**INT. LEGON- UNIVERSITY OF GHANA- EXAM HALL-DAY**

**The camera moves across the room where the students are busily writing their final paper for the semester.**

**INVIGILATOR**

You have about 10 minutes to finish up your paper. Remember to sign across your answer booklet and indicate your lecturers name at the top right corner of your answer booklet.

**The invigilator signals to the TA’s around to go round and make sure that all the students have done the proper thing. The TA gets to Sedem’s table to catch her in a daze.**

**TA**

**(Whispers)**

Sedem! …. Sedem!

Have you gone through your paper one last time?

**SEDEM**

Ooops! I’m sorry. Yes sir I have thank you.

**TA**

Make sure you have signed at the top right corner. And keep your focus, the paper is not over!

 **The exam room switches to the same exam room but with students and proctors going crazy over the “Harlem shake.”(Sedem is in her trance still)**

**EXT. LEGON- UNIVERSITY OF GHANA- UNIVERSITY GROUNDS LATER**

**Sedem meets Baaba and Valerie who are waiting for her at “COFFEE Q”**

**BAABA**

**(To Sedem)**

What kept you in there for so long? The paper was over 30 minutes after we started writing.

**VALERIE**

You talk like you don’t know Sedem. She will dot I’s and cross her t’s over and over till the invigilator says stop work

**All three girls laugh and signal for the waiter to come and take their orders.**

**SEDEM**

Oh come on girls. That is an exaggeration.

**(Raises her right hand)**

Plus you know I write slowly. And this paper looked simple but it was tricky if you like read question 1

**Sedem motions for the paper on the table to show Valerie and the two friends quickly protest in unison**

**VALERIE AND BAABA**

ENOUGH!

**The three burst into laughter**.

**SEDEM**

Where’s Jennifer anyway. Thought she was meeting us up here at 11.

**Sedem looks at her watch thoroughly.**

**SEDEM**

It’s already half past 11. Is she ok?

**BAABA**

Jennifer is a big girl. Besides you know how lecturers can be in this school and we all know that Jennifer should have resolved this situation in the beginning of the semester.

**VALERIE**

Oh! There she is!!

**She points in the direction of the car park.**

Babes! Enam he?

**JENNIFER**

Charley! Mese ony3 agoro koraa oooo. My life is over!

**The mood on the table immediately becomes quiet.**

**SEDEM**

What do you mean? You were just double checking to see whether you registered for law and politics right?

**JENNIFER**

Yes!.... Yes!.... And my name appeared.

**(Stammering)**

 The TA said he will resolve it.

**BAABA**

Why are your palms shaky are you sure you are ok?

**PAUSES**

 Is there something we can help out with?

**JENNIFER**

Girls! I’m fine. Please. I’m starving. Sedem did you order for me?

**SEDEM**

Yup. Pancakes, toast and the yogurt milk shake.

**Jennifer motions her hand for a high five and the four friends burst into laughter.**

**BAABA**

Edziban madam

**JENNIFER**

Bitch don’t kill my vibe

**And the four girls laugh again.**

**Sedem picks a phone call and in three minutes a car pulls up the drive way. The girls kiss and hug each other and disperse. Sedem jumps to the front seat of the car and the car drives off. There is conspiracy amongst the four friends over Sedem’s birthday surprise.**

**INT. CAR- SOMEWHERE IN ACCRA**

**MR. KUMORDZI**

How was your day?

 **SEDEM**

Fine. Thanks.

**MR. KUMORDZI**

The paper?

**SEDEM**

Good I guess.

**MR. KUMORDZI**

Glad to hear that. Any thoughts on your birthday?

**SEDEM**

No daddy. Probably hang out with the girls. I really haven’t thought of anything.

**MR. KUMORDZI**

Ok cool

**SEDEM**

Did you just say cool? This what’s app I downloaded for you was a bad idea. Where is my dad?? My real dad?

**(Laughing)**

**Her dad joins in the laughter**

 **CUT TO**

**INT. REGIMANUEL ESTATE- KUMORDZI RESIDENCE- NIGHT**

**Sedem walks into her dad’s office where she finds him comfortably seated behind his writing desk. She immediately recognizes the video of the carex competition she won 10 years ago.**

**SEDEM**

Daddy!

Again!

How long will you keep watching this video?

**She motions a glass of water to her dad**.

**MR. KUMORDZI**

As long as I’m alive….

**(PAUSES AND SMILES)**

 I’m proud of all your accomplishments.

**SEDEM**

It gets scary dad. What if I disappoint you? I’ve barely started out and I’ve let you down so much already and….

**MR. KUMORDZI**

Sedem you were young and it was a difficult time for us all. You were braver I guess in dealing with it the way that you did.

**He smiles at her.**

My wish is for you to discover your purpose in life and live it to the fullest and the journey isn’t always easy but worth it. Take that from me.

**Mr. Kumordzi gets up and makes his way towards his book shelf. He picks up a brown envelope and hands it over to his daughter.**

**SEDEM**

What’s in there?

**MR. KUMORDZI**

Open it darling

**Sedem opens it slowly as if she is afraid of what she might find.**

**SEDEM**

It is a Cape Coast guide book

**(Incredulously)**

What’s it for daddy?

**MR. KUMORDZI**

I think it’s high time you went to find out a little bit more about your home town this time for yourself.

**SEDEM**

**(Shouts)**

Really!!!!

 Wow!!!

 Daddy this is awesome. Am I going by myself or with you?

**(Pauses for a bit)**

 Doesn’t matter either way this is awesome wow daddy thanks so much!

**She turns to give her dad a kiss and a hug and storms out to share the news with her mom.**

**SEDEM**

Mummy! Mummy! Mummy!

**(Shouting**)

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

What’s all this commotion for? Sedem you know better than to be shouting. Afi and Dela are sleeping.

**(Sternly)**

**SEDEM**

Sorry mummy. Daddy just gave me permission to go to Cape Coast. Isn’t that great?

**There is a straight look on Mrs. Kumordzi’s face**

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

Where is your father?

**SEDEM**

The study

**She mumbles softly and moves from the way.**

**Mrs. Kumordzi walks angrily in the direction of the study and knocks**

 **MR. KUMORDZI**

Come in

**His eyes fixed on the computer.**

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

What is Sedem saying? You are encouraging her to go to Cape Coast? For what? Mawuli? You know how I feel about her going there.

**MR. KUMORDZI**

I know honey but that’s not enough reason to keep Sedem in the dark about her your family.

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

Why didn’t you at least discuss it with me first so we can arrange something? Go as a family perhaps?

**MR. KUMORDZI**

How many times have we not tried that besides, Efua, tomorrow our daughter will be 23 we need to start letting her do certain things on her own. She’ll be fine.

**He walks slowly towards her and gives her a kiss on her cheek.**

**MR. KUMORDZI**

 Have you called RANA motors yet about the car and when we will be picking it up?

**He stays at the door for some seconds after no reply he leaves.**

**SEDEM**

Knock! Knock!

**She grabs on the door knob and peeps her head through the door.**

May I come in?

**MR. KUMORDZI**

Sure darling.

**SEDEM**

Am I the reason why you and mummy are arguing again?

**MR. KUMORDZI**

No. mummy is just struggling with the idea that you are a woman but she will come around.

**SEDEM**

OK daddy if you say so I believe you. Well good night. Thank you so much for being such a good father to me I could not have had a better dad.

**MR. KUMORDZI**

Thanks princess. I’m blessed to have such a wonderful family. Happy birthday in advance

**Sedem immediately turns around to hug her dad and runs out of the room nearly knocking her mom down**.

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

Watch it young lady!

**(Angrily)**

**SEDEM**

Sorry mummy!

**INT. REGIMANUEL ESTATE- KUMORDZI’S HOUSE- SEDEMS ROOM- DAY**

**SEDEM**

Happy birthday to me! Oh GOD. I’m grateful for all the good things you have done for me especially for another blessed year today…. Special request Oh Lord please let this 34B I bought from body talk fit!

**She wakes up and touches her breast and rushes to her bathroom mirror to see if her suspicions were confirmed.**

**SEDEM**

Hmmmmm. GOD I’m hurt. No improvement.

**She’s playing loyal by Chris Brown and the music is blaring she cannot even hear her mother.**

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

Ewuraba would you turn that thing down!

**Her mother shouts from down the stairs.**

**SEDEM**

These hoes ain’t loyal.

**She sings along attempting to do the dance in the video from her laptop.**

**She is dressed up and goes down stairs to help her mum with breakfast**

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

**(To Sedem)**

Please check on Afi

**SEDEM**

OK

**Sedem gently taps on Afi’s back to wake her up and gets her ready for school. She cuddles her and carries her into the bath tub and gives her a bath and after helps her with her teeth. In about 15 minutes Afi is ready for crèche.**

**SEDEM**

Dela!

**(Shouting)**

**You better be ready. You are running late. You don’t want mummy coming up there!**

**The whole family is gathered around the table for breakfast. Mr. Kumordzi signals his wife to the kitchen and it’s as if they are having an argument. Sedem distracts her little siblings by telling them funny stories.**

**MR. KUMORDZI**

See you at 2.

**SEDEM**

2? Is there a problem?

**MR. KUMORDZI**

No. don’t leave the house I need you home when I get back.

SEDEM

Yes daddy. Sure thing

**The little siblings are transported to their mother’s car and it’s off to school. It’s only Sedem in the house. There’s a knock on the door.**

**SEDEM**

Who is there?

**DELIVERY MAN**

I have a delivery for you.

**Sedem walks straight to the door and signs for the package. The package is addressed to her mother. The package is from the Cape Coast hospital. She opens it and sees medical expenses for one Amonua Hansen.**

**She puts everything back and seals the envelope like it was before and sets it on the counter and makes a mental note.**

**EXT/INT- REGIMANUEL ESTATES- SEDEMS ROOM- DAY**

**SEDEM**

**(V.O)**

Sometimes the hardest thing in life is to be forced to accept what we don’t understand.

Coming!!!!!!

**She races quickly down the stairs to find her three best friends all dressed up for a day at the pool.**

**SEDEM**

We didn’t plan a day at the pool. At least not that I remember

**(Incredulously)**

**JENNIFER**

But we did on your behalf. A thank you will be nice birthday girl

**SEDEM**

Oh I’m sorry. I’m a little distracted. Thanks girls. What are we waiting for let’s go!

**(Shouts)**

**The four friends head out and get into a taxi to Labadi beach hotel. Jennifer gives a thumbs up to Sedem’s father.**

**EXT- LABADI BEACH- DAY**

**The girls are at the beach and are chatting, eating and drinking. They are laughing and making new friends. There is a little birthday cake for Sedem and her friends come together to sing for her.**

**BAABA**

Ok that was fun. It’s like 6 now we should be headed home. Jennifer already took the lead.

**The girls enjoy themselves dancing to music and making new friends.**

**SEDEM**

I swear this is the most fun I’ve had all day.

**BAABA**

Hold on tight babes. The day has only begun for you. Your dad is sending the driver for us right?

**SEDEM**

Yes and I think the car pulling up must be him. Let’s go.

**The three girls jump into the V8 land cruiser and drive off laughing and singing all the way home.**

**SEDEM**

**(To driver)**

Are the lights off or It’s just our house

**DRIVER**

Hmmmmm. I don’t know but I heard an announcement for the load shedding.

**SEDEM**

So much for my birthday. How terrific!

 **Baaba and Valerie are already asleep in the moving car. She slouches into the back seat and continues to what’s app on her phone.**

**The car pulls into the drive way and Sedem moves to her room to change. Jennifer enters the door all dressed up. She is in a beautiful blue cock tail dress and heels.**

**SEDEM**

You look nice. If I didn’t know any better I’d say you are the birthday girl.

**(Smiling)**

**JENNIFER**

Well thanks. It’s a compliment right?

**SEDEM**

Of course

**JENNIFER**

Well get dressed we are going out for dinner and yes since we both know better we know you deserve to have a good time today. Happy birthday love.

**Jennifer pulls Sedem close for a hug and gives her a bag. Sedem opens the bag to see a beautiful dress by Aya Morrison and beautiful Michael Kors shoes.**

**SEDEM**

WOW!! Thanks jenny. This is beautiful. How did you know about the dress?

**(Surprised)**

**JENNIFER**

I saw you drool over them when we went there to pick up my cousin’s engagement dress.

**(Laughing)**

**SEDEM**

I should wear it now? What’s the occasion?

**JENNIFER**

Your birthday and dinner silly. Now quit interrogating me and change. Time is running out.

**Jennifer excuses her and leaves her to change. Sedem picks up her phone to send what’s app message and sometime later all three friends are in her room fixing her make up.**

**SEDEM**

**(V.O)**

The gift of loyal friendships

**The camera slows down to capture the utter excitement of these beautiful young women.**

**EXT- REGIMANUEL ESTATE-NIGHT**

**GIRL 1**

Happy birthday

**SEDEM**

Thank you

**BOY 1**

Happy birthday

**SEDEM**

Thanks and thanks for coming

 **SEDEM**

**(To Jennifer)**

How did you pull this off so nicodemously?

**JENNIFER**

That was so easy. You have never been a birthday person but really your dad deserves all the credit.

**She raises her hand and wears a smirk.**

 I envy your family.

**SEDEM**

I guess I’m one of the lucky few.

**(Whispers softly)**

 **She turns to catch a glimpse of her dad busily greeting the guests and clearly having a good time.**

**SEDEM**

**Excuse me a sec jenny.**

**Sedem moves swiftly across the pool area to catch her dad. She immediately hugs him and plants a kiss on her father’s cheek.**

**SEDEM**

I love you daddy so much. Thank you for everything.

**(Whispers softly)**

**He pulls his daughter into another embrace and motions his glass of champagne up for a toast.**

**MR. KUMORDZI**

To the birthday girl and the best daughter in the world, my princess. Sedem Kumordzi . May 23 challenge you in every area to be a better version of you each day.

**CROWD**

Here here!!

**Mr. Kumordzi signals the driver and whispers something to him and he turns to leave. Mr. Kumordzi now turns to his daughter.**

**MR. KUMORDZI**

To the best part of the celebration

(Whispers)

**He moves across the room to be with his wife. A few minutes later there is a brand new mustard KIA Rio saloon in their parking area.**

**SEDEM**

**(To her father)**

No! no! oh my goodness!!

**(Whimpers)**

This is too much daddy. Thank you!!!

**The driver walks over to where the Kumordzi family is standing and hands the car key to Mr. Kumordzi who in turn hands it over to Sedem.**

**MR. KUMORDZI**

 **(To Sedem)**

I love you and trust you. Use this car responsibly. Privileges are always an added responsibility. Make me proud.

**SEDEM**

I promise daddy. I won’t let you down. I’m so grateful to you and mummy for everything.

**MR. KUMORDZI**

**(To Sedem)**

Now you have no excuse not to run errands for your mother and me

**SEDEM**

As long as you are buying the fuel we are in perfect agreement

**They both laugh**

**Sedem moves across the parking lot to find her friends. There is a tap on her shoulder and she turns.**

**KOJO**

Happy birthday sweetie

**SEDEM**

(Sternly)

Thanks.

 Sweetie?

 Please.

Who invited you anyway?

**Jennifer nudges Sedem and signals her to be nicer.**

**KOJO**

Actually I came on my own wasn’t going to miss out on your special day.

**SEDEM**

I see. Excuse me please I have a lot to do.

**As she makes her way to leave Kojo holds her back and grabs her hand.**

**KOJO**

Sedem please don’t do this. I have apologized over and over. What else can I do to make us right again?

**SEDEM**

Wrong time and place for this and you should have thought about this before. But you know something …. On second thought forget it.

**She walks away angrily.**

**VALERIE**

What did he want?

**SEDEM**

The usual. Some nerve he has.

**VALERIE**

I know right. Don’t let it ruin your big day. You have a beautiful car and the official license to chill. Don’t let him spoil your fun.

**SEDEM**

I smell chauffeur responsibilities in your excitement. Oh Lord help me

**The girls burst out laughing as Sedem dramatizes her exasperation at the thought. They pull each other for a hug. Jennifer and Baaba interrupt.**

**BAABA**

Where’s the joke?

**JENNIFER**

Yes

**VALERIE**

Sedem is dreading becoming the driver now

**(Laughing)**

**BAABA**

Nanka. What did you think? Enya papa

**The four girls burst out laughing again and pull each other for a hug.**

**SOMETIME LATER- SAME NIGHT**

**SEDEM**

Thank you girls for being here and there for me always. This will be no celebration without you all. I love you and thanks again for everything.

**BAABA**

We’ve got you beautiful.

**JENNIFER**

Now where is that DJ I hired? I need to hear this man’s not hot song you have been bugging me about

**VALERIE**

**(To Jennifer)**

I believe where he is supposed to be. Behind the mixers around the summer hut.

**Jennifer gestures to the girls and moves in that direction and whispers something to the DJ and in a few minutes the song “man’s not hot”is playing. The girls get into an instant frenzy and start dancing their hearts out.**

**INT- REGIMANUEL ESTATE- KITCHEN-DAY**

**Everyone in the Kumordzi household is busy cleaning up. The surprise get together had left the house in a bit of a mess. Mrs. Kumordzi is behind the kitchen counter trying to label the leftover food whiles Mr. Kumordzi is trying to help set the table for breakfast. Even two year old Afi attempts to sweep with the broom whiles Dela is mopping the floor. Sedem announces her presence with the washing bathroom kit in hand**.

**SEDEM**

The guest bathrooms have been restored to their normal state of perfection. Anything else I can help out with??

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

Yes. Please get mawuli cleaned up Grandmaa Dzifa will be spending the day with her.

**SEDEM**

Yes mummy

**Sedem immediately scoops her baby brother who bursts into tears because she was not allowed to finish his share of the house hold chores. She gently rubs her hand on her brother’s back soothingly to stop her from crying.**

**INT- REGIMANUEL ESTATES- LIVING ROOM-DAY**

**Sometime later Mawuli is ready for her day at Grandma’s. Sedem quickly goes to get dressed. Mrs. Kumordzi appears with a look of displeasure at Sedem.**

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

Going out already?

**SEDEM**

Yes mummy. I have a movie date with the girls.

**(Sarcastically)**

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

Be home early. I won’t condone any late outings.

**SEDEM**

**(Rolls her eyes at her mother)**

Sure. But mummy I’m old enough I can take care of myself. Why always kick up a fuss?

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

My house, my rules.

**SEDEM**

Yes mummy. I’m off then.

**She reaches for her car keys from her purse and the surge of confidence and excitement immediately replaces the tinge of guilt her mom had tried to provoke. She unlocks the car door and whispers a prayer. She sparks her car and heads straight to the mall.**

**EXT- MARINA MALL- DAY**

**VALERIE**

I wonder where Sedem is.

**JENNIFER**

She what’s apped to tell me her mom was giving her heat about leaving home. But she did say she’ll be here.

**BAABA**

OH! Look! I see her. Damn this girl looks tish in this her new ride oooo.

**A few minutes Sedem pulls up a seat by them and they call for the waiter to come take their orders. The waiter scribbles down their orders and turns to leave.**

**JENNIFER**

Your mother should really cut you some slack. You are doing everything right. What?

**(Angrily)**

**SEDEM**

Honestly I’m tired nothing I do is good enough and as much as I want to vent I just want to ball with my homies. Ewuraba watare yi ondafom koraa oo

**VALERIE**

Medaase.

**SEDEM**

Who made it?

**VALERIE**

I saw it on the latest issue of GLITZ MAGAZINE. I cut it out and gave it to my seamstress to copy.

**(Smiling)**

**BAABA**

Then she tried. It’s beautiful. Looks already sewn.

**JENNIFER**

Yeah.

**SEDEM**

Ok girls my dad has just offered me a five days trip to Cape Coast. You interested?

**JENNIFER**

Auntie Efua is ok with it?

**SEDEM**

Please Jennifer just drop that for now at least? Anyone interested?

**VALERIE**

Sure but why Cape coast. Aburi around this time is perfectly romantic. Get some hot hunk of a man and be warming up to..

**SEDEM, JENNIFER AND BAABA**

Eeeeiii!!!

**(Unison)**

**BAABA**

Val snap out of your reverie. We are four girlfriends ain’t no warming up to anyone here.

**(Laughing)**

Ehia wo dze. Still stuck on Jojo erh?

**VALERIE**

I swear I would die and this guy won’t even know. No matter what I do I’m invisible to this guy.

**BAABA**

10 years Valerie aren’t you just stringing yourself along?

**VALERIE**

There’s just something, something about! him I haven’t felt with anyone.

**She stresses**

**SEDEM**

Well ok but move on with your life at least. Keep your options opened.

**All four friends laugh and nod**

**VALERIE**

What if I give up and he’s the one.

**Raises her hand in the air in exasperation.**

**JENNIFER**

I guess you won’t know unless you try.

**VALERIE**

What do you mean?

**SEDEM**

Tell him how you feel. I know Jojo he’s pretty mature about these things. He won’t put your business out there.

**VALERIE**

Well…. I haven’t thought about it. Perhaps it’ll be a good place to start. But I need your help Sedem since you two are really close.

**SEDEM**

Name it.

**VALERIE**

Ask Jojo to come on the trip?

**SEDEM**

Eeeiii! My mom hasn’t even come to terms with me travelling on my own much less with a guy. I don’t know.

**(Sighs)**

**VALERIE**

Pretty please Sedem please

**SEDEM**

OK ok we’ll see. I think we can make that work.

**VALERIE**

Awesome!

**(Cheers)**

**Valerie moves over to where Sedem is to hug her tightly.**

Really appreciate this girlfriend.

**The waiter comes in with their food and the camera moves up slowly to capture the girls chatting and laughing.**

**EXT-JENNIFER’S HOUSE -DAY**

**SEDEM**

The trip is in two days.

**JENNIFER**

Ok sure. I live on my own literally doubt my parents would care.

**(Sarcastically)**

**Sedem immediately moves over to her friends to hug her.**

**SEDEM**

Don’t say that. You know it’s not true

**JENNIFER**

Yeah right. I may not be a straight A student like you but I’m not stupid!

**(Irritated)**

**SEDEM**

Jennifer! That’s not fair. Where’s this from? That’s a low blow.

**JENNIFER**

I’m sorry. Didn’t mean that.

**SEDEM**

It’s ok.

I have to go now I have a curfew. See you at CAHAYA later.

**JENNIFER**

Hope your mom lets you!

**(Calls out)**

**SEDEM**

Who cares?

**(Laughing)**

**Sedem backs out of Jennifer’s gate and drives straight home. Whiles stuck in Spintex traffic she creates a group chat for the girls called X cape.**

**INT- KUMORDZI RESIDENCE- SEDEM ROOM-NIGHT**

**Sedem is looking through her closet trying to decide what to wear. She takes pictures of her final three options and what’s apps them to Valerie to help her choose. Almost immediately there is a phone call.**

**SEDEM**

Hello?

**VALERIE**

Yo! I like the black chiffon on the dark blue jeans. What time are you picking me up?

**SEDEM**

I’m leaving in like 30 so I’ll probably be at yours like eightish.

**VALERIE**

Ok cool just came out of the shower

**SEDEM**

Don’t be late! Charley I’m out.

**VALERIE**

Bye

**Sedem sets the phone on her dressing table and starts to put on what Valerie chose for her. She does some light make up and she is out the door. As she makes her way to the door she sees Mrs. Kumordzi behind the stove.**

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

Leaving already?

**SEDEM**

Yes

**MRS. KUMORDZI**

Have fun and drive safely…. Do you have money on you?

**SEDEM**

Eno-ugh dad-dy alrea-dy sor-ted it o-ut.

**(Stuttering**)

**Sedem walks to the front door and turns towards her mother**

**SEDEM**

Thanks mummy

**And she immediately unlocks the door and heads out. Mrs. Kumordzi is left staring at the window facing** **her back yard. She pulls the brown envelope from the drawer and tears begin to flow from her eyes.**

**EXT- CAHAYA-NIGHT**

**All four friends quickly settle round the table. All looking pretty in their casual outfit and very mild make up.**

**SEDEM**

Anuanom n’adofo have you decided?

**VALERIE**

What?

**JENNIFER**

The trip?

**VALERIE**

Oh yeah

**BAABA**

Thought it was a done deal. We are the leaving the day after tomorrow?

**SEDEM**

Yes and you are meeting up at my house at 10. Cool?

**VALERIE**

Sure that’s fine. So what we pack?

**JENNIFER**

The usual casuals. I guess?

**SEDEM**

Valerie we know you. Please oooo no divalicious things.

**The four friends burst out laughs. They are interrupted when Jojo enters with an awkward looking boy. The girls exchange looks and immediately Valerie excuses herself.**

**JENNIFER**

And there she goes running away

**(Whispers)**

**BAABA**

Ssssshhhhhh

**SEDEM**

A second girls

**Sedem moves towards the entrance and pulls Jojo in for an embrace.**

**SEDEM**

It’s been long.

**JOJO**

Too long. Always on point.

**SEDEM**

Thanks. I gotta ask you a quick question.

**JOJO**

Sure

**SEDEM**

I’m going out of town for about 5 days. Would you like to come?

**JOJO**

Sounds nice. Sure what’s app me the details. I have to go now.

**He turns to leave. Sedem is stunned as if not sure what to make of Jojo’s friend. She brushes it off and walks to her seat.**

**JENNIFER**

Is it just me or was that guy by Jojo a little weird looking.

**BAABA**

How do you mean?

**Valerie interrupts with a forlorn look on her face.**

**VALERIE**

Ah-hum. What are you guys gossiping about?

**JENNIFER**

The guy Jojo came in with. Something doesn’t

**SEDEM**

**INTERRUPTS**

Where were you? It was a perfect opportunity for you to say hi.

**VALERIE**

I had to go use the bathroom. I’m in my…

**She indicates there with her eyes.**

**BAABA**

Os3 woara.

**The girls move to the counter to settle the bill for the drinks.**

**BAABA**

Who has 10 cedis?

**VALERIE**

I do. Here

**She stretches her hand to give the money to the bar tender and they all turn to leave.**

**SEDEM**

Where to next?

**JENNIFER**

TWIST!

**(Screams)**

**SEDEM**

I’m not drinking. I don’t drink don’t give me pressure plus I’m driving.

**JENNIFER**

Yes madam.

**The girls walk leisurely into the car busily engaged in a conversation when a tall guy brushes his hand against Sedem’s shoulder. The boy vanishes into the crowd before she is able to make him out. A few** **seconds when the girls enter the car the boy turns around as if now realizing he wanted to find the person that he mistakenly hit.**

**The girls enter the club and have a good time.**

**EXT- BAABA’S HOUSE- DAWN**

**Baaba and Sedem are seated on top of car chatting.**

**BAABA**

I swear that club was on fire.

**SEDEM**

Tell me about it. It was crazy.

**(Sighs)**

You know sometimes I just wished I had someone waiting for me at the end of the line just to make sure I was home safe. Hmmm.

**(Smiling)**

The good old days.

**BAABA**

It will happen Sedem I promise. May be on this trip.

**The girls are waiting for Baaba’s little brother to open the gate. In a few minutes he does and Sedem drives off.**

**She arrives a few minutes later and stealthily makes her way to her room, tip toeing on the stairs. She dashes quickly to shower and picks up her journal to write:**

**Dear diary,**

**It’s getting less mysterious. It’s so weird but I seem to attract situations that won’t last all the time and I end up being collateral damage. It’s beyond understanding now and I know after Kojo my heart will not be taking another hit like that. Dear no one wherever please treat my heart gently, love it and protect because I’ll be good to you.**

**She pushes the diary under her pillow and reaches to turn the lamp off.**

**EXT- SEDEM’S ROOM-DAY**

**Sedem is busy packing and double checking on her one note app if everything she set out to pack was indeed in her suitcase. She is interrupted with a call from Jennifer.**

**SEDEM**

Hello?

**JENNIFER**

Hello. I’m heading to yours should be there in 15

**There is another call.**

**SEDEM**

Jenny please hold Valerie is calling.

**She holds the line and picks Valerie’s call.**

**SEDEM**

Hey Val what’s up? Jennifer is on the line I’ll make a conference call for all three. Cool?

**VALERIE**

Sure.

**SEDEM**

Hello jenny, Val is on the line.

**VALERIE**

I’m psyched for this trip.

**JENNIFER**

Abi we know why?

**(Laughing)**

**SEDEM**

**(Laughing**)

What are you packing or how much are you packing guys?

**VALERIE**

Just enough

**(Carefully)**

I have a carefully planned agenda

**SEDEM**

I’m guessing two full suitcases those big ones you took to Repu last year.

**VALERIE**

Yup. That and a small one for my shoes

**JENNIFER**

You and Ralph deserve each other. You know he pulled a similar stunt in Kumasi

**SEDEM**

I have to go my dad is calling me. See you soon! Bye

**She cuts the call quickly and runs through the list on her phone one last time and heads to her dad’s room. She knocks quietly.**

**SEDEM**

Knock! Knock!

**MR. KUMORDZI**

Come in dear

**He calls her closer with his hand and asks her to sit down.**

Nervous?

**SEDEM**

A little

**She fidgets in her seat.**

**MR. KUMORDZI**

**(Laughing)**

I called you to give you some money. I’ll send some more through your MTN mobile money account.

**SEDEM**

You know mummy is still not keen. She’s barely said anything to me since last night.

She slouches on her father’s visitor’s seat and pouts her lips.

MR. KUMORDZI

She’ll come around I promise. Just be good and keep your friends in check. You will be staying at Uncle Johnson’s hotel. Take this white envelope and this telephone number

He scribbles down on a plain sheet of paper and hands to her.

Everything you need is in there.

SEDEM

Ok. Well I’m going to shower and get dressed the girls seem ready to move don’t want to be late or scruffy when they get here.

She motions towards her hair as if to draw her father’s attention.

MR. KUMORDZI

It’s stunning. Less is always more. The short hair looks good on you.

He returns his gaze towards his laptop and Sedem turns to leave.

EXT- KUMORDZI RESIDENCE-DAY

There is a ring on the door bell.

MRS. KUMORDZI

I’ll get it

(Calls out)

She walks towards the front door and realizes its Jennifer.

MRS. KMORDZI

Good morning. How are you and your parents?

JENNIFER

Fine thanks.

MRS. KUMORDZI

Sedem will be down soon

(Smiles)

Sedem! Visitor!

(Calls out)

SEDEM

Yes please thanks will be down in a minute.

Sedem races down to see her friends busily helping her mom in the kitchen. She smiles and joins in the fun reminiscing about when she was much younger and how much her mother and she did together. Now she only regrets the nose dive turn things have taken.

MRS. KUMORDZI

I made some snacks you can take along on your trip.

She turns to show them where they are and then leaves.

BAABA

Your mom always comes through with the food!

(Laughing)

The girls laugh and Sedem suddenly turns towards the kitchen counter and recognizes the brown envelope. She stood there and stared at it as if lost in a trance.

JENNIFER

Sed, Sed!

(Calling softly)

Where is your mind?

SEDEM

I have to go get my stuff and call the driver.

She immediately excuses herself and makes her way towards her room when she stops suddenly. She hears voices from the direction of her dad’s study. She moves closer and puts her ear to the door.

MRS. KUMORDZI

Are you really going through with this?

(Angrily)

MR. KUMORDZI

Yes. Efua you will thank me later. What are you hiding? What happened wasn’t your fault.

MRS. KUMORDZI

Let me deal with it and Sedem when I’m ready.

(Pleadingly)

MR. KUMORDZI

Your relationship with our daughter is the threat here.

(Raises his voice)

How long will you punish her for?

Sedem accidently squeezes the knob and quickly tip toes to her room. She shuts the door gently and tries to catch her breath whilst holding on to the bed post.

SEDEM

What was all that about?

(Whispers)

She shrugs her shoulder and proceeds to move her luggage downstairs and towards the main door. She writes a note to her little siblings and heads for the car. Mr. Bossman the driver is waiting by the car. He helps the ladies with their suitcases.

EXT- SOMEWHERE IN ACCRA- DAY

DRIVER

Full tank wai!

FILLING STATION ATTENDANT

Bonnet!

The driver presses on the button and bonnet opens. The driver gets up and moves towards the stand to make payments and Sedem proceeds to the driver’s seat and speeds off after giving the driver some amount of money to keep mute.

VALERIE

Have you called Jojo yet?

SEDEM

Shoot! I forgot. Please give me my phone.

Valerie searches her purse for the phone and hands it over to Sedem. She quickly dials the number.

SEDEM

Hey

JOJO

Hey

SEDEM

We are on our way. Hope you ready?

JOJO

Yup

SEDEM

Ok cool see you in a bit

She quickly hangs up the phone and makes the right turn towards his house. She arrives there in no time. She opens the boot for his luggage and heads towards the Accra Mall for some snacks.

EXT-SOMEWHERE IN ACCRA- DAY

Sedem’s phone keeps ringing. It’s a call from her father.

SEDEM

Daddy

MR. KUMORDZI

How are you all?

SEDEM

We are fine. Thanks.

MR. KUMORDZI

Keep me posted on whatever happens. Can I talk to the driver?

SEDEM

Erm… dad-dy the line is br-eak-ing.

(Stuttering)

She quickly hangs up.

BAABA

What did he want? Is everything ok?

SEDEM

Yeah for now. I just hope the driver doesn’t tell on us.

JOJO

I doubt the driver naa didn’t seem keen on it.

Valerie bursts out laughing. Everyone turns to her.

JENNIFER

What’s with all the snickering and laughing?

VALERIE

Frimpomaa re tweeted something Obeng wrote about King Promise and Joey B’s song.

BAABA

Really? That’s why you are excited.

VALERIE

I know I know what you will say but the comment was hilarious.

Valerie shows them her phone and in a second the girls burst out laughing.

SEDEM

Jojo I don’t really know the way to Cape Coast and I don’t understand the road map.

She holds the map trying to find the right way to hold it.

JOJO

Don’t worry. I gotchu boo.

(Winks)

SEDEM

Thanks for coming. I appreciate it.

(Smiling)

EXT- SOME WHERE IN ACCRA- DAY

The girls have fallen asleep and Jojo is now in charge of the vehicle. The journey has been smooth and traffic not as intense. He feels a surge of protectiveness over his girlfriends.

VALERIE

Jojo

(Calls)

JOJO

What’s up? You need anything?

VALERIE

Forgive me but I think I may need to use the ladies?

JOJO

It’s no problem at all. Let’s get ahead a bit there’s a lodge around so you can use the bathroom.

VALERIE

Thanks.

(Whispers softly)

Valerie drifts back to sleep. In no time the car stops and the girls go into the lodge. Valerie steps out first and walks towards Jojo.

VALERIE

Thanks for coming means a lot to us and especially me.

JOJO

You are most welcome and no more thank you’s I’m honestly tired of hearing it.

They both start laughing. The camera zooms out to capture the scenery and the two busily chatting and laughing. The others join in and they continue with the journey.

BAABA

Jennifer did you take the camera. Your camera I mean thought you wanted to film this?!

JENNIFER

Yup. Right here. I needed to sleep a bit but I captured the Kaneshi markets when you guys were sleeping.

SEDEM

This one we are not sparing we must come inside the pictures.

Whiles the girls are asleep Jennifer picks her camera to take very funny pictures of her friends.

JENNIFER

On this trip I’m the boss chick

VALERIE

Says who?

JENNIFER

I’ve got the power.

SEDEM

I smell something fishy. Whatever it is not instagram or twitter.

BAABA

Oh no she didn’t.

Baaba turns to Jennifer so fast and looks at her intensely. Then Baaba directs her gaze towards Jojo who catches the stare from his mirror.

JOJO

Don’t look at me I didn’t see anything.

He raises his hand in protest at the silent accusation.

SEDEM

How much longer do we have to Cape Coast?

JOJO

Roughly say 30.

SEDEM

Oh cool. Let me call my uncle and inform them that we are almost there.

Sedem picks up her phone and dials Uncle Kofi’s number.

SEDEM

Hello?

UNCLE KOFI

Hello. Sedem how are you?

SEDEM

Fine. Thanks. Uncle Kofi.

UNCLE KOFI

Daddy just called me he said that you are on your way here.

SEDEM

Yes Uncle.

UNCLE KOFI

Are you almost here?

SEDEM

About 30 minutes. I just called to inform you.

UNCLE KOFI

Nice. Auntie Martha is expecting you. We’ll see you soon then. bye

SEDEM

Bye.

Sedem cuts the call and slouches in the passenger seat because Valerie wanted more time with Jojo. It looked like they were getting along. She updates her instagram with a picture of the four of them and captions it. BREAK THROUGH CAPE COAST WITH ME AND MY GIRLS.

Jennifer is having an argument with Baaba.

BAABA

I’m telling you that not all women care about riches. Some want a career because it fulfills them.

JENNIFER

I think that’s nuts. I mean why stress when I can be blessed with all the money a man chooses to shower on me?

BAABA

Money like that is not always free. You have dated rich boys and are dating one now how do they make you feel?

JENNIFER

Amazing. All I’m saying is if I have it like that I’d rather stay home.

VALERIE

Wait Jennifer are you saying that this expensive education your parents struggled to get for you is going down the drain because of a man’s money?

BAABA

Not to mention all the life changing experiences you can gain?

JENNIFER

BLAH BLAH BLAH

It all balls down to me. If I have money I don’t need that.

VALERIE

For me it’s about a man I can trust and submit to His vision. I want an extra ordinary life with a man who is worth it.

SEDEM

YIE YIE! Preach my sister for me it’s the same. A lot of women sell themselves short when they become materialistic too early. At this age it’s all about growing yourself.

She gestures with her two fingers from both hands to emphasize her point.

 Carving an identity for yourself why throw that away to become a man’s pet? Think about it Jennifer?

JOJO

I’m here too.

(Laughing)

This is getting interesting.

VALERIE

Good. Jojo what’s your take on Jennifer’s kind of women.

JOJO

I think she has a valid point.

JENNIFER

Thank you hun!

JOJO

BUT! I think that as a man with a dream myself I would want a woman to challenge me and inspire me to keep moving.

(Winks)

 A lot of guys will be entertained by women who are all about the material stuff but only for a short while. They get bored and throw you out. You must always have substance as a woman and you can only get that in experience.

PAUSES

She must also know how to cook and keep a home. I’m just saying.

The car becomes quiet and the girls start laughing. Jojo slots in the MANIFEST album.

VALERIE

I’ve been looking for the album everywhere. All his tracks speak to me.

BAABA

That guy is deep.

Everyone starts laughing.

SEDEM

Who used to say that?

She says that as if she is seriously trying to remember.

VALERIE

Jennifer!

Everyone starts to laugh again. In no time they arrive at the hotel. Jojo pulls into the drive way of the lodge and the errand boy comes for the luggage and directs them to the lobby.

INT- SOMEWHERE IN CAPE COAST- NIGHT

The Johnson’s welcome with the four friends with hugs and kisses and the famous AKWAABA and shows them to their rooms. They are paired and Jojo is given his own room.

AUNTIE MARTHA

Eeeeiii mewuraba ay3 panyin ooooo

SEDEM

Oh auntie.

(Laughing)

AUNTIE MARTHA

Mummy ne ho ted3n?

SEDEM

Ne ho yie nyame n’adom.

AUNTIE MARTHA

Y3da nyame ase. Get cleaned up. We organized a little welcome dinner for you and your friends.

SEDEM

Thank you Auntie but you shouldn’t have bothered. I’m shy.

She covers her eyes with her hands.

AUNTIE MARTHA

You are my god child. Allow me to spoil you.

SEDEM

In that case then I can’t complain.

(Jerks her head back)

 Thank you so much for welcoming me and my friends I appreciate it.

AUNTIE MARTHA

It’s my pleasure. Now go get ready.

Auntie Martha excuses Sedem so she can freshen up. Sedem turns to her stuff and begins to unpack them neatly into the wardrobe. She has her ear piece in her ears and is listening to music. She throws herself unto the bed. A few minutes later Jennifer knocks.

SEDEM

Come in

(Calls)

Jennifer enters and sits beside her.

JENNIFER

The difference a change of scenery does to the mind.

SEDEM

Yes

(Smiling)

You ok?

JENNIFER

Yes. Just have a lot going on in my head.

She throws herself onto the bed.

SEDEM

Wonna talk about it?

She nudges at her friend.

JENNIFER

Most certainly not. We came here to forget and have fun. I won’t ruin anyone’s fun.

SEDEM

Nonsense. I want to know what’s going on.

Sedem sits up to demonstrate her commitment to listening to whatever is going on with her friend.

JENNIFER

Sedem honestly I’m good. In other news I smell something awesome.

SEDEM

(Laughing)

I know papa. I’m going to get dressed.

Sedem gets up and heads to the bathroom and Jennifer is left on her bed staring into space as if contemplating on something. A few minutes later Sedem is done with her bath and is surprised to see her friend still where she left her.

SEDEM

You are still here? Thought you will be the first to get ready?

(Teasingly)

JENNIFER

 Get away!

 (Retorts)

I’m leaving ok?

Jennifer gets up to leave. Sedem realizes that Jennifer had opened a portion of the bible. She is in too much of a hurry to check which scripture but that was unusual of Jennifer. She quickly jumps into a black pair of jeans and Ghanaian print lofas and a mauve chiffon top with the gold necklace her mom gave her and a ring she bought. She combs her out. She applies her make-up, very light and steps out. Baaba was all ready and wanted to see Cape Coast at night so asked Jojo to take her on a ride.

EXT-CAPE COAST HOTEL- NIGHT

They are all gathered round the table except for Jennifer.

AUNTIE MARTHA

Seems we are one person short.

SEDEM

That’s Jennifer. I’ll go get her.

Sedem excuses herself from the table and is heading towards Jennifer’s room. She knocks and waits a few seconds and opens the door to hear whimpers in the dark. Sedem turns the light and tiptoes towards Jennifer’s bed. She sits down gently and soothes her friends back.

SEDEM

Whatever is eating you up please let it out. Don’t hold back.

She caresses her back gently and the tears intensify and after a while Jennifer raises her head.

 JENNIFER

I’m so so….

SEDEM

Don’t. I’m not gonna ask what’s going on when you are ready you know where to find me.

She taps Jennifer gently on the back.

JENNIFER

Thanks.

They pull each other in for an embrace when Baaba accidently opens the door. Sedem signals her to close the door. Jennifer quickly gets up and heads to the bathroom. Sedem gets up and also heads for the door.

SEDEM

I love you Jenny. Never doubt that!

(Shouts)

JENNIFER

I know!

(Calls out)

Sedem closes the door behind her and walks to the table where everyone is gathered laughing and chatting. She pulls out her seat.

SEDEM

I’m so sorry. Jennifer has a tummy upset but she’s on her way.

AUNTIE MARTHA

I have a first aid kit I’ll organize that for her.

SEDEM

Thanks auntie.

A few minutes later Jennifer appears all dressed up in a black midi dress and her weave pulled back. She pulls her seat close to Sedem.

UNCLE KOFI

Now we can eat

(Smiling)

JENNIFER

Thanks again.

SEDEM

Sssshhhh

(Whispers)

It’s ok. Are you better?

JENNIFER

Yes.

UNCLE KOFI

How is Accra?

SEDEM

Not bad. Just that things are getting harder. Things are very expensive now.

AUNTIE MARTHA

)wo baabia ooo. Aha nso damaa. It’s the same everywhere.

UNCLE KOFI

How is school?

SEDEM

Fine. We are trying.

UNCLE KOFI

What courses are you all reading?

BAABA

We are all reading law except for Jennifer and Jojo. They are reading business administration.

UNCLE KOFI

Oh that’s nice.

Sedem turns to Jennifer to catch her dropped expression and immediately connects that whatever is eating her up must have something or a lot to do with her family. She reaches for her hand under the table and gives her a reassuring squeeze.

EXT- CAPE CCOAST HOTEL (SEDEM’S ROOM) – DAY

 It is morning and everybody is set for sightseeing. They are all dressed up in the jeans shorts and plimsols. They gather round the table for breakfast. All except Uncle Kofi.

AUNTIE MARTHA

Good morning all of you!

(Cheerfully)

She walks elegantly towards the table calling on the errand boy to come. She whispers something to him as she settles into her chair.

SEDEM, VALERIE, JENNIFER, BAABA AND JOJO

Good morning.

SEDEM

Where is Uncle Kofi? We scared him off?

AUNTIE MARTHA

(Laughing)

No. he had a little emergency on the farm and had to leave early.

SEDEM

Oh ok. Hope It’s not serious.

AUNTIE MARTHA

Whatever it is will have a solution won’t it? Let’s enjoy our meal.

(Smiling)

The table turns into a jungle with everybody scramming for food. Laughing and chatting. The camera zooms out and in slowly to show the excitement on the faces of everyone.

AUNTIE MARTHA

What’s the plan?

JENNIFER

Sightseeing!

AUNTIE MARTHA

Anywhere in particular?

BAABA

The monkey sanctuary first!

SEDEM

It’s too early for the monkeys to be receiving visitors don’t you think?

There’s a laugh and Ababa chuckles.

BAABA

They always hate the fur lovers.

She sticks her tongue out and folds her hand.

SEDEM

Honestly I don’t know we’ll figure something out right guys?

She shrugs and others nod in agreement.

AUNTIE MARTHA

Well then have fun!

Auntie Martha turns to leave and waves to them and they wave back and race to the car. Sedem takes over the wheel with Jojo at the front explaining the different stops to them. The camera slows down to capture everybody’s facial expressions.

EXT-SOMEWHERE IN CAPE COAST- DAY

The car pulls into the drive way of the Cape Coast castle. The girls are holding ice cream and are busily eating with their water bottles in hand.

BAABA

Honestly, I’ve learned a lot. These colonial masters weren’t joking.

VALERIE

Glad things are different now.

JOJO

Are they? People may deny it because the truth is always harder to face but I think we are in an era of a higher mental slavery with all this borrowing.

They walk steadily towards the gate.

JENNIFER

Now, I’m convinced that success is more a mental battle than a battle of circumstances.

BAABA

Jennifer that! Sometimes you can surprise oooo

SEDEM

Naaa but she’s right I’ve often wondered about it.

BAABA

Yooo lets just keep going and try and have a good time.

They pay for the trip and as they are waiting in line Jennifer leaves the girls and sneaks off.

BAABA

Where is she off to?

(Whispers to Valerie)

VALERIE

She’s spotted some boy bi I’m sure.

(Whispers back)

Jennifer sneaks herself back into the group and is smiling to herself all the way to the front of the Castle fore court. They are settled and ready to start their excursion.

TOUR GUIDE

I apologize but I’m not do the tour. My colleague go come.

A few minutes later a very handsome tall gentleman shows up. Sedem turns to Valerie and winks.

SEDEM

(To Valerie)

Typical. This is what she saw. Oh Jennifer.

(Whispers and shakes her head)

TOUR GUIDE 2

Shall we?

The groups follow his directions and periodically ask questions.

SEDEM

(Whispers to Jennifer)

Ah-hum

JENNIFER

What?

Sedem gestures with her eyes in the direction of the tour guide.

SEDEM

He stole your attention it wasn’t the bathroom.

(Smirks)

JENNIFER

If you know why are you asking!

SEDEM

Sorry ooo. I was hoping you’d surprise me.

JENNIFER

Sorry to disappoint you. He’s cute right?

SEDEM

He’s ayt

Sedem waves her hand rhythmically to move with her head.

JENNIFER

You know what forget it.

Jennifer paces up her steps and leaves Sedem lurking behind. The tour guide continues in his narration and the group is keenly following.

FIIFI

The Cape Coast Castle is one of the famous tourist attractions in Ghana.

(He continues)

It is because of its significance to Ghana’s cultural, political and economic history. It was built by the Portuguese….

Sedem immediately shoots her hand up.

SEDEM

Question!

Everyone turns to look at Sedem and her friends lower their heads.

FIIIFI

Yes, what’s the question?

SEDEM

Wasn’t this castle built by the Swedish?

JENNIFER

(Whispers)

She’s doing it!

SEDEM

CONTINUES

Because the Cape Coast castle was built by the Portuguese when they first arrived which was later ceased by the Dutch?

There is a long and awkward silence. Fiifi steals a glance at his small paper and clears his throats.

FIIFI

I believe the young lady is right. Please forgive me.

(Smiling)

TOURIST

Wow. Nice to see young Ghanaian girls well versed in their history.

(American accent)

Sedem smiles.

The group continues behind him as he gestures whiles elaborating on the site marks.

FIIFI

The Cape Coast Castle was built by the Swedish traders to trade in timber and later gold and later rather sadly became a point of no return for our slaves.

He gestures to the door that opens up to the sea.

(Continues)

The Castle became were these unfortunate slaves were held before being sold to the Caribbean’s and Americas.

TOURIST 2

It’s a pity. To have a continent deprived of its dignity in such an inhumane way. I watched 12 years a slave last night and what these slaves had to go through was mind boggling.

FIIFI

Indeed. Can anyone tell me the last place the slaves walked before leaving?

Sedem shoots up her hand again.

JENNIFER

This feels like school huh? And I don’t like it.

(Whispers to Valerie)

SEDEM

(To Fiifi)

The gate of no return.

She gestures with her hand in the direction of the door right ahead.

The one right in front of us.

FIIFI

Right!

He smiles in Sedem’s direction and she steals a glance back and smiles.

CONTINUES

It was indeed the last place these slaves ever walked before leaving the continent. The slaves never saw home again.

He raises his voice

The first lodge was built on this present site by one Hendrick Caerloff for the Swedish African Company. It was in 1652….

Sedem shoots up her hand again.

FIIFI

(Irritated)

Yes.

SEDEM

It’s 1653.

(Continues)

Caerloff gained permission from the King of Fetu to establish a fort at Cabo Carso or Cape Coast in 1650. The first timber lodge was erected and you can still see traces of that.

She motions with her head round the place.

Continues

And 3 years later it was completed and named Carolusborg after King Charles X of Sweden.

 TOURIST 3

My! She is good.

Continues

Kudos young lady

(American accent)

They take another walk round and the tour rounds up to a close.

FIIFI

Hope you all have thoroughly enjoyed yourselves?

(Smiling)

TOUR GROUP

Yes.

(Laughing and clapping)

JENNIFER

Yes!!

Everyone turns to look at her. The group disperses and the friends are walking towards the Sedem’s car.

BAABA

Where to next?

SEDEM

Lunch!

They all make their way into the car when they hear someone calling out. They turn and it is Fiifi.

FIIFI

Sorry for calling you out. I noticed you were leaving.

At this time Sedem was already seated in the car. Jennifer was the only one outside.

JENNIFER

(SMILING)

It’s ok. How can I help?

FIIFI

Actually I was hoping to speak to your friend. The one in short hair?

(Carefully)

JENNIFER

Oh wow.

(Disappointedly)

Erm….. she’s inside I’m sure you can make her out.

Jennifer enters the car. Fiifi knocks on the passenger window and Sedem rolls down her window from the passenger seat.

SEDEM

Hi

(Politely)

FIIFI

Sorry to have called out your name like that?

SEDEM

(Laughing)

I didn’t mention my name but how can I help you?

FIIFI

There’s a mini durbar at the towns square tomorrow I wanted to invite you.

SEDEM

Oh ok. Where?

FIIFI

Some where I’m sure you don’t know. This is your first trip without parents. I reckon.

SEDEM

(Laughing)

FIIFI

I’m not taking no for an answer and I’ll like to take you myself.

VALERIE

(WHISPERS)

It’s Cape Coast. Live a little.

Valerie nudges and winks.

SEDEM

Erm… ok I’m at the Cape Coast hotel. Errrrr. Now I have to go.

The car is noisy but Sedem is quiet. She’s deep in thought. There is something awfully familiar about this guy that feels comfortable. They head out for lunch and drive back to the hotel.

INT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- NIGHT FALL

Sedem throws herself on the bed and Baaba heads to the shower.

BAABA

Bathing dier 3y3 paa.

Sedem snickers briefly and drifts off to sleep. Baaba is back in what feels like a second.

(CONTINUES)

Go on you. Go and dware.

Sedem lazily heads to the bathroom and takes a long leisurely bath when Jennifer walks into the bathroom.

JENNIFER

I saw him first.

(Sternly)

SEDEM

Excuse me

The shower is on so Sedem can barely hear her.

JENNIFER

Nothing.

SEDEM

You sure?!

(Calls out)

JENNIFER

See you downstairs.

EXT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- NIGHT

They are all seated round the table catching up on the day. The errand boy comes in and whispers something to Auntie Martha.

AUNTIE MARTHA

Sedem I think you should check on who is at the gate.

Sedem looks perplexed and gets up.

SEDEM

Excuse me.

Sedem walks towards the lobby and is surprised to see Fiifi.

FIIFI

I’m not scaring you.

There is silence.

CONTINUES

Ok. It’s creepy but I like to keep my word.

SEDEM

O……K.

FIIFI

You look nice. Or you don’t know?

Sedem cocks her head back as if taking by surprise by the statement.

SEDEM

Thank you.

(Nods)

What are you doing here anyway?

FIIFI

The mini durbar.

SEDEM

It’s late. I doubt my aunt will allow it.

FIIFI

Let’s do this.

(Pitching)

 It’s bizarre because I’m a random stranger.

Sedem raises her eye brow and stares intently at him.

I’ll come get you a little later say 10.

SEDEM

No. I don’t know you.

FIIFI

Do something memorable.

SEDEM

Now that’s a thought. Ok then 12. My aunt and uncle will be asleep. Bribe the gateman.

She turns to leave and she is smiling and nodding to herself. She slips into her seat.

AUNT MARTHA

Who was that?

SEDEM

No one

(Quickly)

BAABA

LIAR!

(WHISPERS)

The dinner has ended and they are headed to their respective rooms. After sometime the security man walks to the room with a note.

I’M OUTSIDE. THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT SIMPLER IF YOU JUST GAVE ME YOUR NUMBER.

 Sedem smiles to herself and quickly changes into shorts. She picks up the note again and it reads.

WE ARE BIKING SO PLEASE BE IN JEANS AND BOOTS.

SEDEM

Oh shoot! Really bike.

She quickly changes into a plain t-shirt and jeans and pulls out her boots.

SEDEM

Good thing I brought you along!

(Whispers to her boots)

Baaba turns her head as if waking up. Sedem tiptoes and joins Fiifi on the bike.

SEDEM

I don’t do this!

(Screaming)

The bike speeds off and she is screaming. The camera zooms out to catch the scenery. They are laughing. They ride along the beach and they visit a small town, a fishing community inside Cape Coast. Fiifi performs his spoken word in front of the people there and as soon as he is done the crowd starts to clap. He walks briskly towards where Sedem is and settles down beside her.

INSERT SPOKEN WORD- ask Selassie Baeta’s for his

FIIFI

Brings back memories of when I was about 5.

SEDEM

It does.

(Smiling)

FIIFI

This is weird but you feel so familiar.

SEDEM

That’s creepy.

They both laugh.

SEDEM

I know what you mean. Miss the innocence.

(Sighs)

CONTINUES

Forgive me for saying or asking. Whatever. But you seem too good a guy -to be a -tour guide? Errr

(Carefully)

FIIFI

Oh that’s a story. Maybe another time so I can have a second date with you.

SEDEM

Second paaa )wala eredze agoro.

FIIFI

Oh you speak Fante.

SEDEM

Rather well.

Sedem curtseys.

FIIFI

And she throws modesty out the window.

SEDEM

I’m a proud Fante and Ewe. Ironically, my mom has never liked the idea of me EVER! Coming up here and yet I speak Fante fluently.

They both laugh.

FIIFI

Classic paradox.

They hang around to witness a dance cultural performance.

SEDEM

V.O

The beauty of simple living, the peace of sharing a beautiful moment with a total stranger. It is the period of the Fetu Afahye and Cape Coast is lively. It is like the dead have been woken up. The cackles from children and sheer excitement from the people is amazing. It’s truly unforgettable.

 Sedem stares at Fiifi and smiles.

SEDEM

Thanks for bringing me.

FIIFI

(Looks at his watch)

Thanks for coming. I have to get you back.

They both turn to leave and a little fisher boy who is on the boat with his dad approaches them and asks for a picture with her. Fiifi pulls out his phone and takes the picture. He immediately uploads the picture on his whats app as his dp and writes.

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE!

INT- CAPE COAST- SEDEM’S ROOM- DAWN

She tip toes towards her bed after changing.

INT- CAPE COAST- SEDEM’S ROOM-MORNING

They are on their way to Hans Cottage her uncle has a lunch meeting with regional minister and invites them. There is an interesting debate.

BAABA

Why doesn’t the government invest then?

VALERIE

Many countries like Dubai have made their money through tourism.

MINISTER

These girls are interesting and intelligent.

The two older men nod in agreement. Jojo seems to be distracted and a little down.

CONTINUES

I’ll speak to my government about your submissions.

VALERIE

Are you ok?

(Whispers)

Jojo nods. Valerie sneaks her hand under the table to squeeze his hand and smiles. Sedem bumps into Fiifi there as she gets up to request for the bill.

SEDEM

Hi

FIIFI

Hey!

There is a beep on her phone and she checks and it is a DM from some anonymous guy with a picture of Baaba.

 SEDEM

I have to go.

She immediately turns to leave. Fiifi is left stunned and worried. She returns to the table very pensive.

JENNIFER

Sed! Whats up?

(Whispers)

Sedem ignores her and in a few seconds Jennifer gets a beep. She looks at her phone and immediately changes her mood. Valerie and Baaba exchange looks and keep the conversation going. On their way back to the hotel the car is dead quiet.

BAABA

Is anyone going to say anything?

No one responds to her. Everyone is quiet and they drive back to the hotel. Sedem walks to her room

INT-CAPE COAST- SEDEM’S ROOM-NIGHT

Baaba is clearly irritated and paces up and down the room and Sedem ignores her.

BAABA

Are you going to tell me what’s going on?

(Irritated)

SEDEM

When I’m ready to.

Baaba gives up and heads to the bathroom. She is back after a few minutes and heads out. There is a knock on the door and Jennifer enters.

JENNIFER

Sed? What’s up?

Sedem picks up her phone and shows her the picture.

SEDEM

It’s on my TL

She raises her hand in the air.

JENNIFER

Mawunor sent it to me too. What’s going on?

SEDEM

I’m so mad that Baaba hasn’t said anything. The story is this that her boyfriend beats her up and when she threatens to leave he does this to her!

(Her voice shaky with emotion)

JENNIFER

Calm down. Question now is. Do we wait for her to find out or do we tell her first?

SEDEM

I can’t Jenny. Not now.

Jennifer gets up to leave realizing Sedem is not in a good mood. Sedem takes her friendships very seriously but this is unusual. Sedem gets into her locker and picks up the white envelope and the number contemplating on whether to pursue it or not. Her father did give her the option. There is a flash back when she was 6 years old.

FLASH BACK

INT- KUMORDZI RESIDENCE-DAY

Mrs. Kumordzi is standing over the sink washing dishes when Sedem comes in with the cordless phone.

SEDEM

Mummy grand maa wants to speak to you.

Mrs. Kumordzi immediately panics and freezes.

MRS. KUMORDZI

Come here!

She pulls Sedem closer and hits her mouth with her hand.

Continues

You don’t have a grand maa. She died a long time.

Frightened Sedem nodded aggressively her face full of tears and run upstairs.

INT- CAPE COAST HOTEL-SEDEM’S ROOM- NIGHT

There is a tear from Sedem’s eye just remembering that day. The topic of her grandmother never came up again.

SEDEM

V.O

Sometimes it is not the other person that forgiveness heals but it sets your soul free.

There is a knock on the door with another note.

NOTICED THAT YOU WERE DOWN TODAY. HOPE YOU ARE OK? WONNA HANG OUT A BIT?

She smiles and writes

YES THANK YOU!

In a few minutes she is dressed and a beautiful dress and this time he brings a car for her. She takes the envelope with the address.

SEDEM

You are this hospitable with all your tourists?

FIIFI

Nope. Just the ones I like.

(Winks)

Sedem laughs and raises her eye brow.

SEDEM

How dedicated you must be.

They drive around a bit and pull up for some coconuts along the way.

FIIFI

Bossu )tenden

COCONUT SELLER

Oye oooo. Ahen?

FIIFI

Mam ebien?

The coconut seller does the coconut for them and they drive off.

SEDEM

Do you know this address?

She reaches for her purse and pulls up the piece of paper with the address.

FIIFI

Yes. Do you want to go there?

SEDEM

Yes! Yes! Please.

Immediately

 She laughs.

They drive straight to the address and stay there for a while. There is an old woman who looks sick and is coughing badly and a younger woman trying to give her water. Sedem immediately starts tearing up. Fiifi notices and gives her his handkerchief. She dubs the tears from her eyes and immediately composes herself.

SEDEM

Sorry. I’m sorry. Can we go?

FIIFI

Please don’t. Yes.

They pull out and the younger woman notices the car and runs after it.

YOUNG WOMAN

Hey! Wontwen!!! Hey!!

She calls out.

The car is already gone. Fiifi drives them to a beach near by the hotel.

FIIFI

You want to talk?

SEDEM

The stranger therapy?

(Laughing)

Continues

Not yet. But you have a story to tell me.

FIIFI

AH! Yes. And she remembers that.

SEDEM

So out with it already

They both laugh and then his face twitches and his expression becomes pensive.

FIIFI

It was about last year.

(Slowly)

I had been accepted into an awesome school and my folks were over joyed with my SAT scores. I had been given business administration with computer science.

He breathes in deeply and Sedem reaches for his hand and squeezes it gently.

SEDEM

You don’t have to.

(She whispers)

FIIFI

I want to. It’s time I finally confronted myself anyway

(Smiles)

Where was I? ah yes. So I packed up and left for the United States so full of dreams, expectations and fell into THESE GUYS!. Before I had the chance to correct my mistakes with drugs and mindless sex I was found out. Foreign black students have it harder and imagine I messed up.

He sighs and chuckles. Sedem leans to rub his back still holding onto his hand.

FIIFI

Thanks.

(Continues)

 I was deported immediately my friends stayed and had an opportunity to make it right. I didn’t get a second chance. My dad found out and was terribly disappointed. He didn’t speak to me until recently. I had to keep myself busy and since my dad is the regional minister here I got to work here. Humble beginnings.

He smiles and stares at her closely.

SEDEM

What about school?

FIIFI

I have to start all over.

SEDEM

It’s ok. School isn’t a race.

FIIFI

I would love a chance at school again.

**SEDEM**

You owe yourself a second chance. If they won’t.

She gestures to the open space around them.

**CONTINUES**

Then we will.

Fiifi stretches his hand around Sedem’s waist and holds her tightly.

They both head towards Fiifi’s SUV and he takes her back home. It’s 2 am and everyone is asleep except Jennifer.

**INT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- DAWN**

Jennifer is standing outside Jennifer’s door as if she had been knocking for a while. She turns around with an angry expression.

JENNIFER

I called you like 1000 times?

SEDEM

Erh?

JENNIFER

Who were you with?

Sedem pouts her lips and moves it to the side to match the hesitation.

Continues

Fiifi. I see

Her expression is disappointed.

SEDEM

I’m so sorry.

JENNIFER

Good night.

Jenifer hurriedly walks off and Sedem stands there a while. She carefully unlocks the door so as not to wake Baaba up. Only to be surprised that Baaba was already up and was waiting for her in the dark.

SEDEM

(SCREAMS)

You could have killed me!

(Irritated)

BAABA

I found out.

SEDEM

Errrrrr???

She raises her eye brow.

What do you mean you found out? What did you find out?

Baaba reaches for Sedem’s laptop and shows it to her.

SEDEM

Baaba not now. I’m tired.

Sedem walks towards her bed.

BAABA

What are you doing Sed?

SEDEM

Baaba don’t push it? Now good night.

She heads to the door and turns off the light.

BAABA

It’s hard talking about a relationship that changes a person.

Sedem sits up.

BAABA

I’m ashamed Sedem of who I have become.

.

SEDEM

Why didn’t you say anything?

BAABA

Yeah because you are so full of judgment.

SEDEM

Really.

She raises her eye brows at the statement.

BAABA

You have always allowed yourself to get in the way of everything and everyone.

SEDEM

What?

(Exclaims)

This is ridiculous?

CONTINUES

I have been there for you and for everyone.

BAABA

Yeah right?

SEDEM

I’m listening. When did this start?

She shrugs off the last comment.

BAABA

It started about a year into our relationship.

(Pauses)

I started drinking with him because he said he liked girls who were wild and I was heavily attached to this boy.

(Sighs heavily)

I loved him so much and thought I owed him everything. He made me feel special beautiful indispensable.

Sedem moves closer to her friend and puts her hand across her face.

CONTINUES

I got addicted to the feeling I guess. I’m invisible to everyone. No guy ever came to close to me.

SEDEM

That’s nonsense

BAABA

Sedem you want to know right?

Baaba starts to cry.

SEDEM

How could you allow him to treat you this way?

BAABA

Sed? Don’t you get it I wanted to be someone else! I’m sick and tired of my boring life.

SEDEM

I’m done Baaba I’m not listening to this.

She turns over and **starts crying quietly.**

**EXT- CAPE COAST-DAY**

Sedem gets dressed and steps out very early in the morning. She picks up the white envelope her dad gives her. The four friends including Jojo step out for breakfast. Jojo and Valerie head out for a drive around town. Jennifer and Baaba talk.

SEDEM

Driver!

(Shouts)

The taxi pulls up by Sedem. They talk briefly and she sits inside. She gives the driver the envelope and requests for him to take care to the address on the envelope. A few minutes later she pulls into the street opposite the house.

EXT-SOME WHERE CAPE COAST- DAY

Sedem pays the driver off and walks slowly to the address. She spots the older woman and the much younger one under the mango tree. She walks steadily to the entrance. She calls out.

SEDEM

K) K))k)

The women immediately stop what they are doing and look in Sedem’s direction.

YOUNGER WOMAN

Meba ep3 abadze W)ha?

The lady is pleasant and she recognizes her from the picture her dad gave her.

SEDEM

Mepawokyew mere hwehw3 Auntie Asabea?

(Stuttering)

AUNTIE ASABEA

Mara ooo. Ep3 abadze?

SEDEM

Me papa asomam.

AUNTIE ASABEA

Damaa? Wo papa? )nyi wanaa?

SEDEM

Erm….

AUNTIE ASABEA

Kasa erh m’ewuraba!

SEDEM

Me papa se menfa biribi enbr3oo.

She reaches for the envelope and hands it over to her. As she turns to leave she hears the older woman coughing badly. They both run towards the old woman.

SEDEM

Ne ho ad).

She puts her hand on the older woman’s head.

CONTINUES

Oy3 d3 y3dzenek).

They quickly find a taxi and put her in.

All this while Valerie and Jojo are talking and having fun at the terrace of the Cape Coast Hotel when their lips accidentally brush across each other. When she makes a move to kiss him he moves away and his phone rings its Sedem.

EXT-CAPE COAST-DAY

SEDEM

Hello?

JOJO

Sedem

SEDEM

Please meet me at Cape coast hospital.

(Crying)

The drive in the car was quiet. Valerie is very uncomfortable and keeps fidgeting. They arrive there in a few minutes. Sedem is hysterical and crying.

INT- CAPE COAST HOSPITAL-DAY

Sedem is lying in bed with her grandmother squeezing her hand. Her grandmother turns slowly and looks at her granddaughter and they hold each other tightly. Her grandmother starts to shake profusely and Sedem runs out to get the nurse.

Sedem is pacing up and down and crying. Her friends run towards her to hold her.

SEDEM

She has lung cancer!

(Wailing)

VALERIE

Who?

SEDEM

My grandmother!

JOJO

Oh!

He is immediately lost for words. He recovers quickly.

CONTINUES

She’s going to be fine Sedem.

She is crying and reaches for her phone to call her father. His phone is off. She calls her mother.

SEDEM

Hello mummy!

She drops the phone when Auntie Asabea calls her Efua and says that their mother is dead. She runs to her auntie wailing. Crying and wailing. Everyone is weeping. The camera slows down and zooms out.

EXT- CAPE COAST- NIGHT

Sedem starts driving around and winds up at the beach Fiifi took her to and there she starts to cry. She was looking forward to getting to know her, talking to her and loving her and now she is gone. She could not help the rage that grew up from within her at her own mother for betraying her, herself and a woman that wanted to right her wrongs.

Sedem stayed there crying. Her phone kept ringing. Her dad had been calling. Fiifi is also there coincidentally. He notices the car and drives closer and spots Sedem almost gone with so much crying.

SEDEM

I’m not drank. I’m just sleepy.

She repeats that over and over again. Fiifi carries her into his car after he beats up some guys that try to molest Sedem and takes her to a nearby hotel and stays there with her till morning. He notices that she is burning up and nurses her the whole time. Meanwhile back at the hotel Sedem’s friends are looking for her frantically. They decide to notify her parents.

INT- CAPE COAST- DAY

Sedem wakes up and realizes where she is at and immediately panics.

SEDEM

What happened?

(Cautiously)

CONTINUES

WAIT!

Why am I here? What are you doing here?

She pulls further from him as if afraid of him or his judgment.

FIIFI

Relax, I saw you wasted on the beach and picked you up. Some guys had tried to hurt you.

She notices the cut on his lip and immediately buries her head.

CONTINUES

I couldn’t take you home because my parents will misunderstand the whole situation.

SEDEM

Oh my goodness.

She puts her hand under her chin and rubs it vigorously.

CONTINUES

What have I done?

Her phone beeps again and uncle Kofi is on the line. She quickly freshens up and leaves.

EXT- CAPE COAST- HOTEL

Sedem walks in to see her uncle to find her parents seated there.

MR. KUMORDZI

Where were you?

SEDEM

Daddy I’m sorry.

MR. KUMORDZI

I trusted you Sedem

SEDEM

Wait daddy where is this coming from?

MR. KUMORDZI

Jennifer says you spent the night with some guy from here?

(Angrily)

SEDEM

What!

(Surprised)

And you believe her?

Sedem turns to leave with tears streaming down her face heading towards Jennifer’s room.

INT- CAPE COAST HOTEL – DAY

Sedem walks into Jennifer’s room.

SEDEM

What’s going on?

JENNIFER

(SNAPS)

How do you mean?

SEDEM

You know exactly what I mean?

JENNIFER

You have been sneaking out. We were all worried.

SEDEM

Really?

She pauses

Continues

I don’t know what you are thinking is going on between Fiifi and me but you can ask?

JENNIFER

You are amazing with your little saint act.

CONTINUES

Have you not been sleeping with him?

Sedem cannot contain her rage and moves her hand towards Jennifer’s face.

In a few seconds there is a fight break out. Everyone rushes. Sedem is yelling and Jennifer is yelling.

SEDEM

You must respect me Jennifer I’m not a slut and Fiifi is no one’s property.

JENNIFER

Oooo miss goody two shoes you’ve been caught.

Mr. Kumordzi enters to break them apart.

MR. KUMORDZI

Ladies break it up. This behavior is appalling.

SEDEM

Daddy she is lying to you.

The errand boy shows up with her I pad and gives her a note. Her father snatches the note and reads it.

HOPE LAST NIGHT HELPED. YOU FORGOT YOUR I PAD IN THE HOTEL THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED IT.

MR. KUMORDZI

Lying huh?

He turns around to leave throwing the piece of paper on the floor. Sedem also makes her way through the door towards the door when she sees her Aunt at the gate. She runs towards her.

AUNTIE ESI

Mate d3 Efua w)ha. Metum mehunaa?

SEDEM

Eny) brem.

Sedem takes her to the lobby and whispers something to the errand boy who makes his way towards her parents’ suite. A few minutes later there is uproar. Auntie Esi shouting over Mrs. Kumordzi both of them crying.

AUNTIE ASABEA

Efua any3 adze! How could you abandon us? How can your heart be so cold?

MRS. KUMORDZI

Mepawokyew

(SOBBING)

There is a whole lot of commotion. Auntie Asabea walks out on her sister.

EXT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- EVENING

Valerie and Jojo are walking hand in hand. Sedem is just coming from the restaurant after a word with her aunt and uncle. Jojo immediately let’s go off Valerie’s hand.

JOJO

Sedem! Sedem!

(calls out)

Sedem turns around a bit startled.

I have to speak to you.

Valerie stands there a bit stunned.

SEDEM

Ok but when?

*JOJO*

*I’ll let you know.*

INT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- SEDM’S ROOM- NIGHT

Sedem slowly creeps into her bed and picks up her laptop to watch some series. Baaba is on her bed doing same. Baaba speaks up.

BAABA

Chris is here.

Sedem does not respond.

BAABA

Sedem!

(CALLS OUT)

Chris is here if you care.

SEDEM

(SNAPS)

You think I’m a miss goody two shoes who doesn’t have any worries. Do you resent me for being the way I am?

She breaks down. Baaba gets up and moves closer to her friend who moves aside.

BAABA

I know you have your challenges. But you have it better than most of us.

SEDEM

Really? That’s what you think?

(Continues)

I get hurt too Baaba!

(Crying louder)

I have my own demons and contrary to what you think I have to face them daily. Learning to forgive myself every day. You may choose to belittle it but I also know what it’s like to live in total confusion.

She sobs some more and Baaba rubs her back.

CONTINUES

(Laughs)

I don’t want to see any of you hurt.

BAABA

What am I supposed to do?

SEDEM

Stay away from him? This guy nearly ruined your life! You deserve better!

Sedem’s phone beeps and it is a message from Jojo.

MEET ME AT THE TERRACE!

She gets up and changes into her Ghanaian print track trousers and a tank top and heads towards the terrace.

EXT- CAPE COAST- TERRACE- NIGHT

Jojo is standing there nervous pacing up and down.

SEDEM

What’s up?

He turns around sharply

JOJO

Oh you’re here.

SEDEM

You seem tense.

JOJO

It is a delicate matter.

SEDEM

Calm down and let me know what’s going on.

Valerie is lurking in the corner eaves dropping.

Jojo picks up the phone and reads.

I’M NOT SURE WHO OR WHAT I AM. WHEN I’M AROUND HIM I FEEL GOOD. I FEEL SPECIAL I FEEL LIKE I CAN BE MYSELF. BUT THIS IS A SIN. I’M IN LOVE WITH EUGENE!

Valerie runs out tearing up along the way.

EXT- CAPE COAST HOTE- NIGHT

Sedem is walking towards her room when she sees her mother by the pool crying. She stands there for a while and walks off. She turns and walks towards her mother. She hugs her mother tightly.

MRS. KUMORDZI

I’m so sorry Sedem. I let you down.

SEDEM

It’s ok mummy. I love you.

MRS. KUMORDZI

I’ll do better by you.

They cuddle up there and Mr. Kumordzi watches over his balcony. He starts to walk down and heads in the direction of his wife and daughter. Sedem notices him and immediately gets up and starts to leave. Mrs. Kumordzi holds her down her eyes pleading.

MR. KUMORDZI

I am sorry Sedem.

Sedem looks at her dad so intently and tears well up in her eyes.

SEDEM

It’s ok. I would never do anything to hurt you.

She says this crying and they hold each other for a while.

INT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- DAY

The family is seated at the table and Sedem’s friends join in. Valerie seems very distracted and moody. Jennifer is bubbly and Baaba seems to be busy texting. Jojo is missing.

SEDEM

Where is Jojo?

BAABA

He said he had something to do.

SEDEM

The parade is about to start will he make it?

JENNIFER

I’m sure he will.

The errand boy comes in and whispers something to Sedem and she gets up.

AUNTIE MARTHA

Invite this young man for breakfast

(WINKS)

Sedem looks at her parents who smile back. She whispers a “thank you.”

She walks towards the gate and spots Fiifi and she smiles. He smiles back.

FIIFI

Hey stranger

SEDEM

Hey

She gestures with her head.

(CONTINUES)

You want to come in?

He nods vigorously. She grabs his hand and walks him towards the table. Jennifer’s mood changes.

FIIFI

Good morning. Hope I’m not intruding.

MRS. KUMORDZI

Not at all. Take a seat and join us.

(Cheerfully)

CONTINUES

I’ll leave you soon I have to step out.

Mawuli??

MR. KUMORDZI

Yes honey.

CONTINUES

What’s your name young man?

FIIFI

Fiifi Blankson

MRS. KUMORDZI

You live here?

FIIFI

He nods as he dishes his food.

Recently moved back here.

MR. KUMORDZI

What do your parents do?

FIIFI

My mom is a florist and my dad is the Central Regional minister.

UNCLE KOFI

Oh! Wopapa yin Ekow Blankson aaa?

FIIFI

Eny).

Sedem fidget uncomfortably in her seat. She is so nervous she cannot seem to eat her food.

JENNIFER

Your food will get cold

(Rather coldly)

They all ignore the comment and Fiifi stretches his hands from under the table and squeezes it gently. Sedem looks up catches his eyes and smiles.

MR. KUMORDZI

Efua!

(Gently)

We are off to the family house.

MR. and Mrs. Kumordzi get up to leave. Fiifi gets up to shake their hands and motions them to wait.

FIIFI

Is it ok to take Sedem to the parade?

MR. KUMORDZI

**Let me see your license?**

Fiifi motions over his clothes frantically searching with Mr. Kumordzi staring very seriously at him. Sedem is so embarrassed she cannot hide it. She turns so pale.

CONTINUES

Just kidding.

Mr. Kumordzi starts to laugh.

The people on the table start laughing except for Jennifer.

They turn to leave.

EXT- SOMEWHERE IN CAPE COAST-DAY

The parade has started the families and lineages have assembled. The foreigners are with the cameras busily taking pictures. There is a lot of pomp in the air that is typical at this time of year. The camera moves through the different people capturing the facial expressions.

There is a voice over that explains the festival.

V.O

The Fetu Afahye is the annual festival of the Oguaa people. It is on this day that the sea is symbolically opened to start the season of fishing and to ask for the gods assistance. The legend surrounding this festival is that some many years ago the people of Oguaa were plagued with a deadly epidemic that took the lives of many. It was in this river ( the camera will show the river) that the gods channeled this cure. So every first Saturday in September the celebration takes place to thank the gods and also renew their vows to protect, respect and honour the healing river.

Everybody seems to be having fun. Sedem’s phone beeps. She checks her inbox. She whispers something to Fiifi and they both rush off. They keep trying to find the location Jojo texted them. Eventually they do and jojo is covered in blood and police men all around.

EXT- SOMEWHERE IN CAPE COAST-DAY

Sedem sees Jojo all covered up and rushes there. She hugs him tightly. Fiifi is just standing by.

SEDEM

(To Jojo)

What happened?

She gently strokes his back.

JOJO

Ronald called me this morning. Said he wanted to talk. He said he wanted his folks to know.

Sedem nods gently.

CONTINUES

I got there only to find his cell phone on his chest with the last dialed number as his father. He was covered in his vomit.

His voice shaking.

SEDEM

Oh my goodness.

JOJO

I rushed him to the clinic after I called the police.

SEDEM

Is he you know???

JOJO

Fortunately he survived the attempted suicide but I am tired of having to pick up his slack.

SEDEM

I know calm down.

In the middle of their conversation the policeman interrupts and makes enquiries. Fiifi comes close to hug her.

SEDEM

Thanks so much for being here.

He squeezes her some more. Jojo appears again.

JOJO

I have to go down to the station. I may need your dad to bail me out.

SEDEM

Don’t worry. Take care.

They hug for a short while and he left.

 FIIFI

I’ll get my mom to help.

SEDEM

Thanks.

They walk quietly towards the car. They drive off.

CONTINUES

Is Cape Coast what you imagined?

SEDEM

I think so. It’s been a mixture of good and bad. But worth it?

She pauses for a while and smiles.

CONTINUE

Meeting you.

The car is quiet and Fiifi parks at the beach close by. They get out.

He leans over and kisses her.

EXT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- NIGHT

Sedem is tiptoeing to her room when she hears her mother crying. She pauses and peeps through the door and stays there for a while. She continues to walk.

BAABA

Hey stranger

SEDEM

Hey

BAABA

Valerie just left here she seemed worried.

SEDEM

I’m going to go look for her.

Sedem gets out of the room and heads to Valerie’s room. She knocks and waits.

SEDEM

Hey Jenifer.

JENNIFER

Hi

(RELUCTANTLY)

SEDEM

Have you see Valerie?

JENNIFER

She’s at the pool area.

SEDEM

Thanks.

Sedem turns to leave when Jennifer stands up.

JENNIFER

I’m sorry Sedem. I’ve been horrible with you. I liked Fiifi and got hurt when he didn’t notice me. We promised not to let a guy come between us and this is me trying to keep my promise.

Sedem moves towards her and hugs her.

SEDEM

It’s ok.

She rubs her back gently.

I just met him here. It’s not that deep yet besides you said we should let go find the love and leave them here. Erh?

They both laugh.

EXT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- NIGHT

Sedem walks straight to the pool area to see Valerie pacing up and down. She walks faster to meet her.

SEDEM

Whats up? Baaba says you are upset about something?

VALERIE

It’s about Jojo and you have to be honest with me.

SEDEM

OK. Sure.

Sedem says this holding her shoulder and staring intently at her.

CONTINUES

Please tell me the anxiety is killing me.

BAABA

Is Jojo gay?

All this while Sedem had an apple she was munching on. She immediately spews it out.

SEDEM

No!!

She lets out an anxious smile.

CONTINUES

Why would you ask me that?

VALERIE

Don’t cover up for him.

SEDEM

Where did you get this from?

VALERIE

I overheard your conversation the other time. And I’m sorry. I thought we had something. I moved closer to kiss him and he brushed me off I was searching for him so I could ask him what happened or if I had done something and I heard that conversation.

SEDEM

Well that’s logical. He is not. The rest he will have to say to you HIMSELF.(stresses)

Sedem sees Jojo heading in their direction and makes her way to leave but stops and taps her shoulder.

SEDEM

Ask him

She nods and smiles when she sees him. She turns to see them hug passionately and smiles to herself.

EXT- CAPE COAST- SEDEM’S ROOM- DAY

There is a knock and Jennifer enters when Baaba and Sedem are getting dressed.

JENNIFER

Your aunt says to hurry the visitor is here.

Sedem is wearing her clothes

SEDEM

Sure. Thanks. I’ll be out soon, bye.

Jennifer turns to leave and Baaba stares at her curiously.

BAABA

Sure you guys ok?

SEDEM

For now I know Jennifer is up to something.

BAABA

Now you are being paranoid,

SEDEM

Better safe than sorry.

They quickly finish up and leave the room. Sedem hears a familiar voice and turns.

SEDEM

Kojo. What are you doing here?

KOJO

It’s not what you think.

SEDEM

Then what is it? Why are you here?

Baaba calls out to her and she turns to leave. Kojo holds her back.

KOJO

I love you Sedem. I need you back.

She walks out angrily.

She enters the dining area and is quiet. The chatter is going on. Her eyes meet with Jennifer’s.

INT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- DAY

Sedem is told that Fiifi was there to see her. She makes her way to the terrace only to see Jennifer chatting and laughing. Fiifi notices her after a short while.

FIIFI

Hey Sed

SEDEM

Hey. Don’t stop on my account

(SMILING)

I’ll be in my room.

FIIFI

Nonsense. I came for you. Jennifer only kept me company till you got here.

Jennifer leaves reluctantly. The scene moves to Mrs. Kumordzi’s family home where Mrs. Kumordzi is on the floor begging and asking her sister for forgiveness.

INT- CAPE COAST- VALERIE’S ROOM- NIGHT

All the girls are gathered in Valerie’s room all excited about the bomb fire. They do their makeup and crack jokes. The errand boy appears,

ERRAND BOY

Fiifi w)ha,

SEDEM

Medaase ai.

Jennifer’s mood changes and Sedem ignores it.

SEDEM

I’m off

(Calls out)

EXT-SOMEWHERE IN CAPE COAST- NIGHT

She rushes off to the car smiling. Fiifi gets down and opens the door for her. They are headed to the bomb fire at the famous Cape Coast beach.

FIIFI

You look beautiful Sedem.

She pauses embarrassed by the comment and smiles.

SEDEM

Thanks. You are not looking bad yourself.

Fiifi drives whiles holding and squeezing Sedem’s hand occasionally.

EXT- CAPE COAST- BEACH- NIGHT

There is so much excitement. There is loud music and everyone is dancing and having a good time. Valerie and Jojo show up a little shortly after they arrive clearly having a good time. Baaba is by herself also having a good time with a group of old friends she meets. Sedem and fiifi are cuddled up and dancing, drinks in hand.

SEDEM

Let me refill your cup?

She takes the empty on and makes her way to the bar.

FIIFI

Thanks

She refills the cap at the bar and someone calls her from the back. She turns around startled.

GUY

The little boy says you can help me find Jennifer Banoeng?

SEDEM

It depends on why?

She cocks her head back.

Is everything ok?

GUY

Yes

SEDEM

Ok. Then follow me.

She makes her way to Fiifi only to Jennifer heavily flirting with Fiifi and he clearly excited. He notices her and leaves Jennifer. Chris moves towards her and drags her away.

SEDEM

Here is your drink. I’m tired think I’m going home now.

FIIFI

Sedem please don’t. It’s not what you think.

SEDEM

Good night

She makes her way to leave and Fiifi pulls her up against the wall. Kojo comes onto the scene and immediately takes a swing at Fiifi and there is a fight. Sedem is asking them to stop. The camera slows down and the voices are numbed. Sedem takes her car key and leaves the beach.

INT-CAPE COAST HOTEL- SEDEM’S ROOM

Sedem is quietly sobbing into her pillow she cannot even breathe. She over hears the footsteps and realizes her friends are back. She hides under the sheets but the foo steps stop.

BAABA

Jennifer will never stop being mysterious.

VALERIE

I know but she seriously decided all that in front of everyone.

BAABA

Sedem said they had spoken and even apologized to each other.

VALERIE

I feel bad again and I can swear Jennifer has done this before.

Baaba opens the door and changes into her nightie and sleeps. Sedem’s sobs are silent but her tears are even more obvious. Meanwhile Fiifi is outside negotiating with the gateman to let him go to Sedem.

FIIFI

Please sir. How much you go take?

GATEMAN

I say no. my madam no want see you.

Fiifi parks his car and stays there all night.

INT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- DAY

The girls are parking up and getting ready to leave. Valerie walks in.

VALERIE

Sedem. Jennifer is gone.

Sedem shows her a note.

VALERIE

She left this?

SEDEM

Yes

Sedem continues to pack up.

VALERIE

Wow. This is going too far.

Baaba walks in,

BAABA

Aunt Martha says to hurry up and come downstairs for breakfast

SEDEM

Sure thanks. Will be there shortly.

Baaba leaves.

VALERIE

What are you going to do?

SEDEM

Nothing. Can we not talk about it? How are you and Jojo? You seem happy?

VALERIE

Yes we are girl. I knew he was worth waiting for.

Valerie throws herself onto the bed and makes dreamy eye expressions.

SEDEM

Odo ay3 wod3 papa.

VAERIE

I’m sorry about Fiifi but for all you know it wasn’t as it looked.

Sedem walks out of the room.

They all gather at the lobby after breakfast to say their final good byes.

AUNTIE MARTHA

Sedem bra!

(calls softly)

Sedem moves closer to her and she whispers.

AUNTIE MARTHA

Ey3 medoba. Hw3 woho yie ai. Nyame nhyiraa ooo

SEDEM

Medaase. Auntie thank you so much.

She excuses herself and makes her way to Auntie Esi’s.

EXT- SOMEWHERE IN CAPE COAST- DAY

She enters the compound. She makes her way to the front door.

SEDEM

Mummy!!!

AUNTIE ESI

Meba. Woho yie aa?

SEDEM

Eny) papaapa. Merek) nd3 n’a mese menb3k)raa

AUNTIE ESI

Enyi nyame nk) n’a hw3 wohodo yie ai. M3ba nkraa nyame boa aa )kyena n’ekyi.

They hug each other closely for a while and then she leaves some more money for her auntie as instructed by her mom. She in turn takes the items her aunt’s buys and makes her way to leave.

EXT- CAPE COAST HOTEL- DAY

They pack up their stuff and leave for Accra. The car is quiet.

EXT- SEDEM’S HOUSE- NIGHT

Her family is waiting for her all excited to see her. They hug her and prepare dinner. They gather round the table after dinner is served and after she moves quietly to her sink to clear up the dishes.

MRS. KUMORDZI

Are you ok love?

SEDEM

Yes mummy. I need sleep urgently. May I?

MRS. KUMORDZI

Of course. Don’t worry.

She hugs her mom and heads straight to her room.

A MONTH LATER

EXT- BAABA’S HOUSE- DAY

Sedem is parked in front of her gate waiting for her.

SEDEM

It’s about time

BAABA

Sorry but you know my mom

She sparks the car and they head straight for campus.

New beginnings, New hopes and New accomplishments.

There is a flash back of her moments with Fiifi

BAABA

MY. Aren’t you mute? In fact since cape.

SEDEM

Eeeeiii madam

They both start laughing. She pulls into the school drive way. They get out.

BAABA

Well I found out from Anthony that apparently Jennifer had had an affair with Chris. The story is that she seduced him to change her grades but I suspect more

She chuckles

 anyway she got herself pregnant.

SEDEM

Whoa!!!! How did you feel?

JENNIFER

It’s Jennifer and Chris here I wasn’t surprised plus our relationship is over. I’m not going to stress over that. Have you called Valerie?

SEDEM

Yes she’ll meet us up later at the ecobank branch at pentagon. I shock giver Jennifer papa.

It’s really low on her part to do a thing like that. Glad you are ok and you’ve moved on.

BAABA

I know you miss Fiifi. Don’t you think you were hard on him?

SEDEM

May be I was but its too late now. I don’t know where to find him. I tried the cape coast castle and it seems as though he’s left. It’s in destiny’s hands at this point. Life goes on.

She says in a trance.

BAABA

Yeah I guess. He was so in love and I could so tell how good he made you feel.

SEDEM

May be meeting someone is out of the cards for me. I don’t know it’s just been me getting excited for nothing.

BAABA

Come on you just turned 23 you have plenty of time even I haven’t lost hope that I’ll meet someone who will treasure me.

EXTERIOR- LEGON CAMPUS- DAY

The girls are getting out of the car.

BAABA

Sedem do you have everything? Seems they are about to go on lunch break?

SEDEM

YES!

They head towards the administration block to do their next semester registration. She gets to the administrator in charge of accounts.

REGISTRAR

Your hostel payment receipt?

SEDEM

A second please

She reaches her bag to search and realizes it is not in there.

CONTINUES

Excuse me

She races down the stairs towards her car and she knocks someone along the way and drops her papers.

SEDEM

I’m so sorry. I’m clumsy

STRANGER
It’s ok.

 He reaches to help her pack up her stuff

SEDEM

I’m really sorry.

Their hands meet and Sedem gets a familiar feeling and looks up and realizes it is Fiifi.

FIIFI

You took off like that Sedem

SEDEM

ERM…. I have to go Fiifi.

FIIFI

I let you go the first time I’m not about to do that again.

They both smile.

SEDEM

My house at 8. There’s this new place with great food I’m dying to try out.

She pulls his phone and stores her number.

EXT- SEDEM’S HOUSE- NIGHT

The doorbell is rang.

SEDEM

I’ll get it.

She races to the door.

(Calls out)

You are on time.

FIIFI

Of course. Been waiting for when I’ll see you again.

Sedem smiles.

You look really beautiful.

MRS. KUMORDZI

Who’s there Sedem?

SEDEM

My date. I’m off mom

MRS. KUMORDZI

OK. You kids be good and be home early.

They drive off to the new place and after Fiifi takes her to his beach house.

EXT- BEACH HOUSE- NIGHT

He blind folds her and walks with her to a picnic mat.

FIIFI

Don’t panic. I promised myself that if I found you again I’ll do this.

He pulls her hand to his chest.

SEDEM

Whats going on? Why is your heart beating so fast?

She lets out a nervous laugh

FIIFI

Since I met you Sed all I’ve done is to think about you. How I can make you smile. How I will listen to your stories and jokes and so the day you left Sedem I knew I lost someone and something real and beautiful.

SEDEM

Fii….

FIIFI

Let me please. You did something to me. You touched a part of me I didn’t know had a capacity to feel again. Please Sedem I want you to give me your word that you won’t leave me hanging and that regardless of whatever happens I can have my friend?

SEDEM

Yes.

FIIFI

But you know I only said friend to make you happy

Sedem throws a friendly punch and he pretends to be in pain.

FIIFI

I fell for you after on our third date.

Sedem stares innocently at him as if asking with her eyes for him to kiss her. They kiss.

The end.