

ALL WE ARE

Written by

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Based on the 177 battalion officer's diary

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OUR PASSION SHOULD CAPTIVATE

OUR COURAGE SHOULD INSPIRE

OUR HEART SHOULD REFINE

THIS IS ALL WE ARE

FADE IN

A simple sentence in parenthesis, exactly like so:

**DEATH IS NOT THE GREATEST LOSS, ITS WHAT DIES INSIDE US
WHILE WE LIVE; THAT IS TRUE LOSS**

INT. ROOM - DAY - 6:30AM

The sound of the shower, a picture of a celebrated military man, picture of armed military men

MAJOR YAKUBU (V.O.)

I have not finished my own

The picture of a military man (in a lower rank; lieutenant) embracing a little girl with writing on her side saying *RIP*

MAJOR YAKUBU (V.O.)

so i cannot relate to the
phrase " it is finished"

Bathroom door opens as Mrs. Yakubu (late 30's, dark, average height, well cultured hausa woman and a fashion designer) comes out with a towel wrapped around her

Major Yakubu seated at the edge of the bed, looking at a paper work.

MAJOR YAKUBU

Who picked up an N.D.A form for
yusuf?

MRS YAKUBU

(a little scared)
His uncle, Danladi

MAJOR YAKUBU

(swinging the paper work
away; furious)
I am trying to keep ____
(calmly)
Zainab, i just don't want this

MRS YAKUBU

(gathering the paper)
Mujini, all he wants is to be like
his father

Major yakubu looks at the picture of him and the little girl

MAJOR YAKUBU

That is exactly, who i don't want
him to be like

He pulls out the crutches behind the bed and makes to stand up. Zainab tried to assist him but he refuses, on getting up, he looses his balance and falls hard on the floor

FADE OUT.

INT. SITTING ROOM - DAY - 9:00AM

Major Yakubu makes his way to the three seater chair, with a bottle of alcohol. Danladi (late 20's, slightly fair in complexion, geeky look, bald, a doctor) steps in

DANLADI

Ina kwana brother

He gets no response

DANLADI (CONT'D)

When did you get so use to
drinking?

MAJOR YAKUBU

Repetition

Danladi seats at the edge of a single seater

DANLADI

(looking at his crutches,
then the leg)
How is the leg?

MAJOR YAKUBU

Same as your adulterous wife

DANLADI

Life is not a binary system
brother, you can be injured and be
modest

He tries to open the alcohol drink

DANLADI (CONT'D)

(grabbing the drink from
him and getting up)
You want it? Come and get it

MAJOR YAKUBU

Give me that bottle right now, or
halima would not be the only one
six feet down the ground

Yusuf (major yakubu's son, 18 years, dark skinned, average height, cute, with low self esteem) walks slowly into the sitting room, tears swell in his eyes. Danladi places the bottle on a table and leaves the house with yusuf

FADE OUT.

INT. SITTING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Zainab lets herself into the house, she appears to be returning from work

Yusuf is clearing up the bottles of alcohol, as yakubu lays asleep

MRS YAKUBU

(hurries towards yusuf to
get the bottles from him)

Let me

He takes a short pause, looks at the picture of the family (they look happy) which is fastened to the wall, keeping his gaze on the little girl in the picture, he hands mother the bottles, then heads for his room

MAJOR YAKUBU

(sleepy voice)

He is too feeble for the military,
i am doing him a favor

MRS YAKUBU

I know, atleast he is making an
effort, unlike someone we know

She makes to walk away

MAJOR YAKUBU

I don't need your sarcasm

MRS YAKUBU

(avoiding his gaze)

I am not being sarcastic. All i am
saying is, most times, the beauty
is in the attempt.

She walks out, leaving him to his thought

FADE OUT.

EXT. MAJOR YAKUBU'S COMPOUND - EVENING

Major yakubu is sitted with a bottle of 501, next to the bottle is a half filled glass, and a vacant seat, he places his leg on

He appears lost in thought as we hear a young girl(halima) sreaming *DADDY!!!* in agony.

We hear a gunshot as he snaps back to reality; disturbed.

Danladi comes out of the house, in lieu of leaving, he takes a sit next to yusuf.

DANLADI

(breaking the silence)

I got a call that Mr. Bello is dead

MAJOR YAKUBU

I also got a call about the death of my daughter, same day i got shot in the leg

DANLADI

(sighs)

Its what he said on his death bed that baffled me

He pours himself a drink and downs it

MAJOR YAKUBU

I thought you advice against drinking

DANLADI

There are some words you just drink on

(sotto)

He said if i die today. I die empty. Many of us ain't there yet

MAJOR YAKUBU

Oh boi!

DANLADI

How many of us can really get to a point?

He pours himself another cup, downs it, then gets up

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. YUSUF'S ROOM - NIGHT

Yusuf who appears to be studying the family picture, as his mother lets herself in

MRS YAKUBU

We all still miss her

She comes in, sits on his bed; as he turns his seat to face her

MRS YAKUBU (CONT'D)

You know we want the best for you, right?

He looks away, fighting his tears

She embraces him in a way words can't express

CUT TO:

INT. MASTERS BEDROOM - NIGHT

As Zainab lays on the bed, she rolls over to face yakubu's back

ZAINAB

Are you awake?

He does not respond

ZAINAB (CONT'D)

(bothered)

I am really trying, but you keep pushing me aside. I can't break through, you are not talking to me

(embracing him from behind)

I need you to breakthrough for me, for us. Please

He opens his eyes, yet laid still

FADE OUT.

INT. SITTING ROOM - DAY

Yakubu lays wasted on the floor. Everywhere appears scattered

Mama(late 50's, classic hausa woman, educated but still has intonation)

MAMA

(irritated)

Torh, I thought military men are portrayed to be able to face any obstacle.

MAJOR YAKUBU

(defensive)

Some obstacle can bring the strongest down

MRS YAKUBU

That's the obstacle you allow to remain

MAMA

(furious)

What is wrong with you? Your son is going to a new level, he needs guidance. Your family needs you fha

MAJOR YAKUBU

Everyone needs guidance mama

MRS YAKUBU

Yes, but he is a teenager. You are an adult, a father.

He says nothing

MRS YAKUBU (CONT'D)

Say something

MAJOR YAKUBU

You don't get it do you? I use to be somebody, i use to have something of uttermost treasure. I use to be a provider for this family and i was great at it. I should have being there for halima that night, i should have not gotten shot, but i got shot and i was not there. Now i am nothing and she is no more. That's not something someone just gets by

MRS YAKUBU

She is no more? You are nothing?

(sotto)

She was and is in my every beating heart. And i am still here with you

(furious)

Look around. Does this look like nothing

He looks at each one of them, just then, yusuf walk into the sitting room

MRS YAKUBU (CONT'D)

You have got to figure things out,
or you will understand what it
really feels like to have nothing.
That is a promise

She storms out, dragging yusuf along

MAMA

(to major yusuf)
Why are you doing this?

DANLADI

Because he lost his only biological
child

FADE OUT.

INT. SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

Major Yakubu seated on the floor, looking at the picture of his daughter. He appears broken

Mama, takes her seat quietly next to him

MAJOR YAKUBU

(sobbing)
She comes to me for advice on how
to be a good student, she calls me
when she doesn't understand things,
she always calls me; and she needed
me to be there

MAMA

Atimes life makes the water muddy,
to make it seem deep. You just have
to find that strength.

MAJOR YAKUBU

I do not know how to beat this. How
did you handle loosing one of us?

MAMA

The same way i handled having three
miscarriages in my first year of
marriage

MAMA (CONT'D)

(holding his hand)
This is but a phase.
(MORE)

MAMA (CONT'D)

(sotto)

You can't let him know, he is not
your true son, his world will
change

Placing his head on her chest in an embrace

MAMA (CONT'D)

It can only get better. One day at
a time son

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. SITTING ROOM - DAY - 5 YEARS LATER

Mrs yakubu and mama is setting the dinning table, as major
yakubu and yusuf comes in, both dressed in the military
attire

As they exchange pleasantries, danladi lets himself in

DANLADI

Is there room for one more?

They smile as they settle in to eat

MAJOR YAKUBU

(raising his glass)

This is to my son, who was
decorated lieutenant today. I am so
proud of you. For Yusuf

MAMA, DANLADI AND MRS YAKUBU

For yusuf

They start eating, smiling and talking INAUDIBLY

MAJOR YAKUBU (V.O.)

I couldn't relate to the phrase
"it is finished", actually, i am
yet to figure it out. But i can
relate to continuity, persistence,
reassessment at intervals,
repositioning, restrategy and
refusing to stop. For the dead
lives not life, neither any that
goes down into silence.

FADE TO BLACK.

**END NOTE READS: TWO YEARS LATER, YUSUF WAS DIAGNOSED OF POST
TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (P.T.S.D)**