

Unseen Scars by Peace

Amani's life began with a miracle. She was born with a rare condition that caused her to faint without warning. When she was just seven months old, the worst happened—Amani fainted and stopped breathing. Her mother cried out in despair, thinking her baby was gone. Neighbours and family gathered around, believing the worst. Word reached Amani's father while he was at work. When he was told that Amani had died, he refused to accept it. He rushed home, and there lay Amani, lifeless on the table, surrounded by grieving loved ones. Without hesitation, he started to pray, and soon everyone, including Amani's mother, joined him in prayer. After what felt like an eternity, Amani suddenly gasped for air, taking a deep breath, and to everyone's shock, she woke up. As if to show she was fully alive, she even pooped right there on the table! From that day on, Amani never fainted again, and her community nicknamed her the "miracle baby."

Amani's early years were filled with love. Her parents adored her and her younger sister, doing everything they could to make them happy. But as she got older, her parents' marriage began to unravel. The arguments became more frequent, and despite Amani's hopes, they eventually divorced. Amani was devastated. She had always wanted her parents to stay together for her and her sister's sake, but it wasn't meant to be. The sadness weighed heavily on her, and her school grades started slipping as a result.

Even though they couldn't stay married, both of Amani's parents remained incredibly supportive. They loved their daughters deeply and did everything they could to co-parent, making sure Amani and her sister always felt cared for. Their love was unconditional, and they never allowed their personal differences to get in the way of supporting their children.

Eventually, Amani's mother remarried a kind and gentle man. He treated Amani and her sister well, but things weren't always easy. Amani struggled to get along with her new step-siblings, who had hard feelings about their father's new marriage. It wasn't Amani's fault, but the tension made her feel unwelcome. Still, she did her best to adapt to the changes, even though it wasn't easy.

While Amani was at boarding school, her father also remarried. At first, her stepmother seemed nice and caring, but as time went on, her attitude changed. The warmth she once showed faded, and things between her and Amani's family grew distant.

Despite the challenges in her family life, Amani remained strong. She tried to navigate the complex dynamics of two new families while staying focused on her goals. But amid all this, her emotional wounds were growing deeper.

At 21, Amani had faced more than her fair share of disappointment when it came to family, friendship and relationships. She had started dating early, back in grade seven, despite her family's disapproval. In high school, she dated a few boys, but something inside her, a gut feeling, always told her they weren't the right ones. So, despite everything, Amani remained a hopeful, holding on to the belief that the right person had yet to come.

But her romantic endeavours didn't go smoothly. On more than one occasion, she found herself heartbroken. She had been cheated on not once, but twice. Or perhaps, she had never really been in a real relationship in the first place—maybe she was the side chick all along.

At one point, Amani was deeply in love with a guy who had been unfaithful. Despite knowing he was cheating, Amani stayed in the relationship, believing her love for him was worth enduring the hurt. This guy was her world, and she could not bring herself to leave him, even as she was constantly treated as an option rather than a priority.

When Nathan (guy who liked her from primary) came back to her life, she was still with this guy. Nathan confessed his feelings for Amani and expressed his desire to date her. Amani, deeply in love with her current partner, told Nathan that she was with someone and couldn't cheat. Nathan, however, continued his pursuit.

Eventually, Amani's relationship with the cheating partner ended. Her heart was shattered, but Nathan's persistence did not wane. He began showering her with gifts and even threw a small party in her honour on her birthday. Her friends urged her to date Nathan, convincing her that anyone who went to such lengths must genuinely care. Feeling pressured and emotionally vulnerable, Amani agreed to date Nathan, though her heart was never truly in it.

As time passed, Nathan began to change. He started posting pictures of other girls on social media and acted different too. When Amara confronted him, he promised to change, but his actions spoke louder than words. Communication between them dwindled, and they broke up and got back together not once but twice or three times maybe, until one day, Amani had enough. She couldn't take it anymore.

Disillusioned by love, Amani decided to focus on her studies. She went to stay with her aunt in a different country where she started her university, away from the familiar faces and heartbreak. While there, she met Franklin, a guy from a different country, online. They hit it off, and after five months of talking and meet ups, Amani finally agreed to start a relationship with him. Things seemed perfect at first, but it wasn't long before Franklin's efforts to see her and communicate started to fade. Just like Nathan, he promised to change, but the empty promises piled up, and Amani found herself walking away yet again.

By this point, Amani was losing hope in love altogether. She decided it was better to be single and spent most of her time with friends and family. At one point, she attended a get-together party and met a loud but kind guy named Jayden. He took her number, and they talked for hours that night. Jay opened up to her about his rough past, and despite his pain, there was something comforting in his honesty. True to his word, Jay called Amani the next day, and their conversations became a daily ritual.

After some time, Jay confessed that he liked her, and Amani, though hesitant, admitted she liked him too. She needed time to process it, but eventually, she agreed to date him. Their relationship was everything Amani had ever wanted. Jay was loving, supportive, and sincere. He met her friends, her parents, and even her relatives. He was the perfect boyfriend.

One day, Jay revealed that he had a child, but Amani was okay with it. She assured him that she would help take care of the child. Their love seemed solid, but as with all things, challenges arose. Jay started receiving messages from his child's mother, asking him to reconcile and expressing her love for him. Hurt but understanding, Amani told Jay that she supported whatever decision he made, as long as it was the right one. Jay reassured her that he had no intention of getting back with his ex. He explained that she had treated him terribly, and he had moved on.

Despite Jayden's words, the situation weighed heavily on Amani. The mother of his child continued to message and call him, causing tension between the couple. Jay went away for work for a week, and when he returned, he told Amani that he needed to go back to his home country to visit his sick uncle and see his child. Amani noticed that Jay seemed stressed, but she trusted and supported him.

When he left for his trip, however, Jay's communication dropped to a minimum. Amani's intuition flared up, and she began to worry. When they did talk, he mentioned that his child's mother was staying with his uncle, which hurt Amani deeply, but she tried to stay strong for Jay and the child.

Then came the shocking news: Jay wasn't coming back. He told her his uncle had found him a job, and he needed to stay in his country to take care of both his uncle and his child. Amani's heart sank, but she held on to the hope that they could make it work long-distance. To her surprise, Jay showed up unannounced one Sunday at her church after he told her his brother was the one coming to meet her. Amani was overjoyed to see him, but something was off—he seemed distant.

They went back to her place to spend time together, but when Amani asked for his phone, he refused to give it to her. This had never happened before, and it raised red flags. He also wouldn't let her touch his bag, which only made her more suspicious. Despite her gut feeling, Amani let it go.

Later that day when he left Amani's place, he blocked her on all social media platforms and even on calls. Devastated, Amani used a different number to call him, but once Jay realized it was her, he blocked that number too. The final blow came in the form of a message on Instagram, where Jay told her that he had gotten back with his child's mother. He said he hadn't wanted to hurt Amani, but his family had pressured him into the decision for the sake of the child, who was suffering from lung cancer.

Amani was heartbroken. The man she thought was the love of her life was gone. He assured her he still wanted to be with her, but his commitments to his family had taken priority. They talked occasionally, but things were never the same. On a Friday afternoon, Jay called her, they talked and even assured her that everything was fine. But by 1 AM, he called, and when she answered, he hung up.

Confused, Amani called back, but he didn't answer. Instead, she received a cold message: "Don't ever call or text me again. I have a wife and child, and my marriage is at stake. Stay away from me." In disbelief, Amani replied, insisting it must be his child's mother sending the messages. She demanded proof, asking for a voice note. To her shock, Jay sent one, confirming it was him all along. He then said, "Yeah, since you know it's me, and I'm talking to you that's what I said". He then texted again and said "stay away from me and block me. Have a good life." Amani told him she thought he was different and how their relationship was based on a lie, he replied and said "I'm not, I have a wife and kid." Amani then simply responded, "It's fine, have a good life too."

With that, Amani's world crumbled. She was shattered, confused, and broken. Her heart had been ripped out, yet this time, she didn't cry. It wasn't until the next morning that reality hit her, and she broke down. Her friend group had disbanded due to their own issues, but she

gathered the courage to talk to one of her closest friends, who was just as disappointed and shocked by Jay's betrayal.

Amani confided in her aunt, pretending the situation belonged to someone else. Her aunt advised her to speak with Jay's siblings to uncover the truth. When she did, they revealed that they didn't know Jay was married. One of his siblings, who seemed clueless, showed Amani Jay's social page, where he had posted pictures of his wife and child earlier that week. Amani was devastated. Amani saw the wife's name when the sibling showed her the pictures. Once alone, the Amani pulled out her phone, searching for the wife's profile. When she found it, her heart sank. The wife had never stopped posting about their relationship. They hadn't broken up at all. Recent pictures of the couple together showed that they were still a family, and to make it worse, the Jay hadn't even gone back to his home country to stay—his wife had come to live with him in the country. That hurt Amani more.

The truth devastated her. It felt like she was reliving the betrayal all over again, but in more vivid detail. She had been lied to from the start. Amani started feeling depressed, not knowing how to move forward, but even in the depths of her pain, she tried to be strong through prayer and trust in God.

Though she wanted closure, Jay's siblings advised her to move on and not contact him. Yet Amani found it hard to believe them because she had a feeling they lied and knew something about this. She couldn't let go without knowing the full truth. Eventually, she told her aunt that the story was hers, not someone else's. Her aunt, along with her friends and other relatives, encouraged her to let go, but Amani struggled to find peace.

She began to pray and fast, hoping for answers from God. In her dreams, she saw Jay's child and received signs that Jay might come back into her life, but she remained unsure. Her heart was still confused and aching, but she continued to trust in God, hoping that someday she would find healing, happiness, and the love she truly deserved.

The End? Let's Wait and See How It's Going to End for Amani. Well There's More!

Why I Chose the Title *Unseen Scars*

I chose the title *Unseen Scars* to emphasize that some wounds, while invisible to the eye, can leave deep, lasting impacts on a person's emotional and mental well-being. Unlike physical scars that are visible and can eventually heal, emotional scars remain hidden within us, often lasting far longer and shaping who we are in different ways.

In Amani's story, her heartaches, betrayals, and disappointments create emotional wounds that are not seen by others, but they deeply affect her ability to trust and love. Each experience leaves a mark, even if it's not visible on the surface. These *unseen scars* dictate her decisions, how she approaches relationships, and how she views herself, eventually shaping her journey.

The title also reflects a broader truth about human experience: we all carry invisible burdens, whether they stem from heartbreak, loss, or betrayal. These hidden struggles often define us more than the visible ones, and they remind us of the importance of empathy, understanding, and kindness. It serves as a powerful reminder that the most painful wounds aren't always the ones we can see—they're the ones we carry inside, and they are just as real and important.