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Synopsis

Unfinished Business tells the story of two young adults, Nkem and Donald, madly in love with each other. Their love is however cut short when Donald unexpectedly marries another girl, to save his family from collapsing. Nkem filled with so much hurt and anger and desperate to leave the past behind decides to go to Lagos to find a job. As providence would have it, Donald's mother employs her and she encounters Donald again who is still clearly in love with her but desperate to keep his marriage in order to save the family business. The story becomes a love triangle between Donald, Nkem and Donald's new wife.

SITUATION 37

INT – DAY – DONALD’S ROOM

DONALD IS LYING ON HIS BED, FACE UP AS HE STARES AT THE CEILING. HIS MOTHER KNOCKS AND ENTERS. SHE IS SURPRISED TO STILL SEE DONALD IN BED.

MRS. EZE

Ah Nnamdi! , what are you still doing in bed? Do you realise what time it is?

DONALD

I am still in mourning Mum!

MRS EZE

I understand how you feel but my dear son, life must go on.

DONALD

Mum, it’s been a terrible blow, I still can’t believe dad is gone!

MRS. EZE

I know son but please get a grip on yourself! There are so many things we need to sort out! I have lost a husband, do you want me to lose a son too?

DONALD

(Quietly) You are not losing me mum! I just want to be alone with my thoughts! God knows they are all jumbled up right now.

MRS EZE

Have you tried to see Olive? Her mother was here yesterday and she says you have not reached her.

DONALD

That’s what you’re really concerned about right? The forced union between Olive and I, not so? Have you stopped for one moment to give a thought about how I feel?

MRS. EZE

I care about you and you know that. It’s not like we’re sending you into a den of lions. It’s just that the earlier we do this the better for us! As a matter of fact, it’s imperative that the marriage takes place as soon as possible!

DONALD

Oh mum, please! I have said I do not want to discuss any of that yet! I need to sort out a lot of things in my mind right now and -----

MRS. EZE

I know it must be hard for you but you gave your father your word. Look at what we stand to lose if you don’t keep that promise. We’ll lose this house and so much more. Your daddy’s debtors are already

closing in on me and the bank is threatening to ----

DONALD

I know mum, I know all about that, I can even recite it now but the issue here is I do not love Olive, how on earth can I marry her?

MRS. EZE

Love will come. I met your father only twice and next I knew, we were married. He turned out to be a most wonderful man!

DONALD

(Sarcastically) Who left you with a mountain of debts which I now have to mortgage my happiness just to pay.

MRS EZE

Please don't speak ill of the dead! Look Nnamdi, this is something we cannot get out of. Your father and I discussed it at length. (pauses) This is not as bad as you are making it look. Olive is a beautiful girl that most men would give an arm and a leg for? What's your problem?

DONALD

(Gets up angrily) You want to know my problem Mummy? My problem is that I am not most men and I value my arm and my leg so I would not give it to olive! My heart, body and soul belong only to one woman and one woman alone!

MRS EZE

What do you mean?

DONALD

The truth of the matter mum is that I love someone else! I met this wonderful girl during my youth service and I promised to marry her! How can I tell her now that ----that-----I-----I mean how---oh shit! (He flings his arms in frustration)

MRS EZE

How many times have I told you to stop swearing? How old is she?

DONALD

(Confused) What?

MRS EZE

I said, how old is this lady your heart, body and soul belong to?

DONALD

(Confused) She is 22 years.

MRS. EZE

Thank God! She is just a mere child! Her heart may be broken but with time it will heal! Time heals every wound. The world is tough, the time comes when we must do, not want we want, but what we must. I am sorry son but welcome to the real world! I'm off to the office. (MRS. EZE EXITS) DONALD JUST STARES INTO SPACE, THEN PICKS UP HIS PHONE AND DIALS NKEM THEN CHANGES HIS MIND AND CUTS THE LINE AS HE THROWS THE PHONE ON THE BED IN FRUSTRATION.

SITUATION 38

INT – DAY – NKEM’S HOUSE

NGOZI AND NKEM ARE IN THE SITTING ROOM STUDYING FOR THEIR JAMB. AFTER SOMETIME NKEM PUSHES THE BOOKS AWAY AND PICKS THE PHONE AND DIALS. OBVIOUSLY, SHE CAN’T GET THROUGH SO SHE FLINGS THE PHONE AWAY IN FRUSTRATION.

NGOZI

It’s still switched off right?

NKEM

(Frustrated) Yes! How can his phone be switched off for over two weeks now? And why hasn’t he tried to reach me? Oh Ngozi, what could be the matter? Do you think he is alright? Or could he----

NGOZI

Calm down Nkem! You have to give him some time, you know he just lost his dad!

NKEM

I know but it’s over two months now since his dad died!

NGOZI

So what do you think is wrong?

NKEM

I don’t know o but I intend to find out! I can’t just sit here doing nothing. I spoke to Ibrahim yesterday but he keeps telling me Donald is fine. I left messages with Ibrahim but still there’s no word from him! What do I do Ngo?

NGOZI

Maybe, you should go to Lagos and look for him.

NKEM

Yes! I think you are right. The last time I spoke to him which was about two weeks ago, he sounded funny on the phone! It was as if he was trying to tell me something but could not say it! He was so distant! I need to see him otherwise I’ll go crazy, believe me!

NGOZI

You really are getting dramatic. I think you just simply miss him. Relax. You know Donald loves you like crazy. Whatever it is, he’s a big boy, he can sort it out. Just chill! If you want to go to Lagos, then no sweat but don’t worry yourself to death okay? He might just be busy, that’s all.

NKEM

I’ll go during the weekend, I hope I can convince mama to let me go.

NGOZI

Anything you decide girlfriend, you know I’m right behind you.

SITUATION 39

INT – DAY – MRS ORLU’S HOUSE.

NKEM AND HER MOTHER ARE DISCUSSING THE ISSUE.

MAMA

I understand how you feel, my daughter, so I will not stand in your way. Go and find out what the matter is. I just hope everything is well with him. I will call Francisca and inform her that you are coming but you must come back as soon as you have seen Donald, okay?

NKEM

Yes Mama, I will come back. Thank you very much for letting me go.

MAMA

No problem. Just be careful when you get there.

SHE WALKS INTO THE ROOM.

SITUATION 40

NGOZI'S PLACE. DAY.

NKEM ENTERS LOOKING EXCITED

NKEM

Guess what mama says I can go to Lagos tomorrow. She's worried about him too. You know she really likes him. She says I can stay with her sister, Aunty Francisca!, she's called her already... Ngozi you're not saying anything! Are you okay?

NGOZI

(Sighs) I don't know how else to tell you this but I guess there's no other way than to do it frankly. Donald got married last week!

NKEM

Oh Ngozi, I'm really not in the mood for one of your stupid jokes.

NGOZI

I wish to God I were joking (SHE PICKS UP A SOFTSELL MAGAZINE AND GIVES IT TO NKEM. CAMERA FOCUSES ON DONALD'S AND OLIVE'S WEDDING PICTURE. NKEM STARES AT IT IN SHOCK. THE PAPER SLOWLY FALLS OFF HER HAND AS SHE SINKS ONTO A NEARBY CHAIR.

NKEM

(Almost in a whisper) Tell me, I am dreaming Ngozi!

NGOZI

I would have been very happy to wake you up Nkem but it's not a dream!

NKEM

Maybe, it's not him. Maybe he has a twin.

NGOZI

With the same name?

NKEM

Maybe it's just a coincidence, Lagos is a big place you know. Maybe-----maybe----no----no----no!!!!!!!
It's just not possible-----how can this be?

NGOZI

Nkem, the sooner you face the truth the better. I understand how you feel but-----

NKEM

(Gets up desperately and screams at her) No, you don't understand anything ! You don't! How can you understand it? How? (Brokenly) He loves me, I'm sure of it. He said so himself! He promised me the world, he said he was going to marry me. He promised me forever! (Gets desperate again) Look at my finger! I'm wearing his ring, for goodness sake? Or am I not? (Looks at the ring again) he gave it to me now? It's his ring-----he said----he----- (She breaks down)

NGOZI

(Feels for her as she holds her close) I won't tell you not to cry! Crying is good for you! Let it all out sister! It helps! You hurt, time passes, you heal, you move on! Denying the truth is just going to prolong the healing process.

NKEM

(Nkem looks up at her, totally broken) Why? Why would he do this to me? How could walk away from everything we shared together?

NGOZI

I don't mean to belittle what you guys had but girlfriend people have a 25yr old marriage, wonderful kids together and then they wake up one morning and file for divorce. How long did you have? Seven, eight or it is ten months?

NKEM

Even if it was one month! It was so-----so-----so----special! Why would-----

NGOZI

Look Nkem, I don't mean to be unkind but I won't let you wallow in this for too long! The world, they say is not a bed of roses, forgive the cliché. I think you should call him, abuse him if you must, then put it behind you. So now that wedding bells are not ringing anytime soon, we'd better think of how to make the school bells ring. Jamb form is out.

NKEM JUST STARES AT HER AS SCENE ENDS.