

The Arbitration
an original screenplay by
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FADE IN:

1 INT. GBENGA'S HOUSE - PAST - NIGHT 1

A Couple makes out on a couch in a well appointed living room as words flash on the screen.

"There are three sides to every story. Yours. Mine. The Truth"

The words fade away to reveal the title

THE ARBITRATION

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

2 INT. ANTEROOM - DAY 2

Regular hotel anteroom. Bland. No Personality to speak of. A WOMAN sits alone, scanning a document on her ipad.

She's OMAWUMI HORSFALL. Late twenties. Gray power suit. Designer glasses. The world's her oyster and she knows it.

FUNLAYO (O.S.)

Aren't you supposed to be in school.

Initially annoyed, she grins when she looks up and recognises: FUNLAYO JOHNSON. Late thirties. Black power suit. The woman Omawumi wants to be when she grows up.

OMAWUMI

(leaps to her feet)

Aunty Funlayo what are you doing here?

FUNLAYO

Arguing against you I think.

Omawumi does a double take. "Huh"

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

Shebi you represent Dara Olujobi?

Omawumi is clearly daunted by the news.

OMAWUMI

You're Gbenga Sanni's lawyer?

(Funlayo nods)

Of course he can afford the best.

Funlayo smiles graciously at the compliment. Moves on:

FUNLAYO

Your mom told me you were into
commercial law.

Aka why did you take the case. Omawumi shrugs.

OMAWUMI

We went to QC together.

(shrugs)

I told her I was a commercial lawyer
but she insisted.

FUNLAYO

(laughs)

Ah. The old QC cult. Never fails.

OMAWUMI

You should know. Shebi you told my
mom to send me there.

Omawumi realises she made a mistake. She just placed Funlayo
above her. Funlayo knows she knows. Smiles.

FUNLAYO

I'm sure you'll be fine. Your client
is lucky to have you despite your
lack of experience.

Talk about shade. But before Omawumi can react the door opens.

GBENGA SANNNI strolls in without a care in the world. From
the watch, to the blazer, to the shoes, Gbenga has money and
he's not afraid to show it. Baddo-sneh tings.

Funlayo nods her goodbye to Omawumi as she crosses the room
to meet Gbenga halfway. As they head for the conference room,
Omawumi turns towards the bathroom door.

3 INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

3

A FACE in a mirror. An intelligent face. A determined face.
A scared face? Either way it's the face of DARA OLUJOBI
staring into the mirror desperately searching for something.

Her hands are trembling. She clasps them together. Irritated
by the lack of self control, she drops her hands to her sides.

The trembling resumes. Slows. Stops. A satisfied nod. A test
of will passed.

The door opens. Dara sees Omawumi enter via the mirror. Turns.

DARA

We're ready?

Once Omawumi nods, Dara's hands start to tremble again. Omawumi notices, smiles sympathetically.

OMAWUMI

It's going to be ok.

Dara clasps her hands together. No test of will this time.

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

We have a strong case.

Dara tries to smile, but her eyes tell the truth.

4 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

4

TOMISIN BUCKNOR a calm man in his sixties sits at the head of the table. If he did not win the battles in his life, he didn't lose by much.

FARIDAH THE PARALEGAL sits by his side, hands delicately balanced on an open laptop. Clearly a bit of an eager beaver.

Funlayo and Gbenga sit on Faridah's side of the table. Omawumi and Dara on the other.

TOMISIN

Good morning, my name is Tomisin Bucknor. I am the arbitrator appointed by the Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Nigerian Branch. This arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 2004. Faridah my paralegal will be taking the minutes of this session. This is not a court room, but the rules of evidence may apply. If there are no comments we will move to the claimant's statement.

FUNLAYO

I have a comment.

Of course she does.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

The Federal High Court ruled that this case must go to arbitration. However I would challenge your jurisdiction to hear the matter.

OMAWUMI

The court already ruled on this Your Honour.

TOMISIN

I am not a judge Ms. Horsfall.

Omauwumi wants to fall into the ground. Funlayo's smirk makes it worse but to her credit she does continue:

OMAWUMI

Not only did the court rule on this Mr. Bucknor, neither the Court of Appeal nor the Supreme Court agreed to take Mr. Sanni's appeal. It is clear that the arbitration panel is the right place for the case.

Once Omauwumi winds down, Tomisin simply turns to Funlayo:

TOMISIN

State your case Mrs. Johnson.

FUNLAYO

Ms. Olujobi resigned her post at Iwaju Limited before the incident happened. She should not be covered under the arbitration clause of her employment contract because the contract was void.

Tomisin turns his attention to Omauwumi inviting her to rebut.

OMAWUMI

That's not true your... Mr. Bucknor. While Ms. Olujobi had resigned, she was within the six month notice period. She remained an employee. She was receiving a salary. As such Ms. Olujobi deserves the full protection of her employment contract.

Tomisin mulls it over for a good while, eventually he nods.

TOMISIN

Your comment is noted Mrs. Johnson, but we will go ahead.

Funlayo smiles like she expected nothing less. Boss.

TOMISIN (CONT'D)

Please present the claimant's statement.

OMAWUMI

On the evening of August 10th 2016 my client Dara Olujobi visited the home of Gbenga Sanni the CEO of Iwaju
(MORE)

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

Limited. Whilst there she was sexually assaulted by Mr. Sanni. The assault was the latest in a sequence that lasted for two years and created a hostile work environment for Ms. Olujobi. Mr. Sanni's actions forced Ms. Olujobi out of Iwaju and cost her shares amounting to thirty percent of Iwaju Limited. Ms. Olujobi is seeking redress in the following manner. Ms. Olujobi is seeking the accelerated grant of her thirty percent shareholding in Iwaju

GBENGA

You must be joking!

OMAWUMI

Mr. Bucknor please instruct the defendant to remain silent.

TOMISIN

Again, this is not a court Ms. Horsfall and he is not a defendant.

But Tomisin does shoot Funlayo a clear "Keep him quiet" look. In turn Funlayo whispers into Gbenga's ear.

Once that's done, Tomisin motions for Omawumi to continue.

OMAWUMI

Ms. Olujobi is also seeking damages amounting to the naira equivalent of one million us dollars.

Gbenga snorts in disbelief, and shrugs innocently in response to Tomisin's irritated look.

TOMISIN

The purpose of this arbitration is to determine whether Ms. Olujobi should be granted her requests. To that end we will hear testimony from Ms. Olujobi and Mr. Sanni. If I am unable to reach a decision after the testimonies, both parties are free to call additional witnesses.

(to Omawumi)

Ms. Horsfall you may begin.

Omawumi nods. Turns to Dara.

OMAWUMI

Ms. Olujobi tell us in your own words
what happened that night.

5 EXT. GBENGA'S HOUSE - PAST - NIGHT 5

Semi-detached, upper middle class tings.

DARA (V.O.)

I went to see him that night.

6 INT. GBENGA'S HOUSE - PAST - CONTINUOUS 6

LIVING ROOM

Dara sits at the edge of the couch of a pretty awesome living
room. Clearly uncomfortable.

An open bottle of wine and a full glass sit on the table.
Gbenga brings in another glass. He sits as he pours the wine
into the glass. As he hands it over:

GBENGA

Did I tell you, you look amazing?

And she does. In a red bodycon dress and artfully done hair.
Dara smiles and takes the compliment.

DARA

Where is Chiamaka?

GBENGA

She's still in the UK.

DARA

I guess she's having the baby there.

GBENGA

(winces)

I wish you'd let me explain -

DARA

There's nothing to explain.

Cue uncomfortable silence. Dara avoids his gaze. Focuses on
her wine glass until Gbenga takes it from her and places it
on the dinning table.

As he leans in, Dara freezes slightly, but she does let him
kiss her. Eventually she pushes him away.

DARA (CONT'D)

No.

(MORE)

DARA (CONT'D)
 (still pushing)
 No.
 (harder)
 I said no!

Gbenga lets her go with the smile of a man that knows he will get what he wants.

GBENGA
 So why did you come here.

DARA
 You know why.

GBENGA
 I can't waive your non-compete clause.
 It's a board decision.

DARA
 The board is you, me and Mariam. I think between us we have the votes.

GBENGA
 It's just six months. Think of it as an extended holiday not Iwaju barring you from working.
 (the smile is back)
 It's not like Chijioke won't wait for you.

Dara is silent. Gbenga's smile disappears.

GBENGA (CONT'D)
 So his mail was true. You did join Super VAS.

DARA
 I just want to move on with my life.
 (she stands)
 You owe me that much.

She walks to the door. Opens it. Takes one step through:

GBENGA
 One night.

That hits Dara hard. She turns to give him a piece of her mind. As she opens her mouth:

GBENGA (CONT'D)
 One night. For old times sake and I'll sign whatever you want.

DARA
Please. Don't do this.

Gbenga has the grace to look guilty but he doesn't back down.

We look through the doorway watching the emotions dance across Dara's face with Gbenga in the background.

Slowly. Agonisingly. The door slides shut.

7 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

7

Dara sits very still as she comes to the end of her story. Her eyes bright with unshed tears.

OMAWUMI
Thank you very much Dara.

The story clearly affected Tomisin. He looks sympathetic as he turns to Funlayo.

TOMISIN
You may question the claimant Mrs. Johnson.

Funlayo flashes a predatory smile.

FUNLAYO
Do you mind if I stand?

She barely waits for Tomisin's nod before doing so.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)
That's quite the story Ms. Olujobi. So did you go to the police?

DARA
Yes I did.

FUNLAYO
And what did they say?

DARA (V.O.)
Apparently the mistress of a married man cannot get raped.

Funlayo is confused.

FUNLAYO
Rape? What you described doesn't sound like rape.

DARA
He had sex with me against my will.
(MORE)

DARA (CONT'D)

I think you'll find that meets the standard definition of rape.

FUNLAYO

You described an offer Ms. Olujobi. An offer you accepted. Not a rape.

DARA

He had my future in his hands. I couldn't say no.

FUNLAYO

A six month delay? I think you'd find that is a matter of opinion.

(beat)

Tell me what happened on June 29th 2015.

DARA

I'm sorry. I'm not sure I follow.

8 EXT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - DAY 8
Standard lekki house converted into an office.

FUNLAYO (V.O.)

Tell us what happened the day you quit.

9 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - CONTINUOUS 9
GBENGA'S OFFICE

Gbenga is working at his desk. The door slams open. Dara blows in like a storm.

GBENGA

Hey beautiful. Who annoyed-

He ducks. Because an object flew at his head. He turns and sees a phone on the floor.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

What the hell?

DARA

Pregnant! She's fucking pregnant!

GBENGA

I can explain.

DARA

Please. Please tell me she tripped and fell on your dick.

GBENGA

It's compli - I was going to tell-

DARA

You cheated on me with her! Her!

GBENGA

Technically I'm cheating with you.
She is my wife after all.

Dara is not amused at his attempt at a joke. Her frown wipes the smile off his case.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

We can get through this.

DARA

She's pregnant with your child.

And that as they say is that.

GBENGA

Please don't do this.

Dara takes a deep breath. Fighting tears.

DARA

Consider this my six months notice.
Fuck you!

Dara whirls in her heels and strides away.

10 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

10

Funlayo is looking confused. Obviously an act.

FUNLAYO

So you wanted him to leave his
pregnant wife for you?

From the look of disgust on Tomisin's face, that comment is clearly aimed at him.

DARA

I wanted him to live up to the promise
he made me.

FUNLAYO

And what promise was that?

Dara directs her answer at Gbenga:

DARA

To love me for the rest of our lives.

FUNLAYO

He's a married man, Ms Olujobi he doesn't get to keep that promise.

Dara looks away. Unable to argue with the truth of that.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

And while I appreciate the circumstances in which you found yourself, you did seduce Gbenga.

OMAWUMI

I object.

FUNLAYO

What are you objecting to?

OMAWUMI

The relevance of this line of questioning.

FUNLAYO

Your client has slandered a celebrated entrepreneur. Her past history with him speaks to motive.

All through this Tomisin is silent. But from the look he gives Dara it's clear what the answer will be.

TOMISIN

The claimant will answer the question.

11 INT. GBENGA'S HOUSE - PAST - NIGHT

11

LIVING ROOM

Dara lies on the same couch. The door opens. She sits up. Bestows a dazzling smile on Gbenga who is carrying takeout.

DARA

Finally. Did they have to harvest the rice from Thailand?

Gbenga grins at her and places the bags on the coffee table. He uses his knee to bump her thigh familiarly.

GBENGA

Move jare.

She sticks her tongue out at him as she complies. Cute.

DARA

Aren't you going to get plates?

GBENGA

Em. I got the food.

DARA

It's your house.

GBENGA

And you know where the kitchen is.

DARA

Not going to happen.

GBENGA

I'll give you one k if you go.

DARA

You think I'm that cheap?

GBENGA

Yes ke.

DARA

I'll give you a kiss if you go.

Gbenga's smile broadens.

GBENGA

How do I know you will pay?

DARA

Don't you trust me?

Dara grins at Gbenga's answering smirk before proceeding to kiss him on the forehead.

GBENGA

What? What kind of false advertising is this? I'm going to report.

DARA

To who?

GBENGA

I'll have you know I'm good friends with the chairman of APCON. He takes false advertising very seriously.

DARA

Fine.

Dara presses her lips against his. Light. Not really sexual. She moves to disengage but he wraps his hands around her and deepens the kiss.

GBENGA

Sorry. Couldn't resist.
 (at her raised eyebrow)
 To be fair you know I've wanted this
 from the second I saw you.

Dara can't maintain her frown. She bursts out laughing.

DARA

Really! "From the second I saw you"
 What kind of secondary school line
 is that?

Gbenga grins like he is indeed in secondary school.

GBENGA

Whatever. You know you want it too.

When she remains silent, Gbenga moves to kiss her again. She
 puts her hand on his chest.

DARA

(are you sure)
 The food will get cold.

GBENGA

(definitely)
 I have a microwave.

He swoops in once more time, but before their lips touch:

DARA

Just know, I'm not going to the
 kitchen.

He laughs in delight and kisses her deeply. Now that's some
 romance.

12 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

12

Funlayo is smiling the smile of the victor.

FUNLAYO

A dangerous game to play with a
 married man.

DARA

He escalated it.

FUNLAYO

You poured the petrol and you are
 surprised he lit the match.

DARA

This doesn't change what happened.

FUNLAYO
 (yea right)
 Of course not.
 (beat)
 Did he keep his word?

DARA
 I'm sorry?

FUNLAYO
 Did he waive the anti-compete clause
 in your contract and allow you to
 work for a rival company?

DARA
 Yes.

FUNLAYO
 So why are we here? Why didn't you
 put it behind you and move on?

Dara is silent.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)
 Iwaju bought Super VAS and your offer
 was rescinded. Is that correct?

DARA
 Yes but-

FUNLAYO
 I have no more questions.

Funlayo sits down. Gbenga's shit eating grin lets you know
 what he thinks about that.

TOMISIN
 I think we can do with a brief recess.
 We'll pick up Mr. Sanni's testimony
 in thirty minutes.

13 EXT. GARDEN - DAY

13

Dara wanders alone in the small garden outside the complex.

OMAWUMI (O.S.)
 It's going to be ok.

Dara turns to see a clearly concerned Omawumi.

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)
 Funlayo is a legend. I've known her
 since I was a kid. She could make
 you think Jesus deserved the cross.

Dara nods and continues her contemplation of a bush.

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

But nothing she said changes the facts. You could have had sex a million times before. All that matters is that the last time was coerced.

DARA

He's going to lie.

OMAWUMI

Of course he's going to lie, if he agrees with you, we win.

DARA

He's very good at it. Very charming. He-

OMAWUMI

It's ok. We're going to be fine. We've gamed this out. He's not going to get away with this!

14 INT. ANTEROOM - MOMENTS LATER

14

Funlayo is waiting for Omawumi and Dara as they enter from the garden. Dara wants to wait, but Funlayo motions her ahead.

Once Dara enters the conference room, Funlayo begins.

FUNLAYO

That was fun.

Omawumi doesn't rise to the bait. She tries to walk past. Funlayo blocks her off.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

Did you see Tomisin's face by the time I was done?

OMAWUMI

What do you want?

FUNLAYO

Tell your client to withdraw the complaint.

OMAWUMI

Why would we do that?

FUNLAYO

Because when you lose - and you will - she won't get another job.

(MORE)

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

No one likes false rape accusations.
 (now friendly)
 You also don't want a loss like this
 on your record.

Omawumi manages a smile.

OMAWUMI

Thank you for your concern aunty.
 But we must decline your kind offer.

FUNLAYO

This is not the kind of case you
 want to lose. Bad for your career.

Omawumi can't believe Funlayo went there.

OMAWUMI

I'm not selling out my client.

FUNLAYO

It's not selling out to act in your
 best interest and hers.

Omawumi doesn't dignify that with an answer. She stalks off.

15 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

15

As soon as Omawumi enters the room:

DARA (O.S.)

What did she want?

Omawumi turns to Dara, who's standing by the door.

OMAWUMI

For me to drop the case.
 (smiles)
 I told you we have a chance.

Dara smiles shyly in return.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

16 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

16

As we were. It's Gbenga's turn. Funlayo is seated this time.

FUNLAYO

Tell us about yourself.

GBENGA

My name is Gbenga Sanni and I'm the CEO of Iwaju Limited.

FUNLAYO

What does Iwaju do?

GBENGA

We're a technology company. We provide software for bank text alerts and mobile apps. With the acquisition of SuperVAS we are also the largest independent provider of music and subscription texts in Nigeria.

FUNLAYO

And how much would you say the company is worth?

GBENGA

Right now I'd say about one hundred and fifty million dollars.

FUNLAYO

And how much do you own of the company?

GBENGA

Forty-six percent.

FUNLAYO

Wow. You're a rich man.

Gbenga flashes a smile. Smug bastard tings.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

So who is Dara Olujobi? And what is her relationship with you?

GBENGA

Up until nine months ago she was the Chief Operating Officer of Iwaju. My number two if you will.

FUNLAYO

And how much of this one fifty million did she have?

GBENGA

The exact number is tricky but she would have had thirty percent of the company before the Super VAS purchase.

FUNLAYO

Thirty percent! That's a lot of money.
Why would she walk away from that?

GBENGA

She wanted something I couldn't give.
(beat)
She wanted me to leave my wife and
child.

FUNLAYO

And when you rebuffed her, she left
of her own accord.

GBENGA

Yes. That is correct.

FUNLAYO

How long was your affair?

Gbenga sighs. Perfectly playing the repentant sinner.

GBENGA

Um. Um. Two years.

FUNLAYO

But it ended. Correct?

GBENGA

My wife was pregnant with our
daughter. She was gracious enough to
give me another chance.

FUNLAYO

And you felt this way when she
visited.

GBENGA

Absolutely.

FUNLAYO

Tell us what happened that night.

17 INT. GBENGA'S HOUSE - PAST - NIGHT

17

LIVING ROOM

The TV is on. A bottle of wine with a glass on the table.
Gbenga fast asleep on the couch.

BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. Pounding on the door. Gbenga jerks awake.
He groggily shuffles to the door. Looks through the peephole.

He reluctantly opens the door as an angry Dara pushes past
him and into the room.

GBENGA

You shouldn't have come.

DARA

How dare you send that email?

GBENGA

Of course I'm going to insist on the non-compete. SuperVAS is a competitor.

DARA

SuperVAS isn't a competitor!

GBENGA

The Diamond Bank mobile app tender is on. You tell me that if I let you go SuperVAS won't bid?

She reaches out and touches his hand.

DARA

If you ever loved me.

GBENGA

I'm sorry. I would rather you stay but if you must go, you have to wait six months to work for SuperVAS.

He removes his hand and walks to the door. A panicked Dara follows. She pushes against the door to stop him opening it then kisses his neck.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

Dara.

DARA

(finger to his lips)

Shhh.

Dara continues kissing him. We're outside and we watch the door close with them kissing.

18 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

18

Gbenga is looking contrite. Funlayo sympathetic.

FUNLAYO

So you betrayed your vows.

GBENGA

Yes.

FUNLAYO

Despite everything you said.

GBENGA

Yes.

FUNLAYO

But you did not rape her.

GBENGA

No.

FUNLAYO

You did not coerce her.

GBENGA

No.

FUNLAYO

So why did you sleep with her.

GBENGA

(looks at Dara)

I love her.

FUNLAYO

That's quite the statement from a man with a wife and a baby.

GBENGA

Dara... Dara is special.

FUNLAYO

And you feel she used that specialness to manipulate you.

Gbenga looks away. The answer is clearly "yes"

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

And that's not the first time is it?

GBENGA

(dragged out of him)

No. No it's not.

FUNLAYO

Tell me about how you two met?

19 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - DAY

19

GBENGA'S OFFICE

Gbenga is working at his desk in his tech-chic office when Dara is ushered into the office by the RECEPTIONIST.

GBENGA (V.O.)

It was May 19 2011.

As he stands to shake Dara's hand, he's noticing and liking what he's noticing. Dara retrieves her hand and sits.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

So what can I do for you Ms. Olujobi?

DARA

As I said in my mail our firm needs to discuss your Bulk SMS rates-

GBENGA

It's not going to work.

DARA

I'm sorry?

GBENGA

Nnamdi sending a pretty girl to seduce me into renegotiating his Bulk SMS rates is not going to work.

DARA

So that's what he did?

GBENGA

This is Nigeria. This is how you advertising people roll, but that's not how I run my business.

DARA

I see.

GBENGA

So tell him the price is the price.

DARA

(As she stands)

He will be relieved to hear that.

*

Gbenga frowns at the unexpected comment.

GBENGA

What do you mean relieved?

DARA

I've been trying to convince him to switch APIs. An Indian provider has one for twenty percent of your cost.

GBENGA

And where will you get an SMS gateway?

DARA

Everybody and their brother in Computer Village has an SMS gateway.

Gbenga now realises he may have made a mistake.

GBENGA

Maybe I was too hasty. Please sit.

(she does)

Most advertising people don't know anything about APIs and SMS gateways.

DARA

Most advertising people don't have a first class in computer science.

GBENGA

So why advertising? With a first class you could write your own ticket in Nigeria. IT, telecoms-

DARA

Five minutes ago you thought I was here to fuck you, now you think I am wasting my life.

How many times can one man put his foot in his mouth.

GBENGA

Maybe we should start again.

DARA

For a third time?

At first Gbenga thinks she's upset, but catches the twinkle in her eye. He flashes a smile of his own.

GBENGA

So how much of a reduction do you want?

DARA

I think fifty percent is fair.

GBENGA

Fifty percent! That's crazy!

DARA

It's fair. Besides with your GT Bank SMS alert contract you'll barely even notice the reduction.

GBENGA

It's not fair, and I haven't won the contract yet. We're still bidding.

DARA

I've seen the other APIs. You should win hands down.

Gbenga is suddenly unsure of himself as he sits back down.

GBENGA

I sell bulk SMS. A tier-1 bank may not trust my reputation regardless of how good my product is.

DARA

There is that.
(stands)
Good luck.

As Gbenga stands to bid her goodbye, a brain wave hits.

GBENGA

Wait. You've worked for bank clients?

DARA

(not sure where this
is going)
Yes.

GBENGA

You know what they're looking for right?

DARA

(laughs)
Are you trying to offer me a job?

GBENGA

You said it yourself I have the best product.

Dara hesitates. Gbenga takes it as permission to go all in.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

You're a software engineer that understands selling to banks. I didn't know I needed you until I met you, but I fucking need you.

DARA

Why would I want to work for you?

GBENGA

Because nothing you do in advertising will give you the same feeling as winning this contract.

Now that's a line. Only someone like Gbenga can deliver the line with a straight face. Dara is clearly moved.

DARA

And what happens if you don't win?

Gbenga grins. Charm on full blast.

GBENGA
We win the next one.

Dara can't help herself, she smiles back. It's a wrap.

20 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 20

Gbenga smiles slightly as he finishes the story.

FUNLAYO
But hiring her wasn't your idea. Was it?

GBENGA
No it wasn't.

21 INT. GBENGA'S HOUSE - PAST - NIGHT 21

LIVING ROOM

Dara's fingers flying as she types.

GBENGA (V.O.)
We were working on a Zenith bank app

Dara sees Gbenga asleep. She flicks a piece of paper from a rubber bad at him. He starts awake. He scowls at Dara. She's unmoved.

DARA
You're supposed to be helping me.

GBENGA
What's with the rubber band?

DARA
It's my thing. So?

GBENGA
Is this not why I hired you.

DARA
Please. I hired myself.

Gbenga shoots her a lazy grin. Clearly calling bullshit.

DARA (CONT'D)
Think about it. Why would Nnamdi send his account exec to renegotiate Bulk SMS, especially when we charge the client with a margin on top?

Gbenga is flabbergasted. He struggles to process.

GBENGA

Nnamdi didn't know about the meeting?

DARA

Nope.

GBENGA

So how did you know I'd hire you?

DARA

Because you needed me. I just had to make you realise it.

Gbenga laughs at the absurdity of it all.

GBENGA

Ms. Olujobi thank you for being just what I needed.

Dara's answering smile gives you all the feels.

22 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

22

Funlayo is not pleased.

FUNLAYO

Let me see if I understand. The claimant tricked you into offering her a job. Seduced you. Tried to make you leave your wife and then tried to join your rival. When all that failed eventually she accused you of rape. Is that correct?

Gbenga tries not to answer, but he manages a nod.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

Special indeed.

(beat)

So Super VAS. Did you buy them to spite the claimant?

GBENGA

Of course not. They are the strongest player in the music ringback tunes and specialty texts. That kind of thing. We're the strongest player in finance. We're complimentary. It made strategic sense to buy them.

FUNLAYO

But the timing though? Coincidence?

GBENGA

We've been talking for over a year,
it just fell together.

FUNLAYO

Of course. Things in business take
time.

(beat)

So how did she react?

23 EXT. GBENGA'S HOUSE - PAST - NIGHT 23

Gbenga is leaving his house as he answers the phone.

DARA (OVER THE PHONE)

You fucking bastard! I'm going to
make you pay!

24 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 24

Funlayo is sympathetic.

FUNLAYO

I see. Thank you very much.

And with one last look at Tomisin, that completes the picture
painted of the poor maligned businessman ever susceptible to
the Jezebel. Damn she's good.

Poor Omawumi looks overwhelmed. She whispers to her self:
"Stay calm. Follow the plan."

One deep breath later, Omawumi gathers herself to face Gbenga.

OMAWUMI

Mr. Sanni can you tell us what
happened the day after?

GBENGA

The day after what?

OMAWUMI

The day after Dara took the job.

Gbenga smiles a bit uncertainly and nods.

25 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - DAY 25

A powerpoint slide fills the screen. Dense, soul crushing
stuff.

DARA (O.S.)

This is shit.

Next slide. More of the same.

DARA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

This is shit.

Next slide. Even more of the same.

DARA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

This is pointless.

Next slide. It's a thank you slide.

GBENGA (O.S.)

I hope that one is not shit.

We pull back to find Dara and Gbenga over a laptop in

GBENGA'S OFFICE

DARA

I've seen better thank yous.

GBENGA

(defensive)

I'm a software engineer, power point presentation is not my thing.

DARA

I'm a software engineer too, that's not an excuse.

GBENGA

Steve Jobs hated powerpoint.

DARA

You're not Steve Jobs.

GBENGA

If I wore a black turtleneck and glasses you couldn't tell us apart.

Dara doesn't take the bait.

DARA

We need to finish this to submit the bid. We don't have time for bad jokes.

GBENGA

There's always time for bad jokes.

(clears throat)

Yoruba girls are so respectful I saw two of them kneel down in appreciation after collecting money from the ATM.

Dara rolls her eyes.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

No? How about this one: During the Nigerian book festival a BBC reporter asked a Yoruba girl to mention a book that changed her life. She said:

GBENGA AND DARA

(together)

Her husband's cheque book.

GBENGA

Oh you've heard that one.

DARA

We've all heard that one. Now go away and let me work.

Gbenga grins as Dara returns to typing.

26 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

26

Omawumi is confused.

OMAWUMI

So Dara did the presentation for the GT Bank contract?

GBENGA

That's why I hired her.

OMAWUMI

The presentation that won you the contract.

GBENGA

I'd say my software won the contract.

Omawumi picks up her tablet, hands it over to Gbenga.

OMAWUMI

Please read the quote from the GT Bank IT Head.

FUNLAYO

I haven't seen this document.

OMAWUMI

This is not a court.

Score one for Omawumi. Finally.

TOMISIN

What is the document Ms. Horsfall?

OMAWUMI

The GT Bank press release announcing the Iwaju SMS alert contract award.

Tomisin thinks about it for a second.

TOMISIN

You may read it Mr. Sanni.

GBENGA

(reads)

"Iwaju's product was just as good, if not better than the others. However the clarity of thought of their presentation really sold it. Going through it, I thought I had to be in business with this company."

(deep breath)

The presentation wouldn't have sold anything without the product.

OMAWUMI

Of course. But you do agree that the GT Bank contract was instrumental in ensuring the success of Iwaju and that Dara played a pivotal role?

Gbenga hesitates.

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

I need an answer Mr. Sanni.

GBENGA

Yes that is correct.

OMAWUMI

Bank SMS was your biggest business?

GBENGA

Yes it was.

OMAWUMI

And Dara led the team that marketed and deployed it?

GBENGA

Under my supervision.

OMAWUMI

Is it still your biggest business?

GBENGA

No. The Just Load business is.

OMAWUMI

What is Just Load?

GBENGA

It allows you to load credit by dialing a code on your phone.

OMAWUMI

Oh. Clever. Who came up with that?

Gbenga hesitates. Omawumi affects an impatient expression.

GBENGA

Dara did.

OMAWUMI

I see. And how much credit do you sell on Just Load? Say in a month?

GBENGA

We do about a billion a month.

OMAWUMI

Wow. One billion. A month. And what's your margin on that? Seven percent?

GBENGA

No. Five percent comes to us.

OMAWUMI

That's fifty million naira a month.

Wow. And is all of that profit?

(Gbenga nods)

That's a lot of money Dara brought to the company.

GBENGA

Yes.

OMAWUMI

But she didn't own any part of it?

GBENGA

It's not that simple.

OMAWUMI

Try and explain it to us.

GBENGA

She had share grants that would give her thirty percent of the company.

OMAWUMI

Shares she left when you forced her out.

GBENGA

She chose to leave.

OMAWUMI

She left millions of dollars on the table to get away from you.

Omawumi pauses to let that sink in.

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

Please tell us how long she would have had to work to earn those shares?

GBENGA

Seven years.

The disapproval in the room is palpable.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

(blurts)

It was my investors.

OMAWUMI

Investors. Jaguar Capital?

GBENGA

They wanted to make sure she'd stay.

OMAWUMI

Just so I understand, Jaguar Capital is the reason why Dara had no shares.

GBENGA

Yes.

OMAWUMI

That's interesting. Tell me how did you get the Jaguar Capital investment?

27 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - DAY

27

CONFERENCE ROOM

A meeting is wrapping up between a bunch of BANKER types, Gbenga and Dara. Once they leave the room:

GBENGA

Can you believe that shit? I hate fucking bankers.

(points a finger)

Don't you dare say I told you so!

Dara shelves what she was going to say and adopts a butter won't melt in her mouth expression.

DARA
Mariam Yusuf is in town.

GBENGA
Who?

Dara scowls at him.

DARA
You know damn well who she is.

GBENGA
I don't want an equity investor.
(at her look)
Apart from you.

DARA
Yea don't forget that. You owe me
shares boy.
(serious now)
Mariam and I were in the same class
in QC. She'll do right by us.

Gbenga can't help himself. He laughs.

GBENGA
How does you going to QC with her
means she'll do right by us?

DARA
Because QC girls stick together.

28 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

28

Omawumi is confused.

OMAWUMI
Wait, so the person behind Jaguar
Capital was Dara's school friend?

GBENGA
Yes.

OMAWUMI
And yet she insisted on the lock-up?
She did that to her own friend?

GBENGA
She didn't make the decision. Her
bosses wanted to ensure Dara stayed.

OMAWUMI
I see.
(MORE)

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

Tell me about the conversation you had with Ms. Olujobi after you got the Jaguar Capital email informing you of their investment committee approval.

29 INT. GBENGA'S HOUSE - PAST - NIGHT

29

LIVING ROOM

Dara is working at the dinner table Gbenga emerges from the kitchen with a bottle of wines.

DARA

Finally! Did they have to pick the grapes in France!

Gbenga makes a face.

GBENGA

Can you stop with these your dry jokes?

DARA

They're better than your Yoruba girl jokes.

GBENGA

In your mind!

He sits next to her and starts working. After a bit:

GBENGA (CONT'D)

Mariam called me.

Dara looks up, curious.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

She said her IC asked that I delay the share transfer to you.

DARA

What? Why?

GBENGA

They want to make it part of their own transaction.

DARA

Why? What does it matter?
 (frowns)
 You told them no right?
 (searches his face)
 You agreed.

GBENGA

We'll close in three months. It's not that long.

DARA

I should've gotten my shares last year.

GBENGA

I know. I know. I fucked up. But it's just paperwork. The shares are yours. Just a little while longer.

Dara is upset. She allows herself to be mollified.

DARA

You have my back right?

GBENGA

Always.

30 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

30

Omawumi is disgusted.

OMAWUMI

So you went from promising her shares to telling her she had to wait seven years for them?

GBENGA

It was her idea to go Jaguar and besides she agreed.

OMAWUMI

She wanted to push back, you told her not to risk it, that you were afraid Jaguar would pull out.

GBENGA

She agreed.

OMAWUMI

That was three days before you slept together. Is that correct?

GBENGA

What does that matter?

OMAWUMI

Did it ever occur to you that she slept with you to ensure she got her fair share in the company she built?

Funlayo bursts out in perfectly timed incredulous laughter.

FUNLAYO

I didn't know we were allowed wild conjecture.

Omawumi focuses on Tomisin.

OMAWUMI

Mr. Sanni has shown manipulative behaviour towards my client in the past. It is reasonable to assume she could have acted to protect herself the only way she knew how.

FUNLAYO

This is ridiculous. Mr. Bucknor please direct that my client not answer the question.

It's a bullshit question, but you know Tomisin wants the answer

TOMISIN

Mr. Sanni please answer the question.

Funlayo hides her disappointment with a slight smile.

GBENGA

No I didn't think she was buying my loyalty. We loved each other.

OMAWUMI

But you betrayed her.

GBENGA

I did my best for her.

OMAWUMI

Easy for you to say. You owned your shares, she had to wait for hers.

GBENGA

It's my company.

OMAWUMI

She was the reason for its success.

GBENGA

I would disagree with that.

OMAWUMI

Of course you would.

FUNLAYO

Is that a question?

Omawumi returns Funlayo's smile.

OMAWUMI

Mr. Sanni how did you find out Ms. Olujobi was joining Super VAS?

31 INT. GBENGA'S HOUSE - PAST - NIGHT 31

LIVING ROOM

Gbenga is working at the table. He's reading an email on the screen. From Chijioke.Utah@supervas.Ng. Title: Hahahaha. Subject. I got your secret weapon. You're done.

GBENGA (V.O.)

I got an email from Chijioke of SuperVAS.

32 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 32

Omawumi is confused.

OMAWUMI

You bought SuperVAS because of an email?

GBENGA

SuperVAS focused on music. It was possible that with Dara joining them, they could make inroads into finance.
(pointed)

As you said, she was important to us

Funlayo winces. Omawumi smiles.

OMAWUMI

(to Paralegal)

Sorry. What's your name?

The Paralegal is shocked to be addressed.

PARALEGAL

Um. Faridah. Faridah Ahmed.

OMAWUMI

Faridah, could you please read back the transcript of Mrs. Johnson's questioning of Mr. Sanni as relates to Iwaju's purchase of SuperVAS.

Now. Gbenga realises what he's done.

GBENGA

I misspoke. I -

TOMISIN

Mr. Sanni, you will get your chance.
Faridah?

PARALEGAL

Mrs. Johnson asks: So Super VAS. Did you buy them to spite the claimant?
Mr. Sanni replies: Of course not. They are the strongest player in the music ringback tunes and specialty texts. That kind of thing. We're the strongest player in finance. We're complimentary. It made strategic sense to buy them. Mrs. Johnson asks: But the timing though? Coincidence?
Mr. Sanni replied: We've been talking for over a year, it just fell together.

Omawumi looks like the cat that got the cream.

OMAWUMI

Which is it Mr. Sanni? You were talking for a year or you did it to prevent Dara joining?

GBENGA

Dara's leaving may have contributed to the decision to fast track.
(nobody is buying it)
Look you can't complete a deal like this overnight. That it was done in a week proves we'd been talking.

OMAWUMI

Of. Course. And whose idea was it to buy SuperVAS? Who started those talks?

GBENGA

(low)
Dara.

OMAWUMI

I can't hear you Mr. Sanni.

GBENGA

Dara.
(combative)
And yes I resisted it initially.

Omawumi smiles. Of course that was to be her next question.

OMAWUMI

Who is Ebele Nwachukwu?

GBENGA

(angry)

She has nothing to do with this.

(to Dara)

Why would you do this?

OMAWUMI

Please do not address my client.

FUNLAYO

Relevance Mr. Bucknor?

Tomisin doesn't even wait for Omawumi to counter:

TOMISIN

Clearly Mr. Sanni feels differently.

(to Gbenga)

You may answer the question.

33 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - DAY 33

CEO'S OFFICE

A pretty WOMAN - EBELE NWACHUWKU we presume - brings a file into Gbenga's office.

GBENGA (V.O.)

Ebele was my first receptionist.

34 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - DAY 34

CEO'S OFFICE

Ebele and Gbenga are laughing together in the office.

GBENGA (V.O.)

She was smart, funny and ambitious.

35 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - NIGHT 35

CEO'S OFFICE

Ebele and Gbenga are making out in the office.

GBENGA (V.O.)

Things progressed until-

36 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - NIGHT 36

GBENGA'S OFFICE

Ebele is crying in the office. Gbenga is impassive.

GBENGA (V.O.)

She got pregnant. I didn't handle it well. I insisted she have an abortion.

OMAWUMI (V.O.)

Were you married?

GBENGA (V.O.)

Yes. About a year.

37 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

37

Gbenga is stonefaced as he finishes the tale.

GBENGA

The abortion was botched. She died.

Funlayo is furious.

FUNLAYO

Objection.

Funlayo she leaps to her feet.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

Mr. Bucknor this is highly prejudicial and irrelevant to the matter at hand.

Omawunmi joins her. Two Gladiators sparring.

OMAWUMI

I disagree Mr. Bucknor. Mr. Sanni's previous history in using women and leaving them to their fate is of utmost relevance. That Ms. Nwachukwu died is tragic, but the pattern it establishes is crucial for our case.

Every eye on Tomisin as he mulls it over. Eventually:

TOMISIN

While I appreciate the point Ms. Horsfall, I will not take the information about Ms. Nwachukwu into consideration in my judgment.

Omawumi is disappointed, but she nods in agreement.

TOMISIN (CONT'D)

Do you have any more questions for Mr. Sanni?

(Omawumi shakes her head)

I suggest we break for lunch and pick this up with the witnesses.

38 INT. ANTEROOM - DAY

38

Omawumi sits eating a apple. Remains of a sandwich in a plastic bowl on the seat beside her.

FUNLAYO (O.S.)

What a boring lunch.

Omawumi turns to see Funlayo standing over her.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

You should live a little.

(Funlayo sits)

You were good in there. I wasn't expecting a challenge at all.

Omawumi looks her square in the face.

OMAWUMI

We're not settling.

Funlayo smiles. "Of course." They sit in silence. Just before it gets uncomfortable:

FUNLAYO

Did you know that the purchase of Super VAS means that Mr. Sanni only owns forty six percent of the company?

Omawumi looks across - "What does that mean?"

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

The other Iwaju shareholders believe the company would benefit from Ms. Olujobi's continued employment.

OMAWUMI

You expect her to work for him after what he did?

FUNLAYO

What he did is still a matter of dispute.

(waves it away)

However she need not work with him. She wanted to move to Super VAS and she can. In fact, she need not see him except for board meetings.

OMAWUMI

And the thirty percent ownership?

FUNLAYO

The board can see its way clear to a ten percent ownership for Ms. Olujobi.

OMAWUMI

The SuperVAS purchase would have reduced it to twenty percent.

FUNLAYO

Nineteen point five percent.

OMAWUMI

Let's add the point five for pain and suffering.

FUNLAYO

(approving smile)

That shouldn't be a problem.

OMAWUMI

And he needs to admit what he did.

FUNLAYO

Don't overplay your hand, girl.

OMAWUMI

A confession and twenty percent or no deal.

Funlayo stands. Fake smiles.

FUNLAYO

She won't get a better deal.

Funlayo gives Omawumi one more stern look.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

Talk to your client. Convince her.

With that she disappears into the conference room.

39 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

39

Gbenga sees Dara enter the room. He hisses.

GBENGA

This is bullshit.

Gbenga stands. Funlayo grabs his arm.

FUNLAYO

(harsh whisper)

What are you doing?

GBENGA

Ending this.

Gbenga shakes off her hand and over to Dara.

GBENGA (CONT'D)
Take the fucking deal!

OMAWUMI
Please don't address my client.

Gbenga eyes her very well. Turns back to Dara.

GBENGA
Twenty percent is more than you
deserve after today. It's more than
I would give you but-

DARA
What are you talking about? What
twenty percent?

It's Gbenga's turn to be confused. Then it clicks.

GBENGA
(to Omawumi)
You sneaky bitch.
(back to Dara)
You need to talk to your lawyer.

Dara looks at Omawumi uncertainly.

DARA (V.O.)
Why didn't you tell me?

40 EXT. GARDEN - DAY

40

Dara and Omawumi are in the garden. Dara is angry, Omawumi is not apologetic. She clearly believes she's in the right.

OMAWUMI
You would have settled.

DARA
It is my decision.
(calming breath)
What's the offer?
(Omawumi hesitates)
Tell me.

OMAWUMI
You can have your job back, or move
you to SuperVAS if you want. You
also get twenty percent of Iwaju.
(resigned)
It's everything you want but you
shouldn't take it.

DARA
Why not?

OMAWUMI

He's not admitting to the assault.

DARA

I don't think that is worth risking-

OMAWUMI

He doesn't get to win.

DARA

Going back with my equity and my job
is me winning.

OMAWUMI

Not if he's there.

DARA

What does it matter if he's there?

OMAWUMI

He doesn't get to rape you and have
it be ok!

Dara takes a good look at Omawumi. She figures it out.

DARA

Who was he?

OMAWUMI

It's not important. We need to focus
on your case.

DARA

You rejected an offer without telling
me. Clearly it's important.

Omawumi has remained silent but Dara gets and decides not to
push.

DARA (CONT'D)

You're right. It's not important.

(beat)

If he admits the rape he'll have to
resign.

OMAWUMI

So? It's not like you can't do his
job.

Dara is hesitant. She hasn't really thought about it.

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

Everything that company was, you
made and he took it from you.

(MORE)

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

Agree to work for him again and you're saying he was right to do everything he did. Including rape you!

Dara herself vibrates with Omawumi's passion but...

DARA

If we lose I get nothing.

Omawumi grins. She knows she has agreement.

OMAWUMI

We won't lose.

41 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

41

While everyone waits for Dara and Omawumi, the door opens and in walks CHIJIJOKE UTAH the CEO of Super VAS. A geek's geek. He looks a little lost in his oversized suit.

Gbenga is surprised to see him. He turns to Funlayo:

GBENGA

Did you know he was coming?

Gbenga crosses to meet Chijioke after Funlayo shakes her head.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

Chijioke what are you doing here?

CHIJIJOKE

Dara asked me to be a witness.

GBENGA

How can you be her witness?

CHIJIJOKE

Because she asked me.

GBENGA

She's suing the company! Your company. You're the second largest shareholder!

CHIJIJOKE

Technically she's suing you and we're paying a lot of money to defend you.

The dislike boils to the surface.

GBENGA

If you think you're going to use this suit to take my job-

CHIJIIOKE

That's what I like about you Gbenga.
Your crazy paranoia.

Gbenga scowls and hurries over to sit next to Funlayo.

GBENGA

Can we stop him?

Funlayo shakes her head.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

What do you think he will say?

By this point Dara and Omawumi have joined us. Funlayo glances over at them and shrugs.

FUNLAYO

I guess we'll find out.

TOMISIN

We will begin the afternoon session.
I see only one witness for the
claimant and none for the respondent.

FUNLAYO

We don't need another witness Mr.
Bucknor. Our case is open and shut.

Tomisin smiles at the attempt to influence him.

TOMISIN

(to Chijioke)

Please state your name for the record.

CHIJIIOKE

My name is Chijioke Utah and I'm the
Deputy Managing Director of Iwaju
Limited.

Tomisin gestures to Omawumi to begin.

OMAWUMI

When did you become DMD of Iwaju?

CHIJIIOKE

About nine months ago.

OMAWUMI

What were you before you joined Iwaju?

CHIJIIOKE

I was the CEO of SuperVAS.

OMAWUMI

And what were you before that?

CHIJIIOKE

(smile)

I was a software developer for Iwaju.

42 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - DAY

42

MAIN OFFICE OFFICE

Chijioke is working at his station as Dara and Gbenga come to meet him. He starts as he notices them.

CHIJIIOKE

Good afternoon sir.

GBENGA

Hey Chijioke and please my best engineer doesn't call me sir

Chijioke flashes a nervous smile.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

Dara says you have something to pitch.

CHIJIIOKE

Yes sir. Gbenga. Have you seen subscription SMS? Asking you pay fifty naira a week to get news, bible verses, sports-

GBENGA

Yes. I hate them. The people who send them should be shot!

Chijioke hesitates. Dara bursts out laughing. Chijioke looks pleadingly at Dara.

DARA

He wants us to go into the business. Says it'll take like a month to reconfigure our current platform.

GBENGA

Why would we want to do that?

DARA

Apparently it's very profitable.

CHIJIIOKE

Of the fifty naira per week, the telco will take thirty naira, we take ten and the provider of the information takes ten.

GBENGA

We're a respectable company doing business with billion dollar banks. How would it look if we hawked Daddy G.O. messages for fifty naira a week?

Chijioke hesitates.

CHIJIIOKE

Not good?

GBENGA

Exactly. But I like the hustle and the entrepreneurship. It's thinking outside the box like this that will continue to make Iwaju great.

CHIJIIOKE

Yes sir
(Gbenga frowns)
Sorry. Gbenga. Thank you.

GBENGA

No thank you. Keep up the good work.

Chijioke understands it is a dismissal. He struggles to hide his disappointment as Dara and Gbenga walk away.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

Why would you even bring that to me?

DARA

Because it's free money.

GBENGA (O.S.)

Not my kind of free money.

43 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

43

Omawumi watches Chijioke.

OMAWUMI

So you quit?

CHIJIIOKE

Of course.

OMAWUMI

And yet you came back.

CHIJIIOKE

That was Dara.

OMAWUMI

Care to expand?

CHIJIIOKE

Like everyone else I did ring back tunes but I was looking for money to develop a music platform. Iwaju raised money from Jaguar Capital the year earlier and she wanted to invest.

44 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - DAY

44

CONFERENCE ROOM

As Dara ushers Chijioke into the conference room, Gbenga stands and pumps his hand vigorously.

GBENGA

Great to see you!

CHIJIIOKE

Thank you sir!

GBENGA

Ahn ahn. You are still calling me sir? Are you not a CEO yourself?

Chijioke smiles shyly as Gbenga motions for everyone to sit.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

So Dara tells me you want to go into music downloads.

CHIJIIOKE

Yes. Ringback tunes are a good business for us but MTN and the other telcos are coming. We want to build a platform that gives our people a one stop shop for downloading.

GBENGA

Why would they use your platform and not Glo's or the other telcos?

CHIJIIOKE

We plan to build a social element to make it sticky.

GBENGA

Social? Social is difficult.

CHIJIIOKE

There's this brilliant girl who built a bridesmaid app for an events planner and got 100k users in 6 months. I hired her to run social.

GBENGA
 (not convinced)
 I see.
 (beat)
 How much are you looking for?

CHIJIIOKE
 Two million dollars.

GBENGA
 (whistles)
 That's a lot of money.

CHIJIIOKE
 Platform development is expensive.

GBENGA
 How much equity are you selling?

CHIJIIOKE
 Up to forty percent.

GBENGA
 For this we need at least seventy.

DARA
 Gbenga!

GBENGA
 (to Dara)
 His main business is under threat from the telcos. His new business needs a social media element to succeed which he is trusting to a young girl nobody knows about.

DARA
 I too was a girl nobody knew about.

Gbenga is thrown by that comment. He waves it away.

GBENGA
 It's risky. We need to be compensated.
 (to Chijioke)
 No offense bro. But you know I like to speak the truth.

Chijioke is dazed.

CHIJIIOKE
 I can't sell you seventy percent of my company.

GBENGA
 I can't do the deal for less.

Chijioke stands.

CHIJIIOKE

Thank you for your time.

45 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

45

Omawumi is curious.

OMAWUMI

So how did you raise the two million?

CHIJIIOKE

Dara introduced me to Jaguar Capital.
They gave me the two million.

(pointedly to Gbenga)

For twenty percent of my company.

FUNLAYO

Is there a point to this? All we've
heard is that Mr. Sanni turned down
Mr. Utah twice. Leading us to believe
that Mr. Utah has a grudge and to
conclude he's an unreliable witness.

OMAWUMI

Do you have a grudge Mr. Utah?

CHIJIIOKE

Of course not. Gbenga's stupidity
made me a very rich man.

OMAWUMI

But you don't like him.

CHIJIIOKE

No. I don't.

46 INT. IWAJU OFFICE - PAST - DAY

46

DARA'S OFFICE

Dara is working when Chijioke arrives.

DARA

Congratulations on the deal

CHIJIIOKE

Thanks. I couldn't have done it
without you and your advice.

Dara waves it off as she motions him to sit.

DARA

You didn't need me. Sit. Sit.
 (he does)
 So what's up? You wanted to discuss-

CHIJIIOKE

I want you to come work for me.

Dara bursts out laughing. Shit. He's serious. She stops laughing. As soon as she does:

CHIJIIOKE (CONT'D)

Fin-tech is great, but consumer is the future. SuperVAS will be bigger than Iwaju in three years.

DARA

Chijioke I -

CHIJIIOKE

He doesn't value you.

Dara shuts down. No longer friendly.

DARA

I think you better leave.

CHIJIIOKE

He's the reason Jaguar screwed you.

We stay on Dara as she waits for him to explain.

CHIJIIOKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Mariam said the Jaguar Investment Committee wanted to give you thirty percent of Iwaju but Gbenga didn't want to be diluted that much. He insisted that you keep the twenty percent he promised but that it was pre-investment.

She doesn't want to believe. She's shaking her head.

CHIJIIOKE (CONT'D)

The eventual compromise was that you'd get the thirty percent post but only after you stayed seven years.

Dara is destroyed. You can see it.

DARA

He told me he fought for me.

CHIJIIOKE

He betrayed you.

An email comes in. Dara looks down. It's from a woman called Chiamaka. It's a picture of a positive pregnancy test. The title is "Guess whose bitch."

Dara takes a deep breath.

DARA

Excuse me.

Dara leaves the room. We wait with Chijioke. We hear a thud. That's the phone flying.

DARA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Pregnant. She's fucking pregnant!

We hear the argument play out again from Chijoke's vantage. He just sits there looking uncomfortable as hell. Eventually the door slams back open. Dara stalks in breathing fire.

DARA (CONT'D)

Let's do this.

47 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

47

Omawumi doesn't quite understand.

OMAWUMI

So why would you agree to be purchased by Iwaju?

CHIJIIOKE

It was Mariam Yusuf's idea.

OMAWUMI

The Jaguar Capital investor?

CHIJIIOKE

Yes. She convinced Dara who convinced me. It made sense. Especially for Dara who would stay at Iwaju and accelerate her share grant.

OMAWUMI

But Gbenga disagreed?

CHIJIIOKE

Oh he agreed to the deal but only if Dara was excluded.

OMAWUMI

So why didn't that kill the deal?

48 INT. BAR - PAST - NIGHT

48

Chijioke and Dara are talking at a trendy bar.

CHIJIIOKE (V.O.)

Dara insisted.

DARA

You can't turn it down!

CHIJIIOKE

He's screwing you again!

DARA

Doesn't matter. You have to do the deal.

CHIJIIOKE

What about you?

DARA

I'll be fine. Interswitch is always hiring.

Chijioke's expression let us know what he thinks about that.

49 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

49

Omawumi is watching Chijioke.

OMAWUMI

So Gbenga's vindictiveness is the reason why Dara did not get her due?

Before Chijioke can answer:

FUNLAYO

Again I ask for the relevance of this testimony.

OMAWUMI

The testimony establishes that Mr. Sanni actively worked to deny Ms. Olujobi her fair share of Iwaju despite her being the true brains behind the company. It exposes actions that made Mr. Sanni millions of dollars and left Ms. Olujobi with nothing. It also supports our claim that he used the promise of promotion and advancement to coerce sexual favours from Ms. Olujobi.

Funlayo rolls her eyes at the melodrama of it all.

FUNLAYO

Mr. Bucknor do you agree that the claimant's case rests on the

(MORE)

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)
 conjecture that Ms. Olujobi was
 coerced into sex by Mr. Sanni over
 the course of their working life?

TOMISIN
 It is one of the assertions yes.

FUNLAYO
 I would like to introduce a witness
 to directly contradict that assertion.

TOMISIN
 You have no witnesses on the list
 Mrs. Johnson.

FUNLAYO
 Which is why I am requesting a recess.
 (Tomisin hesitates)
 It is crucial to my case Mr. Bucknor.

Tomisin looks over at Omawumi. Who looks to Dara. Who nods.

OMAWUMI
 We don't have a problem with it.

TOMISIN
 You have one hour.

FUNLAYO
 Better make it two. Lagos traffic.

Tomisin glances at Omawumi. After she shrugs, he nods.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)
 I would also like to ask Mr. Utah
 some questions before we go on recess.

Tomisin looks irritated, but nods.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)
 Mr. Utah are you in love with Ms.
 Olujobi?

Gotta give the guy credit, he doesn't hesitate.

CHIJIIOKE
 Yes I am.

FUNLAYO
 Don't you think that puts your
 testimony in doubt?

CHIJIIOKE

I don't see why. Everything I said
can be backed up by other people.

FUNLAYO

Except the meeting with Ms. Olujobi
where she urged you to take the deal.

Chijioke nods in agreement. Funlayo takes the point.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

Did you know that Ms. Olujobi called
Mr. Sanni to verbally abuse him?

CHIJIIOKE

Makes sense. He did screw her over.

FUNLAYO

And yet she still urged you to deal.
(fake confusion)
Isn't that odd?

Chijioke has nothing to say to that.

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

Let me see if I understand. Ms.
Olujobi agreed to work for Mr. Sanni
a month after he allegedly raped
her?

CHIJIIOKE

That she was willing to overlook his
assault doesn't make her a liar!

FUNLAYO

It makes her a saint. I tend not to
believe in saints.

OMAWUMI

Is that a question?

Funlayo smiles at Omawumi's echoing of an earlier phrase.

FUNLAYO

Was the plan for you two to force
him out?

Now that's a question.

CHIJIIOKE

That was never discussed.

FUNLAYO

Would you say that Ms. Olujobi is using the claims of sexual harassment to force Mr. Sanni and Iwaju to change the terms of the deal she agreed to?

CHIJIIOKE

I wouldn't say that.

FUNLAYO

But you can see how someone would say that?

CHIJIIOKE

No. I can't.

FUNLAYO

I see. One last question. In the event that Dara wins here today what will happen to Iwaju?

CHIJIIOKE

We'll be fine, we're the largest VAS company in Nigeria.

FUNLAYO

Of course. I meant who will be in charge.

CHIJIIOKE

(tight smile)

You're good. I see why we hired you.

FUNLAYO

Do I need to ask Mr. Bucknor to request you answer the question?

CHIJIIOKE

I expect Dara will if she comes back, or I will if she doesn't.

Now that's how you discredit a testimony.

50 INT. MALE BATHROOM - DAY

50

The door slams open. Gbenga storms in. Finds a CLEANER wiping down the mirror.

GBENGA

Leave. Now.

The Cleaner takes one look at Gbenga and obeys. He walks past Funlayo on his way out. One the cleaner is gone:

GBENGA (CONT'D)

They are trying to take my company
from me!

FUNLAYO

So it would seem.

GBENGA

"So it would seem!" "So it would
seem!" I'm paying you for more than
so it would seem.

Gbenga continues pacing.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

I stopped them the first time.
(whirls on Funlayo)
You have to stop them now!

Funlayo is angry, but trying not to show it.

FUNLAYO

I think our defense has been robust-

GBENGA

I don't give a shit about what you
think!

Funlayo wisely doesn't respond as Gbenga resumes pacing.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

He loves her. The stupid bastard. I
made him! Gave him his first job in
this industry. That's the problem
with you Nigerians. No gratitude.

Funlayo watches this performance with increasing dislike.
She smooths her face as he whirls on her.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

Can prove they are sleeping together?

FUNLAYO

Their case is built on sexual assault.
We need deliver a witness to disprove
their claim that you coerced Ms.
Olujobi into having sex with you.

Gbenga allows himself to be mollified.

GBENGA

Of course. You're right.

FUNLAYO

So think of a witness, let's get them over here and end this.

51 EXT. GARDEN - DAY

51

Dara and Omawumi are sitting together in the garden when Chijioke approaches. He stands a little ways off, slightly put off by Omawumi. Dara nods and crosses to meet him.

CHIJIIOKE

That wasn't how I imagined I would profess my love for you.

Aww. So awkwardly cute. Dara takes pity on him.

DARA

It's always ok to tell someone you love them.

CHIJIIOKE

Even if they don't feel the same way?

Dara smiles sadly. She can't give him what he wants. Chijioke takes it in. Tries to hide the heartbreak.

CHIJIIOKE (CONT'D)

I wish you told me what he did. I would have...

Chijioke trails off for want of anything to say. Eventually:

CHIJIIOKE (CONT'D)

If you lose, I'm giving you half my Iwaju shares.

DARA

That's not-

CHIJIIOKE

You built this. Even SuperVAS started because of you. It's not fair that if you lose you get nothing!

DARA

It's not your responsibility to right the wrongs in my life.

Chijioke wants to argue. Dara's hand on his arm stops him.

DARA (CONT'D)

This is my fight not yours.

Dara kisses him on the cheek and heads back towards Omawumi. Chijioke watches her go with an inscrutable expression.

Once she reaches Omawumi.

OMAWUMI

What did he want?

DARA

(slight smile)

To offer me half his shares if I lost.

OMAWUMI

(snorts)

That's the least he could do.

(at Dara's look)

It's true. He messed up our case!

DARA

We needed his testimony!

OMAWUMI

We needed his testimony to show that Gbenga scuttled your deal. To show Gbenga for the vindictive bastard he is. We didn't need him to tell the world that he loves you and that he wants you to run the company.

(angry)

Dammit!

DARA

It'll be okay.

OMAWUMI

I wish we had taken the deal now!

DARA

I don't.

Omawumi looks at her in surprise. Dara flashes a smile.

DARA (CONT'D)

I've been trying to pretend everything would be fine okay as long as I got my shares. But I'm done pretending. The bastard raped me just as much as if he held me down. I may not win, but I will be damned if I'm going to agree to say I wasn't raped.

Now that's an inspiring battle cry. Omawumi is a bit uncomfortable with the emotion. Tries to diffuse it.

OMAWUMI

Now we gotta win.

Dara tries to laugh but can't quite manage it. The tremors are back.

DARA

I can't lose this, Omawumi I can't.

(deep breath)

Was Chijioke really that bad?

Omawumi struggles to come up with something nice to say.

OMAWUMI

Well Mr. Bucknor is a commercial arbitrator, his job is to be impartial, but arbitrators are conservative. So he would rather not give awards that would significantly affect the company.

DARA

What does that mean?

OMAWUMI

If nothing else we showed that Iwaju can survive without Gbenga.

(beat)

I'm more worried about who their rebuttal witness is.

DARA

Oh that's easy.

52 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

52

Everyone is seated as CHIAMA SANNI strides in majestically.

DARA (V.O.)

It's his wife - Chiamaka.

Chiamaka regally takes a seat. She owns the room. The center of attention.

IRETI

Thank you for joining us Mrs. Sanni.

CHIAMA SANNI

Anything for my husband.

It takes Tomisi a while to remember his role. He covers his lapse with a cough before speaking:

TOMISI

Please state your name for the record.

CHIAMAKA
My name is Chiamaka Sanni.

TOMISI
While this is not a court room, please
remember that you are under oath. It
this understood?

Once Chiamaka nods Tomisi turns the proceedings over to Irete.

IRETI
Thank you again Mrs. Sanni. Please
tell us how long you have been married
for?

CHIAMAKA
Ten years next month.

IRETI
That's a long time.
(Chiamaka nods)
Would you say your marriage is
healthy?

CHIAMAKA
It would have been better if not for
that Jezebel.

Chiamaka daggers Dara, who as expected remains impassive.

IRETI
Ms. Olujobi claims she was coerced
by your husband into the relationship.

CHIAMAKA
That's a joke right?

IRETI
You disagree with this claim?

53 INT. RESTAURANT - PAST - DAY

53

Gbenga watches Chiamaka walks past the SERVER taking the
bill away. As she sits down next to him:

CHIAMAKA (V.O.)
She was the one who chased him.

GBENGA
Where's Dara?

CHIAMAKA
(smiles wickedly)
I think she has to do a number two.

Chiamaka notices Gbenga impatiently looking at his watch.

CHIAMAKA (CONT'D)

We don't have to wait, after all she
drove too.

Gbenga thinks about it and stands. As he takes one step,
Dara storms into the main area. Just as she reaches him:

GBENGA

How's your sto-

Gbenga is cut off by Dara giving him a deep lingering kiss.
Chiamaka watches stunned. Once Dara frees Gbenga:

GBENGA (CONT'D)

Um Dara...

Dara doesn't wait to hear the rest. Instead she faces a scared
Chiamaka.

DARA

I'm going to take your husband and
fuck him six ways from Sunday. Maybe
when I'm done you can have him back.

(beat)

If he wants to come back.

GBENGA

Dara-

DARA

This doesn't concern you. This is
between me and your wife.

CHIAMAKA

Gbenga are you going to let her talk
to me like this?

Gbenga wisely stays silent.

DARA

He can't help you.

(leans over the table)

I trust we will not need to have
this conversation again.

With that Dara storms out.

54 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

54

Ireti struggles to hide her glee.

IRETI

She kissed your husband in front of you? In public!

CHIAMAKA

And she threatened me.

IRETI

I have no further questions.

All eyes on Omawumi, wondering how she will counteract the damning testimony.

OMAWUMI

Mrs. Sanni did you know you were going to be cross-examined?

CHIAMAKA

(dismissive)

I've seen law shows on tv.

OMAWUMI

(thin smile)

Of course. Who hasn't.

(beat)

Can you please tell us what happened before you went to see your husband?

Chiamaka's smile becomes fixed.

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

Remember you are effectively under oath.

Ireti shoots a look at Gbenga. Clearly he too has no idea what Omawumi is talking about. Ireti sighs.

55 INT. RESTAURANT - PAST - DAY

55

Gbenga, Chiamaka and Dara are at a fancy restaurant, gisting as a server clears the remains of their meal.

DARA

And that's how we got Diamond Bank to agree to double the fee.

GBENGA

(laughs)

She's generous. She did all the work. I just took all the credit.

They share a smile. Chiamaka notices, but instead says:

CHIAMAKA

I need to go to the bathroom.

GBENGA

Can't you wait? I have a two pm meeting.

CHIAMAKA

It will only take a second.
(Gbenga frowns)
Dara, are you coming?

Dara is a bit taken aback but she does stand. They walk past TWO BURLY MEN and into

THE BATHROOM

As soon as they enter. Chiamaka grabs Dara.

CHIAMAKA (CONT'D)

You think you can fuck my husband?
(Dara is confused)
Oh you think I didn't know!

DARA

I think there's been a misunderstanding-

CHIAMAKA

I think you need to be taught a lesson.

Chiamaka raps on the door. The two BURLY MEN step into the room. We know why they are there.

Dara flicks her eyes to the men then back to Chiamaka. She's clearly still processing. Eventually:

DARA

You can't be serious!

CHIAMAKA

(to the Bruisers)
Leave her face, but let her know not to fish in other people's ponds.

With that, Chiamaka nods to the Bruisers and leaves.

56 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

56

Yep. People aren't dazzled by Chiamaka anymore.

OMAWUMI

You hired people to beat her up?

CHIAMAKA

(no apology)
She was sleeping with my husband.

OMAWUMI

Actually she wasn't. The first time she slept with your husband was three months after that.

CHIAMAKA

You're lying.

OMAWUMI

Your husband himself confirmed it.

CHIAMAKA

But she kissed him! I saw it!

OMAWUMI

You hired people to beat her up. Why would she give you any satisfaction?

Chiamaka is confused. Tomisin takes pity on her.

TOMISIN

Thank you for coming in Mrs. Sanni. You may be excused.

Chiamaka stands and leaves the room. One of the planks of her world removed. Once she leaves:

OMAWUMI

Mr. Bucknor may I ask Gbenga a follow up question based on this testimony.

Once Tomisin nods his acquiescence, Omawumi turns to Gbenga:

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

Please tell us about your conversation with Dara later that day?

57 INT. BAR - NIGHT

57

Dara is working when Gbenga walks in.

GBENGA (O.S.)

Six ways from Sunday abi.

Dara looks up at Gbenga. Smiles. Clearly embarrassed.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

What was that about?

DARA

Girl stuff.
(Closes laptop)
What's up?

GBENGA

You know we're not really married
right?

Dara wants to ask the obvious question but wisely remains
silent. Gbenga continues. Clearly needs to confess.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

We had a fling during NYSC and I got
her pregnant. We got married but she
lost the baby. It was easier to stay
married than to piss off her dad.

(at Dara's look)

He's a general and devout Catholic.
Anyway she moved to England after
the miscarriage. Her life is there.

(pointed at Dara)

Mine is here.

DARA

So why is she around?

GBENGA

She saw the report CNN Africa did on
the Jaguar Capital investment.

DARA

(laughs)

Seems she wants to ensure she gets
her share of the silicon valley cake.

GBENGA

(another pointed look)

As long as she doesn't try to change
the life I've built here.

His meaning is clear but Dara chooses to misunderstand.

DARA

I'll always be your best friend.

Gbenga refuses to be misunderstood.

GBENGA

What if I want you to be more?

DARA

Are you ready to fight an angry
Catholic General?

GBENGA

For you? I'll fight a thousand.

58 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

58

Omawumi looks disgusted.

OMAWUMI

You essentially promised her marriage!

Gbenga doesn't know what to say, Funlayo does though.

FUNLAYO

Mr. Bucknor, Ms. Horsfall has to choose. She cannot argue that Mr. Sanni coerced Ms. Olujobi into an affair whilst also arguing that Mr. Sanni deceived her into one.

OMAWUMI

I disagree. My client was indeed coerced, but the promise of marriage bought her silence. In fact as Mr. Sanni himself testified, the break came when my client discovered marriage was no longer possible. Mr. Sanni then moved to punish her for trying to leave him.

Funlayo wants to reply, but before she can, Tomisin interjects:

TOMISIN

The reasoning is sound. Mr. Sanni you may answer the question.

GBENGA

I stand by my answer - The relationship was consensual.

OMAWUMI

So why did you oppose her return?

GBENGA

Excuse me?

OMAWUMI

Mr. Utah testified that you insisted that the purchase exclude Ms. Olujobi.

GBENGA

She left the company.

OMAWUMI

Yes. Because the affair ended. Did she suddenly become unqualified for the position?

GBENGA

We had an affair it would have been awkward. Integrations are difficult enough as is.

OMAWUMI

So you frustrated the advancement of an employee because of your relationship with her?

Gbenga moves to speak. Before he can:

FUNLAYO

Don't answer that Mr. Sanni. Mr. Bucknor I must protest. Ms. Horsfall is now trying to argue that the decision to exclude Ms. Olujobi is sexual harassment. In that instance, Ms. Olujobi is not an employee of Iwaju. How can it be sexual harassment?

OMAWUMI

Actually she was. As the court and Mr. Bucknor have ruled, Ms. Olujobi was an employee of Iwaju at the time all this was happening.

FUNLAYO

This is absurd.

OMAWUMI

Furthermore, Mr. Utah offered to have Ms. Olujobi withdraw her resignation to make it tidier for everyone. Mr. Sanni refused.

FUNLAYO

He didn't testify to that.

OMAWUMI

We can bring him back, or we can ask Mr. Sanni about his recollection of events.

Funlayo glances at Gbenga. She knows the game is up. However she didn't get to where she was by going down without a fight.

FUNLAYO

Mr. Bucknor this case is predicated on an alleged assault by Mr. Sanni on Ms. Olujobi. There's been a lot of talk, but nothing. I repeat nothing we've heard today has validated Ms. Olujobi's version of events.

OMAWUMI

The pattern established before and after the incident clearly provide circumstantial evidence for Ms. Olujobi's claim about that event. We have also given clear evidence of sexual harassment both before and after the alleged assault.

Tomisin glances over at Funlayo.

FUNLAYO

We have no more witnesses Mr. Bucknor, we ask that you rule, bearing in mind the unsubstantiated nature of the central claim.

Tomisin takes everything in. The moment of truth.

TOMISIN

We will take an hour recess and return with a decision.

Ghen ghen.

59 EXT. GARDEN - LATER

59

Dara is by herself in the garden when Gbenga walks in.

DARA

You shouldn't be here.

GBENGA

I just want to talk.

Dara moves to leave. Gbenga grabs her by the hand. She takes one look at his hand. He frees her.

DARA

We have nothing to talk about.

GBENGA

We could talk about how you're trying to take my company from me.

DARA

You took the company from me first. You swore to me that you did everything you could for me when we were negotiating with Jaguar.

GBENGA

You ended up with thirty percent when you should have fifteen.

DARA

They were going to give me that anyway! You made me wait seven years!

GBENGA

They wanted to give you my shares. Of course I was going to set conditions. And I was right. You left!

DARA

I left! I left!
(fierce whisper)
You got her pregnant! You went to London to divorce her, and instead got her pregnant.

GBENGA

It wasn't like that.

Dara is incredulous.

60 INT. CHIAMAKA'S FLAT - PAST - DAY

60

Chiamaka and Gbenga are talking on the couch.

GBENGA (V.O.)

I went to divorce her as we planned. She told me I used our wedding money to start Iwaju and that she'd sue if I dared divorce her.

DARA (V.O.)

None of this explains the pregnancy.

Chiamaka brings out an artificial insemination kit.

GBENGA (V.O.)

She wanted something to ensure her hold on me. She wanted a baby.

61 EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

61

Dara remains unmoved.

GBENGA

(tired)
I wanted to explain but you didn't give me a chance.
(still nothing)
I couldn't lose Iwaju!

Dara is looking at him, truly seeing him for the first time.

DARA

But you could lose me.

GBENGA

I thought I could have both.

DARA

You thought I would allow you to keep putting Iwaju first.

Gbenga has no response to that. Instead:

GBENGA

Even if you win, they won't let you run it. Do you really want the fruit of our labour to be run by Chijioke?

DARA

Oh now it's our labour.

(beat)

At least he didn't rape me.

GBENGA

I didn't-

DARA

There's no one else here. You don't have to pretend.

GBENGA

I'm pretending! I'm pretending! You wore a dress I bought you. Perfume I gave you. You knew exactly what would happen! You wanted it to happen!

DARA

Is that a confession?

GBENGA

I think you planned it from the start.

Dara doesn't dignify that with an answer. She heads towards the door. Gbenga speaks to her back.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

Did you ever love me? Because I don't see how someone who did, would do this to me.

DARA

Funny. I was thinking the same about you.

With that she's gone.

62 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

62

Tomisin is lost in thought as the Paralegal clears away the remains of their packed lunch.

His attention is drawn to her as she bends down to put the stuff in a bin. His eyes escort her back to the table.

TOMISIN

What do you make of all this?

The Paralegal is confused. The question comes as a surprise.

PARALEGAL

Sir?

TOMISIN

This so-called rape.

PARALEGAL

I don't think it's my place to comment.

TOMISIN

Do you think it's possible to rape someone without force the way they are describing?

It takes a while for the Paralegal to speak.

63 INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - PAST - DAY

63

The Paralegal and another FEMALE STUDENT sit in front of a Portly DEAN listening to him talk.

PARALEGAL (V.O.)

During my first year studying law in university the Dean of the faculty invited me and another girl to his office. He started talking about how his wife was always away in Lagos on business and how he has to watch a lot of porn to keep himself from misbehaving. He then tells us that his favorite videos are two girls on one guy. He ends by telling us how challenging it was in the law school and how we should ensure we do everything to prepare.

64 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

64

Tomisin listens spell bound.

PARALEGAL

The other girl thanked him and said she had prayer meeting.

TOMISIN

And you? What did you do?

65 INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - PAST - DAY 65

The Paralegal stands. Makes her way to the open door. The hand she places on it shakes as she shuts the door.

66 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 66

The Paralegal looks defiant.

TOMISIN

Do you regret your choice?

PARALEGAL

I saw Yemisi - the girl - about a year ago. She was a cashier at KFC. I'm entering law school next semester.

And that as they say is that.

67 INT. ANTEROOM - LATER 67

Dara and Omawumi sit together at one end of the room. Gbenga and Funlayo are on the other. Chiamaka is by herself. Waiting.

They perk up once the Paralegal sticks her head out of the conference room door.

PARALEGAL

We're ready for you.

Nervousness reigns as they get to their feet.

68 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 68

Tomisin is the center of attention.

TOMISIN

Thank you all for time today. I am now in a position to reach a ruling. Having heard the testimony of Mr. Sanni, Ms. Olujobi and all the others, I find it hard to make a determination of sexual harassment.

Gbenga sighs in audible relief. Funlayo nods slightly. Omawumi glances over at Dara, who is still impassive.

TOMISIN (CONT'D)

While the relationship seemed to have been instigated by Mr. Sanni, the testimony shows it was largely consensual. With respect to the incident in question, both parties proffered differing views about the situation, and no evidence heard here today contradicts that. However

Everyone freezes at "However" - they didn't expect that.

TOMISIN (CONT'D)

Ms. Olujobi was forced to leave the company due to an untenable relationship situation created the CEO, and as a result she should not be penalised for that. To that end, I am granting Ms. Olujobi shares amounting to thirty percent of Iwaju limited.

Gbenga is dumbfounded. He gestures furiously at Funlayo.

FUNLAYO

Point of clarification Mr. Bucknor, Iwaju Limited completed a merger post the contract. I would request that the grant be restricted to the shares of the pre-merger Iwaju?

TOMISIN

The agreement calls for issuance of shares amounting to thirty percent of the company. It does not make allowance for additional shares having been issued. This is an issue the company created by the sweeping nature of the grant award.

GBENGA

He can't do this!

Gbenga looks pleadingly at Funlayo.

GBENGA (CONT'D)

How can he do this?

FUNLAYO

Mr. Bucknor if you were unable to reach a finding of sexual harassment how were you able to grant Ms. Olujobi the shares?

TOMISIN

Mr. Sanni admitted that the relationship between him and Ms. Olujobi was not only the reason she quit but was also the reason she was not reinstated. If not for that relationship, Ms. Olujobi would still be in the company and have the chance to earn the shares. To my mind Mr. Sanni effectively forced Ms. Olujobi to give up millions of dollars. That is the sort of injustice that this panel exists to correct.

GBENGA

This is bullshit! Bullshit!

Tomisin ignores him.

TOMISIN

This concludes the arbitration. Details of my ruling and the proceedings will be circulated shortly

Tomisin and the Paralegal gather their things. Gbenga follows as they head towards the door.

GBENGA

We're going to appeal. This isn't the end.

TOMISIN

You'll find Mr. Sanni that arbitral awards tend to be upheld. Besides (gestures at Funlayo) I doubt your company will appeal.

Gbenga wants to protest, but he follows Tomisin's gaze to where Funlayo is talking to Dara.

Tomisin and Faridah take their leave as Gbenga hurries over.

GBENGA

What is the meaning of this?

Funlayo turns to face Gbenga. Calm as always.

FUNLAYO

Ms. Yusuf instructed me to engage Ms. Olujobi if events went her way.

GBENGA

Engage her how?

FUNLAYO

To inform her the shares will be issued in accordance with the ruling.

GBENGA

I'm the CEO and the largest shareholder! Mariam can't decide that without me!

FUNLAYO

Ms. Yusuf is Jaguar's representative and along with Mr. Utah together form a majority of the shareholding and the board. Ms. Yusuf issued joint instructions on their behalf.

GBENGA

Instructions? What else?

FUNLAYO

The board has offered Ms. Olujobi her old job.

GBENGA

I'm going to sue!

FUNLAYO

Gbenga. Shut. Up. I would advise against that. These proceedings are confidential, a court case will not be.

That causes Gbenga to pause. Thinking about the ramifications. While he is doing so, Funlayo turns to Dara:

FUNLAYO (CONT'D)

Ms. Olujobi, Ms. Yusuf also says to tell you that Jaguar Capital is willing to purchase your shares at the terms the Super VAS deal was done.

Now that hits Gbenga like a ton of bricks.

GBENGA

Jaguar will not take my company from me!

Funlayo does not dignify that with an answer. She goes to pick up her bag.

69 INT. ANTEROOM - NIGHT

69

Funlayo closes the door behind her. She laughs to herself and leaves. Forever and ever the boss.

70 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

70

Gbenga is now alone with Omawumi and Dara. He doesn't know what to do exactly. The door slams open. Chiamaka walks in.

Gbenga moves towards her, she walks past him and goes to Dara.

CHIAMAKA

It seems I would owe you an apology
if you hadn't fucked him in the end.

Dara looks up at her. Still not fully there.

CHIAMAKA (CONT'D)

However the problem was always him,
never you.

Chiamaka sweeps back out. Gbenga takes one step after her, then turns back to Dara.

GBENGA

I'll match Jaguar's offer for the
shares.

As you'd expect Dara looks at him like he's crazy. Omawumi comes to her rescue.

OMAWUMI

I think you'd better go.

Gbenga finally realises the insanity. Of his request. His shoulders slump. Just before he turns to go:

GBENGA

I did... do love you.

With that, he's gone.

71 EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT

71

Omawunmi and Dara emerge from the hotel.

OMAWUMI

I'm sorry we didn't win.

DARA

I got my job and my money back, how's
that not a victory?

We know she doesn't mean it. Omawumi's heart breaks for her.

OMAWUMI

You could force him out.
(MORE)

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

Get the board to name you CEO of Iwaju.

(a long look)

Or you could take the money and build something. See who you are when you aren't stuck behind a man.

Omawumi winces. It was harsher than she meant it.

OMAWUMI (CONT'D)

Sorry.

DARA

No you're right. Going back is a waste of time.

(beat)

He was the love of my life.

They both look at where Gbenga is walking towards his car.

OMAWUMI

You need better taste in men.

(at Dara's look)

It's true, he was an asshole.

Dara laughs.

DARA

You're right. He was.

They share a great laugh. Eventually it winds down.

OMAWUMI

I still have one question though.

(at Dara's encouraging look)

How did you not get beat up?

72 INT. RESTAURANT - PAST - DAY

72

Dara confronts the Bruisers.

DARA (V.O.)

(grins)

That was easy. I bribed them. Double what Chiamaka paid them. Best three hundred k I ever spent.

Dara transfers money via her phone.

73 EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT

73

They both burst out laughing, and at that moment you know Dara is going to be just fine.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

74 INT. GBENGA'S HOUSE - PAST - NIGHT

74

Gbenga is sleeping on the couch when there is a knock on the door. He wakes up. Goes over to open the door.

He is confronted by a visibly angry Dara. He makes calming gestures at her. Brings her in to the room.

He tries to calm her down. Pours a glass of wine. She takes the glass. She's entreating. He's shaking his head.

She touches his upper arm, clearly pleading. However he takes that as an invitation. He moves in for the kiss.

She pushes him away after a little while. She stands. She opens the door. He says something. She turns.

He comes closer to her. Her body language is stiff. He touches her face. We leave them there standing by the door.

75 INT. OVER BLACK

75

The letters "THE TRUTH"

THE END