ABOHWO KESSIENA CHISOM

MBBS DEPARTMENT

MHS COLLEGE

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SUMMARY OF THE BOOK “ZACK’S STORY” BY ABEDEMI SANUSI

In this book we look at Zack’s life, and the challenges he goes through, from childhood and how grows spiritually, mentally and how he learns to forgive and move on from the past for him to carry on with his life, he gets to understand himself more and how he tells his son more about his father

It started ten years ago at a university party. A few hours to the party his then girlfriend had just broken the news to him about the abortion she had for their baby. The baby that he never knew existed till then. They got into a heated argument with her saying somethings about him like “he was a control freak” “he made her feel inadequate” after she told him everything, he didn’t hesitate to walk out of her flat.

He went straight to the student union bar, zack wasn’t looking for a drink, he needed the noise in the bar to help him from feeling lonely if he was to go back to his flat. He thought about killing his then girlfriend like the way she killed their child. he had an aim at the bar“no strings sex” to help him take his mind of things. But there was only one who saw his bleeding heart but wouldn’t sleep with him and that’s how he met Kemi

He describes Kemi as vivacious and spontaneous, Kemi is an only child of her parents, she was bright-eyed, bubbly, loud. With curly, unruly hair. Zack and Kemi started as friends, then started dating during this time. Years later they had a son called Yanis Woboluwamitito kariba. Yanis is a Hebrew name which means “gift of God”. Kemi is half Nigerian and half London.

Yanis was born out of wedlock. Kemi never wanted yanis at first she wanted to abort it,but Zack wouldn’t allow her, he couldn’t loose another child through abortion.so he did all he could he even threatened to sue her if she goes through with the abortion so she finally decided to keep and so they finally reconciled and came back together .After yanis was born during those times kemi pushed Zack away from her bed, not wanting to sleep with him till they got married. And finally they both had a court wedding

Kemi found it hard adjusting to her new life as a mother, she complained about staying at home all day, she was a working class woman before yanis came along. Then she had to give that up. She complained all day about being the only one at home and how if she doesn’t start work she was going to loose he position to her colleague, who had it out for her. Zack thought at work about how Kemi doesn’t care about yanis and how she ever thought about leaving him in a nursery just few weeks old and always thought she even wanted to abort it

They never saw eye to eye most times always arguing about yanis and her going back to work on her campaign and she introducing him to Christianity. But zack was never a spiritual man we was a lawyer and he was based on facts, anytime his friends/pastors try to tell him about GOD he always believed in things that you could see

Zack went back to the orphanage home thinking he can get some answers to his questions about his parents, where he is from and so on. On getting to the orphanage he noticed things have changed a lot there and the place is managed by young man called Tristan and his wife, passing through the corridors of the home old feelings started rushing through him like when he was 15 years old and realised he will never get adopted so he came to a conclusion of becoming a corporate lawyer. Zack spoke with Tristan and Tristan told him he will help him to get the contact of a former staff at the home called Jack Morris which Zack also know very well.

Meanwhile, at the office they are on Liberia project, the country that just ended it civil war, and things are not looking good there but Liberia has it credit, they have Diamonds which has been one of the causes of war in the country that is why they call it conflict or blood diamonds. So, Richard the company director and zack line manager, arrange a meeting with zack, Andy and Maxine on how to bid for the diamond mines so they can get the sole ownership of it. So, for them to do this they need the help of Save West Africa help, and Helen is the running the program so she made them an offer to be partner with them and they agreed. Now Rhodenburg and SWA became partner on the bid of Liberia diamonds.

Before his trip to Liberia he allowed Kemi to resume her job and little Yanis enrolled in Nursery. On his way to Liberia they had a stopover at Lagos, where they lodged at Sharaton hotel where he called foluke, Kemi’s cousin because they could not meet up. When they got to Liberia two men approached them introducing themselves as Ben and Martin, their security personnel. On their way to their hotel they noticed some things like churches which made them to conclude that Liberia was built on traditional Christian values probably because their first president was a Methodist preacher. Pedestrians carrying huge bundles of green leaves on their heads, and young girls no more than 12 years old carrying babies held on their backs with cloths slings.

When he got to the hotel, a woman came towards them and introduce herself as Grace, the SWA Liberia Officer which shocked zack because she was that woman that aborted his child. In the hotel Maxine tried to seduce zack but she did not succeed.

During their stay their they visited

* Senator Williams: a reformed rebel leader, God-fearing, presidential candidate, warlord and arms dealer, he told them how please he is for their coming to Liberia, there was a little argument but he gave them a draft copy of the diamond mines.
* UN headquarters where they all met Mark Kroeker, the police commissioner, United Nations Mission in Liberia.
* After that was the Executive Mansion to meet with the National Security Adviser.
* One of the displacement camps in the country, the camp is 10 miles outside Monrovia. On getting there they realize the camp held 20,000 people, with no electricity, water and no sanitation system which for the first time made zack to pray with all his heart for all his people in his life and also on his.
* The minister for lands, Mines and Energy who is probably the most powerful man in Liberia. They had a meeting with the minister’s aide and the prepared very well for it, after the meeting the minister told them they would receive a response within 24 hours.

That night zack had problem concentrating on his bible and daily devotional because he felt like a voice is telling him what to do. So the following day they receive a mail from the miniser’s aide for a new meeting asking them why they should consider them among other others after their reply the meeting was over which gave they the doubt of winning the bid or not and led Andy to arrange a private breakfast meeting with the minister’s aide without the letting Zack and Maxine knowing.

They left Liberia that day and have another stopover at Lagos which gave Zack time to meet up with foluke and gave her some advice about her lover lanre which by the way was the reason kemi was in Nigeria (because of her love for him) and zack suggested that foluke should give God, the bible a chance and see how it turns out.

At the London airport, kemi came to pick him up, turns out they are really in a good place. Zack couldn’t wait to hold yanis, he missed his son so much. But zack wasn’t so keen to the idea of dropping him at the nursery but he had no choice but to accept it

He got leads on where he is from and who his mother is. Zack is half Eritrean and half Italian. He wanted so badly to see his mother and at least have some closure with her but anytime he got close to her house he couldn’t just do it so he ended up just staring at her house hoping that she would come out. He still hadn’t told kemi about his latest discovery and what has been going on, cause ever since he came back from his trip and was snapping at her at every given moment.

So he decided to just go and confront his mother, when he got to her house his mother opened the door and immediately recognized him and told him never to come back to her house. Zack was stunned and heart broken but just decided to go home. He finally told kemi everything about his mother, Maxine, and grace and she was surprised that he could keep all this things from her and she was furious but they worked it out

A scandal broke loose in the office which resulted to zack and Maxine begin fired and andy nowhere to be found. The scandal was so much they couldn’t leave their house cause reporters where around their house daily and he got upset, picked up the phone And dialled grace’s number and told her how he knew it was her that did it and how he never wants to hear from her again

Two years had pass since the scandal and they had gotten married in the church, kemi was doing well in her business, although zack couldn’t get another job due to the scandal but he was helping out with legal matters in the church and they were doing fine

We cant decided if the play should be called the downfall of zack kariba? Or the making of zack kariba? We should just leave as zack’s story cause no one knows what lies ahead.

LITERARY DEVICE

MOOD; anger, frustration, happiness.

IMAGINARY; Yanis T popped out of his mother’s womb like a scrawny multi-coloured chicken.

THEME

ABORTION; his then girlfriend aborted his baby and his wife almost aborted their son to make it worse