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Chapter 1: Early Life and Family Background

I came into the world in 2004, the youngest member of a warm, close-knit family of five. With two loving parents and two older siblings, I grew up surrounded by guidance, laughter, and a sense of belonging that shaped the person I would become. Being the last born meant that I was always under someone's watchful eye — sometimes protected, sometimes teased, but always deeply loved. My earliest memories are of our small but lively home, a place where love was shown not just through words but through actions. My parents worked tirelessly to provide us with everything we needed, and they made sure we understood the value of discipline, respect, and hard work from a young age. My father, a man of quiet strength, believed that education was the greatest gift he could give his children. My mother, on the other hand, was the heart of our home — gentle but firm, always ready with wisdom or comfort whenever we needed it. Being the youngest came with its own unique experiences. I learned early on to listen before I spoke, to observe before I acted, and to follow the examples of my older siblings. They were my first teachers and my fiercest protectors, and I grew up admiring their achievements and dreaming of matching or even surpassing them one day. But being the last born also meant I was often the center of attention — a position I learned to embrace with a mix of pride and humility. Family was, and still is, the foundation upon which my life is built. Our evenings were often spent gathered together, sharing stories, meals, and laughter. Even the simplest moments — like watching the rain fall outside or listening to my parents recount stories from their childhood — felt special because they were shared. In that nurturing environment, I learned the importance of love, patience, and resilience. Looking back now, I realize that my early years were more than just a time of innocence; they were a period of quiet preparation. My family taught me the values that would guide me for the rest of my life. They instilled in me a strong sense of identity, rooted in tradition but open to the world beyond. And as the last born, I carried their dreams and hopes in my heart, determined to make them proud in everything I would go on to do.

Chapter 2: Childhood Memories and Community

 My childhood was defined by simplicity, community, and a strong sense of belonging. Growing up in a small rural environment taught me that life's greatest joys are often found in the smallest details — the laughter of neighbors gathered under a tree, the aroma of freshly cooked ugali shared with friends, or the long walks to the local shop where everyone knew each other by name. In our community, no one truly lived in isolation. Families supported one another in times of joy and hardship alike. Weddings, harvests, and even funerals brought people together, each event a reminder that unity was our strength. As a child, I watched how adults worked hand in hand — tilling the land together during planting season or building a neighbor's house from start to finish — and I understood early on that community was not just about living side by side; it was about growing and surviving together. My days were often filled with outdoor activities. I spent hours playing traditional games with other children in open fields or chasing goats as part of our daily chores. These moments, though ordinary, shaped my character in profound ways. They taught me teamwork, resilience, and the importance of communication — lessons that would later prove essential in my academic and personal life. Respect for elders was another cornerstone of our upbringing. We were taught to greet them with both hands, to listen when they spoke, and to seek their wisdom before making decisions. Many evenings were spent sitting around a fire, listening to my grandfather narrate stories of our ancestors — tales of courage, migration, and the values that held our people together. These narratives not only deepened my appreciation for our cultural heritage but also instilled in me a strong sense of identity. Life in the village also came with its challenges. Resources were limited, and luxuries were rare. Yet, in those conditions, I learned the true meaning of contentment. I discovered that happiness was not about having everything but about appreciating what you have and striving to make the most of it. That understanding has stayed with me and continues to shape how I approach life's difficulties. Looking back, my childhood was a period of steady growth — a foundation built on family, friendship, discipline, and community values. It was in those formative years that I learned the importance of empathy, hard work, and perseverance. Above all, I came to understand that while individual success is important, it is our relationships with others that give life its deepest meaning.

Chapter 3: Primary School Experiences

My journey into formal education began in Kakamega, far from my family's ancestral home. My father's work at Mumias Sugar Company had taken us there, and as a result, much of my early schooling unfolded in this vibrant part of western Kenya. It was a completely different environment from the quiet rural life I had known, but it was also one that would shape my personality, discipline, and aspirations in ways I couldn't have imagined at the time. I still remember my first day at primary school — the mixture of excitement and nervousness, the crisp smell of freshly sharpened pencils, and the chatter of other children as they clutched their new exercise books. The classrooms were modest, with wooden desks arranged neatly in rows, and chalk dust hanging faintly in the air. Despite the humble setting, those walls were filled with dreams — mine included. Life in primary school was a balance between learning and adapting. Being in Kakamega exposed me to students from diverse backgrounds, each with their own stories, dialects, and ways of life. I learned to communicate, to respect differences, and to appreciate the richness of Kenya's cultural diversity. Over time, the school became more than just a place to study; it was a space where I built friendships, learned discipline, and began to understand the power of education. Academically, I was a curious and hardworking pupil. Mathematics fascinated me because it made sense of the world around me — from the patterns of planting seasons I had seen in the village to the measurements used in daily life. English and Kiswahili opened doors to new ideas and worlds beyond what I could see. My teachers noticed my enthusiasm and often encouraged me to aim higher, pushing me to participate in class discussions, debates, and science competitions. However, the journey was not without its challenges. At times, the pressure to excel felt overwhelming, especially as the youngest in the family — I carried not just my own hopes but also the dreams my parents had for me. There were moments of self-doubt, days when the lessons felt too hard, and times when homesickness weighed heavily. But my parents were my unwavering support system. My father, despite his demanding job, always reminded me that education was the key to a better future. My mother, too, played an essential role — patiently helping with my homework and teaching me the value of persistence when things became tough. Outside the classroom, school life taught me invaluable lessons beyond textbooks. Group activities and sports taught me teamwork and leadership. Being chosen as a class monitor in upper primary gave me my first taste of responsibility. Most importantly, I learned the power of resilience — that even when circumstances were less than ideal, consistency and determination

could open doors. By the time I sat for my final primary school examinations, I had grown not just academically but also personally. My time in Kakamega taught me adaptability and independence. It instilled in me a deep respect for education and a hunger to keep learning. When the results came out and I learned that I had qualified for admission to a reputable secondary school, I felt a sense of fulfillment — not just for myself, but for my family, who had sacrificed so much to see me succeed.

Chapter 4: High School Challenges and Growth

The year I joined Kapsabet Boys High School marked a major turning point in my life. Having passed my KCPE exams with grades I was proud of, I was filled with excitement, hope, and a bit of nervousness about what lay ahead. Kapsabet had a strong reputation as one of the top schools in the country — a place where discipline, academic excellence, and ambition were deeply ingrained into everyday life. Walking through its gates for the first time felt like stepping into a world much bigger than anything I had known before. At first, the transition wasn't easy. Coming from a relatively quiet primary school environment in Kakamega to a highly competitive national school was overwhelming. Everyone around me seemed incredibly smart, confident, and focused. In primary school, I had often been among the top students, but here, I quickly realized I was surrounded by some of the best minds from across the country. That sudden shift forced me to rethink my approach to learning and to develop resilience. One of my biggest challenges during the first year was time management. The schedule was intense — classes started early in the morning, prep sessions ran late into the night, and weekends were filled with revision or club activities. At times, I felt drained, wondering if I could truly keep up. But slowly, I learned how to balance academics with personal time, and how to study smart rather than just hard. Life at Kapsabet wasn't just about books. It was also where I began to discover more about myself beyond academics. I joined the science and debate clubs, which not only sharpened my analytical thinking but also helped me build confidence in public speaking and teamwork. Debating in front of hundreds of students taught me to think critically under pressure — a skill I still value today. Of course, high school came with its share of personal challenges too. There were moments of self-doubt, times when homesickness crept in, and even instances when my performance dipped below my expectations. But each of those low points became lessons in perseverance. They taught me that growth often happens in discomfort and that failure is not the opposite of success — it's part of the journey towards it. By the time I reached my final year, I had transformed in ways I hadn't imagined. I was more disciplined, more focused, and more confident in my abilities. My friendships deepened, my worldview broadened, and my dreams became clearer. Kapsabet was not just a school — it was a crucible that shaped my character, instilled in me a love for continuous learning, and prepared me for the challenges that lay ahead in university and beyond.

Chapter 5:Discovering My Passion for Technology

My journey into the world of technology was not a single lightning-bolt moment, but rather a series of small sparks that grew brighter over time. Looking back, I realize that my interest in computers and how they worked began long before I ever wrote a single line of code. It started with simple curiosity — a fascination with how machines could follow instructions, store information, and make tasks easier. At Kapsabet Boys High School, I was first introduced to computer studies as an optional subject. Initially, I enrolled simply because I thought it would be useful to understand the basics, but it quickly became one of the classes I looked forward to the most. I was intrigued by how typing a few commands on a screen could make the computer respond in a logical and predictable way. The more I learned, the more I wanted to know. Outside the classroom, my curiosity deepened. I often visited the school's computer lab during free periods, exploring different programs and experimenting with basic tasks. I remember being fascinated by how software could automate work, organize data, and even solve problems that once seemed too complex for humans to handle alone. It was like unlocking a new language — one that allowed me to communicate with machines and make them do useful things. My interest grew even stronger when I started reading stories of innovators like Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, and Elon Musk. I admired how they used technology not just as a tool, but as a bridge to solve real-world problems. Their journeys made me realize that tech wasn't just about screens and code — it was about creativity, problem-solving, and impact. That realization shifted my mindset from curiosity to purpose. By the time I was in my final year of high school, I had made up my mind that I wanted to pursue a career in technology. I found myself thinking more deeply about how software could be used to improve lives — from education and healthcare to business and everyday tasks. The idea that I could one day be part of that transformation excited me deeply. It wasn't an easy decision. Many people around me still saw technology as a niche field or one that was too difficult. But I had developed a quiet confidence in my growing passion. I knew that even though I was just beginning, I had the curiosity, patience, and determination to keep learning. Looking back now, those early days of discovery taught me one of the most important lessons in my life: passion is often not found in a single moment — it's built gradually, step by step, through curiosity, exploration, and persistence. That slow but steady spark would eventually guide me toward my next chapter — university life and a deeper dive into the world of computer science.

Chapter 6:University Journey and Academic Pursuits

Joining Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) was one of the most significant milestones in my life. I still remember the mixture of excitement and anxiety I felt on the day I received my admission letter to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. It was a dream come true — the next step in turning my growing passion for technology into a real, impactful career. My first days on campus were filled with curiosity and anticipation. Everything felt new — the environment, the freedom, the pace of learning, and the expectations. University life was very different from high school. Here, learning was not just about memorizing facts or passing exams; it was about understanding concepts deeply, applying them in practical scenarios, and thinking critically about how technology shapes the world. The early semesters were challenging. Subjects like discrete mathematics, programming fundamentals, and computer architecture stretched my thinking in ways I had never experienced before. There were times when I questioned whether I was good enough, especially when assignments piled up or when I encountered errors in my code that took hours to solve. But with every challenge, I grew. Debugging taught me patience, projects taught me collaboration, and long nights of coding taught me discipline. What I loved most about DeKUT was the emphasis on hands-on learning. I wasn't just learning about algorithms in theory — I was implementing them. I wasn't just studying databases — I was designing and querying them. Every project and assignment helped me connect classroom knowledge to real-world problems. It was through this process that I started to see myself not just as a student, but as a problem-solver in training. Outside the classroom, I began exploring technology communities and hackathons, where I met fellow students who shared my enthusiasm. These interactions exposed me to different perspectives and sparked collaborative projects that strengthened my practical skills. Some of my most memorable experiences came from group projects where we built small applications to solve everyday challenges — from task managers to basic e-commerce systems. Each project, no matter how simple, felt like a step closer to the career I envisioned. My time at university has also shaped me personally. Living away from home taught me independence and responsibility. Balancing studies, friendships, and personal growth taught me the importance of time management and prioritization. And every success — from passing a tough course to presenting a final-year project — reinforced my belief in perseverance. Looking back, DeKUT has been more than just an academic institution for me. It's been a training ground, a space of self-discovery, and a launchpad for my future. The journey hasn't always

been easy, but it's been deeply fulfilling. Each lecture, project, and late-night debugging session has prepared me for the next chapter — stepping into the professional world and turning my passion for technology into meaningful impact.

Chapter 7: Internships and Professional Growth

As I progressed deeper into my studies at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, one thing became increasingly clear to me: knowledge alone was not enough. The world of technology was moving fast, and employers were looking for problem-solvers — people who could apply what they had learned to real-world scenarios. I knew that to bridge the gap between theory and practice, I needed hands-on experience. That's where internships came in. My first real taste of the professional world came during my second year when I secured an internship with a small but innovative software development firm in Nairobi. I still remember how excited — and terrified — I was on the first day. Until then, most of my coding experience had been limited to classroom projects. Suddenly, I was part of a team building real solutions for real clients, each with unique challenges and tight deadlines. At first, the transition was overwhelming. I had to adapt to new tools, follow strict version control practices, and collaborate with developers who were far more experienced than I was. My first assignment involved helping the team build a RESTful API for a logistics platform. It was daunting at first, but with the support of my colleagues and countless hours spent reading documentation, I completed my tasks successfully. That experience taught me a crucial lesson: confidence grows through action, not perfection. One of the most impactful projects I worked on during that internship involved creating a data visualization dashboard for a local NGO. The system was designed to help them track and present community development data more effectively. Contributing to that project gave me a profound sense of purpose — I was no longer just writing code; I was building something that could make people's lives better. That realization deepened my commitment to using technology as a tool for positive change. After that initial internship, I actively sought more opportunities to expand my experience. During another attachment, this time with a fintech startup, I was involved in designing a backend system for a mobile payment solution. It was a steep learning curve, but it pushed me to understand concepts like security, scalability, and performance optimization at a deeper level. The pressure was intense, but it taught me how to work under real-world constraints — tight deadlines, demanding clients, and the need to deliver quality under pressure. Beyond technical skills, these professional experiences helped me grow in other ways too. I learned how to communicate effectively within a team, how to present my work to non-technical stakeholders, and how to adapt quickly when requirements changed mid-project. I also gained a clearer picture of the kind of developer I wanted to become — not just someone who

writes code, but someone who understands problems, designs thoughtful solutions, and contributes to meaningful projects. Perhaps most importantly, my internships gave me confidence. They showed me that I could thrive in a professional environment, that I could solve real-world problems, and that the knowledge I was gaining in university had practical, valuable applications. Each project, each bug I fixed, and each feature I implemented added another layer to my skill set and prepared me for the next phase of my journey — stepping into the wider world as a full-fledged software engineer.

Chapter 8:Cultural Identity and Heritage

For as long as I can remember, my cultural identity has been an anchor — a deep part of who I am and how I see the world. I was born into the Kipsigis community, a proud sub-group of the larger Kalenjin people of Kenya. Even though I grew up in towns and schools far from the traditional Kipsigis homeland, the values, stories, and traditions of my people were never far from my life. They shaped the way I think, the way I act, and the way I dream. Being Kipsigis is more than just an ethnic label to me — it's a connection to a lineage of resilience, wisdom, and community. I grew up hearing stories from my parents and grandparents about our ancestors: skilled herders, fearless warriors, and wise leaders who valued integrity, discipline, and unity. These stories were more than history lessons; they were blueprints for life. They taught me that no matter how far I go or how much the world changes, I carry within me a strength that comes from generations of perseverance. One of the values deeply ingrained in me from childhood is respect — for people, for nature, and for knowledge. In our culture, respect is not just shown in words; it's lived. We greet elders with humility, listen before we speak, and treat the land and animals as gifts entrusted to us. These lessons might seem simple, but they have profoundly influenced how I approach my education, relationships, and career. Even in the world of technology — which often seems distant from tradition — I find myself guided by the same principles: listen before acting, value teamwork, and approach problems with patience and care. Another important part of my cultural identity is the sense of community. In Kipsigis tradition, success is rarely seen as an individual achievement — it's a collective one. Growing up, I saw how neighbors supported each other during harvests, celebrations, and hardships. That spirit of togetherness is something I try to carry with me in every group project, every team meeting, and every collaboration. It has taught me that no dream is too big when pursued with others and that leadership is not about standing above people but walking beside them. Our language, too, is a powerful thread that ties me to my roots. Speaking Kipsigis is more than communication — it's a way of thinking, a worldview. There are words and expressions that carry meanings too deep to translate — phrases about courage, kindness, and endurance that remind me of who I am and where I come from. Even now, when I speak it with family or fellow Kalenjins, I feel a profound sense of belonging, a reminder that I am part of something larger than myself. At the same time, navigating life in a rapidly changing, globalized world has made me reflect deeply on what it means to hold onto tradition. For me, being Kipsigis is not about

rejecting modernity; it's about carrying the wisdom of my ancestors into new spaces. It's about building software with the same care my people used to build communities. It's about solving problems with the same patience used to tend cattle or cultivate land. It's about showing that identity is not a limitation — it's a source of strength. Today, as I chase my dreams in technology and beyond, I often think about the future I want to help shape. I want to be part of a generation that uses innovation to preserve culture, not erase it. I want to show that being deeply rooted in one's heritage is not a barrier to progress — it's a foundation for it. And above all, I want to make sure that wherever my journey takes me, I never forget the soil from which I grew. Because at my core, I am not just a student, a coder, or a dreamer. I am a son of the Kipsigis. I am a child of Kenya. I am the sum of my ancestors' strength — and the bridge to those who will come after me.

Chapter 9: Personal Lessons, Values, and Growth

If there is one thing life has taught me so far, it is that growth is rarely loud. It doesn't always happen in dramatic moments or big milestones. More often, it unfolds quietly — in the choices we make every day, in the mistakes we learn from, and in the small victories that push us forward. Looking back on my journey, from a curious boy in Kakamega to a young man building his future in technology, I see a path shaped not just by events but by lessons — some learned the easy way, many learned the hard way. One of the most important lessons I have embraced is the value of resilience. Life, I have come to realize, does not always follow the script we imagine. Plans fall apart, expectations are shattered, and success is rarely linear. There were moments in my journey when things didn't go as I had hoped — a disappointing grade, a project that failed, an opportunity that slipped away. But those experiences taught me that resilience is not about avoiding failure; it's about refusing to be defined by it. Each setback became a stepping stone, a chance to rise stronger and wiser than before. I have also learned the power of curiosity. The more I learn, the more I realize how much I still don't know — and that's a humbling truth. Curiosity has been my greatest teacher. It has pushed me to ask questions, to seek deeper understanding, and to explore paths I never thought I'd take. It's what keeps me motivated in technology — the knowledge that there's always another layer to uncover, another problem to solve, another skill to master. In a world that changes so quickly, curiosity is not just a trait; it's a survival tool. Another principle that has shaped my worldview is empathy. In technology, it's easy to focus solely on logic and efficiency, but I've learned that the most impactful solutions are built with people in mind. Empathy allows me to see beyond code — to understand the human stories behind the problems I'm trying to solve. It reminds me that technology is not just about innovation; it's about service. Whether I'm writing software or simply listening to a friend, empathy guides me to act with kindness, patience, and understanding. Integrity is another cornerstone of my life. My upbringing and cultural background have taught me that character matters more than recognition. Success achieved without honesty is hollow, and shortcuts often lead nowhere. Whether in academics, work, or relationships, I strive to do what is right — even when it's hard, even when no one is watching. It's not always easy, but it gives me a sense of peace and self-respect that nothing else can replace. Finally, I've learned that purpose is what gives life its meaning. Achievements are satisfying, but they are fleeting if they're not rooted in something bigger than oneself. Over time,

I've come to see my work in technology not just as a career but as a calling — a chance to contribute to something meaningful, to make a difference, however small. My purpose is not just to succeed but to serve; not just to build for myself, but to create tools, opportunities, and solutions that help others thrive. These values — resilience, curiosity, empathy, integrity, and purpose — are not just ideas to me. They are the compass I carry through life. They guide how I make decisions, how I treat people, and how I face challenges. And while I know I still have much to learn and many ways to grow, I trust that as long as I stay true to these principles, I will continue becoming the best version of myself. Life is not a straight path. It is a series of twists and turns, of lessons learned and unlearned, of growth disguised as struggle. But that, I think, is what makes it beautiful. Because in the end, it is not the destination that defines us — it is the journey, the person we become along the way, and the values we choose to live by.

Chapter 10: Dreams, Aspirations, and Vision for the Future

As I stand at this point in my journey — looking back at where I've come from and forward to where I want to go — I'm filled with both gratitude and determination. My path has been shaped by curiosity, resilience, and a deep desire to create meaningful impact through technology. But more than anything, it has been guided by a vision for the future — a vision that is ambitious, yet grounded in reality. My first major goal is to become a skilled and reliable software engineer, someone capable of building solutions that solve real problems and improve lives. I want to continue honing my technical skills, mastering the languages, tools, and frameworks that power modern applications. But beyond writing code, I aim to grow as a problem-solver — someone who can design systems that are not just functional, but scalable, secure, and user-centered. One of the milestones I'm working toward is contributing to projects that address challenges in education, healthcare, or agriculture — areas where technology can make a tangible difference in people's lives. I believe innovation should serve a purpose, and I want my career to reflect that. Whether it's developing software to improve access to learning materials, building tools for small-scale farmers, or designing health platforms that connect people to vital services, my goal is to use my skills to create solutions with real social impact. In the medium term, I hope to work with leading technology companies or startups, where I can learn from experienced professionals, collaborate on large-scale projects, and understand how technology is built and deployed at scale. These experiences will be invaluable as I refine my skills and gain the perspective needed to tackle more complex challenges. Further down the road, I have a dream of starting my own tech company — a venture focused on building software solutions tailored to African contexts. Too often, the technology we use is designed for problems that exist elsewhere. I want to be part of a new wave of African innovators creating tools for our own communities, addressing local needs, and building products that reflect our realities. I envision a company that not only builds great software but also creates opportunities for other young developers — a place where talent is nurtured, ideas are valued, and innovation is driven by purpose. But my aspirations are not limited to my career alone. I also want to grow as a person — to be someone who gives back to the community that raised me. Mentorship is something I care deeply about. Just as I was guided and supported along the way, I hope to one day mentor young students who are curious about technology, helping them discover their potential and

navigate their own journeys. Of course, I know that the road ahead
will not be easy. There will be challenges, uncertainties, and
moments of doubt. But I also know that every step I've taken so far
— from my early curiosity about computers to my university projects
and internships — has prepared me for what's next. I'm ready to
keep learning, to keep building, and to keep moving forward, one
milestone at a time. Ultimately, my dream is simple but deeply
meaningful: to live a life where my work creates value, where my
skills make a difference, and where my story inspires others to
believe in their own potential. I don't want to be remembered just
as someone who built software — I want to be remembered as someone
who used technology to build a better future.