

MONSTER

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

A YELLOW BULB casts a harsh glare on the room. Odds and ends fill the room.

There is the sound of a *thump thump thump* on a wooden door with faded paint. The knob jiggles. Someone... or something on the other side is trying to get in.

NONSO, late 20s, handsome and dark-skinned is sprawled on a chair, his hands behind him. He blinks as his eyes open... he shakes his head, trying to get his bearings.

NONSO
What... where...?

He tries to move. His hands are tied with ropes behind him.

NONSO (CONT'D)
What the...?

He struggles painfully against the ropes. Someone stirs beside him - ZARA, 23, easily the most beautiful girl he has ever seen. She opens her eyes. Her expression turns from confusion to fear.

ZARA
What is going on?

Nonso notices two other people. A grumpy lady with a nasty expression - BISI. Another figure is still unconscious. He has a black hood over his head. Bisi also struggles against her bonds.

OKON (O.S.)
You're awake. Good.

They all turn. A sad looking man in his early 50s sits on a chair in front of them. He is OKON.

BISI
What is this?

NONSO
Who are you?

OKON (CONT'D)
My name is Okon. And this...
(spreads his hands)
This is the end of days.

NONSO
Huh?

Okon stands and paces.

OKON
I must apologize for your...
captivity. It was necessary.

BISI
You kidnapped us?

NONSO
Necessary for what?

Something growls behind the door. It thumps harder. They all turn.

BISI
(voice shaking)
What is that?

Okon takes a deep breath.

OKON
The world as you know it has been
destroyed.

NONSO
What?

Okon removes his glasses and wipes his eyes. He puts them back on.

OKON
Yesterday, there was an outbreak.
Viral. Judging from news reports,
virtually ninety-five percent of
humanity has been wiped out.

Okon looks at each of their uncomprehending faces.

OKON (CONT'D)
The remaining five percent have
turned into... monsters. Flesh-
eating monsters.

NONSO
You mean, like zombies.

OKON
No. I mean, monsters. They look
more like dragons. In fact, you
just heard one outside the door.

They all turn to the door.

OKON (CONT'D)

I am a scientist. I think I've found a cure but it will take a couple of hours to make it reactive and dispersible.

BISI

What does that even mean?

NONSO

How do we know you aren't lying?

Okon sighs.

OKON

You just have to trust me. Every hour, the monster has to feed or it will break into the room; the door is not strong enough to hold it off.

THUMP THUMP THUMP.

NONSO

Then feed it for God's sake.

Okon looks even sadder.

OKON

It only has taste for human meat.

They take a moment to process this.

BISI

What?

NONSO

That's why we are tied up. We are food for the monster.

ZARA

Oh my God.

OKON

I'm sorry. I tried everything else - beef, chicken, fish-

BISI

You're going to feed us... feed us to the monster.

OKON

It's a sacrifice I have to live with. For the sake of humanity.

(MORE)

OKON (CONT'D)
Every time it starts to thump on
the door-

An alarm sounds in another room. Okon looks at his watch. He runs into the other room. Bisi looks at them.

BISI
We have to get out of here.

NONSO
How? We're tied up.

BISI
I'm not going to be *suya* today. I
may be a cripple but I'm also a
survivor.

NONSO
You can't walk?

They notice the wheelchair for the first time.

BISI
Duh, that's what the wheelchair is
for.

NONSO
I'm sorry.

Bisi shrugs. Okon enters, mumbling.

OKON
One hour, at most.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - DOOR

The door rattles. The growl is louder.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

Okon is terrified.

OKON
He's really hungry.

He looks at the man covered with the black cloth. Okon lifts him off the chair and drags him to the door.

ZARA
Oh my God, oh my God...

Okon opens the door... and quickly pushes him out. He shuts the door.

Immediately, there is the sound of flesh being ripped and torn. The man screams in agony... a final rip... silence.

The three stare at Okon in horror. Okon clenches his jaw and walks past them.

OKON
I'm doing what needs to be done-

ZARA
You're a monster.

OKON
-so I'll give you a choice. Decide among yourselves. Who's next?

He walks back into the other room. The three of them look at each other.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - LATER

They look miserable.

ZARA
(to Nonso)
How did we get here? What's the last thing you remember?

Nonso thinks hard.

NONSO
I went to a clinic for the new flu vaccine. Next thing I know, I wake up here.

ZARA
Same. My name is Zara by the way.

NONSO
Nonso.

BISI
I'm Bisi. Look, I have an idea. We don't have to do what he says, right? So, we don't pick anyone. That way, he cannot choose-

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP. The monster growls really loud.

Okon runs out.

OKON
 No no no no no. Too early.
 (to the three)
 Have you decided who's next?

The door rattles loudly. Bisi strains her neck.

BISI
 Pick her. Pick her!

ZARA
 That was not what you said.

BISI
 I'm a survivor. I survive-

Okon drags her wheelchair and races it to the door. Bisi is in a state of shock and horror.

BISI (CONT'D)
 No... not me... no.

He pushes her out of the door and closes it. She screams as her flash is ripped off. Then, silence.

OKON
 She broke your agreement, didn't she?

He walks back to the other room.

NONSO
 Shit... shit... we have to escape.
 Or we will be corned beef.

ZARA
 You think?

Nonso rubs the ropes against the sharp edge of chair leg.

NONSO
 I think I can get the ropes off.

ZARA
 Hurry.

He keeps rubbing. The rope snaps. Nonso gets up with a sense of urgency. He grabs a knife and starts to work on Zara's ropes.

They turn at the sound of Okon's voice.

OKON (O.S.)
 Almost... almost...

INT. OTHER ROOM ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Okon appears in the room. Nonso and Zara are seated as though tied. Okon wrinkles his nose; his hands are behind him.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

He stands in front of Nonso. Suddenly he sticks a needle into Nonso's arm and plunges the syringe.

OKON

You're trying to escape, abi?

Nonso starts to lose consciousness. An iron bar slams on Okon's head. He falls to the floor. Zara stands over him holding the iron bar.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

Nonso wakes up. He is lying on the ground. He sits up. Zara paces, worried, her hands on her head.

She sees Nonso and runs to him. Okon sits on a chair, tied.

NONSO

Wow... We can escape-

ZARA

No. We have to free Okon.

NONSO

What-

ZARA

I saw his lab. I looked outside the window. There is nowhere to run. Just monsters everywhere.

She is trembling with fear.

ZARA (CONT'D)

Nowhere to go.

The monster slams into the door, threatening to break it down.

OKON
Time is not on our side. You have
to let me go.

Zara unties Okon. He runs into the other room immediately.
Zara gives Nonso a wistful look.

ZARA
In another place, another time...
we could have been something.

NONSO
What?

ZARA
Lock the door behind me.

NONSO
What, no!

Zara runs to the door. She opens it and steps out. She turns
to wave at Nonso. Then she closes it behind her.

Nonso is in a state of stupor as her screams fill the air.
The door still rattles. The monster is not satisfied. Nonso
goes to hold the door.

Okon runs in at that moment carrying a timer and a box.

NONSO (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Is that it? Is that the cure?

OKON
Yes. But it is also a bomb.

NONSO
Huh?

OKON
Quickest mechanism to disperse it
would be through a major
combustible reaction i.e. a bomb.

Okon places the device on a table. He sets the timer to ten
seconds. It starts to countdown. He looks at Nonso, sadly.

OKON (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about this. But it for
the good of humanity.

He closes his eyes. Nonso looks at the timer as it counts
down. 3... 2... 1...

Beep beep. Beep beep.

Nothing happens. Okon opens his eyes and smiles.

OKON (CONT'D)

Surprise.

From behind the door, he hears people singing *Happy Birthday to you*.

NONSO

What?

The door opens. Bisi wheels in, singing. Followed by Zara.

ZARA

Happy birthday.

NONSO

What is going on?

ZARA

Your brother set this up. He paid us to give you an end-of-the-world birthday theme.

His brother walks in, holding the black hood, smiling.

NONSO

You! I'll kill you.

He grabs his brother in a headlock. They laugh. Zara puts her hand on his shoulder.

ZARA

The main party is in your house. Everyone is waiting.

Nonso lets his brother go. He looks deep into Zara's eyes.

NONSO

So, the party is at my house, eh?

She smiles.

NONSO (CONT'D)

Will you be there?

ZARA

I won't miss it for the end of the world.

Nonso chuckles and shakes his head.

FADE OUT.

THE END