

SCRIPT TITLE
MARU

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Based on, If Any

Address
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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
youngman).

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.

MARU

Then this is the perfect
place(grins).

FADE IN:

EXT. VILLAGE-DAY

Mzee maru and kobe are standing outside a story building with large writing on top in Golden colour "KIMATHI HEIGHTS".

MZEE KOBO

Hapa sasa ndiko amabko kimathi
heights zinapatikana. (pointing to
the top of the building where the
banner is located)

MARU

You are graciuous indded to bring me
here. (smiling) tell me what can i
do to ever repay you for your
kindness.

MZEE KOBO

Settle in thne join me at the bar
today in the evening i would like
to introduce you to some of my
friends (chuckling)

Maru nods his head and heads into the compound while mzee kobo turns back to the direction he and maru came from. Just as he is walking away he bumps into letishia (26) a young lady that he taught when he was a teacher.

LETISHIA

Mwalimu kobo (smiling). Its so good
to see you again (excitedly)

MZEE KOBO

Indeed it is and who might you be
my child?(sheepishly smiling at
her).

She laughs then holds his hand and WHISPERS in his ear inaudibly.

MZEE KOBO (CONT'D)

Oh wow indee it is good to see you
again my child how is life treating
you i sure hope it is kind?

LETISHIA

It is kind sir and it is treating
me well. (smiling).

CUT TO:

INT. MARU'S HOUSE-DAY

Maru opens the door to find a house in disarray. Piles of carton boxes placed upon each other and seats wrapped in a plastic bagare placed in the living room area of the house.

He tries to move the seat but it is heavy and he needs help to move it. He Lifts one of the boxes up and suddenly a rat quickly runs between his legs. Out of shock and fear he leaps into the air and lets out a scream and settles once he realises its a rat.

MARU

Mshenzi type c wewe unataka kunipea
heartattack (ANGRILY).

He walks to the window and stares outside and seems to enjoy the view until he notices that mzee kobo is standing next to a girl and the lady seems to be leaning towards his face. He takes out his phone and takes a picture of it and saves it. Then smiles to himself proudly.

He picks up an old magazine and rolls it to form a makeshift bat and starts chasing the rat away and only ends up falling on the chair and causing the stack of carton boxes to come tumbling down on top of him. He starts unpacking the boxes and arranging what's inside the boxes orderly. He places a vase with flowers in the middle of the table and unwraps the plastic cover over the seats. Then he moves some boxes to the bedroom as music starts playing in the background.

BACK TO:

EXT. HENRY'S COMPOUND

The men have just finished playing the game under the tree and are getting ready to leave henry's house. He shakes their hands and escorts them to the gate. He locks it after they are all out of the compound. still with the glass in his drink he heads towards the woman at the verrandar. She looka at him as he is walking towards her and smiles at him. He smiles back. She(32) is dressed in a t shirt with blue pair of jeans on and a pair of sandals and her hair is braided well and tied to a ponytail. Her hands are akimbo.

HENRY

My darling (smiling) ungekuja
 unisaidie kuwin hii game
 bana(laughs) I needed those brains.

SHARON

Si kila saa nitakusaidia pia wewe
 jipiganie (laughs back at him).

HENRY

Either way na urembo yako
 nimeshinda kila siku (pecks her on
 the cheek).

SHARON

Looser and a romantic too (taps him
 gently on the chest) asante
 (smiles).

HENRY

Leo kuna nini kwa table nimeanza
 kuhisi njaa?

SHARON

Tuende uone kile nimepika
 basi(takes him by the hand and
 leads him inside).

CUT TO:

INT. MARU'S HOUSE-EVENING

Maru is half done with arranging his house. He stands across the living room to get a wide view of how the house is arranged. He slowly while observing to the table next to the couch and picks up the phone on the table and looks at the time. He puts it down quickly.

HENRY

(rushing frantically to the bag
 under the bed and dragging it
 out)ooh dear I am almost late.

He shuffles the clothes inside the bag and picks up a pair of black jeans and a white t-shirt which he then hurriedly puts on and rushes to the door. He grabs he's keys and opens the door and locks it once outside. Hes on the thirdfloor of the building. Just as he is about to descend the staircase he stops and stands still then burries his head in his hands and turns back heading to his apartment.

He opens the door and grabs the phone on the table places it on his backpocket and then leaves the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR-NIGHT

A noisy room with lights of different colors flickering. People are about their business. the bar maids young ladies dressed in red short skirts and white tops are serving the customers with drinks. In the middle is a space where customers are dancing to the slow rhythm of the rhumba song played by the dj. Outside the club a group of young people are standing in a circle some hold drinks in their hands while others are holding their phones. They seem frantic. One of them, a lady, is on her knees while a man holds her hair back for her. On the other side is a parking lot full of cars. Gentle men stand next to a toyota crown old model smoking a ciggaret and talking. They laugh hysterically. a motorbike stops outside the bar and maru alights from the bodaboda and pays the guy then heads into the bar. He looks around and doesnt seem to see kobo just then he spots a hand in the air waving at him. He looks to see mzee kobo. He smiles and walks towards him.

MARU

For a man your age unaleta show
kweli(pulling a chair to sit down)

MZEE KOBO

(laughing) mimi sina iyo nguvu
skuizi natulia tu nikiangaliah=
hawa wadogo wakileta show.

Maru proceeds to order a drink while looking at the people on the dance floor. after some few minutes the bar maid returns with a glass of beer in his hand and hands it over to maru. he smiles at him and she smiles back.

MZEE KOBO (CONT'D)

Well my friend like i said before
their are some important friends of
mine i would like to introduce you
to.

MARU

That would be fantastic (shakes
mzee kobo's hand).

MZEE KOBO

Follow me then they are just at the
parking lot (standing)

MARU

Sure thing (standing up to follow
mzee kobo).

They walk outside the bar and head towards the parking lot. A car driven into the parking lot drives slowly past them. They head towards a group of older men who are talking loudly and seem excited. Mzee kobo shakes their hands and maru does the same.

MZEE KOBO

Gentlemen like i told you before
this is maru hes our newest
community member.

OLDER MAN 1

Your very welcome to our community.

OLDER MAN 2

Karibu sana mzee .

OLDER MAN 3

Umekaribishwa vizuri i presume
(smiles).

OLDER MAN 4

Mimi ata nimeshkuru tumepata mgeni
mwingine tena ata (laughs).

As the men are busy conversing and laughing a young an in his twenties with twisted hair and ruggedly dressed staggers by them. He is drunk. He stops and stares at the men who are deep engaged in their conversation. He seems to recognise one of them but he doesn't seem to know his name. He rubs his eyes as if in disbelief and stares at him again. One of the older men notices the youngman looking at maru and turns to face the youngman.

OLDER MAN 4 (CONT'D)

Tunakusaidia aje kijana kutuangukia
haitakufanya ukuwe sober (shrugging
his shoulders).

The young man doesn't respond and staggers closer to them and stands still staring at maru coldly.

YOUNG MAN 2

You just talking to the devil
himself.....

OLDER MAN 2

What nonsense is this kijana nakupea
dakika moja utoke apa ama
nitakufyeka vibaya sana (angrily
walking towards the youngman).

The youngman moves backwards and raises his hands in
surrender.

YOUNG MAN 2

Sawa lakini mjue mnaongea na
shetani mwenyewe (he turns and
begins to walk away)

OLDER MAN 2

Na ukome iyo tabia (clicks).

He turns and heads back to the gathering and they continue
their conversation. Maru seems uneasy with what just
happened. He seems lost in his thoughts as he tries to figure
out who could know anything about him. He snaps back to
reality and joins the rest in the conversation. Soft music
starts playing as they talk. Henry walks past them and looks
at Maru as he is passing. He saw the whole drama involving
the youngman.