**THE HOUSE IN BETWEEN**

STAGE PLAY

WRITEN BY INNO KATZ

**CHARACTERS**

Husband

Wife

Stranger

Neighbor

Man

Set in a bed sitter-house. The house can be furnished with nothing but a bed, coffee table, closet and armchair. There is a window up where the bed is set and an exit and entrance door to the right stage.

Lights on, husband and wife in bed. Wife sits up, pushing Husband aside and attentively listening; she hears something like footsteps approaching their entrance door. She has her hair messed up. Husband looks impatient, topless and panting like a hungry dog.

**Wife:** can you hear that?

**Husband:** hear what?

**Wife:** that! (Referring to unknown noises)

**Husband:** which that?

**Wife**: the footsteps…he, he, is here (lowering her voice) he is back

**Husband:** who is here? And what do you mean he is back? (Raising up his voice)…

**Wife:** shhh! No need to waste time just hurry up, if he finds you here, he will squeeze the mucus out of you and you will breed all the saliva you have been seeping all night long

**Husband:** Oh no, he can’t be such a beast

**Wife:** trust me (he gets very panic; they both remove bed covers, the husband is searching for his belt before he looks for his trousers, he finds his shoes and puts them on. Wife removes the bed covers looking for her night dress which she is wearing. Husband fails to put on his trousers because of his boots)

**Wife:** hurry up…before he knocks on the door

**Husband:** how close is he?

**Wife:** oh do I look like I have a GPS in my ears… just get dressed and evaporate to condense in your exile

**Husband:** (busy dressing up with his eyes fixed on Wife who is putting on clothes from her expand) why are you putting on church clothes at this hour?

**Wife:** am I?

**Husband:** yes

**Wife:** No I am not

**Husband:** Yes you…

**Wife:** and why shouldn’t I after all I choose what to wear anytime I want to

**Husband:** but why must you bring in God in this?

**Wife:** since when did God become clothes or since when did you imprison God in cotton?

**Husband:** I don’t know you must know, after all those lectures about occult symbols last night (husband paces his eyes around)

**Wife:** now what are you looking for

**Husband:** something I cannot find

**Wife:** where is it?

**Husband:** if I knew…

**Wife:** (she notices the insulting statement that is to follow) come we don’t have the whole night

**Husband:** shut up and just concentrate on fetching for it

**Wife:** hey mind your language, who are you saying shut up to?

**Husband:** how many people are here?

**Wife:** you should care for my little feelings, I hate that

**Husband:** (sarcastically) alright sweet-pie, give me your hand

**Wife:** (offering her hand) is that what you have been looking for all this while

**Husband:** I think you are losing a lot more of your brain cells than you are supposed to be gaining (wife just looks at him not getting a clue) oh so all those years spent in school were wasted… simple English and it can’t register, but who can blame you, when you’re just a batch of those rotten flowers who swing your waist in front imperial managers.

**Wife:** I don’t see any connection…

**Husband:** you need your intellect and not your eyes idiot (wife gets greatly offended pulls picture frame from the wall and they chase around the house, she aims at hitting him)

**Husband**: please leave that down, it’s a family heritage …my great, great, great grandparents had it before me

**Wife:** how could they possibly have this in the Stone Age?

**Husband:** it was the time before the Stone Age stupid!

**Wife:** (very furious) you know what you are …

 Pause…

**Husband:** a what?

**Wife:** don’t let me mention it

**Husband:** you name it, I know what you’re about to say, just let it out otherwise it will burst within your soul. I know they are my private body parts you are about to mention

**Wife:** no I won’t mention of anything (she does middle finger) which one of your body parts was that?

**Husband:** oh God I can’t believe you just did that, declaring in public that you’re the stone cold whore

**Wife:** where is the public?

**Husband:** everything around this place composes what we call the public discourse

**Wife:** (looking around in worry) these non-living things?

**Husband:** yes as long as they are capable of producing a miracle. Pastors always smear the anointed water on these objects to chase sorcerers away. Think of these non-living things as angels guiding us

**Wife:** you’re being ridiculous

**Husband:** you are the one being foolish you know

**Wife:** so what is private to you?

Husband: ah ah ah making love, when you speak or do such nasty symbols these Angels suffocate in your sin and their souls leave for forever and that are the root cause of all the mystery in life.

**Wife**: so what happens when they see these parts we speak about when we’re alone, rubbing oil around our bodies and getting ready to dress, when we like scissors crisscross our legs to find what to wear?

Husband: ah

**Wife:** so what happens to them when these degusting parts we are so afraid to make mention of fuse in our moment of insanity

**Husband:** you mean when we share this bed, the soul is called back they return. That act makes them the happiest beings on this planet earth. It’s like a football match to them watching giant teams sparking each other on wet grounds.

**Wife:** if I had the chance I would make them return

**Husband:** mmmh let me see, you stand a good chance though. See the bed is our field, you and I rivals who will trade souls for our own thrill. This pillow will monitor our performance.

**Wife:** (is convinced grabs the pillow and hits him with it)

**Husband:** (angrily) what was that for?

**Wife:** (passionately) that’s how the game starts as far as I can remember…

(Husband stares at Wife as if he will harm her badly. He gently walks towards her and grabs her by the waist, Wife pretends to be a cat and Husband the Dog, this is done through a dance as they are about to kiss, a knock is heard at the door)

**Wife:** oh no, fast live

Husband: live or leave

**Wife:** (whispering)we don’t have time for your court session

**Husband:** (runs around looking for his shirt) where is my shirt I cannot join the cold and biting night like this

**Wife:** just go and don’t make noise with your running up and down, he is just by the door.

**Husband:** (tip toes to the door and stops just after crossing Wife) I still need my shirt otherwise he will find out

**Wife:** live that to me and where do you think you’re going to?

**Husband:** shhhh! Going towards the door

**Wife**: (runs after him, grabs him and shows him the window)…

Pause

As soon as husband exists, Stranger barges in

**Stranger:** sorry to barge in, I was, was ah just trying out the door, to see if it is locked (he says this as he is playing with the door knob)

**Wife:** oh I see, well it’s not your fault, (referring to Husband) I told that Idiot…I mean I forgot to lock it. It’s ok

**Stranger:** oh know I can go out and knock first before I enter

**Wife:** no save your energy, it only shows that you, you have stayed out there long knocking

**Stranger:** yes and accidentally touched the door knob and found myself in (he retreats)

**Wife:** hey I said its ok

**Stranger:** (knocks the door again) can I come in please I am not a thief, only a stranger in the night, no no no I am not Christ

**Wife:** hey just get your… inside

**Stranger:** I hope you are dressed

**Wife**: do you want to stay outside?

**Stranger**: (stranger takes time to enter and wife starts to put on back her night dress, she screams when Stranger enters and immediately stops)

**Stranger:** what? Who is here?

**Wife**: it’s you stupid; you intruded my private space (stranger stands emotionless) you just entered when I was getting dressed up

**Stranger:** don’t fret the worst thing would be finding you getting undressed

Wife: that’s stupid thinking

**Stranger**: its intelligence talking my dear. Yeah it could have been the worst and the best; worst because I could react and best because I could have appreciated. All these lifeless objects have seen a lot in here they cannot appreciate the labour that you offer to embody this desirable body of yours

**Wife**: (blushing) where are driving at?

**Stranger**: uh ok ok don’t you get under the shower?

**Wife:** not anymore

**Stranger:** you mean –

**Wife**: this man I call Husband cannot afford such a life

**Stranger:** I see

**Wife:** we have to use a bucket to unload our urine because outside…

**Stranger:** at least you are close to getting rich. At home we operate on cutting-cost principle

**Wife:** and what is that principle?

**Stranger:** you mean you haven’t heard of this principle. Uh how far did you go with your acade… training?...

**Wife**: uh you mean academic training, for as far as I can remember

**Stranger**: yes how far

**Wife**: for as far as my mind can allow

**Stranger:** never mind (he starts breathing fast, pretending he is sick, to get wife’s attention, he has seen one thousand kwacha note besides the bed) oh my God it has started. It usually starts like this, give me water or some drink my heart is burning out

**Wife:** what is wrong with you? Do you think you will die? But please not in my house? Ok just hang in there I will get you some water

**Stranger:** I cannot hold it any longer, I am losing it all (he exaggerates his condition, wife gets very worried she is confused as well she runs out, stranger immediately approaches where the bank note is, wife returns)

**Wife:** (holding Husband’s night stick)how many liters should I get? (Stranger thinks that wife knew that he wants to steal, he reaches for the bucket under the bed and drinks and when he is about to drink) no! no! No! Don’t please… (She runs towards him. Stranger thinks she wants to hit him as a way of ending it he drinks from the bucket)

**Stranger:** that worked the miracle

**Wife:** do you have an idea of what you just have drunk

**Stranger:** a miracle is a miracle

**Wife:** it was urine I was talking about

**Stranger:** female urine not bad, its romantic and ritualistic as well

**Wife:** there was no female urine in there, it was Husband’s urine

**Stranger:** eh what? (putting fingers in his throat attempting to vomit) where is this bastard?

**Wife:** he left…

Pause

**Stranger:** (more concerned)divorce case, I hate marriage, just imagine you get married in bed and un-bond at the court.(mimicking a woman) Your honour this man is too selfish and evil, I can't stand the hand job that gives him more satisfaction than my open valve does. He has been forcing me to wrestle with him in horizontal business of give and take game when I am breeding out unsuccessful egg. What sort of a beast can even imagine that? Oh I just hate love, in fact I hate loneliness, I hate cheaters as well. And your husband is no exception in this case. They are playing games with moist and hot hearts, they have no emotions they think love is a game. I love to stay among the broken hearted women, they know how to love in their insanity and I can always create a comfort zone that way.

Wife: how do you do that?

**Stranger:** simple by being with you when your stupid husband is floating on the fat belly of some other woman

**Wife:** that sounds like cheating as well

**Stranger:** no the ones playing an away game are the cheaters those at home are just innocent after all everything around here composes the public, bystanders…

**Wife:** you are right; you know what husbands always play away games.

**Stranger:** (drawing closer to her thinking he will now have his way to her) sure!

Wife: husband's like you.

**Stranger:** I am just a stranger and not a husband; I was destined to do this… (he notices that wife is becoming uninterested sexually, he is now shivering as if he has fever and wife gets very scared of this behavior)

**Wife:** please don’t die

**Stranger:** (he talks in a very faint voice)the drink was too cold, can I get in your bed please

**Wife:** no I think we should be heading to the hospital…but on second thought yes you can, I hope…

**Stranger:** thank you (he staggers and wife helps him to get in the bed, he exaggerates each and every step, enjoying wife's touch)

**Wife:** come on just lie still

**Stranger:** tell me a love story please, to keep me at ease or just come and lie with me in the bed, make me warm as soon as possible or else you will be kissing a corpse, holding my hand close to your chest, with your cheeks decorated in hot tears. (Mimicking wife)Sweetheart please don’t leave me alone, I love you honey, let my lips redeem you (he shapes his lips in readiness to kiss wife. Wife strikes him on his mouth and pushes him)

**Wife:** stop this madness I cannot go to bed with a stranger.

**Stranger:** who is a stranger?

**Wife:** you stupid!

**Strangers**: we are all strangers in this world; you and I are products of interaction of strangers. If you and your husband were related then you could be unable to choke each other every night, incest.

**Wife:** (getting enticed) but they could find us…

**Stranger:** who? How? Why? I mean its dark plus it's your home…

**Wife:** that’s the problem, my home and not your home (Stranger shivers even more intense) is there anything I can do?

**Stranger:** just get in bed (he get more and more sexually aroused)I will then show you the best help you can give

**Wife:** (as if he has realized something) now I know what was in that drink

Stranger: what was in it?

**Wife:** mmmmh yeah! the way he was performing I am sure it was motivated by gondolosi, he must have taken the strongest, even in the urine (ASIDE). Nothing I just want to remain faithful to my husband.

**Strangers**: (jumps from the bed) speaking of that where is your faithful husband?

**Wife:** he just left

**Stranger:** ahah why should someone just leave

**Wife:** no I am a good wife (ashamed and defensive)

**Stranger:** you think so

**Wife:** (breaks down) don’t you judge me sometimes I get very lonely and the temptation becomes too strong.

**Stranger:** loneliness what a lame excuse (sounding more like a pastor) but for now I will let it pass. My duty tonight is that of purification by poking out the evil out of you

**Wife:** oh no please, I did know you're…please understand my point first

**Stranger:** evil that is in you cannot harm me because I came here well prepared for this. All that was a tactic so you better confess now

**Wife:** uh uh uh w w we we were sl-e-e-p-i-ng together and then I heard like it was my husband coming, so I asked him to leave before he finds us

**Stranger:** (confused) hold on a second, where was your husband? In bed? or outside? And who was the other party?

**Wife:** my husband was in bed with me, I forgot that he was not on night shift

**Stranger:** hahaha hahahaha please stop it please!

**Wife:** don’t laugh, but you know what was even more confusing was that he asked how much I charge for three rounds and he paid each round without struggles…

**Stranger:** hahaha hahahahahahaha oh please, you too are a banana case, why would someone run away from his own house, he pays his own wife hahahaha…

Pause

**Wife:** you know what I think you should leave, he was just fooling me he must have heard something

**Stranger:** hahaha oh please who uses such a stupid plan to investigate a case

**Wife:** you will not be laughing once he returns and find you here, he will squeeze the muscus out of you, but before he does that he will do a surgery on your dental formulae, rooting out one after the other with his G4S boots. He will hit you with his muscular wrinkles on his forehead, he is so proud of his facial scars he calls them his birthmarks. (Stranger is terrified)

**Stranger**: why would you get such a deadly creature for a husband? (He corrects himself)no no he is not a a a…I mean I am not a thief nor his targeted prey…please try to reason with him, after all I easily get sick.

**Wife:** that won't count my dear

**Stranger:** you know exactly why I am here, I came here to get my reward as you promised, why then didn’t you tell me in advance that you are using me as a specimen in this little experiment your husband is conducting? Why? Why killing me like a dog? Please pass my wife my sincerest condolences If I will come out dead tonight.

**Wife:** (there is a knock on the door, a desperate one) please leeeeeavee…(stranger runs towards the door, before he gets the door knob, wife pulls him back, they both don't have an idea of what to do)

**Stranger:** (runs towards the window) so long! (wife pulls him down)

**Wife:** what are you doing? I told you he just left using that very same window, are you trying to commit suicide?

**Stranger:** but the knock is on the door and not the window…

**Wife:** you never know with these security guards sometimes they appear in two places at once…you what sometimes he is sleeping here when his boss is sure that he is patrolling his house

**Stranger:** (there is a loud bang on the door) oh shit (he pisses in his own trousers) I am dead meat

**Wife:** come here just lie still there, don't blow the vuvuzela through your big nostrils, just stay breathless…(in a sleepy voice)yes who is there at this hour?

Pause

Wife covers herself in a chitenje. She goes to the door very very afraid expecting a blow from her husband. She discovers that it a woman, **NEIGHBOR**

**Wife:** oh God it’s just you?

**Neighbor:** sorry to have bothered you, it’s a surprise right?

**Wife:** of course are you not surprised yourself (trying to hide her anger)

**Neighbor:** not that much see I cannot sleep

**Wife:** oh so you think the entire neighborhood has to be bothered (ASIDE). Ok, so how can help you?

**Neighbor:** i have been wondering around, and I thought I would find an inspiration from this house

**Wife:** why should you look for inspiration from a mare human being like me if I may ask?

**Neighbor:** sometimes God puts people in different strategic places to be your answers. You know my husband is always out. Ministering… to perishing souls. fishing out prodigal sons from dark seas of sin. When his house is burning with ever-brazing desire to possess him…

**Wife:** are against the fishing business, I thought we all know that you help with the fishing nets all the nights your husband is away

**Neighbor:** no! No! I am not against the good deeds my husband is doing, but you know I am a human being. Segmented into various compartments that are fed with different foods.

**Wife**: but you know what, you are getting me mixed up, a minute ago I thought, I was following you but now I don’t think so.

**Neighbor**: there is something happening, and I thought I should share it with you… (Wife waits attentively to hear what she wants to say but she fails to say the exact thing)

**Wife:** you can trust me (Neighbor moves around the room, confused and disturbed, flips her phone around checks on it for some seconds and acts very impatient)

**Wife**: what is the matter with you?

**Neighbor**: no, nothing, do you see any problem. (SOLILOQUY) how could I be so! So! stupid, if I only I could turn the hands of time… but know the experience was a mind blowing one the feeling was the right touch from the right hand. The entire scenario required a proper documentation a projected archive of sensation. To revise on the act see where we went wrong or right.

**Wife:** now something is wrong I am sure

**Neighbor:** do you see anything wrong with me?

**Wife**: yes everything is wrong with you, talking to oneself that’s not normal

**Neighbor:** tongues

**Wife:** well I can hear your tongues

**Neighbor:** well who said tongues cannot be heard

**Wife:** I think you have developed a new style the usual ones sound like; ramboshekile sikhokho majaliwe, boujour monamie cesce…

**Neighbor:** that sounds like French

**Wife:** that’s how I hear it

**Neighbor**: nobody does tongues like that, that sounds very unprofessional it goes like lashilababa lekhokho zaboboloza masinyane izhongobula thula thula we thula khanane msuwu

**Wife:** yes I think that sounds like it what are you saying by the way?

**Neighbor:** how am I supposed to know (she paces around as if looking for something important she catches sight of the bag that was brought in by Stranger, they both look at the bag, wife suspects that Neighbor heard the noises and Neighbor recognizes the bag as hers)

**Wife:** what are you thinking (Neighbor slowly goes to grab the bag wife jumps over the bed and they both get hold of the bag at the same time. They fight over it)

**Neighbor:** hey wait a minute I just want to check out something, I had a bag like this

**Wife:** well this is not the one (takes it away from her. they fight over it Neighbor looks for ways to convince Wife that the bag is hers. Wife is trying to hide the fact that another man was in her house)

**Neighbor:** it smells exactly like mine

**Wife:** I don’t know what is wrong with you, but I cannot tolerant your madness any longer I think you need help. As a matter of fact you need intensive prayer intersessions.

**Neighbor:** I know exactly what I am up to (she gets the bag)

**Wife:** just give it to me, it has very important documents; I want to go and look for a job in the morning

**Neighbor:** (Looking around) does your husband know about it?

**Wife:** no

**Neighbor:** why

**Wife:** the same reason your Husband doesn’t know that you are here

**Neighbor:** are you sure you did not see someone in this house (wife is shocked by this inquisition Stranger is moving from under the bed and wife tries to cover up the noises made by stranger by coughing loudly, she sits on the coffee table and notices that stranger can be seen from there, she goes to sit on the bed and Neighbour sits there with her attending to her coughing she removes her shoes and her feet sticks)

**Wife:** (stranger suffocates because of Neighbors sticking feet) mmmh!mmmh!(stranger makes the noises under the bed and Wife does the gestures making Neighbor believe that it is her who is making the noise)

**Neighbor:** God you are getting sick

**Wife**: can you put your shoes on again please

**Neighbor:** (bending to take her shoes. Wife knows that she will see stranger under the bed) you should have said it before, I could have saved you the trouble of coughing

**Wife:** oh please allow me to help you (stranger throws out a used condom under the bed)

**Neighbor:** where is this coming from?

**Wife:** oh that! (Takes it away and throws it in a pot**)**

**Neighbor:**  that is disgusting you know

**Wife:** that’s why we have companies manufacturing soap

**Neighbor:** no man around, what was in that?

**Wife:** I have a husband

**Neighbor:** but why should you need it when it’s only your husband

**Wife:** it is multipurpose

**Neighbor:** does this bring the ultimate satisfaction (wife just stare at her emotionlessly)

**Wife:** I don’t like to accommodate strangers without any protection

**Neighbor:** stranger?!

**Wife:** yes strangers

**Neighbor:** where is the stranger?

**Wife:** what stranger are you talking about?

**Neighbor:** the one you are talking about

**Wife:** in the hiding?

**Neighbor**: where is he hiding (she starts to hunt)

**Wife:** come on! Relax, I didn’t mean literary hiding. You don’t want me to go deeper

**Neighbor:** let us see how shallow you can dig

**Wife:** I mean the stranger, who always rise like a full moon at night, and entertain me until I scream a tearless cry.

**Neighbor:** that sounds oh beautiful; do such thoughts catch you in the middle of prayers at church? If they do please don’t tell it to other women in church.

**Wife**: why are we forbidden from discussing this?

**Neighbor**: ah its obscene, private issues in public is like an uncovered female gendered body on stage you know, it’s nasty, disgusting and socially immoral.

**Wife:** but these bodies and their private parts are with us in the middle of church service

**Neighbor:** no you should leave them at home and walk without thinking about such nasty experiences, do you hear that?

**Wife:** I don’t know if that is practical

**Neighbor:** that is the common trend in behavior leaving the best emotions enclosed inside our quenched fists. But time has come for one to liberate (she moves towards the closet and takes out the bag which, wife holds her back)

**Wife:** for how many times should we travel this mile

**Neighbor**: I am tired of this ostrich sort of behavior. (very emotion) Mangochi will be the song a land of liberation, lovers nest, I just want to touch my feet in your sands once more. To feel that condensed air, I thought the dream of coming to you will never possible, I took few shots of you (she is panting like a mad dog. Wife is shocked)

**Wife:** (softly) what about Mangochi, I thought poke is not allowed in that area

**Neighbor:** only if you had known the best meat that Mangochi has to offer

**Wife:** I hope you’re not betraying our faith

**Neighbor:** there is more I want I would have shown you through the pictures I took. Let us wait for that young man he has my bag. How can some men be so stupid failing to deliver something failing to fight for a reward?

**Wife:** what are you talking about, who is this young man? What bag is he to bring? What is in the bag?

Pause

**Neighbor:** you don’t know how much I was willing to give that man just for that video

**Wife**: to give? Video?

**Neighbor**: I know he would have wanted to blackmail me with that video, I would tease him (she does some seductive gestures and Stranger is carried away he is half way out from his hiding. The gondolosi seems to have started working again. Neighbor turns around and her eyes catch sight of stranger)

Stranger: hey! There is a rat! (wife just look at each other and they both scream)

Wife: oh that was close to cardiac arrest, how did you get in here?

Neighbor: (looks at his fly) look I think the rat has gotten into your trousers (stranger tries to shake it off)

 (wife fetches a stick and hands it over to Neighbor to kill the rat with)

Wife: oh no it is such a big rat (she picks her shoes in readiness to throw them at his fly)

Stranger: can you see it?

Neighbor: don’t move!

Wife: don’t talk!

Neighbor: just look down

**Stranger:** no I hate rats, they get me going crazy

**Wife:** idiot how can such a rat get all the way up there?

**Stranger**: how stupid can one be rearing rats!

**Neighbor:** it’s breathing; I just can’t do it I am not a murderer

**Wife:** (talking to stranger) I hate people coming into my house and think that I am a fool (she is furious with his remark, she chases him aiming at hitting him with the shoes, and neighbor holds her back)

**Stranger:** you could waste your energy on something important (referring to the rat)

**Neighbor:** wait a minute! I don’t think it’s a rat

**Stranger:** what then is it a snake?

**Wife:** oh no

**Stranger:** (realizing that it’s his fly they have been aiming at) wicked people

**Wife & Neighbor:** (looking at each other) so huge!

**Wife:** I bet its 9 inches

**Neighbor:** you should be talking of kilometers (they all burst into laughter. a bug is heard on the door, wife and stranger think its husband returning. Neighbor thinks its stranger of whom she has been waiting for all night long. Enthusiastically Neighbor goes to open the door as wife and stranger tries to hold her back)

**Wife:** listen the both of you-

**Neighbor:** this is the moment I have been waiting for let me just take this one

**Wife:** who has not…

**Stranger:** been waiting for it

**Man:** hey! (Off the stage)

**Wife:** (they all stand still, trying to recognize the voice) that’s man’s voice

**Stranger:** oh no God. It’s him

**Neighbor:** whew! Long at last (she runs very fast, grabs the door knob and returns. Wife and stranger are on their knees begging her not to open the door) will minimize your chattering please. I told him he will find me by myself. I think you have to hide the both of you.

**Wife:** that’s madness! This is my house and you cannot be giving orders in here!

**Neighbor:** I know, but just at this moment allow me to utilize this opportunity, please, please!

**Stranger**: whatever will happen here, I am not part of it, there was a thief and I came to help out now let me go (he starts to live)

**Wife:** (pulls him down) you will sit down and obey to my orders

**Stranger:** who are you head of the family?

**Wife:** I run this house

**Man:** bread winners like me run the house, just like the donors run this nation

**Neighbor**: so you are married man

**Stranger:** not only married, twice divorced, once separated, a father of two dead sons and an uncle to two dead daughters. A family man, a loving husband, I am just coming from a honeymoon heading to another-

**Wife:** foolish! Honeymoon?

**Neighbor:** with such a big rat, I bet he has had plenty of these honeymoon…

**Stranger:** just for the record, this rat you almost killed tonight has been a family legacy a family tradition. Soon I will inherit my father’s position.

**Wife**: what position?

**Stranger:** FISI

**Neighbor**: do you have any idea when he is dying? I think there is a place I know which you can start with.

**Wife:** I also know someone

**Stranger:** I know there a lot of gentiles I have to convert

**Neighbor:** is it necessary to wait for his death, I mean can’t you just start right now

**Stranger:** no that would be an abomination. I need to be properly initiated. Patience ladies, two weeks ago I bought a mphenzi at k30 of course on credit and sent it to just finish him

**Wife:** is he dead?

**Neighbor:** yeah he should just be dead

**Stranger:** don’t get too excited ladies. I said I bought it on credit, the moment I settle the bill, it will strike him dead. Out of excitement I told him about it oh Lord he fainted

**Neighbor & Wife**: where is he?

**Stranger:** he is in ICU as I speak. He is die hard, two things have to be done, my rich brother wants to fly him to South Africa, and I am running up and down to get funding to finish off the mission (the bang on the door is even more loud now)

**Wife:** (sounding sleepy) coming (yawning) go underneath the bed (whispering to the two)

**Stranger:** again? No!

**Wife:** be a good child and do as I say

**Neighbor:** that knock is for me. He must be irked. He is like why is she not at home?

**Wife:** it’s my husband and listen to this, you (pointing at Stranger) you already know what he is capable of doing. i am not losing him tonight (pointing at Neighbor) you are with him and you wanted to use my house, to sleep with him (the two retreat under the bed)

Pause

Wife opens the door Man enters and it’s not her Husband. **MAN** tall wearing only boxer shots belly out, paces around room. He is very nervous

**Man**: it was not my plan

**Wife:** relax it was nobody’s plan. Start from the beginning

**Man:** I don’t know how it all started but she initiated the whole thing. Then she used to look at me like a Galimoto

**Wife:** a she? You? Everybody knows and accepts you as a swaz, the original virgin alive

**Man**: I hate it when you people call me a virgin

**Wife**: that’s what you are you need to take pride in it

**Man:** the fact that I never had sex before doesn’t make me a virgin

**Wife:** don’t cheat yourself my dear you’re nothing but a pathetic virgin

**Man**: (pointing at his fly) I don’t have it

**Stranger:** (coming out from his hiding) who is that virgin

**Man:** police officer?

**Wife:** never mind him, one of the homeless people I keep. What happened?

**Man**: yes Youngman police detective on duty (this shocks Man and he falls on to the floor. Wife thinks he is dead)

**Wife:** oh no! This is not what I think he is not thinking

**Stranger:** is he still thinking?

**Wife:** he is not breathing therefore he is not thinking

**Man:** you mean the dead do not think

**Wife**: praise God you are still thinking

**Stranger:** we pray for them so that they can accept their sins and beg God for mercy

**Wife:** rubbish once they die they are gone for good

**Stranger:** so what about my cousin who attempted to rape his mother on her death bed?

**Man:** tell us what happened

Pause

Stranger: (reminiscing) she is lying in bed, her only son comes Nganga Chokocha has told him to rub chameleon’s oil on his mother. This he does with no problem. This idiot is motivated by Samantha who has charmed their entire village and all men thinks that she is beautiful. He goes violently but still playing the romantic playboy stripe off her first chitenje,2nd, 3rd,up to 20th but still no finishing line. He goes on up until he reaches to the petticoat, he stripes off the 40th. He knew it that his mother knew it that the wealth she was hiding was too precious. Came turn of bobasa’s. as they say climbing is always easy. His worry was how will he dress her again with all that kawunjika on her.

**Man**: but did he get there

**Stranger:** mmmmh no… yes

**Wife:** which is which no or yes?

**Man:** the mother was wicked

**Wife:** the boy was the most wicked

**Stranger:** come on it is still my story, I am the one to judge and not you. Now you have gotten me mixed up. When he was about to remove the last mkanda…(pause) the mother came about. From a coma of 8 months (Man jumps and firmly clings hold on to Wife)

**Wife:** hey get off me

**Stranger:** face to face, eye to an eye. She looked him deep in the eye, his heart choked on his throat, his face burn black with ashes of shame and fear

**Wife**: my God

**Man:** Jesus have mercy, he is only an innocent boy!

**Stranger:** the fear created in him electric conductor system. Electrons were starting a war within him some wanted to run into exile. The mother wanted to touch him and she just ended up being electrocuted to death. Pray brethren that the mother will think otherwise and justify her son’s deeds to God.

**Wife:** no need to pray GOD sees everything

**Man:** you’re absolutely right (to Stranger)

(Neighbor who has been listening to the conversations from under the bed dismisses all the arguments)

**Neighbor:** this is madness

**Man**: he is telling us the truth

**Neighbor:** shut up! Virgin what do you know about God, you should be concentrating on how you will break your virginity…

**Stranger**: wait there nobody knows anything about God; pertaining to what happens in the afterlife we just have illusive images about such experiences. It’s in Human nature to feel every vacuum with information where nature fails to explain

**Man:** I am with you man, are categorically saying the truth

**Wife:** is this men and against women contest?

**Stranger:** moment of truth

**Neighbor:** are you even sure that these are men maybe him (pointing at stranger) he showed part of his masculinity, but a virgin how does he qualify as a man

**Man:** I am not a virgin anymore

**Wife**: it’s not a matter of just saying it with word of mouth, it’s a ritual and always a ceremony you know

**Man:** yes that is what I am talking about in fact I have come to seek your help

**Neighbor:** what help virgin?

**Man:** I cant say it in front of him

**Wife & Stranger**: why?

**Man:** he might arrest me

**Wife:** just say it he is also under arrest here

**Man:** Only God knows, I was alone as usual, she came smiling, licking her lips and shaking her hips, oh my right there in front of me. The fire dripped from my brain diffusing all the way down to my engine, switching the turbines on roll. There was no time to analyze, think or resist but to follow my own instincts. Accidentally, she was lying horizontal, missionary I started delivering the Gospel to the gentiles. She made sweet smooth soothing noises giving me feedback, the right chain of communication. I was there swinging and grinding my waist, thrusting and being pushed. Before I finished, the noise was God, insanity within me begun…I think she is dying!

**Stranger:** you mean you knock her out?

**Wife:** what happened?

**Man:** Zangose has just died in the middle of the act, something she herself defined as a friendly game.

**Neighbor:** where is she now?

**Man**: in my room

**Wife**: who else knows about this?

**Man:** apart from you…nobody

**Stranger:** so what are you doing here?

**Man:** getting help

**Wife:** who looks like Prophet TB Jay here? (She grabs him by the hand and they exit together. Neighbor and Stranger remain behind)

**Neighbor:** you go ahead; I hate to see the dead

**Stranger:** me too, I cannot sleep for the next decade.

**Neighbor:** come on be a man

**Stranger:** I think we have a lot in common, we can as well conclude that we complement each other

**Neighbor:** mmmh no! not everything, you’re funny and strange and you possess crazy ideas about God.

**Stranger:** no don’t be fooled with those crazy arguments, I have been saying, it was a matter of winning attention.

**Neighbor:** do you really have to go that mile, just to get attention from people, despising God?

**Stranger:** don’t be cheated my dear, God will forgive all of our sins, I will repent very soon. That is not even very important, see it’s just the two of us in here

**Neighbor:** what do you mean the two of us, it’s me and you

**Stranger:** what difference does it make?

**Neighbor:** big one, semantically two of us suggest that we don’t have anything to do with you and me.

**Stranger:** are we going to do anything constructive or prove how good we are with this foreign language

**Neighbor:** foolish

**Stranger:** that is cold

**Neighbor:** your friends find it hot and very romantic

**Stranger:** who is that son of a bitch with no taste?

**Neighbor:** let’s face it you and I have no business together

**Stranger:** yeah, you are actually wasting my time someone is probably waiting for me and she is very worried tonight (Neighbor wants to exit, but she fails because Stranger secretly locked the door. Stranger fetches for his bag)

**Neighbor:** why did you lock the door?

**Stranger**: I thought we could have a moment together, have you changed your mind?

**Neighbor:** excuse me?!!

**Stranger:** I meant a moment where thieves would into this house

**Neighbor:** just come and open up the door

**Stranger:** you could ask me nicely

**Neighbor:** just open the bloody door you bloody fool

**Stranger:** you cannot dictate nor force me especially when I have the keys in my hands.

**Neighbor:** you want me to force you? I will scream!

**Stranger:** and?

**Neighbor**: I will tell them that you wanted to rape me

**Stranger**: go ahead, hahaha who will believe you, we are all in exile. We are thieves here failing to share our benefits, which story is more believable when were both not in our house?

**Neighbor:** (get furious, chase him around to get the keys, they get eventually they get tired)

**Stranger:** wait a minute

**Neighbor:** just give me the key and let me out of here, I am waiting for a delivery

**Stranger:** I also want to deliver something, but we cannot leave the house at once what if robbers enter this space?

**Neighbor:** if they have not been coming all this time why should they come now?

**Stranger:** who knows?

**Neighbor**: we stay then

Pause

**Stranger:** your face looks familiar you know, it’s like we have met before

**Neighbor**: don’t start

**Stranger:** no I am serious, I am sure I have seen you somewhere, trust me (he struggles with her he wants to see a birthmark on her thigh)

Neighbor: what was that for? (He runs to get the bag out)

Stranger: is this yours?

Neighbor: no but it looks exactly like mine

Stranger: you are the very person I am looking for, this bag has come in here with me

Neighbor: where did you get it from? Pause

Stranger: I saw your videos

Neighbor: no don’t tell me…

Stranger: accidentally

Neighbor: what do you mean? Who else so it?

Stranger: we watched…

Neighbor: we?

Stranger: with great passion and maximum enthusiasm, oh God you can be an animal wow!

Neighbor: what was our agreement?

Stranger: it was before you called, I wanted to sell the camera to pay for the mphenzi, you know. My potential customer had to make sure if it works

Neighbor: oh God you have killed me! Why didn’t you just steal money from our boss, a bus conductor like you?

Stranger: one my boss is from Mulanje you cannot misplace even a tambala from him, I have a lot of responsibilities I am a married man, if I could steal I could have paid for my children’s school fees and not the mphenzi.

Neighbor: but you could do the same with video camera money

Stranger: that would be blood money, you use blood money over blood busness you know. I think you will be one of the most famous people, one of the boys was talking about youtube, they say it is internet everyone will be able to watch

Neighbor: No!!!!

Stranger: I think that video is worth sharing, I gave it a title “KAKAMBUKU KA KU 18”

Neighbor: do you know who I am? My husband is a big man in church M.O.G. he won’t take this rubbish from me, he will be reading from Nyasatimes

Stranger: come to think of the comments people will make “umakwana” game ndi zibwente zibwente kulyolyopera” mkazi uli ndi ele, nane ndili ndi ele (he starts dancing around) mrs famous. God has just anointed you

Neighbor: stop it! (breaks down) you are a fool, you are cold, disgusting and very foolish

Stranger: watch your language celebrity

Neighbor: (sobbing) you have ruined my reputation young fool. Now all women will stop calling the blessed and will regard me as a disgrace to the entire…they will no longer greet me with that sense of halo around me…that’s it rise and fall of me

Stranger: (seizing his excitement) when the doors of the world will shut down for you I will be there for. I will love you even more, people might talk but who can resist to be surrounded by such beauty?

Neighbor: get your hands off me

Stranger: don’t treat me as if I am a mad dog, you owe it to me you know. I have done my delivery and I deserve a reward as you promised

Neighbour: well I am not in the mood, just forget it

Stranger: you mean I risked my life for nothing, you must be joking! (PAUSE) I will do it my own way (force he pushes her on bed, takes his built off, his trousers off remaining with a boxer when he is about to remove his boxer a knock is heard. Neighbor gets the strength of pushing him away)

Stranger: (putting his trousers back) we are not done yet!

Neighbor: ok let us agree on something, once you open the door, don’t say anything to anyone, I will give you your reward and then you can leave.

Stranger: I cannot trust you! (She kisses him on his lips)

Neighbor: let us find our way out of this place. In my house it will be my tongue mopping on the surface of your tongue (Neighbor’s talk blows him away). It will be a payback time you will command and like a soldier I will be obeying… (before he knows it he has opened the door, wife enters, Stranger walks out immediately)

Wife: what is wrong with him?

Neighbor: eh! Who?

Wife: (pointing outside) him!

Neighbor: I don’t know (starring at wife emotionlessly)

Wife: what? Oh you cannot believe that idiot, but you have a weird look on your face. What is wrong with you?

Neighbor: nothing! Zangose…

Wife: she was not dying, she was in middle of enjoying an orgas… hey you don’t look fine to me

Neighbor: (faking a smile) trust me I am fine, so what happened?

Wife: she did not even notice that I was standing right there, she went like oh-oh-oh why did you stop…

(Stranger rushes in claiming that he has been hit by a man outside. Wife and Neighbor give him first aid. Immediately a loud bang is heard and they all run-out through the window).

-THE END-