAT GOD'S EYES ARE ALL OVER ME... THANK YOU FOR BEING MY FRIEND, MY TEACHER, MY MOTIVATOR, MY LOVER...AND EVERYTHING YOU HAVE IN YOUR CAPACITY TO BE TO ME...

I APPRECIATE MY PARENTS, DEACON & EVANG. OJERINDE FOR BELIEVING IN ME RIGHT FROM MY YOUNG AGE TILL DATE... You are the best parents any child could ask for...

I APPRECIATE MY SWEET IN-LAWS, PASTOR & MRS ABRAHAM AKINTUNDE. YOU GIVE ME PEACE OF MIND, THANK YOU, DADDY AND MUMMY.

I APPRECIATE MY SPIRITUAL PARENTS, DR D.K & DR. SADE OLUKOYA. "Daddy And Mummy, thanks for your Fatherly and Motherly love and interest in me".

I APPRECIATE BISHOP DAVID OYEDEPO, FOR SOWING THE SEED OF SALVATION IN ME, WHILE ATTENDING COVENANT UNIVERSITY.

I APPRECIATE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF STARTING MY DRAMA JOURNEY IN WORLD EVANGELISM BIBLE CHURCH AS A LITTLE CHILD.

I APPRECIATE PASTOR GBESAN ADEBAMBO, PASTOR FEMI ADEMUAGUN, EVANG MIKE & GLORIA BAMILOYE, EVANG KOLAWOLA DAVID OKEOWO, PASTOR JOSEPH, PASTOR DELE., PASTOR AUSTIN...GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

TO THE WONDERFUL GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN ME... MY CHILDREN, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING THAT MUM HAS TO BE ON HER

SYSTEM FOR LONG HOURS WRITING STORIES. GOD BLESS YOU AND MAKE YOU GREATER THAN I CAN EVER BECOME.

TO PROFESSOR LANRE AMODU, THANK YOU FOR CREATING THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND MY PURPOSE.

I APPRECIATE MY FAMILY MEMBERS FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT, APOSTLE & DR FOLASADE POPOOLA, OPEYEMI & TITILOLA ADEJOJU ,TO MY LOVELY BROTHER, ADEFIMIHAN OJERINDE, THANKS FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT ALWAYS.

I APPRECIATE GABRIEL YUSUF FOR FRONT COVER DESIGN AND IMO BUCK.

TO YOU, MY READERS & SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS. IF I HAD NO ONE TO READ, THERE WON'T HAVE BEEN THE NEED TO WRITE... THANKS FOR ALWAYS READING. GOD BLESS YOU...MY PRAYER FOR YOU IS THAT AS YOU GO THROUGH THIS BOOK, YOU WILL FIND GOD ON THE PAGES OF THIS BOOK IN JESUS NAME

DEDICATION

I DEDICATE THIS NOVEL TO MY SOURCE, MY INSPIRATION BANK, MY FOUNDATION, THE GIVER OF THE OIL UPON MY HEAD... TO GOD THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

I AM NOTHING WITHOUT THE TRINITY

CHAPTER 1

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Florence was as weak as a newborn lamb, she laid on her bed very exhausted. She had worked the night shift and there had been two emergencies. Nights like these were nights she asked herself why she choose the nursing profession?

The answer wasn't far-fetched; It was simply because the medical profession was in her bloodline, it only made sense for her to practice anything close to saving lives.

Her parents were both Doctors, while her two elder brothers were also doing well in the medical calling. The first-born Chris was a Medical Doctor, while Philip was a pharmacist.

Florence knew from her childhood Medical practice was not her thing but that would make her the black sheep. She loved singing. She could only imagine being a musician in her dreams. To make matters worse, her parents had adopted a girl who fit into the family more than she, the biological daughter.

Miracle had been born in her parent's hospital and under the careless watch of some of the nurses, the mother had escaped.

Miracle had been born with an enlarged heart.

Florence had been told by her parents how they had done everything humanly possible including selling two of their cars to save Miracle's life. It was therefore a thing of joy & pride for them at Miracle's graduation, when she graduated with a first class in Medicine and Surgery.

Florence, on the other hand struggled to get a nursing degree. She wanted something extremely easy, and she had thought nursing was the easy route.

If only she knew it was anything but easy. Her back ached like crazy...

“Sugar! Sugar!” Florence heard the scream of her husband. He was calling her by the pet name he had given her, but there was definitely nothing sweet about his voice...

“Which kind of life is this eh? Someone attended to patients at the hospital all night; someone will come home again and attend to husband again. God this is not fair ooo, me I want to live soft life like my friends.”

Florence walked to the living room. Tade sat at the dinning table obviously angry.

“Someone will not enjoy you at night, even during the day, you are a waste” Tade blurted out.

“Na wa oh... Tade, you call me sugar one minute and the next minute you insult me again, what have I done this morning?”

“You think I was calling you sugar?” Tade asked.

“Yes, is that not what you call me?”

“Then you must be dumb, I was screaming Sugar! Sugar! Florence, you want to kill me abi? You poured a can of sugar into this small cup of tea?”

“Tade, firstly, my name is not dumb, you seem to be drunk this morning to have mistaken my name for dumb. Well before you say anything, Apologies accepted, so moving on you said I added a can of sugar to your tea, and does that sound like the truth

in your ears or you decided to open your mouth because of how big it is without measuring the truth... For your information Tade, I only added a tablespoon of sugar.”

“A tablespoon of sugar! Florence you are really crazy, you want to kill me?”

“On the contrary, I want to save you, your memory seems to be short of the knowledge that you are presently treating your low sugar level” Florence reminded him.

“My mom said I don’t need to consume a lot of sugar to treat....” Tade defended but Florence cut in.

“There we go again... Mummy said, Mummy said, Gosh! Your mum is in this marriage even when she is not here.”

“Yes, my mummy has never failed me, whatever she says is confirmed” Tade boasted

“Well, I am your second mummy, and I decide whether you live or die, and right now, I say you live, my dad though he was a medical doctor died of low sugar and I am not about to lose you to the same cause of death.”

“No, from other sources, I heard that your mum actually nagged your Dad to death, and that’s what you do to me, soon you will nag me to death”. Tade stood up and walked to the room angrily...

Florence couldn't believe she had been stoned by her dear husband.

To be continued....

CHAPTER 2

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Tade was beginning to wonder if his two years marriage was still going to work, he should have just listened to his Mum about Florence. She had told him; she was too educated for him...

TWO YEARS EARLIER

“Tade, I like this girl ooo, but her family...Hmmm... she is coming from an educated family, they are richer than us. They will put you under their armpit, she is more educated than you. You are just lucky to be rich at a young age, your hardwork has made a way for you, look for another girl that you will grow old together. Besides, Josephine is still available.” Tade remembered how he had defended Florence saying she was not going to be a domineering wife, but here she was dictating how he ought to have his tea.

Florence sat in the living room looking straight ahead thinking of how best to say the words she had to say. She didn't notice when Tade walked into the living room to watch football; it was the usual commentator's voice that made her aware of his presence.

“My mum needs a place to stay for a month; she is coming for a government sponsored training in Lagos.”

Tade did not say a word as he felt there was nothing to say in response.

" So, we will be hosting her” Florence concluded.

Tade looked at her like she just spoke gibberish.

“Did you just hear yourself or you tend to open your mouth based on it’s size?” Tade said madly.

"Tade that’s my line, it is not sweet coming from your lips, be creative if you want to be savage” Florence replied smiling.

“I am not joking, you know your mother can not stay here for a month, we had an agreement that no extended family stays here. You gave the rule when we first got married.”

“Well, that’s because I don’t want your siblings living with us, my mother is different because she won’t be a burden”

" Oh, so my family is the burden family?" Tade asked sarcastically.

“Tade be logical, I do not have sibling that will be a burden, my siblings are established and doing well for themselves, while your siblings still need help.”

“Florence, if my family needs help, do I ask you to offer it to them, I spend my money on them” Tade replied

“Oh! Your money, now I see the kind of man I married, that means if you die today, you will bequeath all your money to your family and leave me with nothing.”

“It’s your father that will die” Tade answered Madly.

“He is already dead” Tade replied laughing.

“Then it is your brothers that will die, see this babe wishing me death. Florence in fact you are the one who is going to die.”

“God forbid” Florence is shocked and, in a flash, breaks down in tears.

“Tade, you want me dead, so you can marry another woman who will give you a child.”

Tade is weakened; he simply cannot bear watching Florence cry. He loved Florence with every breath in him. He couldn’t understand why they were always at loggerheads. Slowly, he walked towards her and wrapped her in a loving embrace.

“You will not die, and I will not die, and we live long to have plenty babies” Tade said.

“Please let my mum stay for the one month” She pleaded like a baby.

“Why do you do this?” He asked as he looked into her puppy eyes

“Do what?” She looked into his eyes like a baby.

“Why do you wrap me... this big guy in your little hand and toss me around the way you like because you know how much I love you” Tade said.

“Why do you also speak to me anyhow, knowing fully well that I have a savage reply for any insult, treat me well, and I will be a good girl.” Florence said like a child.

Tade looked lovingly into her eyes...

“I love you “Tade said

“I love you too” Florence replied.

They sat into the chair hugging themselves tightly...

To be continued....

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CHAPTER 3

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

TWO WEEKS LATER

Florence's mum walks into the living room with her boxes. She walked in exuding so much grace. She walked in elegantly with so much pride. She was on the big side stature wise, and she carried it well with so much gait and poise.

“Is the air conditional unit not working?” was the first thing she asked.

“It is mum, but Tade is allergic to cold so he can’t handle it when it is too cold.”

“Some things can never change and even when you force it to change, they find it hard to adapt.”

“Mum, what did you say?” Florence asked, as she couldn’t make out what her mother muttered.

“Never mind, I hope the AC in the room is working perfectly?”

“Yet it is.”

“Florence, why do you have all these blackheads on your face? Is the water here treated?”

“Mum, it’s not the water that is causing my blackhead. I seem to be reacting to something.”

"Oh! My Goodness, I told you, Adamson was a better option” Mrs Adesina moved closer to her whispering.

“The last time I saw his wife, her skin was so smooth & flawless. Florence, If you had married Adamson, your skin would be thanking you now”

“Mom!” Florence said to her mum with a stong emphasis on it, Mrs Adesina immediately understood and turned to see her son in law.

“Oh! son in law, how are you?” she said.

“Fine ma” Tade replied trying to cover up his heartache from the comparison he had overheard from the mouth of his mother-in-law.

After the greetings, he walked back in.

“Forgive my mum, she didn’t mean it” Florence said.

“Obviously” Tade replied as he brushed his hair

“Where to? Florence asked.

“To make more money, so I can make your skin better.”

“Tade, I said she didn’t mean it.”

“Florence, and I replied obviously.”

“This is 6pm, what business are you going out to do at this time.”

“The business of clearing my head” Tade replied.

He was mad! He wanted to get out of the house to clear his head, His mother-in-law was a nagging woman, she had a degree in nagging. Florence had told him once that she felt her dad had died to escape her mother’s nagging.

“Excuse me” Tade said to Florence who was standing in his way.

“I am not letting you leave this house.”

“Florence, please...”

“No”

“Florence”

“Tade, I choose you , so nothing she says should get at you”

“How would you feel if my mother came here and started speaking about my ex.”

“Your mum can not do that, when is not like she is crazy...” Florence blurted out before realizing what she said.

“I am sorry I didn’t mean to talk like that” She quickly added.

Tade is obviously enraged, Florence could see it in his eyes; so, she borrowed herself some sense and stepped aside. Tade still controlling his anger, stepped out of the house.

“Where is he off to?” Mrs Adesina asked Florence as he drove out of the compound.

“Don’t tell me he keeps late night! My God, Florence I knew this guy would be an error. Gosh, Adamson is a gentleman compared to this illiterate”

“Mum, can you stop it?”

“Ehn Ehn... Florence, is this what this useless boy has turned you into, now you insult me and speak back at me” Mrs. Adesina burst into tears.

“God, why is Florence so different from my other children, even Miracle that is not my biological child gives me more joy than her, her two elder brothers are doing well, they are married to responsible girls.”

“Responsible girls?” Florence asked mockingly.

“Yes, except for Eunice, that one, she will soon leave my son, she is just there to while away time, when I am ready, I will send her out of my son’s house.”

“Thank God, I am not the only one giving you problem.”

“Shut up Florence, Shut up! We are talking about you... I am reporting you to God, and you are busy diverting me.”

“Sorry ooo... continue” Florence said and walked away.

“God, my late husband was a doctor” Mrs. Adesina said.

“God already knows that” Florence said from the kitchen.

“God, I am still a practicing Medical Doctor.”

“Mummy, God is not blind ooo”

“God, my two sons and adopted daughter are medical doctors.”

“God has gotten this memo since.”

“And it’s only my daughter Florence that settled to be a nurse! Oh my God” Mrs Adesina said with tears pouring from her eyes.

“Mummy, stale gist, tell God something new.”

“God, why must she always be the odd one out, she is the only one not enjoying her marriage...”

“Only one? Mummy stop lying, you are talking to God ooo, don’t let him slap you.”

“God, apart from my second son, who I plan on scattering his marriage, God please help me rearrange Florence' life... Firstly help her, try to convince her to try medicine again, also if possible, give her another husband and finally give her a child”

“Mummy, rest! God is not going to answer your first two prayer requests.”

To be continued....

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CHAPTER 4

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Mrs Oluwagbemi sat satisfactorily watching an epic movie. The screen of the newly bought Plasma TV her son just gifted her was making movie viewing more interesting. Comfort was her middle name now. She had toiled earlier in life to raise her Children and in recent years God decided to show His Goodness to her by blessing one of her children. Tade was God's way of wiping her tears. She had three other children of which Gbemi her last child was the only the one staying with her. Gbemi sat nearby focused on her phone as usual.

“Na wa o, rich girls and the way they treat their husbands... Maami, can you imagine! How can a girl castrate her husband in his sleep, And the annoying thing is, they will find a way to make sure she does not pay for her sin”

“Ta ni yen?” (Who is that?)”

" It's not someone you know ooo, I am reading news from an online site."

" News wo niyen?" (What news is that?)” Mrs Oluwagbemi asked

“Is it not the daughter of that rich billionaire that owns Segeri Mail, she castrated her husband.”

“The one that married the son of her father’s driver.”

“Yes, oo Maami”

“Ha! Hope the boy did not die.”

“Maami, e tun na bread” (Mum, really?)

“Ha! Ori mi ko o” (God, I reject such a thing) "May such a thing not happen to my son o. Do you know that Florence girl can do something like that?" Mrs. Oluwagbemi said.

‘When she does not want to drink Elubo as garri, and when it is not like they plugged her brain to light socket, I promise you Mummy, I will cut her breast and fry it’ Gbemi replied.

“Such a thing will not happen in Jesus name.”

“E pele, Iya Church”

“Let me even call him.”

Tade saw his mum’s call. Exactly who he needed to talk to...

“Hello maami... E kale ma”

“Oko mi, how are you?”

“I am not fine.”

“You are not fine, kilo sele” (What is wrong?)

“It's my mother-in-law ni, she is in our house for a month, she just came this evening and she is already reminding me of my place” Tade has tears pouring out of his eyes.

“Mammi, am I not good enough? Maami I am trying for her daughter ooo, I work hard to make sure she doesn't need anything, she doesn't spend her salary, I pay for everything, yet her mother came in today and said if she had married her ex, she would have had a better skin.”

“Skin... Ko ye mi”

“Pe skin e ma fine”

Mrs Oluwagbemi burst in laughter...

” This your mother-in-law's brain is leaking oil ooo, her daughter has been in her husband's house for two years and has not conceived and all she cares about is her skin” Mrs Oluwagbemi said, and Gbemi could not hide her anger...

“Brother mii, what is she doing in your house for one month? I thought you said you and your wife agreed no extended family can sleep over in your house except when you have kids?”

“Don't mind her, she suddenly changed the rule to accommodate her own mother” Mrs. Oluwagbemi replied.

“No mummy, the thing is her mother came for a training in Lagos for one month, so I believe Florence doesn’t want her spending money at the hotel.”

“The money that they have in excess, Tade it is not fair ooo” Mrs Oluwagbemi burst in tears...

‘I have come to Lagos three times this year, first when Iya Julie's daughter was getting married, Iya John’s grandson’s naming ceremony, and just last month, when my tailor friend did graduation for her daughter, these three times, you never let me stay in your house for the night, Tade ko da ooo” Mrs Oluwagbemi said crying... She ended the call.

“Maami, I hope they will not castrate your son soon, he is at the mercy of that saucy mother-in-law for one month”

“God forbid”

“I pray it is not your son’s dead body you will go up pick after one month.”

“I reject it ooo in Jesus name.”

Tade kept redialing his mother’s number, but she was not picking up, he dialed Gbemi’s number, but she wasn’t picking up either. He kept looking down at the phone screen as he drove, suddenly he felt a bright light on him. In response to what he felt he looked up, he saw that he was in front of massive truck. Tade screamed and tried to swerve his hand.

To be continued....

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CHAPTER 5

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Florence stood at the balcony of her house looking at the gate, she had been waiting for Tade all night. This was the first of its kind in their two years young marriage.

She redialed his number, but it was still switched off.

“Bang! Bang” There was a loud bang on the gate... Florence was startled; the bang was way too loud. Tade had his own key, normally he would open the gate by himself so why the banging.

“Yes, who is there?” Florence walked towards the gate.

Mrs Adesina walked out of the house to the balcony, she was ready to pour all she had stored in her for a very long time. Today, the poor illiterate boy was in for it.

“Yes, who is banging the gate like that?’ Florence asked again.

“It is the mother of the man who owns the house.”

Florence couldn’t believe her ears. She ran back to her mother...

“Mum, it’s my mother-in-law” Florence said.

“Ehn... Ehn... so? Go open the door”

“What if Tade has reported us to her?”

“So will she beat me, Go and open for her, there is nothing new underneath the sky, I have mouth, she has mouth, if she says rubbish, I will finish her with nonsense, Rada Rada (Nonsense)”

Mrs. Oluwagbemi couldn't believe her daughter-in-law was not opening the gate for them. She saw how she ran back towards the house through a small hole by the gate.

“She is not opening for us” Tade's Mum said to Gbemi, who looks like she had come for war...

“Maami, don't worry, they don't know anything. If it is to climb this gate, I will climb it, I will show them craziness & madness. Only God knows what they have done to my brother, we have been calling him since last night, and he didn't pick up till the phone went off.”

Gbemi was already climbing the fence when Florence Opened the gate...

“Gbemi what are you doing?’ Florence asked.

“What does it look like she is doing? Are you blind or barrenness is not enough ailment in your body, you want to add blindness to it”

“Ha! Mummy, Good morning ma”

“It is your family that they will mourn.”

“Ha! I reject it in Jesus name.”

"See, this witch calling Jesus, Ko shi Kuro" Tade's Mum pushed her aside and walked into the compound. Gbemi also got down from her climbing adventure, hissed and walked past Florence.

Florence knew trouble had landed in her home. She needed to get these people out of her house as quickly as possible. She ran after them, and from behind them, she began to signal to her mum to please be calm about things...

“My in-laws, good morning, welcome” Mrs Adesina greeted Mrs Tade's Mum and Gbemi, but neither of them acknowledged her greeting nor her presence.

They walked right past her into the living room. Florence saw that her mother felt insulted and could put her mother-in-law in her place pretty soon.

Florence quickly knelt before her mum.

“Mum please, just swallow anything they are throwing at you, I will get them out of the house soon Please” Florence pleaded.

“Tade! Tade! where are you?” Florence heard her mother-in-law’s voice. She rushed in as fast as her legs could carry her.

‘Ha! Mummy, Tade is not at home, he left home very early. He travelled’

“To where?’

“Ehm... Abu... Abeokuta”

“You are a liar; I spoke with my son yesternite and he didn’t say anything about travelling. Where is my son?”

“Mummy, I...am... saying the truth ma”

“Maami, I hope this people have not killed my brother last night, where is my phone, let me show your evil faces to the world” Gbemi brought out her very expensive phone and starting a live show...

“Hello famz, I am presently in my brother’s house and I have this weird feeling that his wife and mother have killed him, my brother is not at home...” Gbemi burst into tears “look at their faces....”

Mrs Adesina approaches her in anger, snatches the phone and smashes it on the floor...

Gbemi could not believe what her had just flashed past her face.

“My eight months salary phone” Gbemi screams and rushes at Mrs Adesina. She drags her by her cloth, “You will buy me a new phone.”

“You are mad, my God, Florence can you see the illiterate family you sold yourself cheaply into. No social literacy, no morals, Gush, you are a disgrace... get your hands off

me... Useless mother, tell your uncultured daughter to get her hands off me, before I teach her morals”.

“You are the failure of a mother, a mother who trained a daughter who can not keep her home. You are the mother comparing your son-in-law with your daughter’s ex. Shameless woman.”

“Oh, he has come home to tell you, so that is why you are here to defend him?” Mrs Adesina replied laughing...

“Florence, shame on you, you ended your life with a mummy’s baby... Nonsense” Mrs Adesina shoves Gbemi off her and with no one seeing that coming, Gbemi hit her head on a stool.

The sound was very clear.

“Won ti pa mi lomo” (They have killed my child)

“What is happening here?” Tade’s voice rang loud from the entrance...

“Ha! Tade, they have killed your sister” Tade's Mum cried...

“She is not dead, she just fainted” Mrs Adesina said “Florence get me water.”

It was at that point everyone noticed the bandage on Tade’s head, arm and leg.

Florence's brain froze...

“Babe what happened?”

“Accident”

“Where? When? How?”

“Get the water first!” he screamed at her as he limped towards Gbemi...

To be continued....

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Few minutes later, Gbemi came around; Mrs Adesina, being a doctor was able to resuscitate her, but she insisted she should be taken to the hospital....

“Have you checked your mental status recently?” Tade barked at Florence.

Minutes earlier, they had all just returned from the hospital. Gbemi had been cleared; there was no internal injury in her head. She was given some pain relief tablets and was told to have enough rest.

On getting home, Florence had blurted out without thinking.

“Gbemi, you can relax here today, by tomorrow morning, you can go home with mummy.”

Everyone including her mother had looked at her like she just spoke like an insensitive fool...

“Have you checked your mental status recently?” Tade had barked at her

“Like seriously, you can’t wait to throw my family out of my house, while your mum plans on spending a full month here?’ Tade couldn't help but ask.

“I just thought your family will rest better at home. Mum is not here to rest; she came for work.”

“Oh Really? Florence why are you so insensitive and selfish, I left this house last night because of the words your mother said and in the process, I had an accident, my mom & sister came to check on me because they couldn’t reach me, and just again, your Mum almost made me lose my sister”

Tade's Mum started crying...

“God, this is not the kind of marriage I want for my son. Lord, after his father biological father rejected him, I took care of him, then when my own love who became his father died, I became his father and mother. I suffered to take care of him. Even this phone business that has turned him to a millionaire, I was the one who took a loan from a co-operative to fund the capital... God, now that it is time for me to rest in my child’s house, his wife and mother-in-law are sending me away...” She stood up and walked to the room sobbing.

"Tade, let me leave, let me go back home with Gbemi, these people may kill us with rat poison" Tade's Mum said while packing her things.

“Maami, e stop e, (Mummy Stop it), I don’t like this, you are not going anywhere, I built this house with my own money” Tade said

Gbemi wished she could get a knife and stab the foolish woman, but at that point, she was not ready to knock at heaven’s gate again, but she needed to put Florence in her place.

“You want to send a mother from her child’s house, and somehow you think you will stay in this house and have children yourself... You must be a joker, and you mummy, you slammed my head on a stool in my brother’s house, if by any chance your daughter gives birth in this house, that’s how they will be slamming their heads on the floor” Gbemi said and hissed, leaving the living room.

“I reject it” Florence shouted

“Reject all you want, since you don’t go to church regularly, you can’t know that it is written that “A causeless curse shall not stand” but unfortunately for us, this curse has a cause... Enjoy the consequences of your actions”

Tade walks out to the living room.

“Babe, Mum is leaving tomorrow” Florence said

“Good, but regardless of whether she leaves or stays, my mum & sister will be staying with us till they choose to leave or better still when Gbemi feels strong enough to leave”

Tade said and without waiting for her reply limped to his room.

To be continued....

CHAPTER 7

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

“Mum, you can’t leave in the middle of this” Florence said to her mum as she walked into her packing her box.

“If I don’t leave, your in-laws will not leave.”

“Mum, you heard Tade, he doesn’t plan on letting them return. Mum, you started this, therefore you must wait to the end “

“Are you threatening me?”

“I am not, I am just saying you have to resolve this.”

“Resolve what? Florence, listen to me, I never liked this man, you forced yourself into this marriage, and it’s obvious even God is not happy with this union. For two years no children”

“Mum, I love Tade, and I am not planning to leave him” Florence said,

Tade had his head bowed in his room in tears. Florence walked in; she knew she had messed up big time.

“Tade, I am sorry. Forgive my rash words.”

Tade was not ready to listen, he was gradually losing the love he had for Florence.

“Florence, let’s be honest with each other, Are you sure this marriage is not a mistake. We don’t have kids, so we can easily end with nothing binding us together. Your family see me as undeserving of you.”

“And your family sees me as what....?” Florence replied.

‘Florence my family does not have a problem with you. Whatever you see them do is a reaction to your family’s action.”

“If that’s the case, let my mom leave in the morning, and your family can leave afterwards, that way we go back to how things were” Florence said

“Florence, are you deaf? My family does not have a problem, it’s your family that needs to get your hands off my marriage’ Tade replied angrily.

“So, you want my family to cut off from me, so you and your family can maltreat me? Listen Tade, as long as your family stays in touch or stay with us, my family stays”. Florence hissed and lands on the bed. Though she was a nurse, she was tired of nursing his ego.

Tade shook his head, he decided he was going to let his mother teach Florence how to behave. Tade had always shielded Florence from his family, but she was not shielding him from her own family.

“Fine” Tade landed on the bed as well.

Mrs Adesina laid on her bed thinking aloud.

“These people are two against me, I need someone on my side to fight them with me. Who can I bring to this house to make life a living hell for them?”

Tade's Mum and Gbemi sat discussing in the room.

“Maami, we need to show her and her mother pepper. They almost killed me, Maami, we need to put them in their place, so they don’t kill our breadwinner.”

“Gbemisola, leave them to me, they think they can oppress us, let them watch & learn.”

Florence woke up to smell of something delicious coming from the kitchen. From her sleep, she could smell it. She looked to her side, Tade was still asleep, so the first question in her mind was...

“Who is cooking?”

She jumped to her feet and raced to the kitchen; she was a neat freak who didn’t like people touching her things.

The moment Florence walked into the kitchen, she wanted to collapse. Her kitchen was upside down.

“Mummy what are you doing?” Florence asked her mother-in-law

“I am dancing” Mrs Oluwagbemi retorted.

“I will allow you to kill me with hunger, a wife who wants to have kids, is waking up by 8:15am. I can see why God has not given you a child, he can't bless a lazy girl with a glorious child”

“Mummy, please I am sorry for what happened yesterday. Please, I have been working for five nights straight, so I have three days off, that's why I am waking up this late.”

“Pele(Sarcastic Sorry) Mrs. workaholic” Gbemi replied mockingly

“Aunty, ma ro mi lejo” (Don't pester me with small talk) Mrs Oluwagbemi said.

Florence watched in horror as they served themselves Yam porridge and chicken, while leaving the yam peels on the floor.

“We can't cook and clean up again, so clean up your kitchen” Mrs Dike Oluwagbemi said.

By that time, Mrs Adesina was on her way to her training...

“What is happening?”. She asked, but no one acknowledged her presence, instead Florence ran towards her bedroom...

Florence dashed into the bedroom, as she was about to blurt out her pain, Tade spoke...

“What food is smelling this good?” he asked.

“Your mom and sister are trying me, warn them not to let me show them the stuff I am made of” Florence said to Tade.

“Show them” Tade said briefly before walking out...

To be continued....

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CHAPTER 8

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Tade walked out into the living room to meet his family, he saw his mother-in-law standing and eyeing his mother.

‘Good morning ma’ Tade greeted his mother-in-law briefly.

“Good morning Tade, I will not take what your mother is trying to do to my daughter, if I decide to show them the stuff I am made of, they will run out of this house in a minute.”

“It is you that will run out of your children’s house” Mrs Dike Oluwagbemi shouted back.

Tade walked away from all the shouting and went into the kitchen, served himself the remaining porridge. Florence tried separating her mom from her in-laws but there was no backing down. Florence suddenly looked towards the dining table and saw Tade devouring the Yam porridge.

Florence could not understand the level of rage that overtook her, before she knew what she was doing, she had rushed to the table, carried the food & disposed it in the trash.

“I cook for you in this house, not anyone else” She screamed at him at the top of her voice.

“Mummy please go for your training this minute and mummy, never you step foot in my kitchen to cook or else heads will roll, this is my house and my kitchen.”

Florence went into the room fuming.

Mrs Adesina knew this battle was not child’s play, she needed a second fighting partner.

“You ain’t see nothing” Gbemi said quietly.

Exhaustion could be seen all over Florence. It was obvious she had been cooking for a while. She served the food on the dining table after which she locked the kitchen door with the key.

“Food is ready” Florence called out. Mrs Adesina walked out of her room, she could see the exhaustion on Florence.

“Florence, you have been at this for a week cooking morning, afternoon, night and sometimes midnight when you have to be at work during the day, I advise you let everyone cook their meals.”

“No way, I need to draw the line” Florence replied.

Everyone came to the dining table.

Halfway into the meal, Gbemi decided to throw a bomb.

“This Egusi soup reminds me of Aunty Josephine’s Egusi, the only difference is that this is not as sweet as that one. This is just a failed attempt. Mummy, are you sure we will not create a small kitchen in our room?” Gbemi said facing her Mum.

“No such thing will happen in this house. Everyone eats the same meal” Tade said.

The soft part of his heart felt the hit. He wished he could shut his mom and Gbemi up, but he still wanted Florence to learn her lesson.

“Maybe Florence should get a cook, that way everyone will eat well” Mrs Adesina said dropped her bomb.

Everyone was surprised, including Florence she was trying to defend.

“Wow! Even your Mum agrees to the fact that you can not cook, Epic” Gbemi said out loud laughing.

Florence couldn’t handle her mother’s betrayal.

She rose up from the table and angrily approached the kitchen. She was not planning to lose this fight.

Mrs Adesina walked in, and Florence couldn’t control her outburst...

“Mum, what was that all about?”

Mrs Adesina put her finger to her lips...

“Sh...Sh... trust your mother, something is about to hit them”.

Mrs Adesina gave a dry smile that spoke volumes.

To be continued....

CHAPTER 9

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

“Gbemi, this fight is not yours, stop disrespecting my wife, only mum has the right to speak to her in that manner, and besides it’s temporary, I just want her to know her mother is not the only one that can make life hell for me. If she can not defend me before her mom, I won’t defend her before you... so Gbemi Shush...” Tade said to Gbemi after Florence disappeared into the Kitchen with her Mum.

‘Yes Sir’ Gbemi nodded...

THREE DAYS LATER

Mrs Adesina walked in with a young lady, Mrs Dike Oluwagbemi and Gbemi were seated watching TV.

“Good afternoon Tade's mum, this is the maid” Mrs Adesina said.

“Ehn... Ehn... welcome ooo” Tade's Mum replied

Florence walked out of the kitchen at the sound of the greeting. She had been excited to meet the maid her mum was bringing.

At the sight of the maid, Florence stopped in her tracks; the girl standing in her front was a girl she knew so well. This was Temiloluwa, her mother's cleaner's daughter who had a speech impediment... Florence was lost, it was obvious her mother was up to something...

Without saying anything to Temiloluwa, she said to her mother...

"Mum, can I see you in the kitchen?" Florence said

Almost simultaneously, Gbemi stood up and walked out of the house.

Unknown to Florence and her mum, Gbemi tiptoed to the back of the kitchen to eave drops on their conversation...

**

"Mummy is that not Temi?" Florence asked.

"Yes, she is, but pretend like you don't know her."

"Why? Mum what are you up to?"

"Obviously to send them away from here, before I return home."

"So how is Temi going to send them home."

“Watch and learn how to deal with illiterate fools, who think because you are educated, you don’t know the way of the street”?

“Mum, I am not comfortable with whatever plan you have.”

“The end justifies the means, my dear.”

“I heard it, I heard her say 'the ways of the street', Mummy this woman brought that house girl to frustrate us.”

“Frustrate me? It is her mother she will frustrate, leave them, let’s see how far she goes with it”

“Maami, I have an idea ooo” Gbemi said. She was sure this idea will get Florence on her knees.

“What is the idea?”

Gbemi moved closer to her mum and whispered her plans...

To be continued....

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CHAPTER 10

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Mrs Oluwagbemi left the house telling everyone who cared to listen that she was going for a walk, as she felt her body was getting too stiff.

Thirty minutes later she walked in with a beautiful lady.

“Gbemi, Gbemisola, guess who I ran into on the street of Lagos” She hollered as she walked in

Gbemi walked out of the bedroom screaming in excitement...

“Aunty Josephine!”

She hugged the visitor tightly,

“Aunty Josephine, what are you doing around here?”

“I was looking for an accommodation around here, I came into Lagos for six months industrial attachment, so an agent brought me to see a few apartments around here, it was when I was at the second apartment, I saw mum walking by” Josephine said

“Wow! Brother Tade will be so surprised to see you” Gbemi said.

“Good afternoon ma” Josephine greeted Mrs Adesina and later faced Florence

“Good afternoon, I guess you must be Tade's wife.”

“Obviously, the pictures on the wall should answer that, and I guess you must be the Josephine that cooks so well” Florence replied hotly.

‘Wow! Who said that about me? Tade?’ Josephine asked.

Florence couldn't help but smile...

“Oh! I get this, this is a set up, mummy why would you stoop so low to this, you bringing my husband's ex to taunt me”

“I am happy you are smart enough to get the memo, we are just following your footsteps, you brought a girl you both are familiar with to pretend as a maid, so she can poison us, well we decided to be even, by bringing someone we are very familiar with, who is a very excellent cook” Gbemi said.

Florence couldn't utter a word, so she walked away after eyeing her mum.

“Mummy, Josephine can not stay in my matrimonial home?” Tade said over the phone
“Do you want to crash my marriage.”

“Why will Josephine staying with Gbemi and I in the room destroy your marriage, Do you still have feeling for her?” Tade's Mum replied.

“I don’t have feelings for her, but mummy ko make sense, my wife will be insecure... Please maami....” Tade pleaded

“I am on my way home” Tade said finally.

The moment Mrs Oluwagbemi dropped, Gbemo burst in laughter...

“Aunty Josephine that means Bro Tade still loves you. Aunty Josephine, this is your opportunity to get back what is rightfully yours” Gbemi said.

“Mum, are you sure Tade will like this?”

“He gave us the go ahead to oppress his wife, and I know that your presence alone is oppression raise to power 100...”

“Tade is such a good man, I wonder why the wife doesn’t appreciate him, I will give everything in the world to have Tade back.”

Mrs Oluwagbemi and Gbemi exchanged knowing looks.

As Tade drove back home, he didn’t know why, he was anxious and at the same time excited to see Josephine.

Was he still nursing feelings in his heart for her? He wondered.

“Tade, why didn’t you end up marrying Josephine?” He asked himself.

"Josephine was your child-hood sweetheart. She loved you and didn't argue with you, when you told her you were not interested in going to the university yet, she understood and promised to wait for you. The plan was for both of you to go hustle and after three years go back to school, but that was when you met Florence."

Tade travelled back memory lane as he drove back home.

To be continued....

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CHAPTER 11

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Tade remembered his business was just at its infancy, he was selling fairly used phones at the time. A beautiful lady had walked into his shop that day in her nursing uniform. Life stopped in that moment, as he kept staring at her and the first thing he said was;

“You are naturally beautiful; will you marry me? I would like to wake up to this face every morning” Tade had said to Florence

“Oga, I want to repair my phone screen. Do you repair or not? Elejo wewe (Talkative)” Florence had replied curtly

As Tade drove back home, he couldn't help but think about how he should have taken Florence's curt reply as a red flag about her uncouth mouth, but love was blind.

Tade remembered how he had stalked her for months on phone, at her nursing school and everywhere else...

“God, you know I love my wife, please let us get this marriage thing right” Tade said to himself.

Josephine sat on the bed thinking as Mrs Oluwagbemi and Gbemi chatted on...

“This is the time to get back what belongs to me, this two know nothing, once I am in charge, I will send you far away from here. I will pay you back for your betrayal, I served your family for years and when a rich girl came into the picture, you got Tade married off without thinking about me...” Josephine thought as she supplied fake smiles when she needed to.

“Have you been applying it in their food?” Mrs Adesina asked Temi the maid.

“Yes ma, but I notice they hardly eat the food. Most times they go out to buy food.”

“You mean whenever I go to work, they don’t eat your food?”

“No, I have seen the food in the trash a few times” Temi replied with her slurred speech.

“Hmm... this woman must be a witch.”

“I think so, maybe I will try adding it to the food of the new lady when she starts cooking for them.”

“Ok but be careful when you do it” Mrs. Adesina said.

Tade walked in and went straight into his mother's room. The moment he walked in, the first person he set his eyes on was Josephine, he suddenly became unusually attracted to her.

"Josephine! Wow! Good to see you" he walked up to her and hugged her tightly.

"Tade! You look lean; I thought marriage would have added a few pounds to you" Josephine said.

"Ha! He can't be fat; his wife is a bad cook unlike you" Gbemi said.

"I have missed your food" Tade found himself saying. Tade knew something was not right with him.

"Why am I saying these things" he thought. He quickly stepped back and looked away from Josephine. He could feel her eyes were pulling him in.

"Josephine, you have to leave, my wife won't be happy that you are here."

"Ok" Josephine said.

"Go to where?" Mrs. Oluwagbemi intercepted.

"Tade, Florence and her mother have you wrapped in their fingers, and I will not let it happen, let them know that you are valuable to someone else. With Josephine here as a threat, Florence will sit tight" Mrs. Oluwagbemi said.

"I am just here to help you; I am not here to fan any old flame. Your mom reached out to me to come help you tame your wife. I am already in a new relationship, but if you don't need my help, I can leave this minute" Josephine said as she picked up her hand bag ..

Tade looked at his mom uncertain of what to do...

“Tade, trust me, have I ever failed you?” Tade's Mum said with a blackmailing motherly tone.

‘Fine, just one week” Tade succumbed.

To be continued....

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CHAPTER 12

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Florence was pacing in the room; patiently waiting for Tade to come into the room and drop the good news that he had sent Josephine back.

She knew when he arrived, and without anyone telling her, she knew he went straight to his mom's room in anger.

"Hey!" Tade said on walking in

"When is she leaving?" She asked calmly.

"Who?" Tade feigned ignorance.

"You know who I am talking about."

"Everyone in this house has a name" Tade replied.

"Your ex, Josephine" Florence replied.

"A week from now" Tade said.

“A week? You know that is not going to happen.”

“Why?”

“Tade, when did we start receiving visitors without consulting each other?”

“Since when you brought the maid, without you consulting me”

“But my mother said it at the dining table and...”

“And? And did you bother to ask me privately if I am fine with it?”

“You didn’t oppose it, and silence is consent.”

“That’s to you... Please Florence, I am not in the mood for arguments this night, unless you want me to go find a hotel to go sleep tonight. Josephine will just be here for a week and I don’t think I will have any time to have conversations with her, I will be out to work every morning, so let it rest.... Florence our home is now open to different visitors, so lets learn to cope” Tade said

He hugged Florence and went to bed. He could sense Florence was beginning to break, soon he would achieve his plan.

“Welcome ma” Temi said to Josephine as she walked into the kitchen.

“Huh Huh” Josephine replied.

“When do you want to cook? I can hold on while you do yours?”

“Why? So that you can add your hatred portion into the meal I am cooking” Josephine said boldly

Temi is taken aback... Josephine laughed.

“What kingdom is yours and what level are you?”

"Kindom bird 245, under the motherhood leadership of Queen mother Tunmise and I am a new bird" Temi replied in a hurry in fear.

“Oh! No wonder your eyes are not yet opened.”

“My eye-opening ceremony will be in the next six months ma; I am yet to complete the task given me”

“Who gave you this task?”

“My mother, Florence’s mother offended her years back and she had not yet punished her in full, so when she asked my mother for help, my mother saw it as an opportunity to revenge.”

“Tell me more”

12 YEARS EARLIER

Chris; Florence's eldest brother was with Temi's eldest sister. They were taking a stroll on the road. They had their hands locked. Love could be seen in his eyes for Tunrayo.

Out of the blues, a car parked beside them.

"Chris, is this how you want to disappoint your father and I? Frolicking with the daughter of our cleaner... Hey Tunrayo, as for you, don't let him waste your time, he can not end up with you. He will marry a girl of his class, possibly a medical doctor like him, Chris, get into the car now!" Mrs Adesina had said

"That was how she separated my sister and her son, so when she asked my mum to release me to help her chase her-in-laws out of her daughter's home by pretending to be a maid, my mother saw it as an opportunity."

"Temi, you will not sprinkle the hatred powder in the food of the inlaws, instead you will put in mama Florence's food, and the couple's food. Right before her eyes, her children's marriage will scatter, and both of them will hate her" Temi mother had said to her

“But if you ask me to stop it senior, I will stop it and leave here before the day breaks”
Temi said in a rush.

“No! You won’t stop it, in fact you will continue it, but I will add to your duty, you will add it to the food of the man’s family as well. I want to be the only person he will not hate in this house. Are we clear?”

“Yes senior” Temi agreed.

“In fact, Double the portion”

To be continued....

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CHAPTER 13

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

For the next two days Temi worked hand in hand with Josephine. They indeed doubled the portion of the hatred powder in everyone's meal except for themselves. Whenever Josephine finished cooking her meals, she would leave the kitchen pretending to go to the rest room to allow Temi do what she wanted to do.

Ever since Tade started taking the Hatred portion unknowingly, he found himself pulling away from Florence.

He had not been sleeping for days, it looked like his heart was been drawn in two different directions, and emotionally he was fighting a war in his heart. His heart was yearning for Josephine suddenly, and he was beginning to feel irritated at Florence and everyone in the house.

He stood up from where he laid beside Florence, his heart was pulling him to the living room like a magnet. He followed the invisible string pulling him and surprisingly he found Josephine in the living room watching TV.

"Josephine, you are not asleep?"

"Can't seem to sleep, my boyfriend and I ended things" Josephine said.

"Oh! Why? What happened?" Tade found himself sitting beside her.

"There was no connection between us, I was just forcing things between us."

The air around them was so tensed and the atmosphere of lust was so thick you could slice it with a knife.

“Kiss me” Josephine said and Tade succumbed by moving closer to her.

Florence opened her eyes sharply, it felt like someone tapped her to wake up. She wondered why she was awake; she tried to remember if she had something to do. As she continued with her mental search, she looked to her side, and noticed Tade wasn't on the bed. The door to their bedroom was open. That was strange! She stood up to check on things, she had the reluctance to go because for almost two days, she had been unusually pissed at him.

However, it felt like someone was nudging her to go look for her husband. She obeyed the nudging and as she stepped into the living room, she screamed on seeing her husband's clothes on the floor and he making love with Josephine in their living room.

Florence went blank, she didn't know what happened to her, but she could hear her mother's voice calling her name faintly.

“Tade has betrayed me! That's all she could hear herself say.

When Florence woke up, she expected to see Tade by her side but instead, she saw him sitting with Josephine by his side.

“Welcome back” Josephine said.

“Tade! Is this what I deserve from you, mummy, Gbemi is this fair?”

Gbemi surprisingly looked sober...

“I didn’t plan this part with her” Gbemi said.

“Keep quiet, you don’t owe her any explanation” Mrs Oluwagbemi said.

“Now that things are like this, let’s talk about the way forward, Tade you already have a second wife” Mrs Oluwagbemi continued

“God forbid! My husband never had a second wife, none of my children will experience polygamy. Instead of that, my daughter will leave your wretched son” Mrs Adesina replied hotly

“Fine... exactly what we want, let her leave my son, and let her go to marry one of the rich boyfriends you have for her”

Florence slapped herself hoping she would wake up from the dream she was having...

“Florence wake up, this is a dream...wake up”

Josephine stood up, walked up to her and gave her a dirty slap...

“Are you awake now?” She asked Florence.

To be continued...

CHAPTER 14

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Florence was not going to let the slap slide just like that, she rose up and pulled Josephine back.

She returned the slap hotter than she had received it.

A serious fight ensued. The two mothers joined in trying to separate them. Tade sat looking lost and disappointed in himself, he couldn't understand what was happening with him, and why he just slept with Josephine.

Gbemi knew everything happening was not looking right anymore, she looked at everyone fighting, and how her brother looked lost, but to her surprise as she looked towards the kitchen door, she saw Temi smiling. She seemed pleased at what was happening. She was enjoying the show.

Gbemi reversed to her room and sat on the bed...

"God, things have gone beyond what we planned, I hope the devil has not hijacked this fight from our hands? Why was Temi laughing?" Gbemi pondered.

"God, I hope things have not gone spiritual. I don't even trust Josephine; I hope Josephine did not use love charm on my brother... My God, I hope I have not caused my brother more damage than repair... God, please forgive me, Lord what can I do?"

Gbemi bowed her head in confusion and like a lightbulb switched on, a name dropped in her heart...

“Aunty Favour!” She voiced out the name.

"I should call Aunty Favour"

Aunty Favour was seated at her table discussing with Mr George...

“The excursion must be well organized.”

“Yes ma”

“Alright, that would be all for now. I am sorry for keeping you in school this late.”

“No problem ma”

Aunty Favour’s phone rang. She picked up...

“Hello, Good evening”

“Aunty Favour, good evening ma, this is Gbemi Oluwagbemi, the external student who wrote the last SSCE at the lighthouse”

“Oh! Gbemi, how are you? It’s been a while.”

“I am not fine ma; I am in a big mess”

“What mess?”

Aunty Favour paid rapt attention to all she had to say.

“Hmm... that is serious, your brother’s marriage is under serious attack, and I sense a joining of hands over his matter. There are familiar spirits at work, that is, close enemies at work, you need to stand in gap for that marriage, or else you may lose your brother.

“Ma, what can I do? I am so confused” Gbemi said.

“First things first, you need to ask God for mercy for the part you played, marriage is between two people, a man & his wife, you should never have interfered, now by your interference, you have brought a destroyer into your brother’s home. Secondly, you all need to leave that house and leave the couple to themselves.”

“Oh my God!”

“Call me in the morning, and we will talk better, but in the meantime, pray this prayer....

‘Oh Prince of peace, come into my brother’s marriage and calm the raging storm that has been organized by the devil in Jesus name”

To be continued...

CHAPTER 15

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

The next morning was a Sunday morning, the house was quiet, but it was obvious no one had a decent sleep. The aura of hatred was so strong in the house.

Florence was so heartbroken, she kept sobbing. She hated the sight of everyone including her mom.

**

Mrs Adesina sat on the floor in the living room all night regretting what she had done,

“God forgive me, what is really happening? Or did Temi mistakenly put the hatred powder in my daughter’s meal, maybe she did and Tade is beginning to hate Florence, I am doomed. Ha! I must solve this.”

Tade laid on his bed with Josephine playing with his head.

Tade's face was facing Florence's picture in their room. He couldn't help but think....

“God, what is happening to me, why am I madly drawn to Josephine sexually when I still love my wife? This has to stop”

Tade jumped up...

“Josephine, this can not continue, it is not right....” He couldn’t complete the statement because as he looked into her eyes, he was trapped again, and his words changed.

“I know it is not right, but I can’t help it”

“Come to me” Josephine said.

As Tade moved closer to her, his eyes caught sight of his picture with Florence at another corner of the room.

“No, I can’t do this” this time around he decided not to look into her eyes

“Josephine, leave my room.”

“Tade, you are chasing me out of your room, look at me and tell me to get out.’

“Josephine, there is no point looking at you, get out of my room.”

Tade knew he was under a strong control. He wished he could bring down his head from off his neck and reset it.

Tade heard a knock at his door... He thought it was Josephine again.

“Josephine, I said stay out of my room”

‘Yes, she has to stay out of your room, and out of your life’ Gbemi said as she walked in

“Gbemi, what are you doing here? Can you see what you have caused? Can you see what you and Maami have done to me”

“I am sorry Brother mii (My brother)I didn’t know Josephine had something evil up her sleeve.”

“One of the reasons I didn’t marry Josephine was because of her constant consultations with herbalists, Prophets, Alfas, and her diabolic brother, now you have brought her into my home.”

“Brother mii, we all need to leave your house, that’s what Aunt Favour told me”

‘Aunt Favour? Who is Aunt Favour?’

“The Director of the Lighthouse Academy you took me to retake my S.S.C.E.”

“Oh! Madam Favour, you told her about this?”

“Yes, last night. I noticed Temi was smiling when everywhere was in chaos.”

“Temi, the maid?”

“Yes”

“Or is she the witch influencing everything?’

“It is possible, but on the other hand this whole drama started before she came, so like Auntie Favour told me, you need to send everyone of us out of your house.”

" Hmm...Do you think that is possible? How can I send Maami away after all she has done for us. Gbemi, my father did not accept me, I grew up calling your father my father. Your father died when we were young and Maami had to be the one suffering to raise us up. How can I then send her away?" Tade said sobbing..

To be continued...

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DEEP THOTS NOVELS

Inspired by the TRUTH REVEALER

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CHAPTER 16

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Tade was seated in the living room and everyone was present, there was a knock at the door. Tade went to the door to open. It was Aunt Favour and an elderly man on white. The moment Tade saw the elderly man after greeting Aunt Favour, he was surprised, he fell flat on his face...

"Daddy, you came to my house?" Tade said clearly overwhelmed.

"Yes! Favour and Gbemi asked that I pay you a visit" The elderly man replied.

When the others in the house sighted him, they rose to their feet in fear and honour.

"Wow! What a crowded house, before I can do anything here send everyone out" The elderly man said as he observed the crowd.

Tade woke up from his sleep shocked.

"What kind of dream is this? Madam Favour and a man on white"

Florence walked into the living room and found the whole place scattered. She saw strange faces, she saw a herbalist in her living room with some demons around him, he was discussing with her mom, she saw a group of witches playing with Josephine and Temi.

She felt a tap on her shoulder, on looking back, it was Tade.

“Florence, why did we allow so many strange things in our home?”

“It beats me too, Gbemi said we need to sweep all of them out before we can have our peace.”

“Gbemi?”

“Yes... look at her over there, she is not happy with what is happening here.”

Gbemi from where she sat mouthed.

“I am sorry.”

“So how do we chase them out” Florence asked

‘I know someone who can direct us on how to get strong evictors.’

“Who?”

“Aunty Favour”

Florence felt someone rubbing her back, it was only Tade that rubbed her back that way. The moment she realized it could be Tade, anger rose in her spirit. She opened her eyes and disappointedly it was not Tade, it was Gbemi...

“What is it? Don’t you ever touch me again”

‘Aunty Florence, I am sorry about what is happening. Please can I talk to you privately?’

Gbemi whispered so as not to wake the two mother-in-laws who were asleep in the living room.

“Oh! Lord, touch her heart to follow me” Gbemi prayed silently within

“Say what you have to say, I am listening, you want me to follow you, so you can kill me in private, at least you have done your worst, you have brought you brother’s ex to the house.”

“Aunty Florence, I had nothing to do with this, I am sorry, it went beyond our plan, we just wanted to use her to get you jealous” Gbemi whispered.

“Aunty Florence, please come into your room and let us talk, I have a lot to explain.”

Florence reluctantly stood up, a part of her wanted to scream at Gbemi, but the dream she just woke up from showed Gbemi as a solution provider.

“Thank you” Gbemi mouthed.

CHAPTER 17

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

As Florence walked into the room, she met Tade on the floor prostrating...

"Babe, I don't know what came over me, I am not myself anymore, especially when I am around Josephine"

"You are not yourself? Didn't I tell you not to let her stay, but you refused"

"I am ready to tell everyone to go, I had a dream, and I saw someone who represented God and that lady who runs Lighthouse Academy Madam Favour walking into our house. The elderly man told me that before he can do anything in our house, we have to send everyone out."

"Madam Favour? I also had a dream and Gbemi mentioned her name in that dream"

"Are you serious? What was the dream?"

Tade, Florence and Gbemi were seated in Aunty Favour's office

"The two dreams mean the same things, by allowing third parties into your home, you have brought in contention, hatred and a whole lot. Bible says 'A man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife. Marriage is between a man & a woman, your

home should not be an extension of your parents' marriage, which is part of what I can say is the Genesis of your marriage.

Mr Tade, you said you can trace this whole thing to the way your wife wants to have things done, the way her mother taught and likewise you as well, wanting to do things the way your mum also taught you...

No! Your marriage is different from your parents' marriage. If using Sugar is causing rift in your family because of different background beliefs, then switch to Honey or another form of sweetener that work for your family.

"Hmm..."

"About the dream you had Mr. Tade, the elderly man is God, and the reason why you saw me bringing him into your house is because Gbemi and I prayed that the prince of peace should visit your home and heal your marriage, but unfortunately God could not do anything because you had people who had no business to be in your house present there..."

Can you read this popular scripture for me...

"Matt 21:12"

Tade brought out his phone and read

"And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves"

“My sister can you read Matt 9: 23-25”

Florence also checked through her phone she read from NIV

“When Jesus entered the synagogue leader’s house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, he said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep” But they laughed at him. After the crowd had put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up”

“Mr & Mrs Oluwagbemi, the only third party allowed in your home is God, Bible says a three-fold cord can not be easily broken. You, your partner and God should be what holds your family. Just like you have read in those two scriptures, God does not like unwanted crowd when God wanted to raise the girl, he sent the third parties out of the room, and another gospel gives us more details that it was only the mother, father and the disciples that were with him in the room.

The disciples there represent ministers or counselors like me who can join their faith with you to agree"

“Hmm...I have a question?”

“Please shoot”

“What if my mother is old & Sickly and needs to stay with me, is she a third party?”

To be continued...

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CHAPTER 18

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

"What if my mother is old & sickly and needs to stay with me, is she a third party?"

"There are ways to that, at that point your mom is not agile to cause trouble, you can take care of her in your home, and if it even becomes a problem in the marriage, you can rent a small apartment close to you and employ a nurse or maid to be with her, while you check on her daily..."

"Hmm..."

"So Mr & Mrs Oluwagbemi, it is time to physically & Spiritually put out the crowd from your home..."

"You are joking, I am not going anywhere" Josephine said. "Look into my eyes Tade and tell me to leave."

"He doesn't have to look you in the eyes, I am his wife, and we are one, so whatever I say, he is the the one saying it, Josephine we want you out of our house. Is that not so Tade?"

"Yes!" Tade replied without looking up

“Ok! I will leave, but you both will regret it, I promise.”

“You both sat here in the room without coming to my defense, you brought me here to face ridicule, you both will suffer nemesis”

“Josephine, this is not our fault, you stepped out of line, you rushed things too much. You should have been patient before sleeping with Tade.”

“No problem, Alatis lo mo atise ara e” (I know how best to fight for myself).

Josephine placed her hand on the wall and something paranormal entered the wall of the bedroom.

She pulled her bag and left the room. On her way out she ensured she touched the wall of the living room as well and deposited something there.

“Thank you for treating me like a devil, the only person that treated me like human is Temi” She walked towards Temi, took her hand and held her tightly transferring power into her. Temi as a result staggered a little.

Josephine whispered as she hugged her.

“Continue from where I stopped.”

Temi is walking towards the master bedroom; she stands by the door trying to eavesdrops on Florence & Tade.

“Now that Josephine is gone, how do we tell our mothers to leave” Florence asked.

“There is no big deal, we will rent a shortlet apartment for mummy for the remaing days she has for her training, and I will send my mum & Gbemi back home. Gbemi is on our side, so convincing mum wouldn’t be a problem.”

Temi laughed at their naivety, and she thought within

“Too late Oga, we are still here for a long time”

Temi knocked at the door.

" Who is there?"

“Temi Sir”

Florence went to open the door...

“Yes”

“Sorry ma, your mummy and Oga’s mummy are very sick.”

“Sick?”

Florence and Tade rushed out, they first stopped at Tade’s mum’s room, she was shivering badly...

“Maami, what is wrong?”

“I don’t know, I just felt a cold chill all of a sudden.”

“Let’s get you to the hospital.”

“This is not hospital matter, let me go home and attend to myself.”

Gbemi, Florence and Tade exchanged looks.

“Yes, you will go home, but not like this”

A loud sound like someone throwing up called their attention to Florence mum’s room’

Florence rushed to her mum’s room and found her mum on the floor throwing up into a small waste bin...

“Florence, take me to the nearest hospital, don’t let me die here.”

By this time Tade was in the room too.

“Tade, forgive me for everything I have been doing to you, please don’t let me die, take me to a hospital close by.”

“Yes mum”

Temi is seated in the living room discussing with Josephine.

“I have been able to extend my stay for a few more weeks. I believe their hospital stay should take about two weeks.”

“Well done, I will ruin Tade that money would be once upon a time for him. He will spend all that he has on different type of ailments ranging from unexplainable headaches, stomach ache, Ulcer, spinal cord problem, back pain, swollen feet even to cancer ”

“Yes ma”

Josephine suddenly perceives a smell...

“They are close by... Well done once again. Continue the good job and be sure I will put in a good word for you with your Queen Mother Tunmise to hasten your eye-opening ceremony.”

“Thank you senior” Temi said with more determination to do more evil to Tade and Florence. She stood up and rushed to the kitchen to prepare another sickness infused meal of hers.

To be continued...

CHAPTER 19

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

"Welcome sir, welcome sister Gbemi" Temi greeted Gbemi and Tade. She immediately realizes Florence is not with them.

"What about Mummy?"

"She is still at the hospital, My mum and Her Mum have been admitted at the hospital, so she is there with them. Gbemi will go back to relieve her at night" Tade answered.

"Temi, did they eat anything different from what others ate yesterday?" Suspicious Gbemi asked.

"No ma, but I have been thinking about the watermelon they took last night, I served them both."

"Where did you buy it?" Gbemi interrogated.

"From the usual vendor" Temi replied.

"Is there anything to eat?" Tade cut in

"Yes! I made pounded yam & Afang Soup"

“Thank you, that would make a lot of sense” Tade said.

“Serve it’ He said.

“Sister Gbemi, should I serve your own too?”

“No don’t bother, I am okay for now” Gbemi replied.

Gbemi walked into the bedroom. She began to pace around and think loudly.

“Mummy was not sick last night, and how come it is the two mothers that are both sick? I don’t trust this Temi girl.”

Gbemi immediately chatted Aunty favour.

“Aunty Favour, I have a feeling something is not right in the house. Thank God Aunty Josephine has gone, but I still feel her angry presence in the house, and just this morning we had to rush my Mum and Florence mum to the hospital... what should I do?’

“The house needs spiritual cleansing; that a person leaves a house physically does not mean their spirits have left, in fact wicked people can leave a house physically and yet deposit a spiritual monitoring gadget in the house or even deposit affliction in the house, worse still they can turn someone in the house to their spy and work agent”

Gbemi didn’t need a prophet to tell her the agent was Temi...

“When your brother and his wife is free, tell them to call me, so we can have a small fire session over the phone for the spiritual cleansing of the house” Aunty Favour said.

“Ok ma, thank you ma” Gbemi was excited. She knew whenever there was a fire session, there was always a positive shift.

Gbemi rushed into the living room and she excitedly shared the news with her brother.

“That won’t be today, I am exhausted, we will do it tomorrow” Tade replied.

“Ha! Brother mii”

Gbemi definitely did not like this delay, their house was already on fire and her brother was telling her they wait till the next day to quench the fire!

Florence was walking out of the toilet, this was the fourth time she had used the toilet in one night. She was losing strength. After she returned from the hospital, she did not eat anything, it was only the pounded yam and Afang soup Gbemi had brought to the hospital she had taken during the day, so she was wondering why she was purging ...

"Tade, please take me to the hospital" She managed to call out to Tade who was sleeping before she passed out...

“Gbemi...Gbemi” Tade screamed.

“Hypovolemic shock....” Tade said over the phone.

“That’s just a medical terminology for a satanic attack. Mr Tade, you must hurry and get praying, so you don’t lose your wife.”

“Help me ma” Tade cried out to Auntie Favour

“I don’t usually do this, but I will come over to your house with one of our staff, to join you in prayer this evening, let Gbemi stay with your wife and the mummies at the hospital while you take charge of your home. It’s time to chase out physical strangers from your house.”

Josephine appeared beside Tade in the room...

" Not under my watch will the prayers happen here. Let the Spiritual war begin."

To be continued...

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CHAPTER 20
"THREE IS A CROWD"
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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Temi heard the bell.

“Which visitor is this at this time of the night 9pm?” Temi said to himself.

“Temi, go open the door for my visitor, His name is Mr. George” Tade said as he sat watching football in the living room.

‘Yes Sir’

Temi wondered who was visiting at that time of the night, and maybe he was a friend of Tade who needed where to pass the night...

As Temi held the gate, the gate handle felt hot, she wondered why...

She opened the gate a little to see who the person was, and what met her eyes was a man on fire... She quickly shut the gate.

‘Yes, who is there?’

‘I am Mr. George; I am here to see Mr. Tade.’

“Wrong address. This is a military zone I advise you not to bang this gate again or else we will release the dogs on you” Temi said and immediately she imitated the sound of a dog.

“Did you hear that? They are wild dogs, and they need human flesh to eat tonight.”

Mr. George stepped back from the gate in fear.

“But this is the address Auntie Favour sent to me” He cross-checked the house address with the one sent to him.

“Who was at the gate?”

“A man who was looking for where they are having a wake-keep, and I told him god forbid we will not bury anyone in this house.

Temi moved closer to Tade...

“Uncle, you look very stressed and tired from all that has been happening, can I give you a foot and neck massage. I am very good at it, I do it for mummy a lot” Temi was already kneeling before him, and removing his phone from the stool, simultaneously turning it off, he placed Tade’s leg on the stool.

“I am fine, don’t bother. I will go to a spa, when my wife gets back.”

“Uncle, why waste money at the spa, when you have a maid, I am at your service for everything you may need. Like you know, I cook well, I can do everything that madam does for you well... Try me uncle”

“You are mad! Get off me Agent of darkness, Oh! They want to use you against my prayer tonight, tell the evil spirit that it has failed” Tade said angrily as he jumped on his feet. He picked up his phone, tried to check for missed call, but he realizes the phone has been turned off...

“Who turned my phone off? Ok! Nice, the only reason I am going to leave you to sleep here tonight is because it is late, first thing in the morning, get out of my house” As he ended his words, his phone rang, he quickly picked up in a rush...

“Hello Aunty Favour, outside my gate?”

“Ok...I will go get him myself”. He said directing the “Myself” to Temi

“Make your useful in the right way by preparing something light for the visitor” Tade said before stepping out...

Temi was in the kitchen serving the food. After she served it. She took water from the tap and spoke into it. “I turn this water to a spiritual fire extinguisher, as you eat this food, the fire you carry goes off.

Temi sprinkled the water on the food...

I am sorry about the maid. It was a mix up.”

“No problem, I actually think she was been security conscious.”

Temi walked into the living room with a plate of chicken and rice, she placed it in front of Mr. George.

“Aunty Favour could not make it because of’ Mr. George was saying, but Tade cut in.

“Yes, she told me. She said she will join us through call.”

‘Yes sir, there is no distance in the spirit” Mr. George said.

“Please eat your food, let me go rest my back for a while. 11pm it is right?”

“Yes 11pm...”

Tade walked in... Temi ushered Mr. George to the dining table...

“Sir, your food is ready.”

“Thank you, sister”

“I am sorry sir, I thought you were an armed robber” Temi said innocently

“No don’t bother, I understand the times we are in. Thank you for the meal, it really looks delicious”

He picked up one chicken to eat.

To be continued...

CHAPTER 21

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

‘Ha! Auntie Favour’ He quickly dropped the chicken. As he was about to devour the chicken, his phone rang.

“Hello Ma...”

“Hello Mr. George, Are you in now?”

“Yes ma, I have settled in ma”

“Listen, don’t eat and sleep off” she said laughing

‘Ok!’ Mr. George dropped the chicken.

“When you go for a spiritual battle, you don’t weigh yourself down with food. When you are through, you can prayerfully eat what the offered you”

“Ok ma!” Thank you ma

“If there is an agent in the house, he/she can extinguish your fire.”

“Noted ma! Thank you very much.”

Mr. George ended the call

“Please can you keep the food till after the vigil.”

“Why sir?”

“I want to be light so I can pray well.”

“Ok sir”

Temi took everything and returned to the kitchen. She began to shake in fear in the kitchen.

“I will be exposed tonight.” Temi feared.

Suddenly Josephine appeared beside her

“Calm down, in cases like this, you empty yourself so that nothing is found on you. Go and hang all your powers somewhere in the compound, so no matter the level of prayers they pour on you, nothing will be found on you... Go now”

Josephine walked into the living room. She walks past Mr. George, who senses something.

He looks around him, sees nothing and begins to speak in tongues. He lays down on the chair to sleep.

Josephine continued her walk to Tade's room. Tade is asleep, he has his wedding frame in his hand.

'Sleep...Sleep. So deep, you will wake up very late tomorrow morning' Josephine blew breeze into the room.

She left Tade and returned to the living room, she did the same thing in the living room to make Mr. George sleep off, but he struggled with the sleep for a while, but then he jumped up...

"I didn't come here to sleep' he started blasting in tongues...

Aunty Favour was seated in her office speaking in tongues and worshipping God at the same time. She couldn't make it physically to Mr. Tade's House, because she had a proposal to complete, the Lighthouse academy needed Scholarship sponsorship for about fifty less privilege children, so she was trying to put up a "Call for sponsorship" proposal. She suddenly had a flash of Temi dropping her powers on the car... She snapped out of it.

"Holy Spirit what does this mean? Who is that girl and what is she doing?"

"Oh lord, expose all hiding and disguising powers in the name of Jesus. Anyone hanging their witchcraft powers anywhere in other not to be spotted out, Holy Ghost return the powers back to their bodies and expose them in Jesus name..."

Temí drops the power on a vehicle just like Aunty Favour had seen, but as she turns to leave, unknowing to her, the powers lifted and entered her body back from behind.

To be continued...

CHAPTER 22

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

‘Start the fire session now’ Aunty Favour heard the voice of the Holy spirit. She looked at the wall clock and it was only 10:00pm.

“Daddy it is just 10:00pm”

“Start when the enemies are not ready catch them of guard”

‘Ok. thank you, Father, thank you Holy spirit, thank you Jesus.’

Aunty Favour picked up her phone, dialed Tade’s number, he wasn’t picking up. She dialed George’s number, after about two rings he picked up.

‘Mr, George, the Holy Spirit said we should start now... can you call Mr. Tade, I have been trying to reach him...’

“Ok ma, hold on...” Mr. George said...

He followed the route he saw that he took inside...

“Mr. Tade! Mr. Tade!” He called but there was no response.

“Lady, Lady” Mr. George said trying to call Temi, but she wasn’t answering...

“Ma, no one is answering ma.”

“Do I sense fear in you Mr. George?”

“No..No...ma”

“Receive the spirit of boldness now in the name of Jesus Christ... Try to find his room. I am still on the line.”

Aunty Favour kept speaking in tongue.

“Mr. Tade! Mr. Tade!” Mr. George called. He kept opening doors to different rooms but when it got to Tade’s room, the door would not bulge. Unknowing to him, Josephine was holding the handle from behind...

“I break the stronghold of any hand in that house debarring the Oluwagbemis from their deliverance right now in Jesus name.” Aunty Favour prayed and an invisible hand hits Josephine’s hand with a hammer.

Mr. George successfully opens the door, and meets Tade fast asleep

“I have seen him ma, he is fast asleep.”

‘Wake him up.’

Mr. George goes closer tapping him, but he is deeply asleep.

“Ma, the sleep is very deep.”

“Is he breathing?”

“Yes”

“Every sleep that is not of the lord, cease right now in the name of Jesus, wherever your soul and your spirit has been locked, the lock is broken in the name of Jesus.”

Tade could hear his name far away, he was struggling to wake up, suddenly he saw a flash of a padlock dropping at his feet, just in that same moment he woke up...

“Thank you, Jesus!” Mr. George said.

“Is it 11pm already?” Tade asked.

‘No, its past 10pm, Aunty Favour said the lord said we should start right away.’

“Ok! Let’s start... Tade agreed...

To be continued...

PART 23

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

“Everyone in the house must join” Aunt Favour said over the phone.

“It’s just me and the maid.”

“Let her join in the prayers.”

“Temi, Temi” Tade called for her.

“Let’s begin to appreciate the king of kings, the God who owns the world, everything and everything belongs to HIM. Scripture states, “The earth is of the lord, and the fullness thereof”. Let thank HIM for all that is in the world, thank HIM for the gift of family, gift of Joy, gift of peace, love and sound mind.”

The trio began to appreciate God, except that Temi who was moving her mouth was saying something else, she was muttering.

“I will not be caught, all the prayers tonight shall be a waste”

“I can only hear two voices there, why is the person not raising her voice in thanksgiving.” Aunty Favour picked up the coldness in the spirit realm.

“Hello Aunty, open your mouth and pray” Tade said angrily.

“Amen!” Aunty Favour said.

‘Let’s ask the Lord for mercy in all the ways we have erred that might stand in the way of our prayers, ask for mercy.’

Tade knew he had erred badly.

“Father, Forgive me for not taking charge of my home well, forgive me for not handling my home well, forgive me for not being the spiritual head I ought to be in Jesus name”

Temi could hear her conscience speaking to her...

“Don’t you think this is a good opportunity to repent and renounce this witchcraft group, these people can pray for you and protect you.”

“I have been told I will die, if I ever renounce them.”

“You cannot die, renounce them and ask for mercy.”

“No... I can’t”

“Are you in any evil association, ask for God’s mercy to pull you out” Aunty Favour said over the phone.

Temi opened her eyes sharply and looked at the phone in surprise, but after thinking about it for a while, she pressed her lips together.

“Right now, we are going into prayer mode. You will shout this first one like this

‘Oh lord, my father set my life on fire in the name of Jesus. Set my entirety on fire.’”

Tade began to pray it powerfully...

“In Jesus name we pray... can you call Gbemi on your phone and let her place the phone beside your wife, so she can join us in the prayer, so let’s continue the fire of prayer as you do that...”

Tade dialed Gbemi’s number, and after the first ring she picked up...

“Thank God” Tade said.

‘Broda mii, good evening’

‘How is she?’

“She is still sleeping.”

“Ok... Put the phone beside her and you also can join us in the prayers.

“Holy Ghost fire fall upon me like as of the day of Pentecost, fill me up, set me on fire... Holy Ghost fire incubate me from the crown of my head to the sole of my feet” Aunty Favour was charging them as they prayed.

“Fire is what makes us untouchable, and it also makes us powerful enough to confront our oppressors...”

They prayed the fire prayer for about five minutes.

Temi began to feel so much heat even though the air-conditional was on.

To be continued...

CHAPTER 24

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

“In Jesus name we pray.”

“Amen” They chorused.

“Next up, we will set that house on fire, Say this loud and clear. “Fire of God descend upon this house and it’s immediate environment and chase out strange powers buying and selling in this house in the name of Jesus.”

Tade began to pray madly, he knew his house had abhorred a lot of strangers.

“Fire of God sweep out strangers hiding in any corner of this house in Jesus name.”

Temi felt like a tornado hit her and she fell to the ground, she felt like fire was all over her...

“Fire! Fire! Stop the fire please.”

“No! we increase the fire 1000 times” Aunty Favour said.

“Strangers in that house rush out by fire, strangers that came in as a result of division in the life of the couple, come out by fire in the name of Jesus. Fire go into that compound enter the nooks and crannies of that house, nowhere is exempted from the visitation of

fire. Fire enter into the ground, anything that has been planted in the ground be exhumed by fire, anything planted in the wall rush out by fire' Aunty Favour prayed.

As Aunty Favour prayed, Invisible Josephine rushes out of the house, but as she lands in front of the door, she falls to the ground,, Birds are flying out of the walls. Things are flying out of the ground...

"Nothing in my house accommodates evil in the name of Jesus" Tade is heard saying.

"Amen"

"The next prayer you will pray is "Strangers in my life causing havoc in my life rush out and catch fire in the name of Jesus."

Gbemi is praying with all seriousness, Florence could hear the prayers but could not pray. She didn't have the strength to pray. She could however hear Tade's voice calling her name.

"Strangers of sickness and infirmity in Florence's life rush out by fire, burn to ashes"

Like an answer to the prayer, Florence felt something leaving her body and instantly she felt okay...

'Amen" she muttered.

Aunty Favour continued...

“Pray this one... Oh lord, reverse any damage done to the occupants of this house and their loved ones in Jesus name.”

‘Oh lord, restore all that has been lost in the whole process in Jesus name, restore the love between the couple, restore peace and harmony in this marriage.’

Suddenly, Tade staggered into the chair and a black smoke left him and hit Temi again...

“I will talk... I will talk”

“Yes, speak on... “

It was Florence’s mum and Josephine that put me to it...” Temi exposed all that had happened...

“Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Father, for you are the revealer of deep & secret things. You reveal everything hidden in darkness because the light dwelleth in you...”

“Let’s begin to thank God for a night of freedom and restoration. Hold on, the Lord is not after the death of a sinner, so we have two more assignments, the Lord called my attention to those two things just now. First, let’s pray the prayer of mercy for the two mothers-in-law for how they cooperated with the devil to tamper with their children’s marriage...”

“Oh lord have mercy on these mothers for allowing themselves to be used by the enemy against their children, and I pray for other mothers out there, they will not become the enemies of their own children in Jesus name”

They prayed it and Tade really struggled to pray it because of what he heard had happened and how far their mothers had gone... Temi had said all she knew. He wasn't surprised Josephine was a witch, her brother was a terrible and a diabolic person. A fruit could not have fallen far from its tree.

At the hospital, the healing power of God located the two mothers simultaneously and they both got their healing... They had both been placed in the same room.

"Nurse!" Tade's Mum called out. That caught Mrs. Adesina's attention, she looked to her side and for the first time, she was conscious of the fact that that it was Tade's Mum that occupied the bed beside her.

"Tade's mum, I am sorry" Mrs. Adesina said weakly.

"Mama Florence, I am sorry too' Tade's Mum reciprocated sincerely.

Back at the house, Auntie Favour was still on the phone...

The second assignment is to present Christ to that girl there...

"Girl, I am sure you can hear me, you should give your life to Christ, the devil has nothing to offer you than shame. The power of God will forever be greater than the power of the devil. Come to the winning side..."

Temi nodded her head...

“I am ready” she said...

‘Thank you Jesus... Mr. George over to you...’

To be continued...

CHAPTER 25

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Two days later, everyone was seated in the living room.

“Tade, I am very sorry for my foolish act of trying to bring hatred between you and your family. I want you and Florence to forgive me. Forgive me for also making you feel unworthy of my daughter, I am truly sorry. Though you fell, you struggled to get back on your feet and save your marriage, without any more doubt, you are the best husband for my daughter...” Mrs. Adesina said.

“We are also sorry for trying to prove a point. We are sorry for bringing Josephine here” Tade’s Mum also said.

“Apologies accepted, my wife and I have spoken at length, and we have also identified our mistakes, but moving forward, we would like to go back to the former arrangement of having no third party living with us. We are sorry if it will look hard on you, we are just trying to build our own family.”

“We understand” They all chorused.

Florence and Tade watched how the “crowd” left their home, including Temi... Tade had rented a self-service apartment for his mother-in-law, Mrs. Oluwagbemi and Gbemi were on their way back to their state. Temi was also going back home. They wove all of them good bye, and went inside.

They knelt and prayed.

“Oh, Heavenly father, we invite you back into our home”

There was a knock at the door, Tade and Florence were seated watching TV. Tade got up to check who was at the door...

It was the Elderly Man

“I am back, since the crowd has left.’

As the elderly man walked in, some men followed him with different wrapped boxes...

“I brought all of these for you, including that” The elderly man pointed at a baby Shawl. Tade and Florence were so excited, they jumped on him.

“Thank you Sir.”

Tade woke up from his sleep. He and Florence had slept in the living room after praying. He touched Florence’s face... “We are having a baby soon”

“Amen” Florence replied smiling...

NINE MONTHS LATER

Everyone is excited as the naming ceremony is ongoing. The house is beautifully decorated. The two in-laws are around. Aunt Favour and Mr. George were also present and were on their way out of the living room.

“Thank you, Aunt Favour” Tade said

“Thanks to God almighty for giving us Oluwajoba Isreal Dike”

‘Aunt Favour, I need you help me speak with Florence to let her mum stay with us for about two weeks so as to show her the ropes’

“What if we live far away in another country, won’t we learn how to care for our baby” Florence opposed.

“Well. I am a third party here, I can only advice, would you want my advice?” Aunt Favour asked.

“Yes maám” Florence answered.

“Because of the stress that comes with taking care of a newborn, you can let your mom stay for a few days or weeks, so you can also get enough rest, and when you feel strong enough, mom can return home. God is not against Family Visiting, it is only when they stay permanently, they may pose a problem to the young marriage”

“I don’t want trouble” Florence said smiling.

“I want to believe mom has learnt a few lessons and would be careful.”

“Ok ma, just two weeks” Florence agreed.

“Lest I forget, do not forget to sanitize your house after the naming. During functions like this, several spirits follow different people, you don’t want any spirit hanging around, you know your house looks nice, and cool, dem demons may want to stay back...” Aunty Favour said Laughing

“Where? In this house? Never... This is a fire zone. Strangers are not allowed anywhere here, they try it, they roast by fire...” Tade said authoritatively.

Aunty Favour spoke in tongue as they all laughed.

To be continued...

CHAPTER 26

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Tade and Florence sat in front of Aunty Favour in her office. They had brought Joba to Aunty Favour as a Courtesy visit. Joba was three months old already. Florence couldn't help but think about refurnishing the office for her. Aunty Favour had been a good confidant and an encourager. Ever since, she and Tade had reduced the third-party influence in their home, Aunty Favour had become a balance for them. The reason they felt safe with her was because she was a neutral person in their family. She was neither from Tade nor Florence's family, so she was always very truthful in her advice, plus she had the Spirit of God to give Godly advice.

"We thank God for His faithfulness, look at our baby Oluwajoba; he looks like you Mr. Tade, but has the complexion of his mother" Aunty Favour said laughing...

"Yes ma, you are right ma, I have given her a part of Joba, by the time we have our next baby, he or she will take after me in everything."

Florence looked at him in shock...

"Tade, stop it ooo, we are in a holy place oo, this is Aunty Favour's office, Angels are around...the next baby must look like me"

Aunty Favour laughed, but as she laughed, she was thrown into a mini trance, she saw a female hand handing over a baby to Tade, making it two babies. She noticed the new baby looked slightly older than the one in Florence's hands.

Aunty Favour opened her eyes and saw Tade and Florence playing and teasing each other...

" I see another baby joining the family soon" Aunty Favour said with a dry smile...

" Amen!" The couple said with the Loud voice.

"Let us Pray" Aunty Favour said.

"Our Father, we thank you, thank you for Life, thank you for our baby Oluwajoba, Indeed you God reign supreme over the affairs of our lives. Father, thank you for revealing the next phase of this family to us, thank you for the gift of another baby joining this home soon, help your children to embrace this gift and give them the emotional maturity, financial maturity and parental maturity they need in Jesus name."

" Amen" the couple chorused but Florence sensed there was more to the prayer and her thoughts were confirmed when Aunty Favour gave a dry smile.

" Did God tell her something I don't know?" Florence wondered.

"Did you notice there was something off about Madam Favour's prayer today?" Florence said to Tade on their way in. They had been talking about other things in their drive back home.

" Really? What was off about it?" Tade replied.

Tade reached out for Joba from the car seat, while Florence picked up her bag and Joba's bag. This gave Tade the opportunity to be few meters ahead of Florence.

" You didn't lock the door?" Tade asked.

Florence looked towards the door and was surprised that the door was opened as well.

"I did!" Florence replied.

" Take!" Tade said placing Joba in her hands.

" Stay outside while I go check. If I don't come out in two minutes, run". Tade said

Tade walked in after taking an Iron rod he saw on the ground, but what his eyes saw made his jaw drop and the iron drop .

Terrible Uncle Bayo and Josephine were sitting in his Living room.

How on earth did they get in?

"I still have my key, the one you gave me, when the going was still good" Josephine said, While Uncle Bayo stared wickedly at Tade...

To be continued

CHAPTER 27

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Florence was beginning to get impatient, Tade had spent roughly three minutes in the living room. Florence knew it was time to raise an alarm. As she began to take the step towards the gate in search for help, Tade called her ...

" Florence!" Tade called.

Florence looked back at her husband, and she knew all was not well. Whatever he had seen inside was a good sight.

"What's happening?"

"Josephine" Tade managed to say.

Tade rested his back on the wall.

" Josephine?"

That didn't make sense to Florence. Many questions plagued her mind ranging from how she got into their house to what she was doing in their house. Florence thought her interference in their lives was over.

" What is she...How did she?" Florence found herself stuttering as she asked Tade

Tade shrugged as he had no answers.

Florence became mad at the audacity Josephine had to break into her house, so she rushed in with Joba.

Like Tade, Florence was terribly shocked at the man who had the countenance of a herbalist sitting in their living room with Josephine.

Florence's rage was replaced with fear. On seeing the man and the charm all over his body, she knelt in a hurry...

" Good afternoon, Sir!"

"Josephine, is this the thing that collected a man from you? Josephine despite the powers I gave you, this small thing cheated you...Ha! Josephine you are a waste of power...En En.. Cockroach, listen, my sister is here to take her place. Go inside the bedroom there is a proof of why she is now the first wife" the herbalist looking uncle said.

Florence didn't understand what he had just said. It felt like he rapped some words so fast.

" Sir? "

" I don't repeat my words twice. It is an abomination."

" Tade! Tade! " Florence called out in Fear. Tade walked in like a dog who had his tail between his legs.

" You are calling him to come save you?" Uncle Bayo laughed mockingly "Tade, your wife has called you to come save her and possibly send us out. Oya, Oko

iyawo(Husband) come chase me out, Josephine told me she was the one who chased her out, so that's why I came here with her. Let me see how you both will chase her out while I am here with her. You wicked boy, my sister started with you , but when you saw a rich man's daughter, you followed her. Before I close and open my eyes, you both should go to your bedroom and see the statement on your bed."

Tade like a child, pulled Florence along with him as he ran into the bedroom.

Their eyes beheld another shocker.

A baby!

CHAPTER 28

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

13 months earlier...

Josephine sat on her toilet seat looking at the strip in her hand, this was not happening to her. Not when it seemed like she was moving on. Not when her hands have taken hold of another man. Not when it seemed like this new relationship was giving her "Too good to be true" vibes.

"Positive! God! No, this is not fair! I can't be pregnant for Tade when I am already in a relationship with Riliwan."

" God! I must flush this. I have to terminate this pregnancy. I am done with Tade"

Josephine stood up, trashed the strip in the toilet trash and walked out of the toilet.

Uncle Bayo as he is popularly called by everyone, stood doing the minor in the toilet he and his sisters used. His eyes caught a glimpse of the strip. He was familiar with Pregnancy strips; he was a pro in impregnating girls and aborting pregnancies for girls who refused to stay under their mother's care.

He picked up the strip. Rage took over him. He didn't want to believe his youngest sister; Beatrice the baby of the house had started sleeping around. His principle was simple and everyone in the neighborhood knew it; ' Bayo can sleep with any girl but no

boy was expected to sleep with his own sisters'. Everyone feared him for his charms. He was diabolical and proud of it.

Bayo could die for his two sisters... Josephine and Beatrice. They were his half-sisters but he loved them with his life. His mother had left his father to marry their father when he was fifteen years old. His mother had given birth to Josephine after two years of being married to their father.

His Mother and Step-Father died in a ghastly motor accident, so he was the one parenting his sisters. He became the illiterate tout so he could send them both to school.

Beatrice was in senior secondary school two, while Josephine was in her 300L in the University presently doing her Industrial attachment.

Josephine had wasted almost three years before gaining admission into the university, partly because she was waiting for her boyfriend Tade to also gain admission. Things had however gone sour between the Two lovebirds when Tade found a rich girlfriend to marry.

Bayo remembered how he was almost arranging for boys to go break Tade's legs, but Josephine had stopped him. Bayo swore that this time around whoever was responsible for Beatrice's Pregnancy was going to pay for it... He trusted Josephine not to get pregnant outside marriage not after what Tade did to her ..

" Beatrice! Beatrice!" Bayo rushed into their bedroom.

Josephine knew that sound. Whenever her brother was enraged, that was the tone he used...

Beatrice who was still asleep, woke up to the roar of her brother.

"Talo ni?" (Who is responsible?) Bayo said waving the strip at her...

Beatrice was clueless, she didn't know he was talking about.

"You don't want to talk abi?(Right?) I will finish you today" Bayo said walking out of the room.

Josephine and Beatrice knew what was coming next. It was 'belt time'. He was going to whip her blueback...

"Josephine, I swear I don't know what he is talking about!" Beatrice cried out loud.

"Calm down!" Josephine said thinking about if she should say the truth and receive the beating or let Beatrice be punished for what she knew nothing about.

The Witch in her advised her to go for the later but the sibling love in her overpowered the witchcraft voice in her head.

As soon as Bayo walked in with his belt, Josephine confessed...

"It's me...I am the one Pregnant"

Bayo froze...He looked towards Josephine...

"Are you joking with me?" He asked in Yoruba.

" No my brother!"

" Josephine, is it that boy that has been dropping you off in the past two weeks that got you pregnant in a hurry...Ha! Josephine, you have no shame, Prostitute, irresponsible human being, no wonder Tade dropped you to marry a responsible girl."

"I am not a prostitute ooo, it is actually Tade that is responsible for my pregnancy!" Josephine replied in anger.

Bayo went mute for few seconds...

" I didn't hear you! Beatrice, please lend me your ear for few seconds, it seems my ears are not functioning well... What did she just say?"

" She...she...said, it is for Tade " Beatrice quickly supplied.

"Josephine, that means I heard well ke? Wait ooo, are you saying you and Tade the married man met, and it has become pregnancy? How did your jet and his motorcycle Jam, Is he not living in one of those rich areas "

" Brother mii, it is a long story."

" Did I tell you I am going somewhere? Alaaye (Hey you) sit down!"

" It was his mother that reached out to me" Josephine Narrated.

To be continued...

CHAPTER 29

"THREE IS A CROWD"

©Opeyemi Akintunde

As inspired by the LIVING WORD

PRESENT DAY

Uncle Bayo and Josephine walked into Tade's Matrimonial Room and Met the shocked couple.

"My Sister's son is your first son, and should be treated that way. Also, his mother automatically becomes the First wife. Cockroach, pack your things out of the room and use any of the other rooms, Josephine is moving in."

Tade and Florence stood like two school children being scolded by their teacher...

"Have I made myself clear?" Uncle Bayo barked at them.

"Yes sir!" They both replied.

There was a great terrible presence about Josephine's Uncle that was so fearful.

"I leave tomorrow, but my eyes will be here. If you Maltreat my sister, you will hate yourself. Tade, you know me well and you know what I am capable of doing. You know I can kill anyone and no one will arrest me. Cockroach, I have no business with you and your child if you behave yourself, but should you start taking my sister's name from one pastor's place to another, you will blame yourself. Listen, this charm on my body is not for decoration, it is for destruction. You tamper with my sisters, you die. You hear me?"

“Ye..Yess.. Sir.”

“Good... Kneel and greet your Senior Wife” Uncle Bayo ordered Florence, who Shakingly with Joba in her hands knelt to greet Josephine.

“Hey. You too, pick her up and hug her.” He said speaking to Josephine.

Josephine did that quickly in Fear.

“Good... You both should enter the kitchen and prepare something for me” Uncle Bayo said as he put his leg on the Center table.

Josephine and Florence walked into the kitchen like Robots while Tade stood like a stranger in his own house...

“Hey, Baale Ile (Father of the House) sit down and stop behaving like a stranger. You are a blessed man; you have two beautiful wives and two beautiful sons. Yes! That reminds me, speaking about her being your wife, give me two thousand, one hundred naira.” Uncle Bayo said as Tade sat down.

Tade didn't know why he needed that money, but at the moment he could give him anything to get rid of him. Tade hurriedly dipped his hand in his pocket and brought out N3000 .

Uncle Bayo collected it and stretched out nine hundred change to Tade.

“Uncle Bayo, don't worry sir.”

“Take it from my hand” He commanded.

Tade collected in a rush.

Tade feared Uncle Bayo. He was one of the reasons, he didn't marry Josephine. Uncle Bayo was a Self-proclaimed Herbalist who obviously had diabolical powers. He was very boastful of how he acquired his powers. He had told the story more than a hundred times. Tade remembered the first time Josephine had taken him to meet her uncle.

12 years earlier

They were both in Junior Secondary School three. Unknown to Tade, Josephine had written a secret love letter to him and her brother had stumbled on it. Josephine had told Uncle Bayo, Tade was just her best friend in School, which was the truth but Uncle Bayo had insisted that Tade had slept with her, Uncle Tade had ordered Josephine to Bring Tade to the house.

Josephine had tricked Tade into following her home, lying to him she was having Stomachache. She had begged him to help her with her school bag home. Tade remembered how he had gullibly entered a trap. The moment they got into the house, Uncle Tade shut the door from behind. Tade remembered jumping in fear at the scary man who had dark circles round his eyes.

"Jesus!" Tade had screamed.

"My name is not Jesus, My name is Bayo, but people call me Uncle Bayo , because I do big things... So you are the One sleeping with my sister.

"Sleeping? No! we don't do such sir."

"Why then is she writing you a love letter?"

“Love letter?” Tade remembered being innocently shocked.

“Oh! I see, so it is true you know nothing about it. Fine, I will accept it that way, but let me give you a sound warning, the day you sleep with her is the day you marry her. I have serious diabolical powers, I slept in a forest for 35 nights, so I can see everything. The day you sleep with her, I will know.”

Tade returned from his mind travel, and it seem like Uncle Bayo had been reading his mind, he said affirmatively...

“I told you twelve years ago that the day you sleep with her is the day you marry her, well you have not just slept with her, She has a child for you, so I have married her off to you. The One thousand Two hundred Naira I just collected from you is her Bride price. I am the fatherly figure in her life, so I have accepted the bride price.”

“Ha! Uncle Bayo. Don’t do this , you tricked me...I am legally married to Florence”

“I tricked you. What did you do to my sister? You tricked her into thinking you will marry her, but when the cockroach came in, you ran away.” He said

“Josephine! Josephine” he called out

“Yes Sir!” Josephine ran out of the kitchen to meet him

“Come here, Kneel before your husband and give me your hand. He has paid your bride price”

Florence who stood at the kitchen door looked at Tade surprisingly and Tade responded with shaking his head negatively.

“I now Pronounce you both as husband and wife, and you will live long together having more children.”

To be continued...

CHAPTER 30

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Uncle Bayo sat in the Living room devouring the food that had been served, he was sweating profusely. Josephine sat beside him...

“I am just eating the fruit of my Labour over you, since our mother died and I had to take up the responsibility of being your father, this is what I have been hoping for that would happen someday. You know sitting in your house, inside cold Air conditioner, eating Goat meat with Amala and Gbegiri. Now it is happening...”

Florence had walked into the room with Joba crying profusely; Tade had followed her. Josephine tapped Uncle Bayo to tell him they had both gone inside.

“Leave them, my ears are everywhere.”

Florence is packing her clothes into a box.

“Florence, what are you doing?”

“What does it look like I am doing? I am running for my dear life, before they kill me and my child.”

“Florence, I have a Plan. Let him Leave tomorrow, we will run away to a place where she doesn’t know.”

Florence stood still, believing him.

“Come here! It is you that I Love” He said asking her for a hug

Florence moved into his embrace...

“Florence, I don’t trust Josephine and her uncle. I don’t believe the child is mine, how come they never showed up when she was pregnant, but suddenly they showed up with a child. I don’t believe them, plus we only slept with each other that night, which was a very short one.”

“The reason I told her not to come to you when we discovered she was pregnant, was because I wanted her to have evidence. I don’t like to fight senseless battles, what if the Baby had died before delivery, I would have been put to shame for fighting for her” Uncle Bayo suddenly appeared from the wall.

Tade and Florence froze in fear..

“Tade, you want to run away, don’t try it, I will find you wherever you go. To avoid my trouble, accept Josephine as your wife, and Madam Cockroach accept her as your Co-wife and I will not kill you. I hope you know Josephine is a witch and if you tried to double cross, apart from me dealing with you, she will deal mercilessly with you. The Worst people to offend emotionally are Witches. They don’t leave a bone until they have crushed and swallowed it all.”

He disappeared!

Florence held her chest and sat into the bed...

“I can’t stay here, the first type of crowd we had in our house, we brought them in and so it was easy to ask them to leave, but this right here are the ones who came in uninvited, how do we chase them out.. I think they are not leaving any soon, so it is better I leave”.

Florence pulled her box with Joba strapped at her back. She was leaving. Tade was trying to beg her to stay but she was not ready to listen. By the time she got to the compound, her phone rang, it was Aunt Favour Calling... She Picked up in a rush.

“Aunt Favour, you didn’t tell me the child you saw was Josephine’s child?”

“Slow Down, what is happening?”

“In your Prayer, you said you saw two babies with us, on getting home, we met Josephine with a baby, She is claiming the Baby is for Tade. I am leaving the house; Josephine came with her herbalist brother who has been threatening me, disappearing and appearing anywhere in the house”

“Calm down.. I was just led to call you, I thought it was to check on you, if you had gotten home safely. Mrs. Florence, God will not want you to leave that House, you need to stay, that is your home, do you leave your home because you have rats and cockroaches there? Answer me?”

“No”

“What do you do to them?”

“You fumigate them out” Florence replied

“So don’t let the rats and the Cockroaches make you leave your home” Aunty Favour said.

“What if the Visitor is a Lion or a snake, don’t you think it is wise to run out of the house for a while, so they don’t strike you to death?”

“Well, if I can remember clearly, Scriptures tell us that God has given us power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you. And if it is a Lion, God can make you a Daniel in the Lion’s den, the Lion will not be able to hurt you, the only thing that God needs from you is for you to be Sober and vigilant... By Being Sober, you don’t need to fight her or the Uncle, and by being vigilant, it means you are to be on your toes Spiritually, waging the war Spiritually. God has helped you before, He sent Josephine out and Yes she went to bring backup, but God is the God of Yesterday, today and Forever, If He did Yesterday, He can still do it today. Get back inside and ask God to break the back of the backbone of your problem...”

“Break the backbone of my problem?”

“Yes, Josephine is powerless without her Uncle, Strip him off her”

Florence got the Memo...

To be continued..

PART 31

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

“Thank you ma..” Aunty Favour had woken up the fighter in her.

“Can you give the Phone to Mr. Tade?”

Florence Passed the phone to Tade.

“Hello Aunty Favour, can’t my battles be over?’

“Yes, it will be over, but the truth is though we are the children of God, Scriptures reminds us that the World lieth in wickedness, so as long as we live, challenges will always come at us from the evil one, but we are sure that we are conquerors.”

“Amen...”

“Mr. Tade, please listen to me, it is true that it is the responsibility of a wise woman to build her home, so the world most times put the responsibility of a happy marriage on the shoulders of a woman, but the truth is... A man ought to take responsibility too, Adam failed in shutting the mouth of the serpent from speaking to Eve and that made him lose his dominion, like your wife said there are serpents in your house right now, shut the mouth of that serpent and chase it out. The Serpent was the third party in the garden of Eden, and Adam saw it speaking with Eve and yet did nothing, be a man and send the serpent out of the garden of your life , so that it doesn’t send you out instead. I will be praying for you both.”

Tade Nodded as he also got the Memo...

Both Florence and Tade looked at each other and nodded in agreement. Tade stretched out his palm implying Florence should place her hand in it, Florence responded as expected and together they walked back in.

Uncle Bayo was surprised seeing them walk back in together. He and Josephine were trying to rearrange the chair.

“What are you doing?” Tade asked.

“I... want... I mean Brother Bayo said I should change the living room arrangement.”

“You dare not, this is my house and I decide how things should be”

Uncle Bayo noticed a change in the atmosphere...

“Who did you go and speak to outside? Who did you call? Who gave you the boldness you suddenly possess?” Uncle Bayo Challenged

“We called on God!” Tade Replied “And Uncle Bayo, if you and Josephine do not leave my House this minute, you will be shocked at what will happen to you.”

“Shut up, you know nothing, don’t push me to crush you, you are the father to my niece, if not I will make you disappear this minute if you keep opening that stinking mouth of yours”

Tade is about to speak, but Florence tightened her grip on his hand as he looked at her , she tightened her lips together and shook her head in the negative. After which, she went inside.

Aunty Favour Sat in her office, Wura was leaving with her baby. It was closing time, as she stood up to leave, she closed her eyes sharply and saw two eyes looking at...

She openly her eyes sharply...

“Who is checking me out?”

Aunty Favour Sat back into chair and began to pray...

“Oh Lord fence my life and all that concerns me with the blood of Jesus. As they search for me, they see the blood of the Lamb. I laminate my life with the blood of Jesus”

“I want to know who has given them the sudden boldness, get me a bowl of water.” Uncle Bayo told Josephine. Josephine rushed in to get a bowl of Water. Uncle Bayo mumbled some words and ended it with “Oyela!” (Reveal)”

“Blood of Jesus!” Aunty Favour kept declaring over and over ...

Uncle Bayo kept mumbling more words, but the water refused to give him what he was searching for. He kept pushing and finally unfortunately for him, the water turned to blood.

“Ha! Abomination..blood!”

To be continued...

CHAPTER 32
"THREE IS A CROWD"
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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Josephine was shocked as well.

“Eje! (Blood) What does this mean Broda mii?”

“The person they have reached out to has the blood of the lamb around him. They have asked for help from a higher force.”

“What do we do?” Josephine asked

“Oh Lord, unveil whoever is checking me out... Who is monitoring me? Unveil them. Oh Lord. I refuse to be blind in Jesus name. Open my eyes to see the invisible” Aunt Favour Said and like a ball running in top speed, her Spirit moved between space like Flash.”

Aunt Favour Lands in Tade and Florence’s house. She looked around , she was in Mr. Tade’s house. She remembered the house From Joba’s Naming ceremony.

“Why am I here?” Favour Asked herself as she looked around. She saw Uncle Bayo and Josephine...

“Lord, who are these people? I don’t know who they are.”

Aunty Favour moved further into the house and looked around, only for her to see Florence and Tade's Wedding Portrait...

"This lady must be the Second woman and the man, her Uncle."

Aunty Favour moved Closer to them, and She noticed the Bowl of blood in their front.

"Blood!" this is really a danger Zone. This couple must be on fire at all times."

"I need to enter their room to hear their discussion, I must find out who they have been speaking with." Uncle Bayo said.

"Let's go then" Josephine said already on her feet, she thought he meant they were going into the room physically

"Where are you going? I am talking about appearing in their room"

The Moment Aunty Favour heard that, she raced back spiritually to the Lighthouse.

Florence had walked into one of the Guest room after leaving the Living room. Tade, who had followed her had questioned her going to the Guest room.

"Why did you come in here? let's go to our room" Tade asked.

"Sometimes when you need to fumigate a room, you need to stay in a new place temporarily, I don't know what they have done to the room when we went outside, Let's fight from here"

"What do we do first?"

“I don’t know yet...”

As she ended her statement, her phone rang...

“It’s Aunt Favour”

“Ok..Pick up”

“Hello Mrs. Florence, Let us Pray” ...

“Ok ma!” Florence beckoned on Tade to draw closer for them to pray together.

“Lord, I seal this room with the blood of Jesus, that strange man must not enter this room in Jesus name. His metaphysical powers will not work in this room in Jesus name.” Aunt Favour Prayed.

The couple were shocked but said the Amen as they should.

“Mr. Tade and Mrs. Florence, you both need to be on fire to survive this war. No sleeping, even when you doze, Let your Spirit man be on fire.”

To be continued...

PART 33

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Uncle Bayo is seated in the Living with his eyes tightly shut, we see him struggling .

“What is happening? The walls have extra Spiritual Barricade, I can’t seem to Pass through the wall.”

“Whoever has shown them the way needs to be found out, so that we don’t lose eventually, however, in the meantime, we can’t fight diabolically again, so we don’t receive a Back to sender arrow, instead we will fight emotionally.

“Emotionally? Yes. Watch and see”

Florence and Tade Prayed all Night...

The Next Morning, Tade and Florence heard a Knock at the door. Tade stood up in a rush, while Florence protected the baby who was sleeping in his cot. Tade fearfully opened the door.

“We are leaving, but I would like to speak to you alone” Uncle Bayo said

“Uncle Bayo say what you want to say, I am listening.”

“Tade, behave yourself and accord me the respect I deserve. I told you I am leaving, so follow me and let us discuss or else I will stay back and continue to make life hell for you”

Tade looked back at Florence who gave him a go ahead.

Tade walked back into the room with the face of a Child.

“What did he say to you?”

“Nothing much, but I would like to do something.”

“What?”

“I want to carry out a DNA test on the child to be sure if he is mine.”

“And what if he is Yours?”

“I don’t know what will happen afterwards. Florence, I may have to marry Josephine as a second wife for the sake of my Son.”

“Excuse me, what are you saying?” Florence was dazed

“Florence, I want you to understand, I can’t let my child live the way I lived as a child”

“I don’t understand, and do not want to understand. What did he say to you or use on you to agree to marry Josephine?”

“He didn’t say anything to me, Infact it was Josephine that spoke with me. She said a lot of things that made sense.”

“What did she say?”

Fifteen Minutes Earlier....

When Tade got into the Living Room, he met Josephine there with the baby in her hand.

“Tade, sit... Josephine and I were already on our way out but Josephine insisted she wanted to speak with you”

Tade looked at Josephine and instead of the wicked looking Josephine, she sat like someone to be pitied...

“I am all ears” Tade said.

“No, don’t listen to what they have to say, don’t give your ears to what the serpent has to say, that was the Mistake Eve made in the garden of Eden” Tade heard a small voice say to him.

“Tade, I am leaving your life today and never to come back, but I want you to know that you are about to repeat history again. I remember our good old days together, you told me, you will never have a child out of wedlock, because you never want your own child to suffer the fatherly rejection you suffered from your Igbo Father”

Tade felt the stab in his heart. Josephine just touched a place he was not totally healed in. Tade Quickly travelled back memory lane...

PART 34

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Tade remembered how he suffered in the hands of his peers... He remembered how they called him a “Yellow Bastard”. They had a reason to call him that, it was obvious the man everyone called his father was not his father, but Gbemi’s father. Gbemi’s father had the same complexion with his mother, therefore it was very obvious that he had a different father since he was very Fair- skinned.

Tade remembered how he had gotten home when he was eight years with lots of tears...

‘Maami, who is my true Father?’ he had asked boldly. The way he asked was too bold for his mother to lie.

“He doesn’t want you. His name is Nnamdi Dike. He was my first love. When I became pregnant of you, he denied it because of his family.”

Tade remembered weeping profusely that day and begging to have his father’s contact.

After so many pleas for five years his mother gave him the house address.

As Tade travelled back memory lane, he couldn’t help but feel the pain he felt back then. He had gotten to the house and truly met the man who was his biological father. it couldn’t be argued; he was the splitting image of his father. Tade felt so happy seeing the man he could truly call Father; however, the day did not end as he had imagined.

He remembered pressing the bell, and his father answering the bell. Time stood still as they both stared into each other's eyes. There was instant recognition in his Father's eye.

"You are Shalewa's Son?" he asked without beating about the bush.

Tade nodded though he was expecting the question to have sounded more like

"You are MY son?"

"What are you doing here? Didn't your mother train you to use a phone or an E-mail to contact me first. Listen go back to hole you came from, You are not my Son, My children are inside and I wouldn't want them or my wife seeing you. Leave!"

Tade couldn't explain how he trekked for two hours back home.

Tade looked into Florence's eyes hoping she would understand his plight. Josephine had reminded him of his past and the promise he made to himself. If the DNA test proves that the boy was his, he may have to succumb to Josephine and for the sake of his son Marry her.

"Florence, I had Daddy issues, and I am not about to let my child have it"

"Tade, what is this? Initially you were a mummy's boy, we fought that and overcame, now you are about to have Daddy issues! Listen, if you are thinking about bringing Josephine and this child of hers into our marriage, I will not have it. Forget it. I will not live with her under the same roof, watching my back every time. Tade, you have a problem with making up your mind. One minute we are praying together in agreement, the next minute someone tells you something and you change your mind. Make up your mind and make your choice. It's either My son and I or Josephine and her son. I give you till evening."

Florence walks away from him...

Josephine and Uncle Bayo were discussing in the Living room. Their bags are on the floor. They were whispering to one another.

‘I told you, the best way to make a man committed to you forever is to have his or her child. I told you that’s what most of these single Baby mamas do. They cling on to Married men, ensure they get pregnant for them. That way, they are on Child support all their life, while still enjoying their single lifestyle of freedom. Can you see why I told you not to abort the pregnancy’?

“ It’s working!”

“Why won’t it work, like I told you that day, sometimes you don’t need to waste your witchcraft powers on little task like this. All you need in cases like this is strategy. If we had come when you were pregnant, they may have aborted the pregnancy with their prayer, but now that there is a child, they cannot pray death on a child.”

“ Although it would have been sweeter to punish him with my Powers”

“Pocket your Witchcraft and enjoy life. Soon you may start eating the sour grape of witchcraft, so enjoy this life while it last...”

“Sour Grape of Witchcraft”

“Yes, you know the time of payment of power will be happening soon, who knows it may be the child that you will be asked to let go to renew your power.

“May the gods forbid”

“There is nothing to forbid, that’s why it is better you seize the moment and use the child to make him commit to you, so that if anything happens to the child, you would have been married to him and possibly birthed another child.

" Let's be on our way" Tade said on stepping out of the room...

" Where are we going?" Josephine asked.

" DNA"

" Tade, so you think this Child is not yours...Look at his face, it's you in a baby form"
Josephine sobbed.

" Are you ready for the DNA or we should forget about it. I am not ready for your crying."

" Josephine, Let's do what he wants, we have nothing to hide " Uncle Bayo said.

To be continued..

CHAPTER 35

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Florence sat on the floor sobbing as she watched her baby on the bed... Tade, Josephine and Uncle Bayo had left the house.

" God, I am tired of my marriage to Tade, first it was childlessness, later it moved to family crisis, and now another child palava. God I want peace...I want Peace...."

"Invite the Prince of Peace into the Situation" Florence heard the Words...

" Prince of Peace, I invite you into this boat, please help Tade to row this boat to shore, deliver our marriage boat from the sharks.. Lord, teach Tade the wise thing to do. God, teach me the wise thing to do. God, what if the child is Tade's own? What will happen to us? Auntie Favour saw the vision". Florence said

Florence stopped her prayers to call Auntie Favour.

Auntie Favour was walking into her office, with Wura following from behind.

" Wura, you are here early today."

" Yes, Tife and I have an assignment to do before assembly "

" Ok dear...How is it at home?"

" Same as usual"

" It is well...We should sit and talk soon"

" Yes Aunt Favour ..Thank you for all you do..."

" Thank God"

Aunt Favour's phone rang... she checked the Caller ID, it was " Mrs. Florence". Aunt Favour picked up.

" Hello Aunt Favour, I need to know what God wants me to do right now"

" I believe God wants you to be calm no matter the situation."

"Ok, but what if the DNA test comes out positive, that means Tade will have to marry Josephine... No! The result must be negative, Aunt Favour pray with me that the test will come out Negative. "

"Mrs. Florence, first truth I want you accept is that, Josephine's child is your husband's child. The DNA is not going to change, but the second truth I want you to accept is that Mr. Tade does not have to marry Josephine if you do not accept it. You have to fight to maintain your place."

" You are confusing me, you told me not to fight, now you want me to fight."

" I am speaking about spiritually wrestling for your place."

" Hmmm...."

" Mrs. Florence, you have two options, Number 1 prayerfully make your husband take his stand by having Josephine leave with her child like the way God told Abraham to Obey Sarah's request to have Hagar leave with her son, or on the other hand, if you are spiritually and emotionally mature enough to handle it, accept her son and truthfully raise him like yours without the mother's interference."

" Hmm...do you think she will want to drop her child?"

" You can prayerfully make her do"

"HmMMM...."

To be Continued...

CHAPTER 36

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Tade returned home with Josephine and her brother.

The moment Tade walked in, Florence knew that without a doubt, he had been brainwashed.

She gazed into his eyes and could tell that he was troubled, so without wasting time she asked...

" So tell me, What's up Tade?"

Tade gazed into her eyes in return and like a confused child he replied.

"I really don't know, but one thing I am sure of is.. I cannot leave my blood the way my father deserted me. I will not have my child wallowing in poverty the way I was left to suffer with my mother while my father was busy enjoying his life with his wife and three daughters, even if he was born out of my mistake."

"Florence, for the sake of my son, maybe I might have to marry Josephine and I know it will be a problem for you to co- habit with her and her son, I can give her the other apartment downstairs that we were planning to rent out. I will also have her sign a contract not to be an interference in our marriage and that includes her brother too. I will have her sign that she would have nothing to do with our apartment here, I would only go to speak with her a few times"

" And possibly have sex with her again?" Florence asked

" I don't plan to" Tade replied

" It easier said and done...You want to keep a woman close to you because of your son, and yet you will not have sexual intercourse with her, bearing in mind the history between you both... Wow! Very brilliant plan. Tade do you really think things Through? What happens when you begin to see her every day or when you begin to see her son every day? Let me tell you what will happen someday, we might have an argument and you will decide to go and sleep in our apartment in other to clear your head...Tade! listen to me, I did not sign the contract of being in a polygamous marriage so I will not, I repeat, I will not agree to whatever you're planning."

"Florence, let's take this thing as it comes, I believe that things will sort itself out. I do not love Josephine, I love you"

" Wow! Congrats to me. Newsflash! My husband loves me, He doesn't love his baby mama. Halleluyah" Florence said sarcastically before picking up her baby. She walked out of the room and eventually the house; she needed to clear her head.

Days moved by slowly. Uncle Bayo returned home, but Josephine arrogantly maintained her stay with her son in the Master bedroom. She was obviously following her brother's instruction. Florence avoided her and tried maintaining peace just like Aunty Favour had advised her.

"Mrs. Florence, You don't want to fight with your husband because right now he is not in his right senses, his emotions have beclouded his reasoning, his past has become a haunting figure in his present. You said it yourself that he didn't have a fatherly love so right now, he is seeing himself in that boy. So right now, what you need is for the Lord to speak to his heart and for his eyes to be open and not be clouded by emotions."

" So, you are saying I should be still and permit Josephine to keep still staying with us"

" You are not keeping still, you are waging war in the Spiritual realm. Mrs. Florence, what you are going through now, is what Sarah passed through. The story of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar is literally playing out with you but in a different way.

You remember how Sarah's maid had a baby for Sarah's husband and the child was birthed before her own child. The son started misbehaving against Sarah son and just like every normal woman, she approached Abraham and asked that she chase Hagar away... but guess what Abraham behaved the way Mr. Tade is behaving, he was distressed because it concerned his son... Let's read that Scripture together" Aunty Favour said

Florence had picked up her Bible ...

" Gen 21: 9-11" Aunty Favour said

" But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.

The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Florence read

" The truth is a good man will always have a soft spot for his child and the mother of the child, so instead of fighting him or trying to command him, Mrs. Florence why don't you pray to the Lord to speak to your husband by HIMSELF on the right step to take."

" Hmmm...."

" Don't push it, don't force it, don't even try to advise him rather pray that the will of God be done in this matter. We cannot deny the paternity of the Child because the Holy Spirit has told me that that child is your husband's child, so brace up because the DNA will not prove otherwise. It's high time you accepted it and pray that the Lord will make him make the right choice that will not affect your marriage and your own child ."

To be Continued...

CHAPTER 37

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

That phone conversation with Aunt Favour settled it for Florence. She was tempted to call her mom, but she knew her mother's emotion will make things worse, that's why she choose Aunt Favour as her counselor. She knew she won't be bias. Florence started engaging in night prayers every day and her prayer was simple...

"Oh lord, let my husband have an encounter with you, speak to him by yourself. Teach him the right step to take in a way that favors me and my son in this marriage. Holy spirit speak to Tade, open his eyes of understanding. Let him understand your will for him. Let him come back to his senses. Concerning Josephine's son and our marriage, push him in the right way in the name of Jesus.

Florence prayed in agony every night. The tension of the house could be sliced with a knife, it was thick. It seemed like everyone was just waiting for the DNA result to be out.

Tade however had been observing Florence, and he didn't know yet what sense to be made out of her silent behavior. He couldn't understand her peace and quiet in almost four to five days. Tade noticed that Florence had become quiet and he wondered why she wasn't in pain.

In fact she surprised him by preparing food for three of them. She would serve him, serve Josephine and serve herself and that was looking a bit scary for him, but what made Tade convinced about Florence's authenticity was her midnight prayer. She would pray for two hours and though he couldn't make out some of the things she would always pray about, she knew she meant no harm.

He heard him her praying for him, mentioning his name, mentioning the name of their child and sometimes the child of Josephine.

Tade also got his share of God's visitation, exactly the night before the DNA results were released.

He saw the elderly man...

The Elderly man who had come to his house with Aunty Favour in his dream but this time around He came in hurriedly asking to have a short meeting with Tade.

"Tade, do you want to have peace in your old age?"

"Yes!" Tade replied

"Then what are you doing with two women in your life?"

"Two women?" He asked.

"Yes! Florence and Josephine"

"Sir, the thing is...I really just have one woman in my life but I mistakenly slept with Josephine. Consequently, its sad she has a son for me and because of my past of how I suffered as a child I do not want my child to suffer like that, that's the only reason why Josephine is in my life."

"So, are you saying that if the child was out of the picture, Josephine will be out of this house."

" Definitely Sir!" He replied.

" Well, I'm not about to take the boy out of the picture, because he is an innocent boy but one thing I want you to know is about the young boy is...I will be with him even if he doesn't live with you. I will be with him because he is your seed.

" Sir, are you saying that I should let go of Josephine and my son and that you will be with him?"

"Yes! I made a home for two and not three. I am the one third person permitted in the picture of Marriage and even as the third party, I do not interfere in marriages. In the Garden of Eden, I left Adam and Eve to be with each other and I would only come visiting in the evening. No other person ought to have a permanent residence in the Life of a couple, even children come and go after a while. No maids, parents, are meant to have a permanent long time presence in a home. I designed Marriage to be a holy fusion between two people. Therefore, Tade, for Peace to reign in your home you need to let go of Josephine and her seed but you must make sure that you settle them well. When Abraham had to let go of Hagar and Ishmael on my directive, he gave her some food and water."

" Hmmm...So I should settle Josephine financially."

" And have a lawyer sign a contract that allows you to see him a few times, and provide Child support for him till he is mature to take care of himself"

Tade bowed his head...

" Will He be fine? I hope he won't grow up sad like me?"

" I gave Abraham my Word, that I will be with Ishmael and Make him a great nation and I did not fail him. I give you my Word, I will be with your son. Tell Josephine that if she

drops her wicked ways, I will give her a good man; A man that will be fit to be the father of your son."

Tade woke up and the dream was so clear to him, he knew what he had to do.

Florence was in her praying position where she was praying silently. He knew God had answered her prayer ..

Tade knelt down and wept sore.

To be continued....

PART 38

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

Two days after, Tade brought in the test result and asked to see Josephine and Florence.

They both sat anxiously waiting for the result of the test. Based on what Auntie Favour had told her, Florence was not so anxious about the result, instead what Tade's resolve would be after the result came out...

" The result is out and it is positive. Josephine, your son is my son"

" Finally!" Josephine said smiling " I wish my brother was here to celebrate with me"

" Well, I am happy he is not here. Josephine, I can not marry you. I will like to settle you and have you be on your way and prayerfully ask that God gives you a man. The fact that you have a son or a child for me does not mean I should marry you. I will give you all that you need to raise the child well. There are people who had children with their boyfriends or girlfriends in their young age and yet didn't marry them. I don't have to marry you to care for our child. I will send you on your way with enough money and assurance. I know history is repeating itself, but it is due to my carelessness..."

Josephine and Florence were both dumbstruck, they could not understand what had happened to Tade. He was speaking in a decisive way. Florence knew this had to be as a result of her prayers.

" Tade, are you the one speaking or Florence?"

" We have not had this conversation Josephine" Florence defended herself

" This is my voice as directed by God"

" God! God asked you to neglect your child?"

" God told me, He will be with him."

Josephine was shocked. Her expectations had been cut short.

" Josephine, God told me if you turn from your ways, he will settle you maritally with your own husband who will accept my son as his son"

Josephine started weeping...

"I already met a man who showed me plenty Love after you chased me out of the house back then, but the pregnancy made me cut off from him, Tade, you want me to leave, who will marry a single mother?"

" There are men who God can pick out to do that, Like Joseph. When God spoke to Joseph through the Angel, He accepted Mary and became the father of her son Jesus Christ. As Jesus grew up, he was referred to as Jesus, son of Joseph. God has told me that if you can repent and truth God with your life, He will give you a man who will love you as take your son as his. Josephine, if I was dead, wouldn't you marry and take care of our son?"

Josephine nodded...

" Even if I accept to leave you, my brother will not allow" Josephine said...

Josephine got back home with her son. Uncle Bayo was seated in the Living room reading a newspaper...He was shocked to see Josephine...

" Never, My sister will not children for Multiple fathers. They are joking. Let me get my clothes, we are returning them now."

Tade and Florence were seated in the Living room. Tade has his hand across her shoulder...

" Thank you Tade, you handled this so maturely"

" Thanks, It seems the challenges the devil keeps bringing our ways to scatter us keeps making us wiser. I am wiser and more matured than some months back ..

" My only concern is Josephine's brother" Tade said

" Hmm..." Florence silently agreed, but immediately she remembered what Aunty Favour had said to her over the phone about breaking the backbone of our problems.

Florence suddenly faces Tade...

" Darling, can we pray this prayer...Oh Lord, break the backbone and encourager of our problems in Jesus name."

They both knelt in prayer decreeing powerfully...

" Oh Lord, who is fueling or energizing our problems, Holy Ghost dry them up in Jesus name".

To be continued....

CHAPTER 39

"THREE IS A CROWD"

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As inspired by the LIVING WORD

" Brother mii, I am not going anywhere...I am done" Josephine said refusing to move...

" You said what?"

" I said I am not interested in Tade anymore."

"You are sick! Very sick, ungrateful human being. Is this how you intend paying me back, I stopped my education to give you a life."

" And I appreciate it, I hope to pay you back soon"

" With being a single mother?"

" I won't be a single mother for long"

"Listen to me, you are following me now to that house"

Uncle Bayo tried to drag her, and in resistance she pushed him off making him fall...

" I said I am done, stop tossing my life around like a ball, I am done with everything, even the witchcraft society you initiated me into. I want to live a peaceful life. Leave me be..." Josephine had screamed In anger....

" My back! My back!" Uncle Bayo cried out calmly as he tried to get up from the floor...

" Josephine, my back is not responding, Ha! It is not responding"

Josephine carried her baby and went inside.

" Ha! My back" Uncle Bayo tried chanting some incantation...

SIX MONTHS LATER...

Josephine sat by her brother on the bed. He was looking very sick.

" Brother mii, I am sorry for pushing you that day..."

" Josephine, I keep telling you, you were not the one that pushed me, it the God of Tade and his wife. Trust me, if I didn't fall that day, Tade, his wife and his son would have fallen. I know I am a wicked man, so that push was necessary..."

" Egbon mii, since you know that the God of Tade is a powerful one, why don't you drop this devilish way and Join me In my new found faith" Josephine said sobbing. Even though Uncle Bayo was a bad man, he was still her blood.

" Thank you. Josephine, I will die soon, there is no point.. You continue to go to Church. Drag your sister along...The power of the devil is nothing compared to the power of God.

I am happy you found your way to the good God and the church people have delivered you from the Witchcraft initiation.. return the dowry money I craftily collected from Tade. You are not his wife. Don't leave the church people, so that the Witches will not kill you, now the reason they have not been able to hurt you is because the mark of the blood of the lamb is on your forehead. Don't lose it... Don't Lose it...."

Uncle Bayo dropped dead ..

" Egbon mii, Broda Bayo! Jesus! Please! Give him more time to at least be saved!" Josephine sobbed

Tade is in the Living room, He received a text.

" Just to let you know that Uncle Bayo passed away last night after about six months of sickness. I am sorry for what we tried to do to your home. Thank you for keeping to your word, we have received the allowance of the next six months of Baby Jordan from the Lawyer. Thanks a lot. Regards to Florence and Joba."

Tade dropped the phone on the table...

" Hmmm... Josephine is finally free of the control of this wicked brother of hers and invariably we are free too... Glory to God... Babe!"

Tade called out to Florence in excitement.

A YEAR LATER...

Josephine walked into Pastor Sammy's Office.

" Good afternoon Sir, Sister Joy said you asked to see me"

" Yes, Sister Josephine. How is Jordan? He has not come to say hello to me today "

" He is in the Children class sir"

" Errmm...I really don't know how to say this, but I know you are aware that I am Single and a lot of people have been praying for me to be blessed with a wife, especially my Spiritual Mother, which I hope you will meet her someday..."

" Yes Sir, we are praying. We know God is preparing her for the great work. No ordinary woman can step into that shoe"

" Really?"

" Yes sir, Pastor Sam, you are a general in this time, God used you to bring me and a lot of others out from the den of the devil and through the Word of God you powerfully dish to us, we are renewed daily, the Woman who must be your wife must operate on that same level ooo, so we are praying for you."

" Well, your prayers have been answered."

" Pastor Sammy, Are you serious? Wow! That is great news. Sir, who is she?" Josephine asked excitedly.

" The closest person to you"

" The closest person to me? Sister Jane?"

" No, her name is Sister Josephine."

Josephine went offline even though she was seated right in front of Pastor Sammy.

She burst into Laughter, and when she eventually found her voice she said

" Pastor Sammy, today is not April Fool." She said laughing but she saw that Pastor Sammy looked dead serious with a small smile on his lips...

" Sister Josephine, You are my Wife"

" No, I am a Single mother, I am a former witch, I am ..."

" I know all who you were, who you are right now and Who God wants to bring out of you, because the I AM THAT I AM choose you for me and has told me all that I need to know about you and guess what! I love the full package of you. Josephine, if you will let me, I want to be your husband, the father to Jordan and other children God will bless us with."

Josephine had no words, instead tears

THE END...

If this story has blessed and touched your life, remember to say a Word of Prayer for the Author, **Mrs Opeyemi Akintunde** the writer of this story **as INSPIRED by the HOLY SPIRIT...** that God never departs from her Life and Home...

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PEACE!!!!



ABOUT THE BOOK

Tade & Florence are a new couple. They are about to hit a snag in their marriage as they made a careless decision.

Florence had met Tade at his phone store and a beautiful love story blossomed so rapidly. Before Florence's Mother could stop Florence from marrying uneducated Tade, they were already happily married. However, their beautiful love story was threatened when guests came visiting.

Read **THREE IS A CROWD** and be blessed again.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



OPEYEMI AKINTUNDE is a media enthusiast; A writer, Film Director and Film Editor.

A Graduate of Mass Communication From The Prestigious University, Covenant University, Ibadan, Nigeria. She is the Founding President of DEEP THOTS MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL. She Has Written Several Life Changing Novels and She is Popularly Known for Producing Short Christian-Movies Especially **MY WEAKNESS**. She is Happily Married To Pastor AKINWALE AKINTUNDE, who is the Regional Overseer At The Mountain Of Fire And Miracle Ministries. And They are blessed with Wonderful Children.

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