**Loving you without Losing Myself**

**SARA POV**

I am Sarah Simon. I come from a highly religious background. I am from Middlebelt Nigeria, Kogi State. My parents are good Christians. My Father, Pastor Simon is a highly respected Man of God in society, He also holds a great position in society having a booming business empire that deals with automobiles and technology. My mother; Mrs. Simon is well known in the Catering and Events Industry, her events industry O'Sarah is well known in Nigeria and Africa Continent. She manages events for government parastatals, wealthy businessmen, politicians, and various grades of clients. We are a family of five. I have two elder brothers, Raymond and Richard.

Raymond is an engineer and he oversees the automobile branch of our Father's company.

Richard is a Medical doctor, He presently doing his doctoral studies in the United Kingdom.

He was working with her at the International British Hospital in Abuja before he applied for a three-year study leave to do research on Cancer with the Cancer Research Institute in the United Kingdom. He is my favorite brother.

I am 20 years old, I recently got admission to Duke University to do my master's studies in Duke University in the United States of America. Being the only female child made me live a sheltered life all through my first twenty years. The admission I recently got gave me the first opportunity of ever living away from my parents for more than six months.

The day I left Nigeria for my master's studies was accompanied by joyful tears from my mother that saw me off to Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja. She was only relieved because I have my guardians in my studying state in the US. My guardians are international research experts that were also living in Durham, North Carolina. There are Professor and Professor Mrs. Mackie. They have been family friends to my parents from their undergraduate days at the University. This friendship has blossomed over the years. Their daughter Sandra is a good friend of mine, one I will call my Best friend of life. Her mother is a second mother to me. Sandra and her Mum came to pick me up from the Airport when I arrived in the US, it was an exciting experience because we have not seen in a year when they came to Nigeria. They helped me to secure a hostel accommodation close to my University, I stayed with them for a week before I finally moved to my hostel. I had an exciting year, I was so anxious to go back to Nigeria to see my parents again. My parents had already booked my flight tickets. Richard will also be traveling to Nigeria for a short vacation. My parents also booked his flight tickets. I would be going to London to meet up with my brother before going to Nigeria with my brother. Sandra took me to the airport on the day I left. On getting to Heathrow Airport, I called my brother to locate him. I just got a book titled" A woman, sex and Marriage" to read in the bookstore at the airport while waiting for my brother. While working back to the departure Lounge to wait for my brother. I bumped into someone, and on looking up, I met a tall guy with sunglasses. He was on call, He only looked at me and the book that fell off my hand. I was very angry and did not know what to say, He only told me to be careful and watch where I was going. I got distracted by my ringing phone and just left him after giving him an angry stare. I met up with Richard, we hugged and boarded our flight going to Nigeria.

After spending a month in Nigeria, I traveled back to the US for my research year to complete my master's studies. The night I got back to the US, I had to stay in my guardian's place to relax, I was about to go to Sandra's room when I met a guy in the hall, I was dazed to meet the guy I bumped into in the airport a month ago. When I got to Sandra's room, I asked about the guy I just saw, I was surprised when Sandra told me that is her only brother Michael. The next day I went to my hostel, I still could correlate the pompous character of Michael and the other members of my guardian's family.

I was out in the Restaurant with my study group a week later when I saw a figure like that of Michael, He came around to say Hi to me and even offered to take me to my hostel. I refused but he indulged me telling me that was one way to buy into my good books. He told me that he was very sorry about our first meeting at Heathrow Airport and would like to be my good friend. The night ended with our exchanging contacts and we began communicating every day. He would call me every morning and night to know about my day's activities. I got to know that Michael is a Software Engineer and he is the CEO of his tech company. He is a close friend of my eldest brother Raymond but I did not know him because they were much older than I and I was not allowed to move in their circle when they were younger.

Michael asked me out and we began our relationship. I had to tell Sandra who fully endorsed the relationship. His mother got to know him through his sister. His mother had to warn him knowing fully when that I am in their care and custody and would not want anything that would make the long-term relationship with my parents go sour. He made a promise to his mother that he was ready to marry me as soon as I am done with my master's studies.

Upon the completion of my master's studies in Civil law, Michael and his Family traveled down to Nigeria to see my parents and ask for my hand formally in marriage.

My parents were elated and saw this as an opportunity to foster their relationship. Preparations for the wedding began and I became Mrs. Michael Mackie on the first Saturday of December 2021. I relocated to the US with my Husband and began my law practice in a well-known law firm in Durham, North Carolina, United States of America