**The scene opens with Mwandu and Thomas sitting on a wooden bench. Thomas brings Mwandu a pair of shoes and some snacks, they are sharing stories, eating and cracking jokes. After a few seconds, Mwandu gets in a sombre mood and begin to ask questions.**

**MWANDU**

Uncle Thomas

**THOMAS**

Yes Mwandu

**MWANDU**

Who is God?

**THOMAS**

(Looking puzzled) He is the Supreme Being, the creator and ruler of the universe

**MWANDU**

Why do they say He is love?

**THOMAS**

Yes, God is love and the idea behind is that His essence represents love.

**MWANDU**

There once lived a happy family but everything got lost in a flick of a finger and here I am, left to be blind for the rest of my life. I ask myself a lot of questions. If truly God is love, why then do we have so many sufferings?

**THOMAS**

Let me tell you something about myself.

**MWANDU**

(Listens with intent)

**THOMAS**

My father was shot during a workers' campaign for a pay rise and my mother passed away during childbirth, giving birth to me. I never had the opportunity to see my parents. Growing up, I was angry and confused. I started questioning my faith and even cursed God, but looking back, I realized that God works in mysterious ways and sometimes it takes tragedy for us to truly see His grace. It was a difficult time, but I am grateful for the people who came into my life and helped me along the way. So you see Mwandu, this experience has taught me that even through life's hardest moments, God knows what's best for us.

**MWANDU**

I just seem not to understand this God, maybe he has favourites?

**THOMAS**

No, he doesn’t. I know it has been tough dealing with everything that happened, but know that you are not alone, you have a family that loves you and I will always be here if need be.

**MWANDU**

At times I wish I had just perished in that accident

**THOMAS**

Don’t say that

**MWANDU**

Look at ba Mirriam, ba Chris and Lukundo, they dropped everything they were doing, trading their future just to hustle and hunt for what to feed me. I have become a burden!

**THOMAS**

(Get closer to him) Listen Mwandu, although the accident left you blind, it has not taken away your passion for life.

**MWANDU**

Am I going to be useful again?

**THOMAS**

Yes, there are many people who have overcome similar challenges and have gone on to achieve great things.

**MWANDU**

In movies yes, that do happen

**THOMAS**

PK Chishala, who, despite his blindness, found hope and fame in music. His music transcended cultural barriers and we still listen and dance to his songs.

**MWANDU**

He was blind?

**THOMAS**

Yes! Moreover, there are international musicians out there, to mention a few like Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles and Luther Vandrose who also overcame their blindness and gone on to become some of the best musicians of our time. Their success stories are a testament to the fact that with perseverance and a positive attitude, anything is possible.

**MWANDU**

(He gets excited)

**THOMAS**

In fact, what are you good at?

**MWANDU**

(Stammers) I don’t think I’m good at anything

**THOMAS**

Think, Mwandu

**MWANDU**

(After a thought) I think I do well in singing. I use to lead songs in Sunday school

**THOMAS**

Wow! Let’s hear it

**MWANDU**

Right now?

**THOMAS**

Now or never

**MWANDU**

(Hesitantly) Give me a rhythm

Thomas start humming, Mwandu stands, he looks emotional then start to sing.

**THOMAS**

(Struck with amazement) I'm reminded of the young Michael Jackson and The Jackson 5…. That was so amazing, your range and tone are so impressive! You know what?

**MWANDU**

What?

**THOMAS**

We now have something to work on (He gives a standing ovation)

**MWANDU**

Thank you so much Uncle Thomas. You always find a way to put a smile on my face, you always make me feel like there is still hope

**THOMAS**

Not everything is lost

**MWANDU**

(Goes silent for a moment)I think losing parents at a young age is one of the hardest thing anyone could ever have to face, but you have always been like a father figure to me. I am grateful for the sacrifices you have made. You make sure that I feel loved and cared for. (Appears Mirriam)

**THOMAS**

We are a family, (notices Mirriam). How are you

**MIRRIAM**

Fine (Angrily rashes to Mwandu)

**MWANDU**

Ba Mirriam, you are back?

**MIRRIAM**

Yes Mwandu, are you alright?

**MWANDU**

Yes, I am alright…. Uncle Thomas bought me nice food and shoes

**MIRRIAM**

Let me help you get inside. It is getting cold here

**Mirriam helps Mwandu get inside the house, she comes back, looks at Thomas for a while**

**MIRRIAM**

Men are like mosquitoes. Even when you try to ignore and swat them away, they continue to buzz until they land on your skin. They don’t care who you are, where you’re from and what you do. Even in your dying moments, they will suck all that is left.

**THOMAS**

(Silent)

**MIRRIAM**

Now this mosquito first landed on my forehead, then my arms and now my breasts. Hell no! You will not use Mwandu as a Pawn because I will make you understand that there are boundaries that cannot be crossed when it comes to those I love.

**THOMAS**

It is so unfair that you always find faults in all things I do

**MIRRIAM**

Attempting to play games with my young brother is what I should find entertaining to watch?

**THOMAS**

I was simply fulfilling the promise I made to Mwandu

**MIRRIAM**

Thomas tisiye! Go!

**THOMAS**

(Looks at her then turn to leave but stops) I would appreciate if you could listen to me this time around

**MIRRIAM**

(Takes a deep sigh) I appreciate your support you have shown me and my family during our difficult time. When my young brother was in the hospital, you were there for us every step of the way and I'm grateful for your help but please understand me. I don't have any interest in you. I don’t have any desire for a romantic relationship.

**THOMAS**

It was during that time that I started developing feelings for you, and now the desire of wanting you is burning inside me that I can’t handle

**MIRRIAM**

And you think you can handle me?

**THOMAS**

Lord knows, I love you so much. It is during these difficult times that I have been shown what a good woman is. I don't want to miss out on this

**MIRRIAM**

Men’s words are like poetry, they will always have a way of making you feel like you are the most important person in the world. Unfortunately, we completely get drawn to them because we fail to resist their charm. But after getting what they want, the once charming and kind man becomes a monster. He becomes controlling, manipulative and worse off, abusive.

**THOMAS**

You may have been hurt in the past by men who have crashed your heart, but please don't judge me based on their actions. I am not like them. (Get close to her) I truly love you and I want to show you that I am different… Once again, (he kneels down) give me a chance to prove myself to you. I promise that I will never let you down.

**MIRRIAM**

(Mockingly) I can hardly contain my joy at having been given the privilege of listening and watching William Shakespeare delivering his sonnets. Bravo!

**THOMAS**

(Getting angry) A beautiful woman like you getting down to any man provided he pays cash in the end

**MIRRIAM**

(Angry) I will not take that from you

**THOMAS**

Truth be told

**MIRRIAM**

Can you get out!

**THOMAS**

It hurts!

**MIRRIAM**

I said get out!

**THOMAS**

Is this the path you want to take? Tell me!

**MIRRIAM**

(Silent)

**THOMAS**

You deserve to be treated with love and respect.

**MIRRIAM**

(Walks away) I am the pillar of strength for my family, I have shouldered responsibilities beyond my age. It’s not that I like or enjoy what I do but we have to survive at the end of the day. This has made it impossible for me to let my guard down and allow a man into my life.

**THOMAS**

From the time I knew you, I felt a connection that I haven't experienced before. Your smile, your laughter that I haven't seen for months have captivated me in ways I never imagined.

**MIRRIAM**

The scars that I carry from my past are still fresh

**THOMAS**

My intentions are genuine

**MIRRIAM**

I am afraid

**THOMAS**

My feelings for you are sincere.

**MIRRIAM**

Thomas!

**THOMAS**

(He draw himself close to Mirriam, hold her hands and look her in the eyes) I promise to be the person who carries your world on my shoulders. I want to be the one who wipes away your tears, hold your hand and remind you that you are never alone. (They almost kiss but Lukundo bumps in, wearing some Rastafarian outfit)

**LUKUNDO**

One day Christmas! Ba Mirriam naba Thomas mu 18! (To Thomas) Sorry ba king man, tasokoneza moment of silence

**MIRIAM**

Can you shut up!

**LUKUNDO**

(She put up a Jamaican slang)Peace… I and I love peace, you know dat

**MIRRIAM**

Mental illness can manifest itself in different forms

**LUKUNDO**

Babylon is the goal (She gets inside the house)

**THOMAS**

I am taking my leave (as he is about to leave, she stops him)

**MIRRIAM**

Wait, thank so much for everything you have been doing

**THOMAS**

(Before he responds, Chris appears. Thomas lock eyes with Chris before he excuses himself) good day (He leaves)

**CHRIS**

Who was that man?

**MIRIAM**

Do you have to question me on every man who comes to see me?

**CHRIS**

I need to know who comes and leave this compound, who was that man?

**MIRRIAM**

Why didn’t you ask him?

**CHRIS**

I am asking you

**MIRRIAM**

I am also asking you

**CHRIS**

Can you stop this nonsense!

**MIRRIAM**

(Shocked)Since when did you became my father?

**CHRIS**

Defending strangers?

**MIRRIAM**

Love is the only force capable of turning a stranger into a friend

**CHRIS**

Are you even listening to yourself?

**MIRRIAM**

I don’t know where you are getting at, do you like it that I entertain men just for us to have at least a meal, you don’t, right?

**CHRIS**

(Silent)

**MIRRIAM**

That man you saw only wants to help us. He has always been there for us and wants to support us. (Draws to him)Please brother, try to accept him and realize that he only has our best interests at heart.

**CHRIS**

I'm here for you sister and I'll do whatever it takes to provide for us.

**MIRRIAM**

I appreciate every little sacrifice you make but I can only encourage you to continue focusing on your studies and leave the hustle to me. Trust me, I got this (The hug).

**END**