



Unforgettable
TIME ✓

Akinkunmi Mejirade

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APPRECIATION

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PROLOGUE

Tokunbo checked his watch and he was getting impatient. Not that he was in a hurry to get to where he was going, but the fact that he had wasted an hour in the airport already was what he didn't like. The thought of going home again after three years that he left everything behind made him nervous. He thought of seeing his dad again and he wasn't thrilled but the thought of his mum and the face of his younger sister came to his mind and he missed them dearly. He wanted to wait till three days time before going home for his dad's birthday, but his mum had convinced him to come earlier and talk everything out with his dad before his birthday. He thought of the cause of the rift between them, and he couldn't believe his dad would force him to marry Lolade, his friend's daughter despite the fact that he didn't love her and had caught her cheating on him twice. He wondered if fathers weren't supposed to protect the interest of their children. Anyway, he hoped everything would be fine this time as his mum told him already that his dad was ready to forgive him and marry whoever he wanted as long as he would show up for his birthday. He picked a business magazine he bought outside the airport to read. He was glad seeing his business listed among the rapid growing business in the country.

"Hi." A calm sweet voice said beside him and looked up to see who the person was talking to.

"Hello." He replied closing the magazine as he stared at the beautiful young and enthusiastic lady.

"I've a proposal for you."

He wondered what kind of proposal she could possibly want with him. He moved on the chair he was sitting on to create a space for her to sit. She sat beside him staring away for some time. It had taken her time to finally decide to walk up to him, so she hoped he would agree to her proposal and not turn her down. There had been different stories about money fraudsters and he wondered if she was one of them and the kind of trick she was going to pull up with him. He didn't want to believe a beautiful lady like her would be involved in such act. He could say he had never seen any lady that beautiful in his life and it would be a disappointment if she was a fraud.

“So what's the proposal?”

“Where are you going to?”

“Ibadan.”

“What do you say if we both forget where we intend go and just travel to Abuja for a weekend adventure?”

“Adventure? What do you mean by that?”

“I know it sounds crazy, but I intend to enjoy this weekend but I'm alone. So I'm thinking if you can come with me and we can both enjoy it together.”

He coughed in order to suppress the laughter struggling to come out. He had never come across a decently dressed prostitute with so much gut.

“You know, this sounds tempting, but I have to be home before Sunday for my dad's birthday. I don't want to miss it. So I'll have to decline.”

She already put herself out there for him too much for her to get a no for an answer.

“That’s no problem, you can still make it. I checked the flights flying out of Abuja this weekend and there’ll be one going to Ibadan by 7pm on Saturday. So you will still be in time for the celebration.”

He stared at her for some time and asked,

“And what’s your price for this?”

She felt like just entering the ground right then. She couldn’t believe he saw her as a prostitute. She wondered how else he would perceive her when she’s practically begging him for it.

“To correct that impression, I’m not a prostitute, so this is at no price. Like I said, it is just an adventure.”

“I’m sorry for that, what’s your name please?”

“Mitchelle. You?”

“Tokunbo Adeniji.”

She nodded not exactly paying attention to the name.

“Are you for real or this is a trick?”

“I’ve never been more serious in my life. I don’t want anything else from you other than that.”

He stared at her a little longer trying to see if he could read her mind and see if she meant it but she looked very serious and he was suddenly thrilled.

“I don’t have money on me right now. I just used the last cash on me to purchase my ticket to Ibadan and...”

“I said you shouldn’t worry about the expenses. Everything will be catered for. I’ll pay for your ticket, the hotel we’ll be staying and every meal we’ll take. I’ll even pay for your ticket back to Ibadan.”

“I don’t usually allow my women pay for...”

“Good thing, I’m not your woman. I’m just a stranger begging you for a weekend of nothing else other than wild sex. So are you in or out?”

He stared at her. He couldn’t believe how lucky he was that day. It’s not every time you see beautiful ladies throwing themselves at you for nothing but just sex at no price. He thought of the party he was going to and realized that all things being equal, he would still be able to make it for his dad’s birthday and he would have used a stone to kill two birds.

“Yes.” He replied smiling.

“Good. So let’s go and pay for your ticket then.”

She got up and left while he remained to stare at her for a while before he followed her. Few minutes later, they were done purchasing the ticket and as she was about leaving, he asked,

“So what do I bring along?”

“Nothing other than lots of condoms.” She said in a hushed voice into his ear and left. He couldn’t believe his luck.

CHAPTER ONE

A young fashionable woman, who was determined against all odds to get to the peak of her business career sat in her chair thinking about the next level she was aspiring to attain. She loved her job to the fullest and she had forgotten every other thing in her life and had focused on it. Her office was located in the busiest area in the city. She is able to see the perfect view of the city and whenever she's not working or not eating out, she would simply turn on her swivel chair and just stare out at the city. She enjoyed looking down through her window and looking at how small people looked and she loved the feel that she was on top of the world. Her office was large and exquisitely furnished. She has this natural fare for paintings especially that of nature and her office was really decorated with it. There was a mini sitting room in the office and she sometimes like to sleep in the couch when she knew she would be working late. Her workers wondered if she had any other life outside her office.

She wasn't bothered about whatever her workers say about her social life, because she wasn't interested in any other thing other than her job and maybe her friends and her family. To her, her life was perfect and she doesn't want unnecessary things to complicate it for her.

"There's someone here to see you ma."

She jolted back to reality.

“Does she have an appointment?”

“No. He came concerning the merging proposal towards partnership.”

“Okay let him in.” she was glad to receive the person.

“Okay ma.”

She tried to finish her snacks before he entered. She didn’t know if to say that his coming over to see him was a blessing or not. She had gone to the company then with the proposal for a partnership, but they had turned her down and she left her card with them hoping and praying they’d call her someday to tell her that they had accepted the offer. But she knew for sure that their representative wouldn’t have gone through the trouble to come all the way to tell her that they aren’t interested in the proposal when their silence would pass the decision across to her best. She was happy to receive this person; maybe she can force him to see the good in the proposal.

The door opened while she was still looking out through her window and she quickly threw the last piece of her snack in her mouth.

“I’m sorry for having to come at this time, but there might be no other time for it because I’m leaving town tomorrow.”

His baritone voice vibrated through the room as he approached her table. She turned around and her pony tailed hair swung behind her head and dropped past her shoulders as she used the serviette to clean her mouth slightly and said as she got up to welcome him.

“I’m very happy to receive you today.”

They shook hands.

“Please, do have your seat.”

He sat as he smiled back at her. She was still grinning with the fact that she was able to meet with him in her office and she could convince him to accept if he came for what she was hoping isn’t. She sat and drank her water quickly.

“I’m sorry.” She said as she dropped her cup and called her secretary to come and clear her table.

“There’s no problem. I know I should have informed you before coming.”

The secretary walked in quickly to clear her table and they waited for her to leave before he spoke.

She looked at him again and smiled and she knew the kind of man he would be instantly. He looked like he was in his mid thirties and still very handsome. She knew he would be the type that was the basketball captain or football captain while in school. She imagined how handsome he would have been while in school and ‘most likely to succeed’ must have been written about him in their graduation book, just like Johnson Makinde. The only guy she ever crushed on while in school and maybe ever loved.

“Have we met before?” he asked as he stared at her intently.

“Definitely not. Except you saw me the last time I went to your office.”

“No, because I wasn’t around that day.”

“Well then, no.”

She replied still smiling happily.

“I think we’ve met before, I just can’t figure out where?”

“Did you go to Greenfields high?” she asked.

“Not at all.”

“What about Bingham University?”

“I didn’t school in that part of the country.”

“Obviously we’ve not met before. Maybe you’re mistaking me for someone else.”

She wasn’t surprised with the statement because it isn’t the first time she hears that question. A complete stranger claiming to have met her before thinking she would be that gullible to believe and agree to go on a date with them and whatever comes after that. She never stops wondering why guys are so easily controlled with whatever they have between their legs.

He looked further and smiled.

“I’m sorry, that must be it.”

He knew he has to stop all his dreams of meeting her again. She was gone and gone for good. She was just like the wind that came suddenly to sweep him off his feet and suddenly disappeared making him fall on the floor with a scar to remind him of it forever.

“Concerning the partnership you proposed, I must apologize for how my people treated you that day. I wasn’t around and when I returned and I was told, I realized that I should come in person to apologize and ask if the offer is still open.”

“Of course, I’m not angry and I was prepared for that treatment. The offer is still as open as ever.”

Some minutes later, they’ve reached an agreement already which was fair enough for both of them.

“Nice doing business with you.”

He stretched his hand for a handshake over the table and she shook him quickly and let his hand drop. She was surprised with what she felt the moment they shook hands and she wondered if she wasn’t sick. He started going towards the door and she walked beside him still very happy with the luck she shone on her that day.

“If you don’t mind, can I take a look at your paintings, I like paintings.”

“Sure you can.”

He went towards where her mini sitting room was located to look at the paintings all over. The place was almost looking like an art gallery. He admired each painting carefully and his eyes caught a painting just at the corner of the room. He went to it and he picked it up from the floor where it rested against the wall. It was obvious she didn’t want the painting to be obvious. He stared at it for some time and asked,

“Where did you get this from? It’s gorgeous.”

“I got it the last time I travelled to Hawaii for my holiday.”

“Are you sure I don’t know you from anywhere?” he asked after staring at her for some time.

“Are you here to admire my paintings or you are trying to hit on me?”

She asked trying to sound like she was joking when she was already getting irritated. She smiled at him as she stared at him and then at the painting.

“Mitchelle?”

She looked at him immediately. She was shocked and she smiled immediately trying to act normal.

“Excuse me; you must be really mistaking me for someone else.”

“Yes, I’m right. You are Mitchelle and don’t give me that face.”

Omg. How on earth did he know about the name? Nobody ever knew her as that except for the people she met in Hawaii and he’s definitely not one of them. Maybe he was one of the hotel attendants where she resided there or was it the guy she bought the painting from? Who the hell is he?

“Sorry, but who are you? Were you the one that sold the painting to me?”

“I wish I was the one. So you don’t remember me again or you’re just pretending? Or is that the way you treat the guys you meet? Just use them to your advantage and when you are done, you just throw them out like a piece of rag? That’s too bad.”

She stared at him intently and she wondered if they ever met. She was convinced she hasn't met him before and she didn't know why he was saying such things about her.

"I'm sorry, but I'm not Mitchellle."

"Oh, I know. You are now Omotola Akingbade. Are you going to lie to my face that you don't know me? Tokunbo Adeniji. Are you always like this?"

She gasped. Omg!!! How could she have forgotten the most arrogant man she had ever come across? The worst man she had ever met and had promised and hoped she would never see again even for a second. The man who had killed her pride completely as a woman before she finally managed to build it back. The man who had made her felt like she was an alien and yet he's the same man she was about having business with.

"You remember now don't you or it's your cover up drama."

He said as he saw the surprise look on her face.

"I'm sure you never thought you would see me again since you were done with me and gone."

"You didn't tell me that this is your company?"

"You were never interested in the first place? How am I to tell you when you disappeared just barely before we met."

She didn't know why she asked the question, but she didn't know why she didn't sell the painting then or given it out to someone, so that she would never get to see it again. She didn't know why she still left it in that corner. He dropped the painting and walked towards her. He came so close that she could feel her heart beating in her mouth as he spoke

"Tell me, did I do anything wrong?"

His voice suddenly made her feel naked and she didn't like it. She took few steps backward and said,

"Please, can we forget that? It happened five years ago and it was a mistake. It was never meant to be and you should stop dwelling on the past. I've realized my mistake and I have accepted it and move on, you should realize your mistake too, accept it and move on."

"I can't believe that I was a mistake you made. You obviously moved on because that is who you are. I used to believe that the men are the heartless ones, but today, I know better. Women are wicked. They shouldn't be born in the first place."

"Do you have a problem with me or the women in general?" she asked trying to act strong and not to look bothered.

"Women. Damn you all."

"Too bad because the problem is with you then. How can you be having problem with all the women in the world? Your mum shouldn't have been born then at least she wouldn't have the opportunity to give birth to you and you won't be having problem with women now. No wonder, I should have known you're gay."

He chuckled. "Gay? That's unbelievable. I can't believe I ever thought you were innocent for once."

"I'm sorry, but I might be missing the purpose of this meeting. Is it to catch up on old times or is it a business meeting?"

"Of course it's for business."

"Good, we should get back to it then because I don't mix business with my personal life. If I remember, we've concluded the meeting five minutes ago, so you can take

your leave.” she started heading for the door to open it for him.

“I’m not sure we’ve concluded the meeting.” He said as he followed her and stopped right in front of her. She stopped just halfway to the door wondering what he wanted again.

“All we need is to bring our lawyers to finalize everything. After that, we can start business.”

“I’m not sure I’m satisfied with the profit sharing ratio.”

“What do you mean?”

“I’m just telling you that my company isn’t going to take forty percent of the profit. We’ll make it fifty-fifty or we go our separate ways and you can find someone else to merge with.”

“That is totally impossible. We already agreed that your company will take forty percent. You can’t just change it now.”

“I am already changing it if you don’t know. We’re sharing it equally, or I go. After all, you’re the one desperate to grow bigger, I’m not. Are you taking it or not?”

“What is this about? This has been concluded before.”

“It obviously hasn’t been concluded. We’ll share it equally. Trust me you’ll be happy to have me as your partner.”

“I’m not sharing this with you equally. I’ll be responsible for most of the bills and risks and you want the profit equally? That’s selfishness and the highest level of greed.”

“I’m surprised that it is coming from someone who picks guys to use anytime and throw them out when she’s done. Maybe that’s not greed and selfishness, and then what must that be?”

“You don’t know me and so don’t say that about me!”

She shouted at him and he shouted back.

“Then who are you? Who the hell are you? Just tell me. I might not know you, but I know too well that you appear and disappear from guys lives.”

The secretary opened the door immediately to find out the cause of the noise. She was even surprised to see them the way they stood. Anybody would know that they were having one hot argument.

“You called me?” it was better than asking if there was a problem.

They both turned to see the person and it turned out to be her secretary.

“No, you can return to your table.” She managed to talk without the anger showing on her face or sounding in her voice.

She closed the door quickly while they faced each other again.

“Can you leave my office? You can’t walk into my office to insult my person.”

“I’m sorry about that. I’m so sorry about that.” he said sarcastically. “But you walked into my life five years ago too to insult my person. We’re even, just that I won’t stop here.”

“Just get out.”

He adjusted his suit and placed a peck on her cheek before he left. The incident of what happened five years ago came back clearly to her memory and she thought she could never remember again. She felt angry with herself with the rejection and she hated him the more when she remembered that he was blaming her for whatever happened then. Maybe she had a fault there, but he was the root cause for everything. She was happy she knew who he was before they signed their contract. Nothing could make her forgive him for what he did to her.

Tokunbo kept thinking about her encounter with Omotola and he was angry with himself that he couldn't take charge. What on earth made him to peck her? She was a woman that has no regard for the men. She made it clear five years ago and she confirmed it when she said everything that happened then was a mistake. He had always been wishing to see her again and when he finally met her the least possible way he expected, he didn't even want to smell her miles away from him. He only wanted to know two things and he would disappear from her life forever.

Why she did that to him five years ago and if she eventually had her wish granted. He was going to make her pay for what she did to him and he'll ensure that she pays even with his last breath. He will make her pay till she has nothing left and he had started. They're going to have equal right to the company and that was the first step and he was happy he took it without giving it a second thought.

Omotola was frustrated after a week of trying to look for a better company to merge with, but luck wasn't on her side this time around. Luck had always been on her side with everything she did, but now, it's the opposite. The

companies she talked to wanted equal share of the profit when they'd only be bringing little or nothing to keep it running. Those companies were even nothing compared to Tokunbo's company. She finally decided to ring him up to tell him that she was ready. After all, she wouldn't have to be seeing him every time. He already said that his manager would take charge and if he wants to know anything at all, she would just direct him to his manager. She told herself that she was a grown woman and she can handle him very well.

Tokunbo didn't know why, but he was happy to receive her call that evening when she told him that she was ready for the merger. That whole week of silence was killing and he was scared if she already found another company to merge it. He was almost regretting his action and he wished he had left it at forty percent, at least, he would get to see her and it would be easier to make her pay for everything. As they were finalizing the whole agreement, he thought of what next he was going to do to punish her.

TO READ
THE COMPLETE VERSION

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