

# CURTAINS

DEBORAH REX



## CHAPTER 1

“So can we talk about the way forward from here” His deep voice resonated from the doorway.

She swallowed hard as he walked in, how on earth was she gonna say she had fallen for him. It’s been 2 months of therapy, and with everything she told him, she would expect him to be disgusted at the very sight of her. But he still spoke nicely to her, treated her with respect, and yeah, helped a lot in healing her pain. Wait o, why was her mind reading meaning into this, it was his job!

“Get a hold of yourself Sade” She muttered. He’d probably be relieved that the sessions had finally come to an end.

“Are you with me?” He came closer, waving his hands across her dusty face

“Huh?”

“I said, can we finally talk about the way forward from your suicide attempt?”

“Oh, that?”

“Uhhh, this is court mandated therapy, it ends today, and we have to discuss this”

“Oh, okay” She really didn’t want to talk about it.

“Your baby is doing well in child welfare and would be returned to you when you are stable”

“I still don’t want to see her”

“I understand, but I ...”

“You understand? Don’t ever say you understand, have you carried a child for 9 months constantly wishing it would die? Have you ever tried aborting it and failing? Have you ever given birth to a one legged girl? Have you ever searched so hard for the bastard that put the baby in you while you were knocked out with drugs? Have you ever!?” Sade burst out in tears. She thought she was healed, but she just might never be.

He held her, hands on both shoulders, trying his best to bring her comfort, he wished he could steal her pain and never return it. He had begun to love this woman. How would he tell her?

Suddenly, the door flew open. A young woman and two police officers walked in

“Stay away from her!” Sade’s bestie, Bisola shouted. Stunned, they both jumped up from the position they were in.

“B, what’s going on?!”

“I said stay away from her. Officers, arrest him. Bloody rapist!”

## CHAPTER 2

“What?” They both screamed in unison

Sade felt she would run mad in that moment, it couldn't possibly be true. It was him all this time?!

“You? Derrick!”

“What did I do?” Dr Derrick just stared back and forth at both of them in shock, as the police officers put the handcuffs around him.

Bisola flung out her Samsung phone and showed both of them the video, she couldn't hold in her anger much longer.

“Is this you or is this you, Dr Derrick!” The video showed footage from the cctv camera of a hotel. In it was Sade, passed out in a hotel room. A man walked in from the bathroom, unclad and in his attempt to turn on the AC, the camera caught his full face. It was Derrick, all bare, climbing on her like a wild animal without mercy.

Sade couldn't watch any more second of that horror, she felt her knees lose power beneath her as she turned and hit him repeatedly on the chest.

“Ahhhh, mogbe!! Derrick!!! I wish you a slow painful death, I wish your generation suffers pain, get out of my face!!!! I can't even look at you! Whyyyyyyy” Her voice disappeared into silent screams as her fair face turned red with rage and a whole charade of emotions.

Derrick was speechless. He tried to grab the phone from Bisola

"Don't even dare! We have mass produced this clip!"

"No I just wanted to see it closely!"

"You think we are idiots abi? You want to destroy evidence"

Derrick kept his hands to himself and turned to Sade

“Sade, you have to believe me...”

"Are you for real?!" Sade screamed out in terror

“Shut up!” This is the height of it, you want to deny after seeing the video!?” Bisola, standing up for her friend “Don't worry, lie in court, lie in jail, lie in your future ex-convict life, that's if you ever get out of prison, monster!”

The police ushered him out after Mirandizing him. Derrick had no words. Bisola assisted her friend out muttering curses on Derrick.

Sade had come in here today, hopeful, she thought she'd finally find freedom in her mind, and perhaps, a little love as bonus, but she had finally realized, her life was meant to be lived in pain.

“I should have tried harder to die, is this a life?”

It was a week after, and Sade had rejected the numerous calls from the federal prison, what will Derrick have to say? He caused the biggest pain in her life, and watched her talk about it for two whole months, if that's not Satan's son, that's his son-in-law.

She heard a knock on her door, she couldn't move from her room, no food had entered her mouth in a week and her body was giving up, her breasts were swollen, painful and dripping milk.

She heard movements around the house, the stranger was trying to find a way in, it was then she heard a voice from her window

“Sade it’s me Derrick, I know you can hear me, open the door”

"Are you mad?!"

### CHAPTER 3

She couldn't believe the nerve of this man

"I probably would be soon, if I don't talk with you"

She waited a whole thirty minutes to see if he would leave, but he didn't budge

"I have to tell you the truth Sade, you need to hear it from me"

She wouldn't lie that there was no hint of joy in hearing his voice, she had missed him. But her rage was far more in her heart at this point.

Reluctantly, she dragged herself to her feet and opened the door for him.

She hadn't bathed or brushed in that week, so yes, she was stinking, he didn't care.

He hugged her so tightly till she forced herself out of his grip

"Let go of me!"

"I'm sorry, I just had to see you"

"How are you out?"

"I made bail"

She rolled her eyes and looked away, of course he would make bail.

"Sade, listen to me, very carefully"

"All I want to know is why you did it"

"Sade listen"

"I said, why did you do it?!"

"Please listen first"

"I just wanna know why!" She burst out into another fit of tears

Derrick was getting frustrated at this point, he was running out of time, she had to hear him out, before...

"And you sat with me for two months Derrick, two freakin months! Probably laughing at my pain"

The way it was going, she would never listen till he forced her to. He got up swiftly and placed both hands firmly on her shoulder

"Sade, listen!!!! Please!" He screamed

She was mute, stunned by the firmness of his voice

He took a deep breath

“I...did it. It was a mistake, and I regret it every single day”

Her brain hit the reset button, upon hearing those words. She had silently hoped he came to tell her he was a twin or something, what could be worse!

“Bastard! Bastard! Bastard! Bastard! Bastard!!” She fell to the ground, shaking in shock.

He wished he could hold her and wipe her tears, but even if his village people were doing him, he would still know that is a foolish idea.

“I’m sorry Sade, I’m sorry! I’m so sorry! I have to go now” He said between his own tears

“Are you mad?! You are the devil himself, go!!!! I don’t ever want to see your monstrous face in my life!!!! Ahhhhhhhhh” She ran her fingers through her already scattered hair.

As he made it to the door, she picked up a bottle, broke it and threw it right at him, slicing through his arm, spilling some blood on the floor. He didn’t look back, he just held his arm in pain, and he deserved anything she did to him. Walking out of her house was the hardest thing to do.

“What did I do to deserve this life? I did not kill anybody! Death is better than this!!!”

Sade screamed alone in her room, it was just 6.30am, and her day had already ended.

Derrick sat in his car, right outside her house, he had no idea what to do. He hated himself even more.

Bisola arrived at the court with the lawyer she hired for Sade

“I’m here to follow up on the case of Dr Derrick. Has the judge set trial dates?”

“Madam, the police are on their way to Sade’s house, we believe she might be in danger, Derrick broke out of jail last night”

## CHAPTER 4

“I’m sorry what?!” Bisola and her lawyer, Mr Balogun could not believe their ears

“How did this happen?”

“We really can’t explain ma’am, he just wasn’t in his cell this morning”

“Have you asked his roommates?”

“He was moved to a private room yesterday prior to the breakout”

The lawyer stepped into the conversation

“Was there any sign of a struggle or anything forcefully opened, like the padlock and all?”

“No sir”

“But he just wasn’t there this morning?”

“Ye...es sir” The young man, obviously new to the job said, shaking at the fury coming from their eyes.

“This has got to be the dumbest thing I’ve heard all year long. How does a secure facility be so easy to walk out of?”

“Mr Balogun, let’s go to Sade’s place, I need to make sure she’s safe as well, I don’t trust these people”

As they entered his car, heading to Sade’s residence, Bisola got a call from Tony, her fiancé, she put it on speaker mode, and her hands were already too tired to hold the phone up.

“Baby what’s going on, I’ve been trying your line all morning”

“My love, it’s getting crazy. Sade may be in danger, Derrick broke out of prison, we don’t have trial dates fixed yet” She ranted

“Will you call that a break out, he literally strolled out, probably waving them goodbye, rubbish security” Mr Balogun blurted, utterly annoyed.

“And let me guess, you want to be her knight in shining armour, the rescuer. Don’t even think about it, please call her instead”

“Don’t you think I have been doing that?”

“I don’t like this at all, not even a little”

“Don’t worry baby, I’ll be careful”

“I’m coming to meet you, where are you?”

“From the Island? Babe, I said don’t worry”

“I’m coming”

“You’re too extra, this is not a murder case, it’s not like the guy will rape me in front of police. What will you do sef when you come, give him a knock? You’ve never even fought play fight I’ve been begging for with me before, talk less of serious one. Abeg, chill”

He cut the phone, no need convincing her, he didn't need a prophet to let him know where she was headed. He quickly called an Uber, thankfully, he was on leave that day, locking his door, and he stepped out.

"I see the police ahead, sai, foolishness o, what are they blowing siren for, so that the man will hear them coming from a mile away?" Mr Balogun shouted, he was driving on a 140, young vibrant lawyer of 32. If he didn't succeed as a lawyer, he always had an eye for being a criminal detective.

He was a little disappointed that Bisola had a man though. Shoving the thought out of his mind, he focused on their mission.

Derrick sat in his car for a few more moments, wondering if he should go back in, lost in his thoughts, time was running out, and it surely ran out when he heard the sirens. Reversing in quick succession, he was on the run, he knew they had seen him move, and was expecting a long hot chase, but from his rear view mirror he saw them, parking calmly in front of Sade's residence. Maybe he wasn't seen, maybe he was.

Sade wondered what the noise in her yard was for, and was thoroughly upset when she saw the police.

"What are you doing here?"

"We are in search of Dr Derrick, we have reason to believe he might have come here just after breaking out of prison" "What the heck! He broke out!?"

"Yes ma'am. Has he been here ma? Did he hurt you?" The police man enquired, seeing the blood stains on her cloth. It was then he noticed other things, her rough hair, cuts on her skin, swollen face, milk stained chest.

"Are you okay ma?"

"You all must be insane! Insane!"

"We are just trying to help ma, please let us know if Dr Derrick was here"

She was silent for a few seconds

"No he wasn't, I haven't seen him since the arrest"

As Derrick zoomed far from Sade, coming up on the mainland, he got stuck in traffic. In that moment, he tried to let his mind find solace in only the good memories of Sade, suddenly his phone rang and he shook in fright, back to reality. It was a number, the same number, he quickly picked up the phone. Breathing hard

"I'm on my way"

## CHAPTER 5

He had to get moving if he was ever gonna catch up and this traffic wasn't helping. The number called again

"I said I'm on my way!!!"

He began hooting his horn violently

"Oga control this traffic!!! Let's move!"

"Hey wetin you dey shout! If you try me I go keep you here till tomorrow" the already irritated traffic warden blurted.

Derrick was sweating throughout his pores, he needed to move as soon as possible. Finally, the signal for him to move came and he zoomed off in speed, nearly colliding with the traffic wardens stand.

"I swear you dey craze!" The man shouted on the speeding Derrick.

As he moved, he met another blockade

"Park!" Flagging him down and putting those deadly irons on the road.

"Damn it!" It was VIO

"Oga why you dey speed like this, you carry dead body?"

Breathing hard and trying to curtail his frustration

"Sir good day"

"Can we see your driver's license and car registration?"

What's all this na. Other cars were passing, why him? He rolled his eyes, clenching his fists together. The car wasn't his own, he didn't even know the real owner.

"Umm sir, you see, uhmm" he sighted a small space and pressed down his accelerator, zooming off suddenly. The speed of his take off removed buttons of the pot-bellied VIO's shirt.

The man quickly signalled his colleagues in the van and they zoomed off as well, chasing him down.

"What the heck have I gotten myself into" Derricks phone kept ringing, the van was chasing, his car was showing small signs of overheating, Derrick was getting even more frustrated.

He was a Lagos boy, nobody knew corners like him. And he used it well. Turning into an untarred road, people were jumping out of sight at the danger of his speed. He took all the corners he knew until he lost the VIO van.

Realising that the chase was over, he knew he had to keep moving, but he had a longer route now, cause of all the corners he had taken.

He made a U-turn

"Ready, set, go!" He zoomed away.

"Ma, are you sure you have not seen Dr Derrick?"

"Ah ah, if I have seen him, I would have told you na"

"Okay ma, please if he comes around, this is the number to call"

"What of 911, you don't use 911, or is it 419? Which type of long number is this?"

"Please just call this number ma"

As they turned to leave, they noticed she started laughing.

"She's having a mental break down, we can't leave her like this"

"I fell in love with him, hehehehehe, one legged baby is waiting for me, I fell in love, I fell in love, hehehehe" she sang those words and began dancing and laughing, she was losing it

As the police men went to grab her and put in their van to take to a psychiatric facility, Bisola and Barr Balogun arrived.

Sade fought out of their grip and ran to Bisola, singing and laughing

"Ahhhhh bestie!! I fell in love with my rapist, I fell in love o, is his baby here, did you bring her remaining leg?"

Bisola held her friend and began to cry uncontrollably. Barr Balogun held both of them.

Sade's laughter turns into tears as she slowly regained consciousness

"I want to die B, I need to die, can you just help me and kill me"

"Shut up girl, don't ever say that, don't, don't, please don't!" They both started crying again. Mr Balogun just offering his shoulders for them to cry on. How could a human do this to another human? He had seen a lot in his career, this was the worst.

"Officers, I'll call a doctor to come see her, don't worry"

"Okay, please do" they turned and left.

Tony also arrived at the house

Sighting Bisola, Sade and Balogun in a tight embrace, turned a knot in his stomach.

"Whats going on here" looking sternly at Balogun

"Can we help you, who are you?"

Bisola quickly cut in "Balogun that's Tony"

"Oh, he's Tony"

"Yes I AM TONY" he said, marking territory.

Sade still held on to Bisola as they all moved to the house.

"I just came to make sure you are okay baby, I left the office without notice"

"Ahh, I told you not to bother now. See how you've wasted your time"

"It's not a waste, I'm happy you're safe. And Sade will be fine, I know it, especially because she has you"

"I hope so babe, bye love, thanks for coming"

"Sure baby" he kissed her forehead

Mr Balogun was just in one side of the scattered parlour wondering why he felt sad watching Bisola and Tony together. Only one week on the case with her and she was a case in his head. He smacked himself on the head

"Are you insane, somebodies woman?"

As the police officers approached their office, a sergeant asked to be excused.

"I'll meet you guys in the office, DPO sent me to get something for him on my way back"

"What did he send you for?"

"Ahh, are you the DPO? Call him and ask na"

Nobody said a word...

## CHAPTER 6

He stepped out, waited for them to zoom off and headed across the road where a tinted car waited for him. His phone rang almost immediately

“Just got out, heading there now”

“Okay, everything is set” The voice on the other end echoed.

After he dropped the call, he turned to the driver

“Step on it!”

And they zoomed off at light speed.

“I wanna die B, I wanna die. I’m tired”

“It will be fine baby, it will be fine”

“No it can’t be, it can never be. How can it be?”

Bisola tried to talk, but words failed her, what would she tell someone suffering this deep pain.

Barr Balogun moved over to both of them, trying his best to avoid Bisola.

“Sade, I can’t even begin to imagine the pain you must be feeling, but I need to be sure that what you told the police was true”

“What did I tell the police?”

“You don’t remember?”

“I don’t”

Bisola and Balogun looked at each other.

“After I heard the sirens at my front porch, I can’t seem to remember anything else till I found myself in B’s embrace” She wondered what they were asking her

“Wait, what did I tell the police?”

“Hmm, you told them you hadn’t seen Derrick since the arrest”

“You all were here with the police?”

“No, I asked them once we arrived and they told me as your lawyer”

Sade was silent for a few minutes, she couldn’t remember being asked that question

“I saw Derrick today, he was here in my house”

“What?” Bisola screamed

“What did he say, what did he do?” Mr Balogun enquired

“He told me he did it”

“Did he hurt you? Is that why there is blood on your dress?”

“Some of the blood is his”

“Ehn?”

“What did you do to him? Did you kill him?” Bisola was getting scared for her friend

“I wish I did”

Derrick arrived at the place. Parked a few miles away to remain unseen. He had to thread carefully if things were to go well. What was he thinking, things were already not well. He couldn't imagine the pain Sade was going through after he told her. He wished those words never came out of his mouth. It was the hardest thing to say.

The building ahead was a tall fenced one, with high end security, facial recognition, one night he had spent here and he had studied the ins and outs of this building. He was thirty minutes early... on purpose.

The building had an underground passage that led directly to the back chambers. As he turned to go in, he saw a car drive straight to the building, the sergeant and the driver walked inside after the facial recognition cleared them. He knew then that he had to move fast. Turning around he went into the underground passage and got to the security chamber.

Taking in a deep breath he pondered on his decision, whether to turn and run forever, or go in.

Something drew him out of his thoughts, he heard it, and he knew he had to do this.

He heard her voice...

## CHAPTER 7

Derrick's heart broke at the sound of her voice, he knew right there and then that there was no turning back now. He opened the door and it led to a long hallway, thankfully there were deep corners he could hide. As he moved forward, he pulled out the gun from his back pocket, he needed it as a court therapist, crazy fellows were sent to him on a regular basis. But up till that day, he had only used a gun in the gun centre when he wanted stress relief, so holding one now to be used on a real person may be hard, well, not 'may', definitely.

As he moved down the hallway, a guard suddenly came out of one of the doors. He quickly hid in the corner closest to him, holding his breath for as long as he could. He had to use his lay man sense right now, and perhaps some ideas from action movies. As the guard came closer to where he hid, he grabbed him by the mouth and shot him. Derrick closed his eyes as the man fell to the ground, he couldn't believe what he just did. Not looking back, he ran straight through the hallway, panting hard. A door stood at the end of the hallway and Derrick heard voices in there. At first he thought a group of people were having a discussion, later he heard the voices clearly. Listening carefully he heard Sade's voice, then Bisola, and then Barr Balogun.

"What? How are they here?"

His heartbeat accelerated as his knees weakened. He heard the first voice again, she was crying even louder.

"I'm coming girl, I'm coming" Tears rolled out uncontrollably.

"God, just forgive me and help me, I'm not strong enough for this"

The sergeant and the driver walked into the building, it looked like a normal well-furnished mansion, but there was no sign of life, whoever own it must be living somewhere else. Both of them headed straight to the underground basement. It was a different world on its own.

Derrick heard footsteps coming his way again, rushing over to the next corner, he hid himself. He couldn't see them, because of where he hid, but he heard them go in to that same room.

The sergeant spoke in low tones

"Things are all clear at the court and police station, the judge is just waiting for us to present Derrick and his guilty charge shouldn't waste more time. The DPO said I should inform you"

"Okay, good, Derrick should be on his way soon, probably 15 minutes, his car signal shows his 30minutes away"

"Oh okay"

"You should go, he shouldn't see you here"

"How will he know I'm involved in any of this" He then remembered he was fully dressed in his uniform

"Oh, yeah, there's that. And it's possible he sighted me, when we went to Sade's house earlier"

"Yeah maybe"

Derrick wondered what the men were doing in there with Sade, Bisola and Mr Balogun. The cry from the inside also made him worry more.

“Okay, you have to this, right now”

He hid the gun behind him, closed his eyes briefly and opened the door.

Speechless, that’s the word that hit him as he stepped his legs into that room.

A screen, showing Sade, Bisola and Balogun discussing on possible ways to reach Derrick and get justice for what he did to her hung up on the wall, between four other massive screens. He suspected they kept tabs on the car he used to Sade’s place, so he changed the car in his mechanics shop on his way here, telling them his car went into overheat. But what were all these gadgets for? Two laptops sat on the table, a pin microphone, and other things he had no idea about.

“I have been calling the police, Derrick is not at his house either” Barrister Balogun said.

“And we need him to make our case right?”

“Yes, we have a good case if he is found, his escape helps prove him even guiltier”

Sade was silent all through. Derrick couldn’t control the tears that fell from his eyes watching Sade, he had seen her sad but he had never seen this look on her face, she had gotten to the peak of it, and he hated himself for bringing her so much pain. If only last night never happened, he would have tried to...

“Who let you in here?”

Derrick turned swiftly to see the sergeant, pointing a gun at him.

“Sergeant?” He couldn’t believe his eyes. He was hoping the sergeant was investigating the place, but no, he was in this.

Sade, Bisola and Barr. Balogun spoke con

“How the heck did you get in here?”

“What are you doing here?” He remembered this sergeant’s face from the prison rounds. He had walked past his cell numerously.

“That is none of your business” The sergeant kept pointing the gun at him and headed straight for the door.

Barr Balogun walked back and forth in the room, wondering what to do, he was 6ft2inch and had no problems looking into top shelves. His eyes caught a red light, beeping in the corner of the shelf.

“What the heck” He reached out and pulled it out”

## CHAPTER 8

“Your house had been bugged”

“What?” Bisola looked up at him holding a tiny round object. Sade was too weak to look

“I’m sure Derrick has been monitoring me” Sade said, tired of crying.

“That son of a...” Bisola held herself

“A rapist, and a creep” Balogun shook his head.

“We have to leave this building now, it’s no more safe for any of us”

Bisola helped Sade pack a few things, and they went with Balogun. It was getting close to noon and they were already exhausted.

“I’m not going with you” Sade turned around and walked back in

“What is wrong with this girl” Bisola blurted, almost giving up

Derrick wondered why the sergeant ran away. But his wonder was short-lived by the fact that Sade’s home screen was off. He had been too distracted by the sergeant to see exactly what happened. Panic overwhelmed him. Had they gotten to her?

“I see you made it” He turned again, it was a voice he recognized, the voice that had no face, the voice on the phone.

A man walked out of the inner room, broad chested, bearded and standing at about 5ft11 inches, he had the same physique.

“Who are you?”

“We’d get to introductions later, for now, well-done, you did great”

“Can I have her now?”

“Oh, yes, she’s right in the other room, I’m sure she’ll be happy to see you. God knows I’m tired of the cries, so annoying”

Derrick made his way to the door, eager to see her

“But one slight adjustment, how will you be with her from prison?”

“Ehn? Prison?”

“Oh yes, I’m sorry I forgot to tell you a little detail in our arrangement”

“No, no, no, this was not what you said, you made it clear!”

“Oops, I guess I’m just a silly forgetter”

“Don’t do this, let me just go with her, please”

The man laughed so hard “Oh you thought it was that easy?”

Derrick couldn’t believe his ears

“Well you would have to take your sorry self, back to the prison and let them know you are guilty, I promise it won’t be a life sentence, just a couple of years and you’d be out, okay?”

“But I am not guilty!”

“Hahahaha, oh well, it’s your face on the video”

“Nobody would believe me, I was in that room, but I was there on vacation, I didn’t see or even sleep with anyone!”

“Tell that to the court that shows you on her”

“I am not the one”

“Thanks to my wizardry on computers, no one can see that”

He was having fun with it. He played the video again.

“Look at my creation, chai, I am good”

Derrick looked closely at the video, it showed him coming out from the bathroom, yes unclad, and turning on the AC, he walked past the camera scope and back towards the bed, but looking closely at the person on top of Sade, any other person would think it was him. Derrick looked again, closely this time, Sade was on the bed as he walked out from the bathroom, but there were two curtains, one by the bed and one by the area he walked by, and they were different! This was not the same day.

He smiled to himself that he had seen an error, he wondered if he should let this man know the error in his edits.

“So you see, no one would believe you, even if you plead not guilty. I’m sorry you were a random victim, but your movement in the room was so smooth for my magic edits to be seamless. Foolish girl, wonder why she never said yes to me, ever since secondary school”

“No please, don’t do this” Derrick decided to keep the information to himself. How could someone carry the grudge of rejection to this extent?

“On your way now, straight to the police station, if you ever want to see her alive”

Her cry came again, this time even louder and Derrick could take it no more. He dived right out of the room and followed the voice till he got to where she was. His heart dropped.

The baby lay bare on the cold tile floor, red and cold. He ran over and picked her up, he couldn’t imagine her pain. He had taken care of this one legged beauty from the day she was born. He was followed by this man.

“Put the baby down!”

“NO!”

“I said, put her down!”

“She is your blood! How will you do this to your own blood?”

“I swear if you don’t go to the police station now, I will kill her in front of you, kill you and kill myself”

“Kill me instead” Derrick kept her on the couch, and walked straight up to him. He lifted the gun to his head

“Are you daring me?”

“It’s not a dare, you heartless imbecile, it’s a command”

Sade heard the gunshot...

“NO!!! NO!!!!!!”

She was too late. The army had surrounded the building, but it was too late. She fell to the ground weeping.

As Derrick escaped from Sade’s house, as he exchanged cars, he told his mechanic friend, Charles, everything, and they agreed he would dial his number while entering the building. Charles contacted a client who was in the army and told him, before heading straight to Sade’s house. They listened in on the recorded call.

“It’s too dangerous” Barr Balogun and Bisola shouted.

Sade didn’t care. She ran in. Right behind the armed men.

Breaking down the door, they found them face down on the floor, blood splattered on the ground, the baby shaking vigorously as she wailed in terror.

The commander turned them over one by one, the first was Derrick, breathing slowly

Sade sprawled on the floor, holding on to him.

“Please don’t die. Please, I know everything, I promise I know” Derrick eyes grew thinner and thinner.

Bisola joined in, alongside Barr Balogun

The second man on the floor was turned

“Tony!!!???”

Bisola fainted. Balogun hurried to her side, rushing her out of the place, He felt like killing Tony.

Sade looked up and saw Tony, shut in the stomach.

As he was carried out, slightly conscious, Sade could not bring herself to understand what was going on.

“Sade, the video, it wasn’t me, it wasn’t me, I had to lie to you be... be... be... cause of the baby, he was going to kill her”

“But the video showed your face” She didn’t still understand that

Derrick was losing strength, he had a cut on his arm so deep, from the sharp glass he fell on in the gun struggle, and it bled everywhere. But even if it was the last thing he did, he had to explain

“The curtains my love, the curtains, look at the curtains. It wasn’t me”

Sade burst out in tears.

“I love you Sade, and I love your daughter”

“I love you more Derrick, oh gosh I love you so much!”

Sade had no words. She fought everyday with the battle of her love for him and the pain of what she thought he did.

The men came to pick him up and she joined them. The baby had been carried out as well

He held onto her hands

“I named her Alaiia”

Tears of joy ran down her cheeks. That was the most beautiful name she had ever heard.

“I want to adopt her” He continued

“Sade just kept on crying, she could not believe her ears.

He smiled and he knew her tears were not tears of pain anymore

“And if you don’t mind. I want to adopt you too” rubbing her palms with his fingers

“Huh? What do you mean?”

“Marry me Sade”

THE END