CHAPTER ONE: EARLY YEARS

INTRODUCTION:

Family BackgroundBorn in the serene and picturesque Chesilyot Village, nestled in Londiani Sub County, Kericho County. The vibrant green hills and the rhythmic sounds of nature formed the backdrop of my earliest memories. Life in this part of Kenya was simple yet profound, where every day was a blend of hard work and community warmth. Born into a family of five siblings, I was the third born, with four sisters and one brother. Being the youngest was such a sweet experience, as I was cherished and protected by my siblings and parents alike. From the moment I took my first breath on a cool morning in November 2003, my journey began—a journey that would take me through countless experiences, shaping me into the person I am today.

Childhood Memories My childhood was filled with both joy and challenges. We spent most of our time with our mother, who was our constant companion and caretaker, while our father was often away hustling to provide for the family. Despite the absence of my father, my mother's unwavering strength and love created a nurturing environment.Life was undeniably hard. Our village, though beautiful, was remote and lacked many modern conveniences. My mother worked tirelessly to manage the household and the farm, often sacrificing her own needs to ensure we had food on the table and clothes on our backs. There were days when we barely had enough to eat, and my mother would go without so that we could have a little more.Our home was modest, with a thatched roof and mud walls. During the rainy season, the roof would often leak, and we would have to place buckets around the house to catch the water. I vividly remember one particularly harsh rainy season when our home was almost flooded, and we spent sleepless nights trying to keep our belongings dry.The absence of my father created a void that was hard to fill. He barely visited, and as kids, we longed to be with our family as one. We would constantly run to the road, hoping that our dad might be coming. The sight of a distant figure would fill us with excitement, only to be crushed when it wasn't him. Despite these disappointments, we never lost hope and would eagerly await his visits, which were few and far between.Despite the hardships, there were moments of joy and resilience. My siblings and I found ways to entertain ourselves, creating games out of simple things and finding joy in each other’s company. The strength of my mother and the unity of our family instilled in us a resilience that would serve us well in the years to come..

Early EducationFor my parents, hard work and knowing that education is the key to success were guiding principles. After my kindergarten years, they made the difficult decision to send me to a boarding school at the mere age of being in class 3. I couldn’t imagine staying alone, away from the comforting presence of my family and the familiarity of Chesilyot Village.Being in a boarding school at such a young age was a challenging experience. The initial days were marked by homesickness and a sense of isolation. The boarding school environment was strict and disciplined, a stark contrast to the freedom I enjoyed at home. I remember clinging to my mother’s hand on that first day, my heart heavy with the fear of the unknown.However, this experience also instilled in me a sense of independence and resilience. I gradually adapted to the routine and began to thrive in the structured environment. My teachers, particularly Madam Mary (who was then my class teacher), were supportive and encouraging, helping me navigate this new phase of my life. Despite the initial struggles, boarding school became a place of learning and growth, laying the foundation for my future academic pursuits.

CHAPTER TWO: FORMATIVE EXPERIENCES

Significant events

One of the most significant events in my early years was the rapid rise in the economy. Our village experienced changes as new businesses started to emerge, and there was a general sense of progress and prosperity. However, not all changes were easy. I vividly remember when the price of sugar soared to 200 shillings. It was a tough time for our family, and we had to use salt as a substitute for sugar. During this period, my mother was not home, and we stayed with our grandparents.This challenging time left a vivid and distressing picture in our minds, but as children, we had no choice but to adapt to the circumstances. Seeing my sisters leave their meals uneaten and work tirelessly made me wish I were old enough to provide for them. The helplessness was overwhelming; I wanted to cry but couldn't, and the pain just lingered inside.

Hobbies and InterestsFrom a young age, I was fascinated by stories. My father had a small collection of books, and I would spend hours lost in their pages. This early love for reading sparked my imagination and led to my first attempts at writing my own stories. I also enjoyed playing soccer with my friends in the village fields, where we would fashion makeshift goals from sticks and use any round object we could find as a ball. Additionally, I used to run with my cousins since we lived in our grandmother's compound. This running, which seemed like just a playful activity at the time, has stayed with me and feels like a talent to this day.

FriendshipsGrowing up in a close-knit village meant that friendships were deep and lasting. My best friend, David, lived just a few houses away. We shared countless adventures, from fishing in the local stream to building forts in the woods. David’s unwavering loyalty and shared sense of curiosity made our bond strong, and he remains a lifelong friend. I also remember my friend Chebet, who I have lost touch with over the years. We used to cook using mud, jump ropes, and play hide and seek in our compound with my siblings. My mother would observe us from afar, smiling proudly as we played.

CHAPTER THREE: ADOLESCENCE

School LifeHigh school was a whirlwind of new experiences. Initially, I never loved my first days in high school since it was not the school I aspired to attend. The unfamiliar environment and the disappointment of not being in my desired school made the transition difficult. However, as time went on, I began to excel academically, finding particular joy in mathematics, English, and physics. My dedication and hard work in these subjects paid off, and I became known for my academic prowess.In addition to my academic success, I was chosen to be a dorm prefect, a position that came with responsibilities and the opportunity to develop leadership skills. I took this role seriously and strived to be a role model for my peers. Furthermore, I excelled in sports and games, finding a perfect balance between academics and extracurricular activities. My involvement in sports not only kept me physically fit but also taught me the value of teamwork and perseverance.However, the social landscape of high school was more challenging. Navigating friendships, dealing with peer pressure, and embarking on a quest for identity often felt like an emotional rollercoaster. Making new friends and maintaining those relationships required patience and understanding, but these experiences were crucial in shaping my social skills and emotional intelligence.ChallengesAdolescence also brought personal challenges. My parents were not at peace, and the constant tension at home created an emotionally charged environment. The pressure of all of us being in high school, university, and one in a private school put a significant strain on our family's finances. Meeting the high costs of tuition and other expenses was a constant challenge, and both ends had to meet. This financial strain was a source of stress for everyone, but it also underscored the importance of education and the sacrifices my parents were making for our future.Personal GrowthDespite these challenges, high school was also a period of significant personal growth. I discovered a passion for debate and public speaking, joining the school’s debate team. This experience not only honed my communication skills but also boosted my confidence and broadened my perspectives. Engaging in debates allowed me to explore various viewpoints, develop critical thinking skills, and articulate my thoughts clearly and persuasively.The combination of academic achievements, leadership roles, and extracurricular involvement made high school a transformative time in my life. I emerged from this period not only with a solid educational foundation but also with a deeper understanding of myself and the world around me. The lessons learned during these formative years set the stage for my future endeavors and instilled in me a lifelong love of learning and personal development.

CHAPTER 4: DEFINING MOMENTSTurning Points A defining moment came when I was joined Form 3, Term 1. I had previously ranked 42nd in my class, but through relentless effort and a newfound determination, I climbed to the 5th position. This dramatic improvement marked a pivotal moment in my academic journey. From that point onward, I knew that with dedication and perseverance, I could achieve my goals. I attended all contests in my areas of specialty and became exceptionally close with my teachers, a bond I had never imagined possible. Their support and mentorship were instrumental in my success. Influences Throughout my high school years, my teachers played a crucial role in shaping my future. They encouraged me to strive for excellence, always reminding me that I had the potential to be the best. My English teacher, Mrs. Sylvia, Mr Tanui and Mr. Koech provided me with essays and past papers for revision, which greatly enhanced my understanding and skills. Their belief in my abilities inspired me to pursue my passion for academic excellence.

My father, a teacher himself, was another significant influence. He taught me mathematics every day, instilling in me a strong foundation and confidence in the subject. His dedication and support were unwavering, and he played a key role in my academic achievements.

Achievements Graduating as valedictorian was another milestone in my journey. It was a recognition of my academic efforts and a stepping stone to the next chapter of my life—college. The sense of accomplishment and the pride in my parents' eyes are memories I cherish to this day.

The combination of improving my academic standing, and graduating as valedictorian highlighted the transformative power of hard work, mentorship, and self-belief. These defining moments not only shaped my high school experience but also laid the foundation for my future endeavors. They taught me that with determination and support, I could overcome challenges and achieve greatness.

CHAPTER 5: HIGHER EDUCATION AND EARLY ADULULTHOOD

College LifeChoosing to attend Dedan Kimathi University of Technology was a dream come true and a pivotal moment in my academic journey. The university's reputation for excellence in technology and its picturesque campus nestled amidst the serene landscapes of Nyeri County immediately captured my imagination. From the moment I first heard about it, I knew that DKUT was where I wanted to be—a place where innovation and learning thrived in harmony with nature.Academic PursuitsMajoring in Information Technology at DKUT has been a transformative experience. The curriculum has allowed me to delve deep into the world of computers, programming languages, and digital systems. Courses ranging from software engineering to cybersecurity have equipped me with practical skills and theoretical knowledge that are invaluable in today's tech-driven world.

Owning a laptop, a tool essential for my studies, was once a distant dream but has become a reality thanks to the opportunities DKUT has provided. Interacting with my lecturers, who are not only knowledgeable but also passionate about their fields, has been inspiring. Their dedication to delivering the best lectures and their disciplined approach to teaching have set a high standard for academic excellence. The support and mentorship I have received have encouraged me to push boundaries and strive for academic and personal growth.

Social LifeHowever, navigating university life has not been without its challenges. Balancing relationships, financial responsibilities, and concerns about safety has been demanding. Yet, these challenges have also been opportunities for personal development and resilience. I have learned to manage my time effectively, prioritize my studies, and seek support when needed. The university environment, though demanding, has fostered a sense of community and camaraderie among students facing similar challenges.

My journey at DKUT has been a mix of academic rigor, personal growth, and memorable experiences. It has shaped me into a more confident and capable individual, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in my career and beyond.

CHAPTER 6: PERSONAL MILESTONESSignificant RelationshipsBuilding significant relationships has been a cornerstone of my life. Meeting my partner, George, during a literary conference was a serendipitous event that added a new dimension to my journey. Our shared love for books and mutual support have been a source of strength and joy.Personal ChallengesLife has not been without its personal challenges. Facing and overcoming health issues required strength and determination. These experiences taught me the importance of self-care and the power of a positive mindset.AchievementsPersonal achievements, such as completing a marathon and publishing my first novel, have been sources of immense pride. These milestones represent not just personal goals met but also the culmination of hard work and dedication.

CHAPTER 7: REFLECTION AND INSIGHTS

Looking BackReflecting on my journey, I see a tapestry of experiences that have shaped who I am today. Each challenge faced and triumph celebrated has contributed to my growth and resilience. Life’s journey, with all its ups and downs, has been a rich and rewarding experience.AdviceIf there is one piece of advice I would offer, it is this: embrace every experience, good or bad, as an opportunity for growth. Life is a journey, and each step, no matter how small, is a part of your unique story.Future AspirationsLooking ahead, I am filled with hope and excitement for the future. My aspirations include continuing to grow as a writer, exploring new professional opportunities, and nurturing the relationships that matter most. The journey is far from over, and I look forward to the adventures that lie ahead.

CONCLUSION

My journey from the rolling hills of Chesilyot Village to the halls of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology has been a testament to perseverance, resilience, and the unwavering support of my family and mentors. Each chapter, from the challenges of childhood to the triumphs of academic achievements, has shaped me into the person I am today.

Growing up in Kericho County instilled in me a deep appreciation for hard work and community. The values instilled by my parents—of dedication to education and the pursuit of excellence—have been the guiding force behind my academic pursuits. From overcoming the hardships of financial strain to embracing the opportunities afforded by higher education, every experience has contributed to my personal and intellectual growth.

At Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, I found not just an institution of higher learning but a community where innovation meets education. Majoring in Information Technology has opened doors I once only dreamed of, equipping me with skills that have transformed my understanding of technology and its potential to impact the world positively.

As I look ahead, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities that have shaped my path thus far. The friendships forged, the knowledge gained, and the challenges overcome have prepared me for the next chapter of my journey. Armed with determination and a passion for continuous learning, I am ready to contribute meaningfully to society and pursue my aspirations with confidence.

My story is a testament to the power of resilience and the belief that with perseverance and support, one can achieve their dreams. I carry with me the lessons learned and the values instilled, knowing that the experiences of my past will continue to guide and inspire me in the adventures yet to come.

**Vision**

To leverage my passion for technology and storytelling to create meaningful innovations that positively impact society. I envision a future where technology is harnessed ethically and innovatively to solve complex challenges and improve lives globally.

**Mission**

My mission is to continuously learn and innovate in the field of Information Technology, striving for excellence in every endeavor. I am committed to contributing my skills and knowledge towards building sustainable solutions and inspiring others to embrace lifelong learning and creativity. Additionally, I aim to uplift my family and provide them with opportunities for a better future through my achievements and support.

**Core Values**

**1. Integrity:** Upholdin honesty, transparency, and ethical principles in all aspects of life and work.

**2. Resilience:** Embracing challenges as opportunities for growth, demonstrating perseverance, and adapting to change with determination.

**3. Collaboration:** Fostering teamwork, respect, and inclusivity to achieve collective goals and leverage diverse perspectives.

**4. Excellence:** Pursuing continuous improvement, delivering high-quality results, and setting high standards in everything I undertake.

**5. Impact:** Striving to make a positive difference in the world, contributing to sustainable development, empowering communities through technology and education, and supporting my family's well-being and aspirations.