

MR. BALA

INT. RESTAURANT/BAR - DAY

MRS ADAMI and KADIJA enter and look around. KADIJA is dressed casually, yet seductively. They spot the ACCOUNTANT, a thick-set man in his late 40s, but looks older. He's wearing an unbuttoned French suit and a dark brown striped shirt that clashes with the suit. His pot-belly strains against his shirt as if begging to be set free. He scrambles to his feet as the ladies approach, his eyes already glued tight to KADIJA who pretends not to notice his lascivious attention.

MRS ADAMI

Mr Bala?

MR BALA

Yes, yes ma -

Even MRS ADAMI's finding it difficult to stay neutral with this man. He extends his hand to shake hands, but both women ignore it and sit down across from him. He settles back down, a bit self-conscious now.

MR BALA (CONT'D)

Er, sorry - the people here said I should start without you...

MRS ADAMI

Those were my instructions. Have you eaten?

MR BALA

Er, yes, ma, yes. Er -

MRS ADAMI

(interrupting him)

Mr. Bala, I don't care if you eat till you burst, y'hear?

MR BALA

(grinning)

Yes, ma.

KADIJA whips her leg gracefully over the other, giving MR BALA ample chance to oogle her suddenly exposed legs. He licks his lips involuntarily, and takes a bite from a chicken thigh.

MRS ADAMI

Mr Bala. Mr Bala -

He tears his gaze away from KADIJA with an effort.

MR BALA

Yes, ma...

MRS ADAMI

Mr Bala - how long have you being with the company?

MR BALA

Almost as long as the company itself, ma.

MRS ADAMI

Before the appointment of the Chief Accountant?

MR BALA is momentarily distracted from KADIJA's legs by the sudden bile he feels for his immediate boss.

MR BALA

I was doing that job before he learned to wipe his anus!

He notices the sudden disgust on the face of the two at his crudeness.

MR BALA (CONT'D)

Sorry. When I think about it, I just get very angry. That job was mine. But he was brought in because they say he's more qualified.

His voice starts to rise again, and he's sweating now. He takes out a soiled handkerchief and wipes his face deftly. Then composes himself.

MR BALA (CONT'D)

There's nothing about that business I don't know! Nothing. I helped to build it from nothing!

MRS ADAMI

I understand. If it was me, I would be angry too.

MR BALA

(pleased)

Thank you, ma. At last, someone, who, er, who appreciates my, my position...

MRS ADAMI

All these so-called book people. What do they know about life?

(MORE)

MRS ADAMI (CONT'D)

What do they know about the real world, abi?

MR BALA

(excited)

Exactly! Exactly ma! They have book, but they have no experience! Can you buy that in the market?

MRS ADAMI

But a man of your wisdom and experience, you deserve what is due to you...

MR BALA

(eyes widening)

Thank you ma, thank you...

KADIJA whips her leg again, this time crossing the other over. MR BALA is transfixed. MRS ADAMI, watching him, continues.

MRS ADAMI

Mr Bala, do you know who I am?

MR BALA

Mrs Kosoko, everybody knows who you are...

MRS ADAMI

Good. There are going to be changes in the company, Mr. Bala. Drastic changes. And there will be huge rewards for someone with discretion and huge ambition. Do you know anyone like that, Mr. Bala

Transfixed on KADIJA's legs.

MR BALA

I believe you have found your man, ma.

MRS ADAMI

Think carefully before you say anymore, Mr Bala. Perhaps, sleep on it, as they say? Once this covenant is cut, there is no going back, eh?

MR BALA

Madam, I am not a child. I know what I want. You tell me what you want. It's done.

MRS ADAMI

In that case, Mr Bala, seeing that you know on which side your bread is buttered, not only will you occupy the Chief Accountant's office, you are about to become a very rich man...

At last, MR BALA breaks his transfixed look at KADIJA's legs, and looks up at MRS ADAMI with a beatific smile on his face.