No. Of Pages: 3

Characters:

Mofe - Early 30s

Cinderella (Dere) - Early 20s

<u>Scenario:</u>

Mofe and Cinderella's first encounter in the coffee room. Cinderella's passion meets Mofe's more jaded cynicism. CINDERELLA enters, her phone between her cheek and her shoulder. She's holding a cup and a plastic bag with food in it

CINDERELLA

...I'm telling you, Sarah, it's the biggest thing that has happened out of Africa in the past, what? Twentyfive years? (listens) I'm telling you, you're backing the wrong horse! Africa's the new frontier! Pack your bags and come down now! (listens and laughs) Stop talking! Stop talking -

CINDERELLA looks up to see MOFE the Managing Director of BGI who she evidently doesn't know or recognise. He watches her both interested and amused at the same time. She doesn't see him until she almost bumps into him.

MOFE

Careful.

CINDERELLA stops just in time.

CINDERELLA (into the phone) Let me call you back.

She hangs up.

CINDERELLA (CONT'D) Sorry about that.

She crosses quickly to the microwave and takes her food out of the plastic bag and into the microwave oven, then starts the timer. She turns to the kettle only to find MOFE still staring at her amused.

> CINDERELLA (CONT'D) Sorry, I'm I in your way?

MOFE No, no. I was just interested in what you were saying on the phone.

CINDERELLA (slightly reproaching) Well, that was kind of private -

MOFE Really? I'm sure everyone in the office heard that conversation. 19

CINDERELLA (embarrassed)

Really? I'm sorry - it's this friend of mine - Sarah, we went to University together in the UK -

MOFE

You studied in the UK?

She turns and checks to see if there's any water in the kettle before switching it on, talking as she does so.

CINDERELLA King's College. Law and International Relations -

MOFE

Impressive -

CINDERELLA

Anyway - the global south is still fixating on India and the Far East as the next major players on the world stage, and that's true in the mid-term, but I can't get her to see that the real arena of influence is going to be Africa in the Mid to long term -

MOFE

With corrupt, dictatorial leaders, squandered natural resources and low investment in infrastructure and human development?

The microwave dings, MOFE notices, but CINDERELLA doesn't hear it. She's in full flow.

CINDERELLA - all teething problems for any developing democracy. Africa is unique - her challenges are unique -

MOFE But the world is not going to wait for her to get her act together -

CINDERELLA (exclaiming) Our development is inevitable! Those with vision can see its just a matter of time. Corruption in Africa is crude. It's far easier to thrive in an environment where everyone wins!

The kettle boils loudly and cuts out. There's a brief silence as both stare at each other.

CINDERELLA (CONT'D) Sorry, what was your name again?

She has turned back and is making her tea.

MOFE

Er...Mofe.

CINDERELLA Hi Mofe. I'm making tea. D'you want a cup?

MOFE

I - er - sure.

She busies herself with making both drinks, speaking at the same time

CINDERELLA I get really passionate about Africa, especially when people say we can't do it. But I say we can.

She hand him his tea.

MOFE

Thank you -

CINDERELLA You're welcome.

CINDERELLA smiles at MOFE.

CINDERELLA (CONT'D) Nice talking to you.

MOFE

Likewise. (quickly) Wait! (beat) I don't know your name.

CINDERELLA It's Dere.

CUT TO: