**METAFICTION**

The narrator takes us to the time Ole is in the kitchen. It is here that we learn her ailing condition. She talks of swallowing medicine and taking a nap beside her bed. Lying on the bed makes her have a flashback about great painter Michelangelo . He recalls this he would have painted her condition at the moment. In the comfort she lets us learn the worst thing had happened to Michelangelo. He had killed the sister for her hair. A decision that makes the narrator recall of a Greek god who had such attitudes. These reflections make the narrator to feel she is imagining things that have existed. She asserts that the medicine doing that to me or is it the other stuff mza gave me? Who knows? I hope I will stop using them soon ( 13) .The narrator tries to convince her mind that she needs to stop hallucinating about things that are not real . To make it worse the narrator is a woman but still she is not sure if she is a woman. She says “only two more months before I become a woman” (13) (Transfiguration).

In the second story, for what are butterflies without their wings, the narrator explains of an annoying depicture of a young girl who lacked an identity and everyone kept calling her, Girl. This made the narrator wonder why she was not referred to us initially by her name. The most amazing thing, this girl kept telling him,” we have lost you”( 7) “This kept disturbing the narrator since he could not understood that people could lose money, cellphones ,and keys but he was a whole human being and him that the gin meant he was lost. The narrator tries convince himself that there have existed narratives about young man who went to the lake never to be seen anywhere. The narrative goes ahead to give an example of a very big snake referred to us “Omieri” that came out of the lake one of the night and decided to take refuge in

Jaduong Sibuors home. The snake is believed and rumored that was once a young man who came back home and found his younger brother taking liberties with his new bride .And in a fit of fury , he threw a spear in his brother , spilling his guts while the young bride cupped her cheeks and screamed in horror .The narrator tells us that after this incidence , The narrator tells us that after the incidence the young man decided to cut off the tongue of the bride since it is the tongue that used to seduce his younger brother and he went ahead to gauge out her eyes which she had used to lust the brother .This was a blood bath . This actions made their father to come and intervene. He came and fell in great shock becoming speechless and cursing out the young man. The young man had fresh blood on his hands went direct to the lake. It is here the fathers curse followed him until he cried out loud requesting the lake to swallow him (19) the lake agreed on the conditions that he would come to ask for forgiveness from his father.

Through the narrator gives of the funny narration of a snake swallowing the young man. He convinces himself the lake is too small to swallow him .This he tells the brother by the name, Rajula ,wuod Mariko .

In similar scenario the narrator tells, the brother Rajula wuod Mariko about the narrative, they had been told by their grandmother. This narrative is about the spirits that lived in the lake. They were being referred to us Nyawawa. They were termed as a region of souls of people who had died in the lake. Unsatisfied by their short life on earth they choose not to rest. They decided to live in water when the water gets cold and there stock of food runs out they walk out of water and roam the village, sometimes they end up disturbing the new born babies making them to cry carwelessly. This makes men to throw drums and basins to lull the babies to sleep(19).

On pg26. The narrator reminds his brother Rajula Wuod Mariko of the ding games that are quite unbelievable that he had committed. He tells him of the incestuous incident he had forged of their father taking advantage of his emotions.” She writes, you had claimed that ,”father ,had come into your room one night and while you were asleep, he forced himself on you .’(26).The narrator gives on to remind him how he had told the court magistrate about all this happenings with any shame or guilt . You had made the court cry seriously. Despite this you went ahead to tell the press that you were put into silence by father’s threats of killing but all in all, these things the narrator claims to be their mother looked up stories that their she wanted to put their father into the jail/prison. The narrator reminds the brother of how unforgiving he was to her. She points an incidence that he had painted her as a student who had turned to be a prostitute at school. Something that made their mother withdraw all the academic support to her. This incidence made their mother to bit her terrible the whole day. Then, three days after the narrator thought that the brother Rajulla was coming to seek forgiveness. This did not happen; he only came to knelt beside her with teary eyes. The astonishing thing is he just stood up and walked away leaving behind the narrator. The narrator paints of her negative behavior of finding joy in her young boys’ bodies pleasure. He was a homosexual. The day his mother had come and introduced a young girl to him. He really looked terrible and never wanted anything of that girl. He only wanted to continue being a homosexual.

After the narrator addressing the brother as if he was way alive she ends by telling us that she was swallowed by the lake later. The narrator addresses Rajula as if he was alive she says “Rajula son of my mother, I have wanted to hate you” (30)

The narrator here has been told in the historic present. The narrator also uses direct addresses to address the brother as if he was alive but he was swallowed by that lake.

**BLACK IS THE COLOUR OF ABSENCE**

The narrator keeps complaining of how she had lost her son. Something that mentally keeps nagging her. She feels like she is becoming very insane. The narrator feels so guilty of providing excess love to the son and failing to guide him appropriately she asserts, “I protected you even when it harmed you and everyone else around me” ( 41) .The narrator believes it is her own fault for poorly raising the son thinking that everyone would accept his bad behavior .

The mother bitterly talks of the moment the narrator decided to leave for university. She says you were seventeen when you left or maybe that is the age I remember (42). It is at this time that you had finalized your high school learning, excelling in your examinations. Declaring out your career path of becoming a doctor and the most exciting thing for him was when Adhiambo had taken him for shopping. He can read the narrative lose to words the son as she cannot hold her adoration for him. She talks of the Saturday morning when the daughter Adhiambo had taken the brother to the bus stop. She asserts, I had told you to take care of my baby (42).

The mother gushes to us how she had clearly lived the son. It is from here that we are able to realize the presence of the Oedipus complex. She had fully immersed herself in the treasuring the son. She says “when you left for school, my whole world turned black because of your absence” ( 43).

The mother vividly explains of how joyous she became when the son came back for the holidays from school. But at the same time she admits the joy the son had disappeared and she knew that something wrong had happened at the university. She says it is at the university that she learned that the son had disappeared and every time she asked the daughter Adhiambo about the son’s disappearance. She opines,” it’s too painful ma” ( 43) . The mother says she cannot remember her son leaving and this is because she never saw him leave. It’s because she has been there all along. Even when she can no longer visualize her. The narrator (mother wonders if this is a fiction or a reality to her mind. It occurs like a brain game to her. She asserts “I see you leaving and I see you coming” ( 44). She admits it’s quite early in the morning she realizes the son leaving but the son cannot respond and explain he is leaving and the mother knows has left. The mother concludes by asserting that,” Kati, my child those actions are too many for my brain to digest and that is why I cannot recall you leaving.

Her mind(mother) tells her that she has seen the son legs in the air.

(Black is the colour of absence.

-claiming he is absent but the son is present.

PG 48

A place with many doors unfolds a narrative of a young girl that we are told had initially died. But forgets to close her own eyes. This is because she still wanted to visualize everything around her. The young girl is believed to have been killed since she belonged to a wrong tribe that did not support a certain aspirant. During her murder, a young man had sported this and it became a memory he could not just rub of his mind like that. The young man had sympathized with the dead corpse and decided not reveal what he had seen to anyone. This is a condition that the narrator tells us that it was happening all over the country just like a hyena that was consuming it’s all children and accusing them of smelling like goats and the funny bit is that the two men who had aspired for elections kept on laughing on TV and shaking hands.

The narrator explains that the first time, the dead girl appeared to the young boy in his dreams, he thought they were hallucinations. He felt her presence in his bedroom. The young man explains her scent clung to the air and with every breath he took, he felt as if he was inhaling her and was taking him over “(47). The young boy was wondering about this scenarios since the young girl had died a decade ago. Other young girls like her had died but they were a forgotten lot at all. The young man asserts that?

But then she came bones and flesh, she came. He head was no longer falling off her body and the red was not spurting from neck like the gush from the neglected burst water pipes. Her hair was in sloughing off her head from all the grabbling and pulling (48)

The young boy gives as an episode where the mother to the young girl kept on telling her not to touch the window rails during the counting of votes and she could tell the young girl the following “Are there no doors where they gave birth to you? (48). The young girl only had to respond in this way, “there are so many doors that lead nowhere “pg48.

Her come back to the young man , makes him wonder if the “doors of heaven close on her , locking her out , and that is why she was there ?pg( 49).

The young man says the exact day the young girl came to him was when he was boiling millet and sorghum . This had happened to him alone when the brother and sister had left to fetch water . The narrator says when the young girl appeared ,”he wanted to scream but then she was whole and grown and he thought maybe he had imagined her death ten years ago .pg(49).

The young man states that he reached out to the young girl and felt her embrace which was so warm and she wanted to stay like this forever .

The story seems real but indeed the girl had died.

In this narrative , Goodbye so long .

The narrative talks about his activity of grazing the cows with Fidel . Suddenly it begins to rain and he advices Fidel that they should take the cows back at home .In a minute the cows were no where to be seen . They had disappeared into the thin air . As the narrator is busy working for the cows Fidel was making his dancing moves in the rain .

In his worry he later left for his home only to find the cows at home . He says /asserts “All of them were there ,huddled together, hide pressed against hide.”(pg 89)

(pg 132)

The eighth narrative gives a vivid description of the relationship between Selah and Jerusa. Selah is believed to have been the husband . Second wife , whom he had adored . In this narrative we experience unusual relationship between the co wives . The novel reads

“It must have been Jerusa who reached out first crossing the gap between them,

Pressing her lips against Selahs drawing her in, scooping her breasts in her hands

And touching her in places she hadn’t even known existed within her .The two

Women love at each other with such passion and they did not consider that

Ecclesiaster , who was lying awake on the mat in the next room might be able

To hear the gasps and moans (pg 132).

The narrative here tells of a narratives that seem to be a little but weird ,the two wives could not shed tears at the death of their husband but ended up in what is uncalled for. We are told its during morning when the two women finally had to leave each other arms. The novel reads “Selah lay in bed for a few minutes after wishing they could spend the rest of the day in each others company “pg 131 .During Selahs depature from Jerusah house, Jerusah grabs her hand and tells her that “our husband came to me in a dream last night . You knew what it means , Selah pg 132.

Selah had comprehended this well and knew that she had seen their old husband but this time he appreciated as a new man .Wobble into the compound . Sellah on her part decided not to tell Jerusah that she too had seen their late husband in dreams. This she would not tell anyone so far . She decided that she did not want to be inherited by the Jater. Sellah opted to walk out of the house past the old man who was smilling at her showing a set of brown teeth . Outside her own hut , Selah prayed sincerely to God . Their dead husband had been seen as still alive.

Pg(138).

Pg (194)

**THE MATCH**

The match tells of a narrative of young Ismail who discovered a dating site . He is only seventeen , just left high school after his levels. He quickly gets a perfect match on the app but he later discovers the person in the photos is not the same person at the end of the phone . The parents discovers their sons destruction and this makes him maker to find out on this and of behavior.Opening the app on the phone she comes across the message that are sent to Ismail by a certain unknown woman . Ismail makes his discoveries about the woman on the app and he finds out that , she was born in England to a British father and an Italian mother .The young lady is a famous musician and currently has two children with the current husband who is an actor (pg 180).Ismail gets attracted to her songs and gets interested in her . They begin working on establishing a relationship between the two . They later agree to meet and she explains to him about the struggles he has encountered in life inn her marital relationship. One bright morning Ismail receives a message from her telling him that he has flown back to New York.She rejects meeting Ismail for the last time and they agree to end the relationship . Ismail deletes her message at the back of his mind knows all is well .Ismail goes back to the university , where he is studying as a student for mechanical Engineering .He feels happy that they ended the relationship well . During the closing session he goes back home . It is at this time that he heres over the internet that the beautiful lady he had met online has given birth to a baby boy and the news had spread across the internet . He likes the photo with an emoji .The media keeps looking for the identity of the child;then all over suddenly , a notification pops up .Abu tells him about the news that has spread all over . Ismail photos are seen every where and he is claimed to be father to the child .His parents learn of this and this later lures him wailing all through .This occurrence scares Ismail to death and he begins to scream loudly .The screams are too loud and makes the mother to inquire what was indeed troubling him .

Pg (197)

**IN THE SUNSET DREAMS**

Explores a narrative of a young woman who was the mother to Sila , from the narrative we get to learn that Sila had died.On pg 197 “A not so large coffin lowered to the ground “pg 197. As she gets into her home she could hear the clattering of pots and plates followed by the plouding sound .”mama , where have you been “ pg 197 . This is an image that she has to convince himself that is not real and it can never be real this occurrence makes her to stuck between real and unreal ,the things you can hear , touch , feel but not visualize them just like Sila , who happened to be visual to him but was quite absent . Sila presence can be felt in the house though he is dead and give the girl reads.

“The house still smells of him , of his newness the day she brought him home , and of

Sweat when he hit puberty”pg 198.

The narrator tells us that memories of Sila keep croaching upon girls mind. This even makes her to shake very loudly .”She remembers she forgets , she wants to forget “pg198

Alphayo tries to convince her to forget Sila but she goes on to tell him “A child not a cloth “pg 199.

In the kitchen she goes and prepares a meal serving two people and yet she knows well Sila is not alive going to the living room , she finds Silla sitted on bed leaning heavily on his right arm and she can see his reflection on the wall when the lantern hits the side of his face .

The novel reads

“Eat your food mama, I am not hungry. How do you expect to be as big as lucky dube if you don’t eat” (200).

The narrator says after this conversation the mother here’s a cold wind blowing and an owl hooting outside, the all over suddenly a swarm of crictems trail in unison. The mother looks steady at this and throws away the food on the plate. The food splatters everywhere and the plate dances on the floor. After two years, the mother is still seeing an image of Sila on the wall staring directly towards her. She recalls when the photo was taken and she truly convinces herself that indeed “grief is cruel, and memory is the vessel of that cruelty” ( 200).

A burly woman tells her to go back to church. It is only in food when you find real peace. but she only tells her that she says “I don’t want peace, I want my son (201). The frustrated woman feels that Sila should have returned back to where he came from. She asks “why wont the return to my uterus then” ( 204). She believes that him being their she would be able to have him.

On her way to bus Martha meets a young boy and they share a sit together it is during their conversation . She gets to know the boys name us law and that as they get to the house the boy hugs her and tells her he had seen Sila on the bad on that day.