

AFRICA HOUSE

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A play by  
Gideon Jeph Wabvuta

Contact:

Gideon J Wabvuta

157 Richwell Ave, Meyrick Park

Harare, Zimbabwe

wabvuta@gmail.com

CHARACTERS

ALL CHARACTERS ARE BLACK

JOSEPHINE: Zimbabwean, scholarship kid, 22

LERATO: South African, born rich, 23

KULELO: Zambian, very churchy, loving, 22

KATLEGO: Botswana girl, 19, Freshmen

SAM: South African girl, growing into herself

Chimwemwe: Malawian 22, super motivated and driven.

## SETTING

An old townhouse building that looks grand on the outside. Inside we see the lounge where there are bunch of African flags stuck crudely to the walls.

Below the flags is a giant banner that reads the Africa House which is green and champagne. We can also the stairs that go up to the rooms on the first floor.

We also get to see the girls' various rooms which are sparsely furnished only thing that defines them are the posters.

Dedication

To all the african students striving to make a thing for  
themselves in foreign lands.

'You think we walk out of our mother's womb with the innate desire  
to go to America?"- Wise someone.

SCENE 1- CAMMING 101

Lights come up on Josephine's room.  
This time there is a purple cloth  
hanging on the wall.

JOSEPHINE

...thanks Dicky07...

We hear a buzz and Josephine moans.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

Trying to get me to tap out, not happening!

We see Josephine staring at a  
webcam, she is on a camming site  
and routinely we hear the  
...ding... of tokens being paid by  
viewers.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

You think I don't know...ah...

Josephine moans and shrieks.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

I know what you're doing Jamie! I gotta- Aaah!

She moans again.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

I have an assignment, I gotta- Aaaah!!

**CONTINUED:**

She bends over taken over by this  
hit! The loud ding turns into a  
loud sound of coins being poured  
out.

Josephine screams and then quickly  
shoves a pillow in her face as she  
writhes and moans!

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 2- ORIENTATION

Lights come up on the sorority house lounge. There is a banner hanging, it's a little crooked and on it is 'Welcome to Africa House Pledges'.

Below the banner is a table full of appetizers and that's where Josephine is sitting slowly chewing on a baby carrot.

JOSEPHINE

You know baby carrots are actually adult carrots that they shave down.

CHIMWEMWE

Americans! Wasteful as always! You know back home-

LERATO

Nobody cares about Malawi Chii, literally nobody cares, just chew on the-

CHIMWEMWE

Lerato, I am not talking to you and my name is not Chii, it's Chimwe-

LERATO

You gotta relax girl, this is your last year, you should be celebrating, you finally 'go back home'.

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

You haven't told her?

LERATO

Told me what?

Kulelo walks in she has in her  
hands hoodies and T-shirts.

JOSEPHINE

Need help.

KULELO

I'm good...

She's not. She is buried under a  
ton of hoodies and T-shirts.

JOSEPHINE

Lerato help her out.

LERATO

My food is here!

JOSEPHINE

Lerato!

Lerato runs out as Chimwemwe helps  
out Kulelo.

CHIMWEMWE

You got the letter?



CONTINUED:

KULELO

They said we can't sell without giving the school some commission.

CHIMWEMWE

You told them it was for charity?

Lerato comes in holding food.

KULELO

Yeah but they said the school has to be in on that too.

JOSEPHINE

That's rubbish. How are we to raise money for the trip if we don't-

LERATO

I could still ask my dad!

CHIMWEMWE

NO!

LERATO

JOSEPHINE?

JOSEPHINE

We took a vote Lei-

LERATO

What's the point of a vote if we fail to raise the money and we can become some do nothing house. You know the Alphas are going to Ireland?

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

We are not the Alphas and this is not a competition.

CHIMWEMWE

It kinda is.

LERATO

Exactly!

CHIMWEMWE

I still don't agree with asking your father-

LERATO

The recruiting fliers already say we are going on a pilgrimage to Ghana and now you-

JOSEPHINE

If we don't get any new pledges it is what it is, we can't change that.

KULELO

So what do we do about these...

LERATO

Pajamas.

CHIMWEMWE

We could petition the student council.

LERATO

Are you crazy! They barely recognize our house because we refuse to pay their dues, which I don't get.

CONTINUED:

CHIMWEMWE

They should pay us, their ancestors colonized us and-

LERATO

Stop with that nonsense, your country liberated itself decades ago and you still want to-

JOSEPHINE

You privilege is showing!

SAM

Like a boob poking out at a wet t-shirt contest.

Every turns to look and we Sam, she is decked out in workout clothes.

JOSEPHINE

Hey Sam, meet...everyone.

SAM

Hey...everyone.

LERATO

That's the new pledge, athlete?

SAM

Yep that's me, fastest girl on campus. Sakubona sisi.

LERATO

Oh come on, you're one of those?

SAM

One of those?

CONTINUED:

CHIMWEMWE

Lerato hates everyone who is South African, she likes being the only one.

JOSEPHINE

Or...she is scared we will discover that she is actually not a princess of the Zulu nation!

SAM

Wait...are you?

LERATO

See...see what I said? Now she's-

SAM

OH MY FUCKING GOOD! You are Thando Khumalo!

LERATO

SEE! See! I told you-

Lerato sighs loudly and marches upstairs!

KULELO

Is she actually a princess?

SAM

Y'all thought she was lying?

KULELO

Yeah...Thought it was a big joke.

SAM

Her dad is the brother to the king and they are filthy rich.

Africa House

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

We knew the rich part!

A knock, its soft. In walks  
Katlego, she is tiny and looks  
frail-ish.

KATLEGO

Is this-

CHIMWEMWE

Africa House! Welcome to Africa house, the only African  
sorority on campus. We cater to students like you. Had you  
sent in an application? If you hadn't don't worry, we got  
you. Do you have housing, if not-

Chimwemwe grabs her bags and pulls  
them inside.

CHIMWEMWE (CONT'D)

-We got you sorted. We still have room her at a minimal cost,  
better than everywhere else. You see, I negotiated with the  
landlord myself to-

JOSEPHINE

Chii, slow down! You are losing the kid. Hie...welcome, if  
you want food please help yourself. What's your name?

KATLEGO

Ummm...hello...I'm Katlego.

KULELO

Hie Katlego...Botswana?

Africa House

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

Yeah...

KULELO

Gaborone?

KATLEGO

Just outside, Khanye, it's a small village.

KULELO

Oh yeah, I think I know the place. Isn't it...

Lights fade as Kulelo helps Katlego  
to some food.

SCENE 3- CAUCASIAN KIDS

Lights come up on the lounge of a two story house. It's well furnished with worn out furniture.

On the walls are crudely stuck flags of different African countries and then a giant banner that says Alpha Omega Eta. The banner is green and champagne and is also crudely positioned.

We can also see the stairs that go upstairs and the kitchen. The TV is blaring in the lounge and a girl Josephine is sitting on the couch watching intently. In another corner is Kulelo who has headphones on and is bent over her laptop.

The door swings open and Lerato enters, she is a big girl with the confidence of a privileged white girl.

LERATO

Whose kids are out there?

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

(eyes glued to the tv)

What kids?

LERATO

The caucasian kids out there?

JOSEPHINE

Out there where?

LERATO

Clearly they are not yours, so I'm not talking to you.

JOSEPHINE

(looking at her)

What's your problem?

LERATO

Problem? Why should I have a problem with YOU?

JOSEPHINE

And what's that supposed to mean.

LERATO

That I have problems with people who don't remember why they left their village.

JOSEPHINE

This is none of your business!

LERATO

It is my business when you just sit there! That's not you!



CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

Unless my mother signed me over to you. SHUT. UP! This is me!

LERATO

You gotta get over it!

JOSEPHINE

Don't tell me to get over anything, my life is gutted, I am embarrassed, I am...

LERATO

You still need to go to class!

Katlego, very shaky and timid girl  
literally falls down the stairs  
stunning everyone.

LERATO (CONT'D)

Are you ok?

KATLEGO

Yeah. Yeah...are my kids still outside?

LERATO

You brought those white kids here?

Josephine's phone rings. She looks  
at it and ignores.

KATLEGO

The mother asked me if I could take them for a walk and-

LERATO

Are they dogs?

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

Ah, No...Um...

JOSEPHINE

Did you ask for more money?

KATLEGO

No, was I supposed to?

LERATO

You walked her shitty kids she better pay you coz that little one with the red hair tried to bite me, If that kid wasn't white I would have kicked it's goddamn ass.

KATLEGO

So I should ask for more?

LERATO

Yeah but she fired me when-

JOSEPHINE

She didn't fire you for that, you told her husband that she was sleeping with the pool boy.

LERATO

Well she was fucking him and I hated that job.

JOSEPHINE

Not like you needed it.

We hear a loud slap followed by a tormented wail.

CONTINUED:

Katlego speeds out leaving the two  
staring at each other.

Josephine goes back to her TV where  
afro music is blaring as Lerato  
starts going up the stairs.

LERATO

Only psychopaths listen to dance music and don't actually  
dance or sing along.

JOSEPHINE

Only assholes make that kind of observation!

Lerato clicks her tongue loudly.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

And your mother too!

Lerato disappears up as Katlego  
runs back in she is holding a  
diaper.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

Eew what's that smell- why are you bringing a diaper in here?

KATLEGO

He ah, pooped...

JOSEPHINE

Nope, that's called shitting, ew, that's grown man shit, a  
four year old.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

Back home I would have let him sit in his shit for at least an hour whilst the ants and the flies feast on him. Not these spoiled American kids, I would discipline them.

Lerato comes down changed and walks into the kitchen. We watch her take out milk and place it on the kitchen and then boil water.

KATLEGO

Karen said she doesn't believe in beating them.

JOSEPHINE

Well she better tell that to her husband who pummels her like a sack of potatoes.

KATLEGO

Dan beats Karen?

JOSEPHINE

Oh she's still selling you the boxing lesson bull crap-

Another wail and Katlego runs out.

LERATO

Who the fuck drank my almond milk?

JOSEPHINE

I threw it out, it was stinking up the fridge!

LERATO

What the fuck is wrong with you? It's my milk!

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

It's the house's fridge.

LERATO

Do we have a problem?

JOSEPHINE

Yes we do! You stuck your nose in something that wasn't your business!

LERATO

How is this my fault? I didn't say anything.

JOSEPHINE

So who did? The whole school knows and the only person who knew about this was you.

LERATO

How naive are you? You cam on a camming site and somehow it's my fault!

JOSEPHINE

You told the girls!

LERATO

They would have found out eventually, the boys in my class already knew so it was a matter of time!

JOSEPHINE

You could have...

Josephine starts crying.

CONTINUED:

LERATO

Is that why you are not going to school?

Chimwemwe walks in. She sees the  
two.

LERATO (CONT'D)

Hey Chii, come...

CHIMWEMWE

Nope! She got herself into that mess and she can-

LERATO

She needed the money and you know that!

CHIMWEMWE

We all do but we don't stoop as low as slinging our clothes  
off!

Sam enters

SAM

Caucasian kids guys? Really? You want to get us locked up,  
some of us-

Sam notices the tension.

SAM (CONT'D)

Did I walk in on something.

LERATO

She's been crying.

**CONTINUED:**

Sam sits beside Josephine and holds  
her. Katlego runs in.

KATLEGO

I have to return the kids.

CHIMWEMWE

Be back by 7 we have a family meeting.

SCENE 4 -EMBARRASING

Chimwemwe walks into the house, we see Kulelo, Lerato and Sam gathered around the couch.

They are looking at a phone.

KULELO

That doesn't look like her.

LERATO

Wait for it...

CHIMWEMWE

Oh my god!

SAM

Damn! She's hot!

KULELO

Why did she do that?

SAM

Money?

CHIMWEMWE

Greed! We all need money and we-

LERATO

Oh come on, we know she is struggling more than all of us.



CONTINUED:

CHIMWEMWE

But why stoop so low?

SAM

I'm for all this!

CHIMWEMWE

Because you get to see naked bodies, isn't that your thing,  
naked female bodies!

SAM

When did this become about me.

CHIMWEMWE

Because you're condoning this rubbish!

SAM

She's not hurting anyone.

CHIMWEMWE

She is a senior in this house!

KULELO

I know Josey, she wouldn't have done this if she really  
didn't need the money.

CHIMWEMWE

There is no EXCUSE!

LERATO

Oh get off your high horse! Weren't your bartending and  
literally flirting for tips, let's say we tell Isaac!

CONTINUED:

CHIMWEMWE

I didn't go naked!

LERATO

You did what you had to.

CHIMWEMWE

You're one to speak, you got your father's money.

SAM

What does that have to do with anything?

LERATO

I don't need you to defend me and yeah what does that have to do with anything?

KULELO

Everything and nothing! Come on, we know Josey. We all came here and things have just been upside down for her. Come to think about it, when has Josey ever paid the rent on time until about three months ago.

LERATO

See? She's trying to survive.

CHIMWEMWE

I didn't join this house to be embarrassed by people like her. We all got on long flights, lended here but one thing we all pledged was we would never let this country swallow us. Isn't that the goal of this house, to be us, to maintain who we are, no matter what! She sold out! She needs to leave!

CONTINUED:

Josephine has entered but they  
don't see her.

JOSEPHINE

I will be out by the weekend.

CHIMWEMWE

Good.

KULELO

No! We vote, isn't that how it works?

JOSEPHINE

No. I don't want to come between you guys, that's not the  
purpose of the house.

KULELO

I said we vote! That's what we did last time when the girl-

CHIMWEMWE

Kulelo!

KULELO

Sorry. But yeah lets vote.

SAM

What happened last time to what girl?

CHIMWEMWE

Before your time.

SAM

Lerato?

CONTINUED:

LERATO

Before your time girl.

KULELO

Lets vote.

CHIMWEMWE

Katlego is not here. We should postpone the vote until-

KULELO

I call order to this meeting to review if we need to expel sister Josephine. All those against expelling her, raise your right hand.

Everyone except Chimwemwe raises their hand.

CHIMWEMWE

She's got y'all brainwashed!

Chimwemwe exits as lights fade out.

SCENE 5 - SAM

It's early morning. We see Sam she is sticking her head outside, she kisses someone we don't see.

She walks back into the house and heads into the kitchen she starts making breakfast as music plays...maybe Lil Wayne's Mona Lisa

Sam dances, she uses the spatula as a mic, she raps along with the music.

Katlego enters. She watches her dance for a moment.

KATLEGO

Someone's having fun.

Sam startled.

KATLEGO (CONT'D)

Sorry.

SAM

It's ok. You want a bagel?

KATLEGO

Sure. What's with the smile.

CONTINUED:

SAM

Can't I be happy?

KATLEGO

You can...you're just extra happy today.

Kulelo enters

KULELO

The white girl?

KATLEGO

White girl?

KULELO

The one she sneaked in last night.

SAM

What are you talking about? Hayley did not sneak in!

KATLEGO

Wait? The noise.

KULELO

Yep!

SAM

I liked you when you were all churchy and didn't say anything.

KULELO

I am still churchy I just say something now.

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

I'm confused.

KULELO

Sam has a girlfriend-

SAM

She is not my girlfriend.

KULELO

Whatever it is, you know...

KATLEGO

You are...

SAM

Yeah.

KULELO

You hadn't figured that out yet?

SAM

She's blind.

KATLEGO

I just haven't met anyone who is...

SAM

Who is what?

KATLEGO

Like you.

CONTINUED:

SAM

You mean gay?

KATLEGO

Yeah...

SAM

What do you mean you've never met anyone who is gay, you're in the US.

KATLEGO

I mean from home.

SAM

Countless celebrities that are gay in SA.

KATLEGO

I know but like, i've never met someone in person.

SAM

And it's confusing right?

KULELO

Why would it be?

SAM

You know...christian African girl who has been told gay people should all burn in hell.

KULELO

Yeah but we all evolve. I did.

SAM

She hasn't.



CONTINUED:

KULELO

She will.

SAM

Say it.

KATLEGO

What?

SAM

What you're thinking. Ask that question?

Beat

KATLEGO

Why?

SAM

Same way you like boys, I kinda always knew.

KATLEGO

And your parents?

SAM

They don't know...yet.

KATLEGO

You're going to tell them?

SAM

Eventually when I get to the Olympics, that's going to be my coming out party.

Chimwemwe enters

CONTINUED:

CHIMWEMWE

You really like being the center of attention, at the Olympics? That obnoxious.

SAM

That's what I deserve. It will confuse the fuck out of my mama. She's happy i'm at the Olympics so she will probably just ignore the gay thing.

CHIMWEMWE

You are nuts!

Josephine bursts in with Lerato in tow.

JOSEPHINE

You!

She points at Chimwemwe.

CHIMWEMWE

What?

JOSEPHINE

How could you?

CHIMWEMWE

What?

JOSEPHINE

You ruined me. You really ruined me.

CHIMWEMWE

What are you talking about.

**CONTINUED:**

JOSEPHINE

Don't act all naive, you sent that video to my brother and she showed my mother.

SAM

You did what?

LERATO

Why the fuck would you do that.

CHIMWEMWE

I didn't-

JOSEPHINE

LIES!! He told me!

CHIMWEMWE

I was just looking out for you!

LERATO

What is wrong with you?

CHIMWEMWE

We made a pact we will always look out for each other and I made it my duty to look out for our sister!

Chimwemwe bursts out of the room.  
Josephine sobs. She sobs hard. The rest of the girls gather around her and hold her.

SCENE 6 - CHIMWEMWE MOMENT

It's night, Chimwemwe's study lamp is on and she is staring at her laptop, reading.

She reaches next to her and wolfs down some fries next to her then furiously types into the laptop.

She leans back, looks at what she has wrote.

CHIMWEMWE

Africa's loss is not easy to quantify as the continent lost it's best and brightest through the unforgivable transatlantic slave trade. It is not only naive but unthinkable that as scholar of such repute my dispute the brain drain that was caused by the institution called-

Her phone buzzes. She looks at it. She smiles widely, looks back at her assignment. She types again furiously...

CHIMWEMWE (CONT'D)

Quote, quote, quote, I need quote quote quote. I need a-

CONTINUED:

Phone buzzes again, Chimwemwe looks at it again, this time she chuckles and holds up the phone to record a voice note.

CHIMWEMWE (CONT'D)

It's late, I am studying and I don't do send selfies to white boys trying to fetishize a black woman...

She thinks, really thinks and then finally tries to angle into the light. She pulls down her shirt exposing a bit of cleavage. She takes a selfie, another one until...

Another night light is switched on and we see Katlego. She watches Chimwemwe who is so focused on taking her selfies.

Katlego gets up startling Chimwemwe who hurries to close up.

CHIMWEMWE (CONT'D)

Hey...

Katlego, sleepily nods at Chimwemwe and exits the room. Chimwemwe stares in her wake, takes another selfie and then send it, we hear a whoosh sound.

Africa House

**CONTINUED:**

CHIMWEMWE (CONT'D)

Ok. Quote quote qoute, I need a quote quote quote.

SCENE 7 - MIDNIGHT TEARS

Katlego walks the passage from the bathroom. She stops, she hears something.

She turns the light on and in the lounge is Lerato, crying. She is bawling her eyes out.

Katlego walks up to her.

KATLEGO

Hey...Are you...

Lerato tries to wave her off.

KATLEGO (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

LERATO

I'm fine.

KATLEGO

Come on sis, you're not. What's wrong.

LERATO

Nothing is wrong and stop bothering me!

Katlego pauses, steps back.

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

Can I just sit with you?

LERATO

You pay rent do whatever you want!

Katlego sits next to Lerato.

Silence except Lerato's sniffles.

More silence, no-one says anything.

LERATO (CONT'D)

Why did you come here?

KATLEGO

Bathroom

LERATO

I meant here, the US.

KATLEGO

Oh...wasn't my idea.

LERATO

Whose then?

KATLEGO

My dad. He is...was obsessed with America. Felt like he had crawled out of the womb with an American flag in his hands.

LERATO

What happened to him?



CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

Nothing...

LERATO

You said was.

KATLEGO

Oh...it's complicated.

LERATO

What's complicated?

KATLEGO

Everything...him, my mother, being here. It...it changes you.

LERATO

I was born here you know.

KATLEGO

So you're an American, you've got a blue passport.

LERATO

Yep!

KATLEGO

I'm confused. I thought-

LERATO

I know...My mother...it's the type of thing she would do...Get on a plane at six months, land in Miami were my dad rented a beach house for her just so she could give birth in the US.

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

When did you move back to SA?

LERATO

When I was still a baby. I didn't even know about the whole American thing until I was sixteen. My dad walks in and says, it might be time for me to claim my American citizenship, I ask him why and how do I, you know... You know the thing that sucks the most is no matter how many times I produce my passport and try to prove that I am indeed an American I never feel like one.

KATLEGO

Do you want to feel like one?

LERATO

Sometimes! American kids don't have to jump at any of their parents whims.

KATLEGO

Is that why you were crying.

LERATO

No. Yes. I guess...They just drive me so insane. They want to know everything and lately there is nothing to tell.

KATLEGO

First two weeks, I sent voice messages to my dad, crying.

LERATO

You missed home?

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

Yeah but it wasn't about home but I just felt lonely. Laying in bed at night listening to Chimwemwe's furious typing.

LERATO

Oh I know it...kraaa kraaa kraaa

KATLEGO

YES! It doesn't stop!

LERATO

I know it! Why do you think I stopped sharing with her. Always woken up with the ridiculous typing and the incessant giggles.

KATLEGO

Selfies, woke me up with her flash.

LERATO

You know about Justin?

KATLEGO

No.

LERATO

So according to her, she's been seeing this guy since they were like twelve. Which I just think is complete nuts, people are boring, why would I...anyway...so Justin is back in Malawi and is waiting for her to graduate so they can get married.

KATLEGO

Oh...wow... Is he white?

CONTINUED:

LERATO

Nah...black as in navy blue black, the boy is dark AF!

The two chuckle.

LERATO (CONT'D)

So how are you adjusting now?

KATLEGO

I don't know...It's hard...

Katlego chokes up.

KATLEGO (CONT'D)

The day I landed at LAX...my first ever plane ride, I thought I was going to puke coz that's literally the only thing we talked about at home, whether I would puke on my first plain ride or not. So we land and I go through customs and I'm scared honestly.

LERATO

Why?

KATLEGO

It's intimidating! Have you seen the airport in Botswana? Tiny! This was overwhelming watching people zip past you, minding their business. I finally get through customs but by then I am drenched in sweat because I am really freaking out. Everywhere I look around everyone is moving with so much purpose they know where they are going and what they want and here I am wondering, unsure and with a full bladder. I had a whole trolley full of my bags and I just stood there...crying.

CONTINUED:

LERATO

LAX can be intimidating... I know it's not easy, and this house is supposed to be easy but ever since Solly we haven't been the same. This place was always noisy, laughter, music, everything...

KATLEGO

Solly?

LERATO

Soledad...

KATLEGO

What happened to her?

LERATO

She...let's say she left.

KATLEGO

What do you mean?

LERATO

She was a sophomore, nice girl, bubbly, hated her at first but her personality was so contagious. She had come into this grumpy old place and somehow made us all smile. You should have seen us on Halloween.

Lerato remembers.

KATLEGO

Why did she leave?

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CONTINUED:

LERATO

I don't know...we all don't...she just seemed all happy  
but...you never know.

KATLEGO

I guess...

The two stare at each other, a new  
respect created.

LERATO

How far with your costume?

BLACKOUT

SCENE 8-HALLOWEEN

The house is decorated with  
Halloween decor, cut out pumpkins,  
fake skeletons.

The girls are all in various  
costumes except Josephine.

SAM

...You would rock her!

JOSEPHINE

I'm just not into...I have work.

KULELO

Take a break. You deserve it.

JOSEPHINE

No thanks.

Josephine walks out when Chimwemwe  
bursts in.

CHIMWEMWE

Ok girls line up! I will go first.

LERATO

Of course you will.

CHIMWEMWE

What's that supposed to- you know what I don't care. SIT.

CONTINUED:

The other girls sit and Chimwemwe takes center stage.

She is dressed in what looks like a mix of an African war dress and a crown. It all looks good with the black army combat boots.

CHIMWEMWE (CONT'D)

Yaa Asantewaa born 1840 died 17 October 1921. The ultimate bad ass! She was the queen mother of Ejisu in the Ashanti Empire - now part of modern-day Ghana, appointed by her brother Nana Akwasi Afrane Opese, the Edwesuhene, or ruler, of Edwesu. In 1900 she led the Ashanti war known as the War of the Golden Stool, also known as the Yaa Asantewaa war, against British colonialism. Yaa Asantewaa remains a much-loved figure in Asante history and the history of Ghana as a whole for her role in confronting the colonialism of the British. That's me!

Chimwemwe does a couple of power stances. The other girls clap.

CHIMWEMWE (CONT'D)

Who's next?

The girls look around. Kulelo gets up, she has on a white doctor's coat.



CONTINUED:

She stands in front of everyone  
then opens the dress to reveal  
Carrie! She is dressed like Carrie  
from the horror movie!

CHIMWEMWE (CONT'D)

Oh come on!

LERATO

Every year Kulz!

KULELO

It's a costume isn't it?

KATLEGO

It looks good to me.

SAM

I think it's dope.

CHIMWEMWE

Dope. Who says dope. Really?

KULELO

Ok. So Carrie is a character from a movie-

LERATO

Everyone knows the movie, you just need to change before we  
go out.

KULELO

Why would I do that?

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

Yeah why?

SAM

Carrie is a woman right?

CHIMWEMWE

Not a black woman!

SAM

She could be.

KULELO

She's fictional so why can't she be black.

LERATO

Because we all agreed to wear the costumes of black women who inspire us.

KULELO

Carrie inspires me.

KATLEGO

I thought you were scared of horror movies.

KULELO

I am...sometimes.

CHIMWEMWE

Have you even watched the movie before?

KULELO

Some of it. Solly made me watch it before-

CONTINUED:

LERATO

Oh come on Kulz, don't tell me this is another memorial costume. Last year what was it?

CHIMWEMWE

Athlete

SAM

I would kick ass in that. Also who is Solly?

CHIMWEMWE

You can't keep doing this.

KULELO

Doing what?

CHIMWEMWE

Leaving in the past.

KULELO

You are literally dressed in an 1840's woman's costume and you want to tell me about leaving in the past?

LERATO

No-one is obsessing over-

KULELO

How is remembering someone I loved dearly leaving in the past. I know you are all content in forgetting her, I AM NOT!

SAM

Who? What's happening?

CONTINUED:

KULELO

You all want to push this lie this facade that Solly was never here. She made this place, she made us who we are in her smiles, her laughs but you all just-

LERATO

Ok, now calm down Kulz.

KULELO

DON'T TELL ME TO CALM DOWN! I am calm.

Josephine walks in.

JOSEPHINE

What's going on?

LERATO

Solly again.

KULELO

Again? Really? I'm honoring our dead friend and somehow you all think I' just having fun! You can all be content with forgetting she ver existed but I don't never will. You didn't see her that's why. You didn't.

Kulelo starts choking up.

JOSEPHINE

Ok Kulz, it's ok. You wanna come with me?

KULELO

For what? You don't what the freshman to hear the truth huh?  
Yeah... ok...

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

I thought she left. Lerato, you said she left.

KULELO

SHE DIED!

SAM

How?

KULELO

She hung herself in our room.

KATLEGO

WHAT?!

SAM

Your room? Like the one you're still in?

LERATO

Yep! Offered to move her to a new room but-

KULELO

You all abandoned her. You act as if she was never here. She was and she died because of US! She kept us going cooking, cleaning, just being there. Felt like she was a mother to all of us! She baked cookies like an American and made the best Jollof rice like a Ghanaian. But You all just pretend, you all just hide her in shame because deep down you know if we had been there, right there with her we would have known she was suicidal but that didn't fit into the cookies and the jollof, the meat, the puff puff, her suicidal ideation was outside of what we needed from her.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

KULELO (CONT'D)

So please forgive me if I try to remember my best friend's favorite movie! If you hate it- FUCK YOU!

Kulelo gets up and walks out.

SAM

Did she just swear? Never heard her swearing ever!

KATLEGO

Did she find her?

JOSEPHINE

They were best friends, shared everything! Both super churchy, they just got along. She comes home, Kulz, she comes home, walks into her room and Solly is hanging, already dead.

SAM

This is so messed up.

CHIMWEMWE

We all loved her, we did. But we had to move on but she didn't.

KATLEGO

She is hurting.

SAM

She needs to leave that cursed room.

KATLEGO

Maybe we should cleanse it.

JOSEPHINE

Last I checked there were no exorcists in LA.

Africa House

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

I will...

LERATO

You're an exorcist? Believe in spirits and that shit?

KATLEGO

Not an exorcist but I do believe.

BLACKOUT.

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

SCENE 9 -KULELO MOMENT SOLLY

Lights come upon on Kulelo in her room. She is still in her Carrie costume.

She throws herself on the bed and weeps, she is in anguish.

A few moments pass and she finally gets up, her legs shaky. She moves to the twin bed opposite hers.

The bed is well made, with pillows and everything. She slowly gets on the bed and lies there.

She starts singing softly.

KULELO

If I die young bury me in satin  
Lay me down on a bed of roses  
Sink me in the river at dawn  
Send me away with the words of a love song  
Uh oh uh oh

Lord make me a rainbow  
I'll shine down on my mother  
She'll know I'm safe with you when  
She stands under my colors, oh and

(MORE)



CONTINUED:

KULELO (CONT'D)

Life ain't always what you think it oughta be, no  
Ain't even grey, but she buries her baby  
The sharp knife of a short life,  
Well, I've had just enough time

If I die young bury me in satin.  
Lay me down on a bed of roses  
Sink me in the river at dawn  
Send me away with the words of a love song

Kulelo cries as she sings. She  
grabs the pillow next to her and  
places it on her face.

She screams loudly into it as a  
sharp light appears through the  
window. She looks up at the light.  
It blinds her and she gasps as we  
cut to black.

SCENE 10 - EXORCISM

Lights come up on Kulelo's room.

The girls except Kulelo and

Josephine are in the room.

Lerato is standing in the

passageway looking out.

LERATO

Ok...what now?

KATLEGO

Open the window.

CHIMWEMWE

It's open.

Katlego lights up some sage and

starts saging the house.

CHIMWEMWE (CONT'D)

Do you even know what you're doing?

KATLEGO

I read up on it.

LERATO

Wait! You did what?

CHIMWEMWE

She read up on it. I thought you said you knew how to-

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

I said we needed to cleanse the house, so I just looked it up.

LERATO

This is crazy lets get out before Kulz gets back.

Door opens and Josephine walks in.

JOSEPHINE

What's the smell?

LERATO

Sage.

CHIMWEMWE

For Kulz room.

JOSEPHINE

You're talking to me now?

KATLEGO

Quiet please...

LERATO

Oh shut up with your googled up exorcism.

CHIMWEMWE

Why do you always gotta bring that up?

JOSEPHINE

I'm not bringing up anything. You decided you didn't want to talk to me and I honored that.

CONTINUED:

CHIMWEMWE

Honored that? Really! If you had honored that you would have left.

JOSEPHINE

You're trying to act all high mighty right. Like you are beyond reproach!

CHIMWEMWE

I'm not going through this whole mess again!

The sage is now feeling up the house.

LERATO

Can you both just...chill.

CHIMWEMWE

I'm chill. African daughter of the soil kind of chill.

Josephine smirks and chuckles

CHIMWEMWE (CONT'D)

Whats that supposed to mean?

JOSEPHINE

Nothing.

LERATO

What? What do I not know?

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

Nothing. I'm just watching this African daughter of the soil who claimed she will be returning triumphantly to Malawi with a degree in hand!

CHIMWEMWE

I know I will be.

JOSEPHINE

Will you though?

KATLEGO

Guys...

Katlego is getting a little  
panicked.

CHIMWEMWE

What's that supposed to mean?

JOSEPHINE

Weren't you supposed to be marrying Justin end of this year, yet you took an American job...oh and a white boy.

LERATO

What happened to Justin, can I have him!

CHIMWEMWE

This is non of your business!

JOSEPHINE

It is my business when you make my business your business.

CONTINUED:

KATLEGO

Ladies...the smoke won't stop.

CHIMWEMWE

I don't care about your business you shamed us!

JOSEPHINE

I shamed you? You think I shamed you? Who are you in my life? Do you think this was the dream? I would one day strip my clothes off because I need money to pay for my mother's medical bills, to pay for my immigration papers, to pay for my rent, you think this shit is easy! I shamed myself already and I don't need anyone's judgement! My life is mine and mine to figure out so just....

The smoke has filled the room.

LERATO

Why didn't you ask, I could have helped.

JOSEPHINE

I couldn't ok! You think it's easy to ask for money? I'm the oldest here but I contributed the least because I couldn't come up with anything. I came here thinking, for the first time in my life I would have some rest...that didn't happen.

CHIMWEMWE

I ah...I didn't know.

JOSEPHINE

I can't do this.

The girls start coughing.

CONTINUED:

LERATO

Katle, you gotta put that thing out.

KATLEGO

I did!

Katlego holds out the sage stick,  
it's not burning but the smoke just  
keeps appearing. It fills the house  
and the girls start coughing.

They close Kulelo's room and move  
to the lounge.

JOSEPHINE

I am moving out next week.

KATLEGO

No!

LERATO

You can't.

JOSEPHINE

This house just...too many bad memories.

The smoke starts filling the house,  
emanating from Kulelo's room.

LERATO

What the fuck did you do Katle.

Sam enters from outside.

CONTINUED:

SAM

What's burning!

LERATO

Sage.

SAM

That's too much smoke.

LERATO

Josephine is leaving.

Kulelo walks in. She sees the  
smoke, walks to her room, opens the  
door and the smoke floods out.

She stares back at the girls, walks  
into the room, into the smoke.

SAM

Why are you leaving Josey.

JOSEPHINE

I need a rest.

LERATO

What do you mean you need a rest?

JOSEPHINE

I'm going back home. I'm tired of being here, of speaking  
english of smiling all the time, I just want to go rest and  
not worry about my papers.

(MORE)



CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

I miss my family, I miss my brothers and my sisters...This Place is not for me and it has proven that. So yeah...

The girls stare at her.

SAM

I got kicked of the team.

LERATO

What!?

SAM

Yeah, turns out I'm not fast enough.

KATLEGO

That's not right.

SAM

It is...I'm probably going to lose my scholarship.

Kulelo exits from the room with packed suitcase, she wheels it out, not saying anything to anyone.

KATLEGO

Kulz?

She hugs Katlego and Sam and then walks out.

SAM

Why is she leaving?

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

Maybe it's time for all of us.

KATLEGO

No! Please.

The smoke intensifies. Their  
coughing also intensifies.

JOSEPHINE

We have to get out of the house.

They rush out of the house as the  
smoke fills up the house.

We hear the doors banging as they  
exit.

A light appears, it's sharp it's  
blinding. A figure appears from the  
light and stands there.

A few moments pass as the smoke  
finally dims the lights to a black  
out.

END OF PLAY