

M. K. Atoyebi

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katoyebi@ymail.com +2348136481937

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Mobile: 09031561204

Email: foenixpress@gmail.com

Website: www.foenixpress.wordpress.com



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## **DEDICATION**

This book is dedicated to God, the one who gifted me with insight and creativity, the one who lights up my path in the midst of darkness.

To all those who have experienced love in one way or the other and also to those searching for it.

And to my fellow writers and lovers of creative works, don't let that ink run dry and don't let that love cease.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

To my friends who inspired me in one way or the other, without you I wouldn't be who I am today.

And also to *Debbiesuco* for the beautiful cover page.

Thank You!

#### **PROLOGUE**

Love, love, love.

What is love?

Is it a desire, a feeling of deep affection or is it unexplainable?

The characters in this book have had their fair share of the four letter word; some had a lovely experience while others, not so good.

That is why I've come to the conclusion that **LOVE** means different things to different people based on the encounter they've had with it.

I don't blame the few that think the value of the word has been misplaced or the few that don't believe it exists.

So, the question now is;

How do you know when you truly love someone?

How well do you fight for someone you love?

Are you willing to go that extra mile for him/her?

Are you willing to prove your worth?

Are you positive that the love you pledge today will last forever?

#### DATING BUT STILL SINGLE

We were together but it didn't feel like it.

I felt like I wasn't one of the top three priorities in your life.

I wake up every day hoping to see a message from you,

I check my phone at the slightest beep hoping it's you calling.

I go about each day feeling dejected.

Sometimes I wonder if I was obsessed about our relationship, other times I wonder maybe you just didn't care.

It takes two to tango but I just couldn't;

I couldn't take on all the responsibilities,

The majority I took was already telling on me.

the equation just wasn't balanced.

And I keep asking myself, "is this relationship worth saving"?

#### **DISPUTE**

We argue about almost everything.

If I don't call it would be that I don't care,

if I call every hour it would be that I'm disturbing you.

We disagree on almost everything.

If I put on a skimpy dress; I look to young, if I put on a flowing dress; I look aged.

We bicker over the littlest thing.

If I don't tidy up; I'm dirty,

if I wipe everywhere spotless; I'm a neat freak.

We clash based on our differences.

Your favourite shows are my worse shows,
my hobbies are your worst enemies.

We debate on every single word.

It might be that I didn't pronounce the word properly or maybe you didn't lay emphasis on the stress.

We quarrel most of the time.

We quarrel about how we are incompatible,
we quarrel about how to make it work.

#### IF WISHES WERE HORSES

I would ride to the ends of the world with you by my side.

If wishes were horses,

I would wish for a thousand years with you.

If wishes were horses,

I would wish for the spark in your eyes to last forever.

If wishes were horses,

I would wish for all your hopes to come alive.

If wishes were horses,

I would give you all the love available here on earth.

If wishes were horses,

If wishes were horses,

I would prove myself worthy of your affection.

If wishes were horses,

I would create a safe place we can both call home.

If wishes were horses,

I would wish for a life where you could be mine.

#### **IN DOUBT**

Is he the one for me?
he could be though;
he's too short,
he can be selfish at times,
he has a protruding stomach,
he most times forgets my birthday,
he doesn't know what he wants,
he lacks vision but
he's cute and has a dimple,
he drives the latest car in town,
he has a lot of connections
but still, is he the one for me?

Is she the one for me?

I think she is because
there's never a dull moment with her,
she's an independent woman,
she is caring and loving,
she is tall and beautiful,
she will make a great mother but
she is too bossy,
she can be arrogant at times,
her ego is the biggest of anyone I know,
her patience wears out easily
but still, is she the one for me?

#### **LOVE SCENARIOS**

Some find solace in it, others derive pleasure from it while a few are intrigued by it.

Some joke around with it, others say it without meaning it while a few regret falling into it.

It serves as an escape route to some, others fall into it and are trapped by it while a few get lucky and don't miss it.

Some play with it like a Frisbee, others are scared of it, many don't show it while a few believe it's a sign of weakness.

How do you feel about it?

## LOVE QUADRILATERAL

Your heart beats for mine,
mine for his,
his for hers
and hers for yours.
We were all caught up in a love quadrilateral.

You express your feelings to me,
I pursue him for his attention,
he professes his love to her
and she sprints after her heart's desire.
Things were getting complicated.

Your feelings kept developing,
my goal was to get him,
his emotion was getting stronger
and her desire was far from being met.
Someone was going to get hurt.

You didn't get me,
I got him,
he didn't get her
but she got you.
New feelings will be developed.

# INTERMISSION

## MIRROR, MIRROR

When I look at you, all I see is the better half I've been searching for.

When I look at you, all I can do is bless the day we met.

When I look at you, all I see is the rib I've been lacking.

When I look at you, all I see is the one who completes my sentence.

When I look at you, all I remember is the fun times we've had together.

When I look at you, all I see is the mother of my unborn children.

When I look at you, all I see is the strength you give to me.

When I look at you, all I see is the sincerity of your heart.

When I look at you, all I pray for is to never fail you.

#### **RUNNING SCARED**

I'm scared of commitment,
I'm scared of the word "forever".

I'm terrified of losing you to an everlasting slumber, I'm terrified of not being "good enough".

I'm afraid of what the future has in store, I'm afraid of giving up on you.

I'm petrified of losing you to another guy, I'm petrified of not meeting you half-way.

I'm not perfect but for what it's worth, I'm not imperfect either.

What do I do because I'm running scared?

#### STILL SEARCHING

I'm in search of a woman,

a woman who will captivate my heart with her words.

A woman who will be patient when things are not going as planned.

A woman who is strong when I'm proving to be weak.

A woman who understands that all that glitters is not gold.

A woman who can make a decision without her selfish interest.

A woman that doesn't contribute to the problem I may be facing.

A woman who is contented with whatever I give to her.

A woman who submits herself totally and knows when to let peace reign.

A woman who knows my Achilles' heel but never threatens me with it.

I'm looking for a man,

a man who is ready to take the lead.

A man whose top priority is making me happy at every point in time.

A man whose pride is showing me off to all his friends.

A man that understands me perfectly.

A man that admits defeat when he's in the wrong.

A man who is considerate and doesn't make rash decisions.

A man I can seek advice from and doesn't make a big deal out of it.

A man that doesn't feel threatened by my successes.

A man I call my home because I always feel at peace with him.

#### WITHOUT YOU

Without you by my side, my mind has been restless.

Without you by my side, my nights have been sleepless.

Without you by my side, I haven't been the same.

Without you by my side,
I can't withstand the storm.

Without you by my side, I've lost my sense of humour.

Without you by my side, I seem to be losing myself.

Without you by my side, my confidence was waning.

Without you by my side, my world was on the verge of crumbling.

#### HER LOVE STORY

In the world we live in today, it's difficult to actually define what love is because it's a word being tossed around like a ball on a court. My best friend and I never really understood what the word meant because it was most times misused and it irritated me when that happens. We still couldn't relate with the saying "experience is the best teacher" because we had never really experienced it before. I would never forget the day my best friend Kitan professed her love to her boyfriend she had been dating for two years; I was speechless but I still tried to form words from my mouth but all I could do was stutter inaudible meaningless words. Her outburst had caught me off-guard; I calmed myself and looked deeply into her eyes and at that very moment I knew that yes, true love does exist because I felt it too and there was nothing I wanted more than for her to be happy in which I knew she was. I'll summarize her love story in the subsequent paragraphs so here goes...

Kitan always thought she was going to meet her soul mate at a social event so she was always on the lookout at every party (owambe) or business meeting she attended. Unfortunately for her, she wasn't looking in the right direction. She did what she ought to do first last but as the saying goes "better late than never". So she went down on her knees and poured her heart out to God. It took a while for her request to be granted but in the process, she decided to spread her tentacles and not put all her eggs in one basket. No sooner had she done that, she met Tunde an alumnus of her University. They both had some documents to process in school so their first encounter was at the Senate building. I know personally that Kitan dislikes that building so I'm pretty sure he must have made a very good impression for her to have given her contact to him because I know my friend to be a woman of "principles". They got talking after that day and as they say "one thing led to the other". ....

Their relationship was built on trust and blunt expression of feelings in which they both got hurt by words in the blunt expression of feelings part but it only strengthened their relationship. And just like the snap of a finger, they were already celebrating their first anniversary. Half a year went by when Tunde was thinking out loud and uttered the words "I love you" over the phone; Kitan who was talking non-stop halted and silence reigned for some seconds before she

gave a lame excuse and ended the call. I know this because she came to me all moody in the sitting room of our rented apartment; I remember I was watching one of my favourite TV shows then. Being a very good listener and all, I listened to my friend as she explained to me what had just happened. I gave her the best advice I could which is not to rush into a lifetime commitment or even feel pressurized to repeat the same words back if the feeling wasn't yet mutual. I'm happy she took my advice and worked on it because she and Tunde both came to an understanding that when it came to her, he wasn't to put her under a lot of pressure as regarding her feelings for him. It took her six months to finally repeat those words herself to him after she realized its meaning and is still experiencing it till this very day.

All said and done, what happened next was the epic proposal and of course she said yes. Their wedding took place and yes, I was the chief bridesmaid and I slayed my way through the dance floor with the best man. That was how my best friend got her happy ever after.

\*\*\*

I'm an entrepreneur by profession so I understand what taking risks in life meant. The company I worked for had a business proposal that involved another company coming together to join forces to achieve a common goal. I was the representative sent by my company to seal that deal and I was surprised when I saw the representative from the other company, it was Michael the best man from Kitan and Tunde's wedding. We exchanged pleasantries and kept it "professional" and got down to business. We left on good terms after the negotiations was over; the deal had been sealed so there was nothing preventing me from giving Michael a call. I called and pretended to keep it "professional" but thank God he got the hint and asked me to lunch sometime in the week. I don't know if I've found my own soul mate or how long it would take but till then stay tuned. By the way, my name is Pelumi and please do watch out for "my love story" in the nearest future.

#### **XOXO**

### **LEARNING AWESOME DETAILS YEARLY**

- ❖ That moment when she stops picking your calls or there's a distortion in communication, it is either you've done something to upset her / you've overstayed your welcome / you've passed your boundary / you're choking her or maybe you just fail when it comes to reading in-between the lines.
- ❖ That moment when she is moody or maybe she's just quiet; this is the moment your psychological skills will be put to test. Whether she needs cheering up / just peace and quiet / something to take her mind off things for a while or she just needs you to hold her without uttering a word.
- ❖ That moment when there's a flash of emotion on her face (of course it disappears immediately it appears you were only fortunate to have seen it); this is the time you need to push for what is wrong / you need to encourage her to tell you what is wrong / you need to create a safe environment of trust or you just need to give her time till she's ready to talk.
- ❖ That moment when you're at an event and you sense her being a little uncomfortable, this is the moment you dare not leave her side / maybe she just needs a little time to adjust to the new surrounding / maybe she's even the sociable type then, you have nothing to worry about. It all boils down to your psychological skills.
- ❖ That moment when all she does is smile all through a conversation; it could be because she's shy, she's just observing, she's not really a talker, she's not interested in the conversation and can't relate, you talk too much or maybe she doesn't understand and she doesn't know how to tell you to stop talking. This still boils down to reading in between the lines.
- ❖ That moment when you escort her home from an outing or you see her off home from work; don't! I repeat don't! overstay your welcome. What most ladies want is a bath and a change of clothes not another round of board meeting.

- ❖ That moment when you make a strong feeling of affection known to her; do you want her to reciprocate because it'll make you happy / because she really feels the same way / what if she's silent? It might be because she hasn't confirmed it or she doesn't feel the same way and doesn't want to hurt your feelings. How well can you withstand the storm?
- ❖ That moment when you plan to celebrate her birthday, she might be the *let's party* with everybody far and near type / the close friends and few family type / close friends alone / family alone / just the two of you alone or maybe she doesn't even like celebrating. Figure it out.
- ❖ That moment when you feel the urge to talk and she's not there / she's not picking up or replying your texts, take a breather don't panic there's always an explanation don't you dare jump to conclusions. If it's extremely important, you can call her friends or colleagues.
- ❖ That moment when she leaves your question(s) unanswered, it could be because she doesn't have an answer yet / she doesn't feel the need to answer / she's ignoring it on purpose or she might even change the topic.
- ❖ That moment when she starts giving excuses, it might be because she needs a break from things in general / she needs space from you / she doesn't want you around anymore leaving you to take the cue or she just feels guilt eating her up.
- ❖ That moment when she starts acting strangely first, try to recall what might have triggered the change a day before it started; maybe you did or said something unconsciously / it could be peer pressure or none of the above who knows.
- ❖ That moment when she avoids eye contact during a conversation, it could be because she's shy / she's uncomfortable / she does it unintentionally / she feels her words will cease to flow / she's hiding something from you or maybe she's lying through her teeth and one look at you will gush out the truth.

you're not funny / please stop embarrassing yourself or please stop embarrassing me.

- ❖ That moment you're trying to get her to trust you, create a safe environment for her and prove to never use her flaws against her or to judge her because if you do, she begins to regret the day she gave her trust to you. This can actually shut down her trust completely and to get her to power on again will take a lot of work especially if she's not the type that dishes out her trust to just anybody.
- ❖ That moment when all she does is to imagine a future with you by making stuffs up in her head, it might sound funny but why not have a little fun and join her in her fantasy world you never can tell you might actually get to enjoy it and believe it or not right there and then is when you get to know the future she envisions with you to look like.
- ❖ That moment when she reveals a secret to you in confidence and you run along and pass the information across to several people and it spread like wildfire, it shows you're a terrible keeper and she wonders why you couldn't keep your mouth shut and talk about football or something else.
- ❖ That moment when you lie to her or tell her the partial truth and she later finds out... if she's the cool and patient type you'll get to a chance to explain or defend yourself but if she's the dramatic type, you're definitely in for it because you won't get a chance to speak and when everything is calm and settled, that is not the end of it because she will still make reference to it in the nearest future.
- ❖ That moment when you argue with one another it doesn't matter who's at fault just try your possible best to resolve the matter immediately and if she's boiling at the moment, you might want to let her blow off some steam first; just try not to let the argument see another light of day for peace to reign.
- ❖ That moment when the time is right and you want to pop the question; now this is a little tricky but you have no choice but to get it right. These are some questions you need to ask yourself; is she the flamboyant type / she's the family type / she's the surprise me type or she's the just me and you type.

#### **EPILOGUE**

Did you find what you were looking for?

Was your story anything similar to one of these?

Was it the easy one or the hard to get?

...some stories are better left untold.

When the time comes,

the word LOVE will be a feeling you alone have the power to define.

*Until then, keep the phone buzzing.* 

Till we meet again.

## **P.S**:

The biggest love story is in loving yourself and investing in yourself; yielding daily profits in your mental, emotional and financial life. GEAL Forex can help in investing a part of your finance; visit www.greateyesacademy.com to get started.

Click Here To Download M.K. Atoyebi's debut book, Genesis.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

M.K Atoyebi is a creative writer whose writing is based on reality and a perk of imagination. She writes poems, short stories, as well as articles.

