

RE-DO

Written By

Nkechi Nwabudike

nkaynwabudike@gmail.com
09055459880

FADE IN:

INT. EXCLUSIVE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A small and private dining room, there are only six tables spaced out in the entire room. Each table is neatly made with candles lit. Slow music is playing softly in the background and the central lighting in the room is dim. The entire ambience is one of classy romance. Two of the tables in one end of the room are already occupied.

DAYO, a tall dark and handsome man in his late 20s dressed smartly in a nice well cut dark suit, and OGO, a slightly built dark woman of average height in her mid 20s, dressed in a nice red dress that stops just off her knees and very nice pair of heels, walk in together arm in arm. They are just behind the WAITER, an average man of indeterminate age wearing the white shirt, black trousers, waistcoat and bow tie of his profession.

The couple look good together. They are happy and smiling at each other as the waiter leads them to an unoccupied table and leaves them after they've settled in.

OGO

Awww babe, this is a terrific surprise. How did you manage to get us a reservation?

DAYO

Oh no biggie. Turns out the manager and I are compatible so when I promised him one of my kidneys, he promised we could eat here for the rest of our lives

Ogo stares at him, shocked and disbelieving.

OGO

What???

Dayo bursts into laughter

DAYO

(still laughing)
Ogo love, you make it too easy.
Let's just say I know a guy

OGO

You always know a guy. I'm still trying to decide if that's a good thing.

DAYO

(wiggling his eyebrows)
Stop forming jo. You know you like it.

OGO
I do, actually, I really do like
it.

DAYO
Of course you do, I'm lovable like
that.

OGO
No, annoying like that is what you
are

DAYO
But I'm the annoying man who
completely, totally loves you with
all his heart.

OGO
Awww

She leans in and they share a kiss.

Pan out from the couple still gazing into each other's eye,
back to the door from which they entered. The waiter is
leading another couple in. The waiter looks tense, but not as
tense as the couple walking in behind him.

MR. ABIOLA is a distinguished looking man in his late 40s, he
is in a wheelchair which he operates himself but this doesn't
detract from his powerful build. He is wearing a suit that
fits his looks and greying hair. Beside him is his wife MRS.
ABIOLA, a good looking well preserved woman in her mid 40s.
She is groomed and her outfit is well put together. Neither
husband nor wife is smiling as the waiter leads them to the
table right next to Dayo and Ogo. The silent waiter leaves as
soon as they settle in.

MRS ABIOLA
(loud, upset)
Would it have killed you to tell me
you wanted to go out? Instead of
letting me waste all that time
cooking?

MR ABIOLA
(also loud)
Woman can you do anything but
complain? First it's that I'm
taking you for granted and treating
you like a slave then when I do
something romantic and you're still
complaining.

Dayo and Ogo stop staring at each other as the other two's
voice rise, they're staring at Mr and Mrs Abiola while trying
not to be obvious about it.

MRS ABIOLA

(voice rising)

So it's my fault abi? Everything is always my fault. I'm sorry I make your life so miserable o St. Abiola

MR ABIOLA

There you go again, twisting everything I say. I swear, you'd drive Jesus to commit murder

The waiter shows up. He stares at Dayo and Ogo oddly for a few seconds then turns to watch the other couple. He is puzzled, unsure. He starts to walk towards the other couple then shakes his head and turns to Dayo and Ogo.

DAYO

(to the waiter)

I'll have the seafood special with a side of rice. The lady will have... what do you want dear?

OGO

For a second there, I thought you'd order for me.

DAYO

I never make the same mistake twice.

Ogo smiles at him and turns to the waiter.

OGO

The seafood special but with shrimp salad.

DAYO

We'll pair it with your excellent cabaret.

The waiter nods and gives them a huge smile then walks away.

OGO

This is shaping up to be a truly magical night. Thank you Dayo.

DAYO

I'm glad you're enjoying yourself. There is something that I'd like to ask you though.

Loud voices from the Abiola's table divert their attention.

MRS ABIOLA

(loud)

Just say it! You blame me for your accident. You've always blamed me.

MR ABIOLA

(also loud)

Where do you get all these stupid notions of yours from? Is there a special well of stupidity only you have access to?

MRS ABIOLA

(shouting)

So now I'm stupid as well. Just remember you had your affair first!

MR ABIOLA

(also shouting)

And you paid me back didn't you? You slept with my best friend!

MRS ABIOLA

Yes, yes I did. But I didn't make you get drunk and turn the streets of Lagos into a race track.

MR ABIOLA

Fine, fine. I never said the accident was your fault. That I'm stuck in this wheelchair is not your fault, you know what is?

MRS ABIOLA

Please, please. Tell me what is.

MR ABIOLA

The fact that our lives have turned into a hell on earth. I swear if I end up in hell after you, it'll be a bloody vacation!!!

Silence meets Mr Abiola's last statement then his wife storms up and walks out of the restaurant furious. Mr Abiola sighs then turns to the younger couple staring at him.

MR ABIOLA (CONT'D)

Were we being loud? I'm sorry.

DAYO

Um... It's okay.

MR ABIOLA

(sadly)

No it's not. But it's kind of you to say so.

OGO

I know it's none of my business but can I ask, have you considered getting help? Couple's therapy or even just talking to your pastor?

MR ABIOLA

(resigned)

We've tried everything, nothing helps. No. The problem you see, is that we've fallen out of love with each other. We can barely stand the person we've become.

DAYO

So why not just end it? Get a divorce if your life is so miserable you'd consider hell a holiday.

MR ABIOLA

I don't believe in divorce and neither does she. We swore till death do us part.

DAYO

But you also swore to love each other.

MR ABIOLA

Young man, it's very complicated. And then there are the children. Don't get married, it's not worth it.

DAYO

What?

MR ABIOLA

Just don't do it. It's a trap and it's not worth it. For the last 6 years I've wished I could go back and tell myself, now I'm telling you. Don't get married

OGO

We love each other. I don't mean to be disrespectful but we're not you.

MR ABIOLA

We loved each other too, my wife and I. On our wedding day, I couldn't imagine life without her. Our names are inscribed on our band, that's how much in love we were. But now???

He pulls out his wedding band and rolls it around his palm.

Mrs Abiola returns to the table, she is still upset and there are some signs on her face that she's been crying.

MRS ABIOLA

(stiff, to her husband)

I want to leave. I think you've proved that this brilliant romantic idea of yours is a failure and embarrassed both of us enough for one night.

Mr Abiola looks at her in resignation then sighs and powers off his chair to the door. The waiter is standing at the door, studying both couples then he shrugs and turns to push a food trolley in. Mrs Abiola turns to Dayo and Ogo.

MRS ABIOLA (CONT'D)

I apologize for our loudness. We didn't mean to ruin your night with our problems.

OGO

(wary)

It's okay.

MRS ABIOLA

We weren't always like this. We used to be so happy, but then we got married.

OGO

I'm sorry I don't understand that. And to be honest, I don't want to. It sounds like instead of sitting down to work through your problems, you're just ignoring them.

Mrs Abiola studies the young couple in silence for a few seconds then shakes her head.

MRS ABIOLA

Maybe you're right, but when I was young and in love I wouldn't have listened to anyone either.

She gestures to the door through which her husband left

MRS ABIOLA (CONT'D)

(sad)

Saint Abiola there, says he never makes the same mistake twice. I sometimes wish that when he proposed, in this restaurant actually (pause) 20 years ago today actually. I forgot that. I should have said no. But you're right, you're not us. I wish you young people happiness, life long happiness. The kind of love that grows with time.

She nods to Dayo and Ogo and walks out of the restaurant. The remaining two look at each other. They concentrate on eating their food for a few minutes.

DAYO
Do you think that we could end up
like those two?

OGO
(considering)
Us??? Nope, I don't think so. For
one thing I'd never cheat on you
with your best friend

DAYO
And why would I even look anywhere
else when I have you?

OGO
Besides, I think we're mature
enough to handle our issues without
turning into monsters.

DAYO
And I really do love you, Ogo

OGO
I love you too Dayo.

They smile and relax a little. Dayo takes a forkful of food and feeds her, she smiles and eats. They continue their meal, eating from each others plates and drinking from each other's glasses. They seem to have recaptured some of the earlier calm.

DAYO
So do you still consider this a
magical night?

OGO
Oh yes, definitely.

DAYO
Good, because I have a question to
ask you.

He puts his hand into his pocket and brings out a jewelry box and goes down on one knee.

OGO
(shocked)
Oh my God, Oh My GOD!

DAYO
Ogochukwu, I love you more than I
have ever loved anyone in my life
and I cannot imagine spending the
rest of my life without you.
(MORE)

DAYO (CONT'D)

Will you make me the happiest man
in the world and marry me?

OGO

(happy)

Yes, yes, of course yes I'll marry
you. (loud, still happy) yes, yes.
Put it on.

Dayo slips the ring on her finger and they both stand up and share a deep kiss and hug. The entire restaurant is clapping and cheering for them. The waiter appears with a bottle of champagne which the happy couple pop.

DAYO

We're getting married.

OGO

(excited, looking at her
ring)

I have to call my mother oh and my
sister. And Uduak of course. This
is just so..... I love you Dayo.

Something glints off the table the Abiola's vacated. Dayo leans over and sees a ring resting on a complimentary card. He picks both up.

DAYO

That's odd.

OGO

What is it?

DAYO

The guy in the wheelchair left his
ring and card but that's not the
odd part.

OGO

It isn't?

DAYO

No the card is in my name.

OGO

What? Let me see?

Dayo hands over the card to Ogo who raises it to study in better light. On the card is Dayo O. Abiola, Real Estate Developer.

OGO (CONT'D)

Okay yes that's odd. Really odd.

DAYO

And look at the ring. It has Dayo
and Ogo carved into it.

OGO
(shocked)
That's impossible.

A WAITRESS, short and on the plumpy side but good looking in her late 20s, shows up beside their table.

WAITRESS
Is there anything else I can help you with?

DAYO
The couple on that table left this

WAITRESS
I'm sorry sir, what table?

DAYO
That one right over...

Dayo and Ogo turn to stare at the table but there is no table there, just a mirror.

OGO
Okay, what's going on here? That is absolutely impossible.

WAITRESS
(confused)
Sir? Madame?

DAYO
Where's the waiter? The one who served us?

WAITRESS
I'm sorry sir, I'm the only one who serves this corner.

Ogo and Dayo stare at themselves, confused. Then the waiter shows up at the door and waves at them, smiling. He bows deeply and turns, walking away.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)
Sir? Madame?

DAYO
Just get us the bill.

The waitress smiles at them warily, then leaves.

OGO
What the hell? Was that supposed to be some kind of vision from the future or what?

DAYO

Damned if I know. If I didn't know better I'd say someone was playing a trick on us.

OGO

So what do you think?

DAYO

I don't know. And I don't care. I don't know who that fellow is or what type of joke he's playing but I do know that I love you and I'll go on loving you for the rest of my life and even after that.

OGO

And like I said, we're not them. I love you.

DAYO

I love you too, now let's go celebrate our engagement. I know something we can do

He leans over and whispers something in her ears and she laughs. The waitress returns and unobtrusively drops a bill jacket on the table, then she walks away.

At the door, Mr and Mrs Abiola and the waiter stand looking at them and shaking their heads.

An oblivious Dayo and Ogo kiss each other and laugh some more. Dayo slips some money into the jacket then he and Ogo stand up and walk through the now empty door.

EXT. EXCLUSIVE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Dayo and Ogo walk out of the restaurant into the well lit car park. They are holding onto each other talking and laughing. They are halfway to their car when their image disappears only to be replaced with Mr and Mrs Abiola, snipping at each other at the top of their voices.

From a shaded alcove, the waiter looks on in sadness, shaking his head.

FADE TO BLACK.