INSIDE AFRICA

by

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JANE(V.O) Let me tell you my story. It's actually not my story but my sister's story. Her name was Grace...

DROP VARIOUS PICTURES - GRACE(16)AND JANE(14) POSING ON A PAWPAW TREE. GRACE AND JANE ENTERING A SMALL BOAT ON A LAKE. GRACE AND JANE SITTING ON A MAT WITH THEIR FOUR OTHER SIBLINGS. GRACE AND JANE EATING THE SAME SUGAR CANE EACH FROM ITS ONE END.

> JANE(V.O)(CONT'D) Grace was a really funny Girl. But her story turned out similar to that of Sixty percent teenage girls in my village who die of unnatural death, mostly resulting from bad peer influence, alcohol, drug abuse and unhealthy relationships.

EXT. KITTE SECONDARY SCHOOL/DEEP VILLAGE/UGANDA - DAY

A very low class african School with no standard requirement on it. Some students are having their lessons under trees. Other children are playing a ball locally made of fibres. Four teachers are playing cards on a bench while students surround them, to enjoy the game.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Extremely noisy and fully packed with more than one hundred students inside.

We meet GRACE, a hard mouthed girl of sixteen seated on top of JACKSON(17)'s desk talking on top of her voice...

GRACE None of you is smart enough to look under my panties.

The boys yell.

JACKSON Really?!... I did hear Ivan touched it?

Another huge YEEAAHH!!

MEANWHILE, TEACHER ALLEN, in her early twenties, stands at the classroom entrance. Most students notice except for Grace as she continues.

> GRACE(CONT'D) Ivan never even saw my pee!

Teacher Allen taps her palms as she walks inside.

TEACHER ALLEN Grace, Grace, Grace... Who never got a chance to see your pee?

Laughter all around.

Grace shamefully finds her way down the desk and slowly proceeds to her seat a few desks from Jackson's.

TEACHER ALAN(CONT'D) Meet me in the staffroom immediately after this lesson.

EXT. VILLAGE TRADING CENTRE/TRUCK PARK - SAME - DAY

Four large old pick up truck are parked...

The first two adjacent trucks in front have their drivers lying a sleep with their legs up on the steering wheels.

The other two adjacent trucks in the back have JAMES, a twenty eight year old cunning fellow in the co-driver seat of his truck and THOMAS(40's), unshaven with a tense look in the driver seat of his truck. The two are conversing.

THOMAS I doesn't make any sense to me James. I mean... The number of women your age is uncountable on this village.

JAMES See... That's what I always tell you Paps. You're outdated.

THOMAS

Outdated!?

JAMES

And you'll rot soon. Young girls to me are fresh fruits with fresh juice, Thomas. Women of my age... Go to hell.

INT. KITTE SECONDARY SCHOOL/ STAFFROOM - LATER

Most teachers are shouting - A habit they pass down to their students. Another teacher walks in with a plastic cup of tea in his hands.

We ROTATE around the staffroom witnessing idle and disorderly until we find Grace standing in front of teacher Allen's desk - who's sitting behind the same desk flipping through the pages of a pictorial magazine, with a plastic cup of coffee. TEACHER ALLEN (turns to Grace) This is the third time I'm netting you on top of Jackson's desk shouting ill for the whole class. Why?

Teacher Allen stares up at a very silent gloomy Grace before she picks the cup to take a sip off.

> GRACE Teacher Allen, I am so sorry.

TEACHER ALAN You're sorry, hm?... Is that explanation enough?

She flips through the magazine again as she giggles, then takes another bigger sip off her coffee and looks back at Grace.

TEACHER ALAN(CONT'D) You're sorry. Well. I guess your silence tells me how uncooperative you're, Grace. After my punishment I promise you'll never do it again.

INT. GRACE'S HOME/ LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A poor house in a poor neighbourhood. The only source of light are two lanterns.

Its supper time. GRACE, JANE(14) - seemingly cool, TOM(9) CHRIS(7) BEN(6)RACHAEL(5) and ROSE - the mother, in her early thirties, are all sitting down on floor mats, surrounding the food laid down on a mat too.

THOMAS - the father, is the only person sitting on wooden chair and his food on a plastic plate placed in front of him, on a small wooden table.

The rest seem to be enjoying their supper except for Grace who looks a bit troubled. Jane won't stop staring at her. She has definitely smelt something fishy.

INT. GRACE'S HOME/CHILDREN'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Jane blankets the four little ones and carries the lantern from the floor up the small table. Grace is quietly seated on the other bed.

> JANE Are you okay?

> > GRACE

I am fine.

JANE I don't believe you? GRACE That's your problem, Jane not mine.

JANE You've been acting wierd this whole evening.

GRACE

Wierd?

JANE Yeah. What's wrong with you?

GRACE I said nothing!.

JANE Okay... Sleep on it.

Jane ignores her sister and climbs the bed. Grace shortly joins her too. A beat.

GRACE Can you keep a secret?

JANE

If you're not planning to kill someone then, may be.

GRACE

Promise?

JANE

For a while.

GRACE I'm not telling you then.

JANE

Fine... Across my little heart.

GRACE I was suspended.

JANE Suspended?!!!

GRACE Lower your voice bitch.

JANE (sits)

Why didn't you tell father?

GRACE I'm not telling anyone and so are you. JANE

But --

But?

GRACE

JANE What if he finds out?

GRACE He won't... Only if you keep your big mouth shut.

JANE

I just wish you never told me.

INT. GRACE'S HOME/CHILDREN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Jane is just waking up. Grace, already dressed in her school uniform comes in.

JANE I thought you were suspended?

GRACE And I thought I made myself clear last night when I said I'm not letting anyone else know about it.

JANE Do you think they will allow you inside school before your suspension expires?

GRACE That's none of your business.

JANE

Whatever.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Grace is walking on road with her backpack, still in a school uniform. She spots an OLD HOUSE. Looks around and no one is seeing her, then enters...

INT. OLD HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Grace opens her bag and pulls out casual clothes. She quickly changes her outfit, and proceeds out.

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN THE HILLS - DAY

TWO GIRLS and THREE BOYS of Grace's age are sharing a cigarette. Grace joins the crew.

GIRL#1 Hey, Girl. I thought you failed to make it. GRACE I can't fail to pass and to fool my parents too.

Laughter all around.

BOY#1 You look good.

GRACE

Thanks.

BOY#1 Here. Try this first.

Boy#1 gives Grace a cigarette and she puffs. Another boy pulls out of his bag bottles of beer, they all shout out loud as they open the bottles with their teeth and begin sipping as we --

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER

Grace and the group are all asleep - drunk and are all dressed in just undies. Their clothes dispersed, some hanging on nearby shrubs. They definitely had sex.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Grace and two other girlfriends are too drunk and laughing on top of their voices.

James enters the bar. Spots Grace with her girlfriends and approaches their table.

JAMES Do you mind an extra round on me, beauties?

GRACE Drinking is never a problem. Right girls?

ALL

Sure.

JAMES

Waiter.

INT. GRACE'S HOME/CHILDREN BEDROOM - MORNING

Jane wakes up and realises Grace is not inside the room. She immediately rushes to the window and it's open.

EXT. GRACE'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Jane comes out calling Grace's name and bumps into her father slashing the yard.

JANE Grace. Grace!

THOMAS She's not in?

JANE

Uh --

THOMAS How long has it been happening?

JANE

Four days.

THOMAS Four days?! And you too kept it from me?!

JANE I am sorry father.

Rose shortly comes out too.

ROSE Is everything okay?

THOMAS Your daughter slept outside last night.

ROSE

Jane?

THOMAS Grace. I am killing that girl the moment she steps her foot here.

Angry Thomas drops the slasher and enters the house.

ROSE Where did she spend the night?

JANE

I don't know.

We hear Jane's voice over again.

JANE(V.O) No one saw or even knew Grace's whereabouts for two months... But the damage had already been made.

EXT. BEHIND A SINGLE ROOMED HOUSE - DAY

Grace is puking - Worried, she checks her belly's size. Then gently strokes it, as if feeling anything inside.

A single self confused room with everything embedded inside. Grace is sleeping in the bed. The door opens and James hurriedly enters and pokes her until she's awake.

> JAMES Why didn't you tell me you were Thomas' daughter?

GRACE You never asked me who my father was. Do you know him?

JAMES I work with him. Oh God... What did I get myself into?

GRACE

Come on, James. It's not that a big deal.

JAMES Not a big deal?! Woman... Your father is threatening to kill whoever he finds his daughter with, and I... Out of all made you pregnant.

James begins pacing around the room, until he finally stops.

JAMES Pack all your clothes.

GRACE We're running?

JAMES

Just hurry!

EXT. JAMES' RENTAL - SAME - DAY

James is arranging stuff on the truck parked across the road. Grace, as she crosses towards the truck is suddenly hit by A fast van to instant death --

CUT TO BLACK

EXT. JAMES' RENTAL - ROAD - MINUTES LATER

IN DEEP SILENCE, as People gather around the incident. Two policemen handcuff James. Thomas is comforting Rose with their children crying. Grace's body is put on the police truck and James forced up the same Police truck too.

Sirens are heard as the police truck departs the scene and disappears in black.

FADE OUT.