

7. INT. LOTANNA'S STUDIO/FLAT- DAY

Lottie and Binta sit together, looking at pictures in Lottie's portfolio. Binta appears awestruck

BINTA

Kai, but you're talented, Lottie! I love the way you made that picture look like those old Hollywood glamour pics

LOTTIE

You mean the sepia toned one?

BINTA

Yeah. That pose is classic! DO you think you can re-create it on my couple?

LOTTIE

Why not?

Binta looks at the picture again and gives a winsome smile

BINTA

I love the way he's holding her here. It just gives off a feeling of security and love

Lottie makes a dismissive sound and shrugs. Binta looks at her in question

LOTTIE

Sista, leave that one. All na pose.

Binta laughs and so does Lottie in a 'girls bonding' way

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

But it's true na! There is a big difference between what is in a picture and what is in real life

BINTA

But I thought the saying 'a picture is worth a thousand words' meant something

Lottie waves it off

LOTTIE

Only candid pictures, not posed ones. Nowadays, we human beings have learned to act in front of the camera.

BINTA

Blame it on social media, na

Lottie shakes her head and sits

LOTTIE

Somehow. But maybe we're all
evolving to become...faker

Binta leans forward, fixing Lottie with a look

BINTA

And are you?

LOTTIE

We all are, in a way, Binta. Even
you. We all act and pretend to give
people impressions. And sometimes
it's hard to keep the act up.

BINTA

Why do I think this is personal for
you?

Lottie looks away for a moment

LOTTIE

Do you know what it's like to feel
one thing...but portray another?

BINTA

I know all too well

LOTTIE

It's like something we're almost
trained to do as Naija babes. We're
supposed to be strong and
unbreakable and tough...even when
we just want to cry. We have to
hold it together

BINTA

(shrugging)

We have no choice

She leans back

BINTA (CONT'D)

You know...we're not very different
in this country. We Hausas and you
Igbos and all the others in between-
especially we women. We all feel
the same and want the same things.

(MORE)

BINTA (CONT'D)

I sometimes wonder if the lines
created are imaginary...man made.

Lottie gives a humourless laugh

LOTTIE

I know all about imaginary lines.
Those are the lines Kalifah and I
cannot cross.

BINTA

Why not?

Lottie sighs and shakes her head

LOTTIE

That story na long story

Binta smiles and Lottie gives her a sly smile

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

In the end, though- we find ways to
keep them coming back for more. He
keeps coming back...and I intend to
let it remain that way for as long
as possible.

Lottie's phone rings and she stands

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

Sorry I have to answer this. Make
yourself at home and look through
more pics

Binta nods and Lottie goes into her kitchen. After flipping
through several more pictures, Binta reaches for some peanuts
and eats. Then she picks her cup and notices it is empty and
gets up to go to the kitchen to fill it. She pauses when she
hears Lottie whispering harshly

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

No...no, I said! ...Why?...Of
Course not...Look, I don't need to
explain myself to you. All I want
is the bloody job done!...What's my
own? I don't care who you have to
kill- just get it done!

Binta's eyes widen and she quietly retraces her steps back to
the couch as she was. A few moments later, Lottie comes out,
all smiles.

BINTA
(looking up with a
guileless smile)
Hope all is well?

Lottie gives an assuring grin

LOTTIE
Oh everything is perfect. Sometimes
Kalifah calls at odd hours
and...well, he says some things to
make me blush. You understand, na..

She gives a naughty grin and wiggles her brows and Binta
covers her mouth and giggles. Lottie walks over and sits down

LOTTIE (CONT'D)
Anyway, enough of me. What about
you, Binta? Give me some of your
own sweet gist

Binta grins

FADE OUT.