

SCRIPT TITLE  
MARU

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FADE IN:

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

A wide view of a small sub urban village with a horizon slightly visible on the far east end of the village. The Sky is blue with little to no clouds and the sun is shining brightly. Storey houses line up with pathways in the middle with people CRISSCROSSING going about their affairs.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD- DAY

A busy highway with lots of cars passing by speedily and a lot of activities on the roadside. Vendors are set on the side of the roads with sellers mostly women are carrying groceries in their hands and stand on the roadside and show their products on to the passing vehicles. Next to the vendor is a bus stop a minibus makes a stop at the bus stop. A middle-aged man (Maru, 45) dark and tall with slender body and light skin. He's wearing a black suit and in his left hand he holds a briefcase and a walking stick on the right hand. He has black shoes on and a wristwatch and on his neck hangs a pair of spectacles. He stands at the bus station and takes a look around and places his briefcase down. A young man (24) approaches him and stretches his hand towards him.

YOUNG MAN

Nikusaidie kubeba mizigo  
ndugu? (looking at him hopefully)

MARU

Nimeshkuru lakini niko sawa, i can  
manage on my own. (smiles At the  
young man).

EXT. BUS STOP-DAY

Maru carries his briefcase and starts walking towards the bodaboda stage right in front of him. He passes by a small group of people who seem to be looking at something CURIOUSLY. He moves closer to the circle and looks to see a group of acrobats performing as the audience cheers and claps for them. He watches quietly.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE-NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Maru is sittted on a springchair as a lady dances infront of him acrobatically. She jumps up and comes down and on both knees she bows to Maru who is clapping HAPILLY.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE-DAY

Maru is standing looking at the acrobats and someone jocks him on the shoulder. He drops the briefcase and the contents spill out.afew Personal items and some papers. He turns around to find a woman(26) standing behind him. She is short with a stout body and wears a headwrap,is dressed in a dera and has piercing on her nose and both her ears. She is chewing a gum. She looks at him from top to bottom.

WOMAN

Pole sana mzee wacha  
nikusaidie(bending to help put the  
contents back to the briefcase).

MARU

Thank you , your very kind(moving  
aside and walking past her.)

WOMAN

Kuna mahali unaenda  
nikusaidie?(inquisitively Looking  
at him)

MARU

Yes actually, nataka kununua maji  
ya kunywa. Mi ni mgeni huku  
(smiling).

WOMAN

I know just the place actually.  
Nifuate nikuonyeshe. (turning  
around)

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE-DAY

Maru walks behind the woman as she goes up the stairs to a shop with a banner written in CAPITAL LETTERS "NEEMA'S GENERAL SHOP". The woman ushers Maru to a chair that is next to a circular plastic table with a big umbrella standing from the middle of the table. The woman smiles at her and proceeds to the shop and calls out LOUDLY.

WOMAN

Mama Neema! Mama Neema! (looking around)

A man walks out of the shop and stands looking at the woman smiling. He is 5foot tall with a slender body and clean-shaven beard and bald head (30-40 yrs) He is wearing a blue overall coat. He is slightly well built.

BABA NEEMA

Habari yako joyce. Leo mama neema hayuko kidogo ameenda kununua stock. Nikusaidie aje leo.(smiling)

JOYCE

Salama sana.(smiles Back) haina shida. Actually nimekuletea customer anataka maji ya kukunywa.

BABA NEEMA

Karibu customer (ushering him to a fridge behind where Maru is sittted)chagua ile yenye unataka ni sixty bob tu.

MARU

Asante( smiling).

He stand up and opens the fridge behind him and takes aout a bottle of water which he proceeds to drink. After he is done he dips his hand to his pockets and takes out a 100 shilling note and then gives it to baba neema who then enters the shop to collect the balance for him.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHOP-DAY

A man (mzee kobo 50-60yrs) walks over to the shop. He nods at maru then nods at Joyce who is leaving the shop. He takes out money from his pocket and places it on the shop counter and taps the counter.

BABA NEEMA

Nikupee nini customer?

MZEE KOBO

Kuna maziwa ile kubwa?

BABA NEEMA

Eeh iko unataka gani? (showing the refridgerator behind Maru).

Mzee Kobo looks at the refridgirator and then smiles at Maru.

MZEE KOBO  
Nitachukua tuzo kama iko .

BABA NEEMA  
Umechagua vizuri sana (opening the  
fridge)

He hands over the milkto mzee kobo and returns to the shop.

Maru stand up and walks towards mzee kobo and stretches out  
his hand to greet him.

MARU  
Samahani mzee kidogo naomba  
usaidizi wako tafadhali.

MZEE KOBO  
(shaking Maru's hand) haina shida  
sema tatizo kama niko na uwezo  
nitakusaidia.(smiling).

MARU  
Mimi ni mgeni kwenye kijiji hiki na  
naingia siku ya leo. Unaeweza  
nisaidia na directions za kimathi  
heights sababu sijui maali  
inapatikana.

MZEE KOBO  
Haina shida lakini kwanza karibu  
kwangu tunywe chai kwanza alafu  
tutafauta nyumba baadae.(softly  
laughing)

MARU  
Asante sana mzee....(hesitates)

MZEE KOBO  
Naitwa Kobo wa Karure lakini  
unaweza niita Kobo(ushering him to  
follow him)

MARU  
Mimi naitwa Maru Muthiani lakini  
kwa kawaida people address me as  
Mr. Maru.(chuckling)

They walk away from the shop towards mzee kobo's home.

CUT TO:

## EXT. MZEE KOBO'S HOME-DAY

A concrete fence surrounding a house with a black gate. Inside the compound is a driveway with flowers planted on either side and a small space where plastic chairs are arranged around a table cemented to the ground. The front door to the house is open ajar and the cool breeze blowing sends the lower part of the curtain flying out through the space. Mzee Kobo leads the way as Mr Maru follows swiftly. They seem to be engaged in a conversation as mzee kobo bursts out with laughter. On the upper floor of the house just outside the corridor a woman is keenly observing. she stands and goes inside.

CUT TO:

## INT. MZEE KOBO'S HOME-DAY

mzee kobo opens the door wide and enters first after which maru follows him inside.

MZEE KOBO

Karibu kiti ndugu yangu (smiling while ushering maru to a seat next to the window).

MARU.

Asante(while sitting).

The living room is spacious with framed photos hanging from the wall with a couch set surrounding a glasstable. a television set sits infront of them with MUSI from the background. On the other side of the room is the dining. Six wooden chairs surround a rectangular table covered with a mat and a fruit basket full of various fruits placed in the middle of the table. Just then a door is opened and out steps a woman (Naomi 45). She smiles at the two men in the living room and proceeds to mzee kobo and shakes his hand.

## INT. MZEE KOBO'S HOUSE-DAY (FLASHBACK)

Maru is running as fast as he can. He is out of breath and panting. He trips and falls and rolls down before coming to a halt under a tree. He sits upright and stares at an unseen object that seems to be after him. A FAINT voice can be heard from a distance.....

FAINT VOICE

Maru.....! Maru.....! (end of flashback)

Maru snaps back to reality to find naomi standing right infront of her with her right arm stretched out to him. He slowly reaches out and shakes her hand.

MZEE KOBO

Maru meet my dear wife Naomi. She is the reason am this healthy( chuckles).

MARU

Nice to meet you madam. Indeed she seems quite the charm(smiles at naomi).

NAOMI

Karibu nyumbani(smiling) karibu sana.

MARU

Nashkuru sana mama (smiles back at her).

She then proceeds to sit next to mzee kobo. Maru can see a photo of the both of the together at a photo studio. Kobo is waering a graduation attire and sitted on a chair holding a piece of paper that is properly folded while naomi stands behind him. They are both smiling. The gate can be heard opening.

MZEE KOBO

That must be my daughter. ni yeye tu amebaki now that wengine wameanza maisha yao.

A young lady walks in (tasha 20). She holds a purse in her hand and wears a blue dress with matching set of earrings and a necklace. She has high heeled shoes on and has make up on her face. She greets maru first then greets her mzee kobo and naomi after wards. She turns to maru...

TASHA

Karibu sana ( smiling) naitwa tasha na hapa ni nyumbani, hawa ndio wazazi wangu.

She then leaves the living room and her mother follows from behind.

MZEE KOBO

(turning towards maru) as i was saying earlier it is not that often in this community to find a visitor moving into the village (smiling)



SOFT music begins to play as the two are talking and their voices start fading away as the music overcomes their voices.

CUT TO:

INT.MZEE KOBO'S HOUSE-KITCHEN-DAY

Naomi and tasha are preparing tea for the visitor. Naomi is stirring the tea while tasha whips the egg in the bowl. There is a pan on the hot stove. Soft music plays in the background. It slowly fades out as they begin to converse in the kitchen.

NAOMI

Huyu mgeni kuna vile alibehave  
funny by the way(worridly)

TASHA

Mbona? Kwani alido? (turning to  
pouring the stirred eggs to the  
pan)

NAOMI

Kuna vile aliniangalia wakati  
nilikuwa namsalimia mpaka  
nikashangaa. Nlidhani nimemkosea  
ama nimeshtua(laughing)  
aliniangalia kama mtua memuibia  
maisha.

TASHA

Who knows (shrugging shoulders)  
people are hysterical noawadays.

NAOMI

I just have a strange feeling about  
him ata kama ( peeping through the  
kitchen window to see maru and kobo  
engaged in a converstaion. They  
both seema happy and at ease with  
themselves).

She turns to face her daughter whos still cooking the eggs.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

Make sure they are properly cooked  
and start on the bread. Quickly now  
the guest is waiting.( She nudges  
tasha's arm).

TASHA  
 Okay okay! (laughing)

CUT TO:

INT. MZEE KOBO'S HOME-DAY

Mzee kobo, naomi, tasha, maru are all sitted at the dining table. on the table is a flask and four cups placed on top of a white tray.

NAOMI  
 Let us all say a word before we  
 have our meal shall we? (looking at  
 maru)

MARU  
 Yes indeed (nodding in agreement).

They close their eyes as naomi begins to pray. As they are praying maru opnes his eyes slowly and looks at mzee kobo COLDLY. He glances at naomi praying and tasha whose eyes are closed and hodling her arms together fingers crisscrossed.

NAOMI  
 In the mighty name of Jesus we do  
 pray.

ALL  
 Amen (unison)

Naomi gets up and starts servig tea as father and daughter engage in a conversation. Maru is looking at them and waits for his cup of tea. maru is served tea with sweet potatoes and he begins to eat. He eats in silence as he watches the family. After tea is done they head back to the living room.

Maru gets his briefcase placed next to his seat. He turns to face mzee kobo and naomi. Tasha is clearing the dining table.

MARU  
 I thank you all for this wonderful  
 welcome to your homestead but am  
 afraid i must take my leave.

MZEE KOBO  
 Allow me accompany you mzee atleast  
 ujue mahali iyo nyumba unatafuta  
 iko.

MARU

I much appreciate your  
kindness(smilling) as he beggins to  
walk out)

Mzee kobo follows him from behind and closes the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. HENRY'S COMPOUND

Under a large tree there are four men sittted around a small table. they are drinking from a large bottle of champaigne placed on the table. Each man holds a glass that is half fu;;. They are conversing in loud tones. next to them is a toyota landcruiser parked right next to the entrance of a bungalow. Henry(36) is in a red shirt and a pair of shorts. He is lightskin and has chains and rings on his fingers. They are playing a game and Henry is loosing everytime and the others laugh at him about it. he slams the table in anger and the rest of the guys just laugh it off. He grabs the bottle and pour himself a drink and gobles it down then settles down and continues to play the game. A woman stands on the verrandar just outside the house looking at the men as they play. She laughs at Henry when he looses and slams the table.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD- DAY

Maru and kobo are walking as they are conversing. Maru is looking at directions kobo keeps pointing at.

KOBO

This small village is home to many  
people great and small that si why  
we have so much joy. Its just  
peaceful to have this nature in the  
community.

MARU

As i can see. Ni kama hakunanga  
issues mbaya mbaya kwa hii kijiji.

MZEE KOBO

Indeed. Hapa watu wankaa na amani  
always its rare kusia ama kuona  
maneno mbaya kwa kijiji.

10.

MARU  
Then this is the perfect  
place(grins).

FADE IN: