

<IDENTITY CRISIS>

by

<EMMANUEL CHUKWUMA AMOBI>

<07067886872>

<08098889297>

FADE IN:

INT. ROOM - DAY

Static. Clear. We are looking through what (we assume) is a camera live feed.

A chair and table in front of us.

Someone enters frame. Female. We don't see her face.

She drops a small BLACK BOTTLE on the table. Goes away.

Beat. Our eyes moves closer. Like someone is zooming in the camera. Only the chair remain.

A time stamp appears. A red dot appears too. It is recording.

Then she enters frame again and takes the seat. Facing us.

We take a closer look.

She is in her 30's. She has strong features. Lean. Not exactly your typical girl features. Beautiful in a way that says forced. There is primal pain on her face. Like it has always been there.

When she speaks, there is bass in her voice. Almost like a man.

VICTORIA

My name is Victor. Or I used to be.  
Now I go by the name Victoria. If  
you are watching this, then I'm  
already dead...

INT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY ROOM - DAY

A woman is in labour. Child birth. She is Victoria's mother (MOTHER). Victoria's father (FATHER) beside her. Comforting her.

A doctor and nurses everywhere. Doing their thing.

DOCTOR

...You have to try for me one more  
time. Ready. Push.

Mother pushes the baby crying out in pain.

DOCTOR (CONTD)

Good. Good...

We hear the shriek cry of a new born baby. A boy.

A nurse quickly produces a clean cloth. The doctor wraps the baby and they move away.

Father whispers words of encouragement to his wife.

Nurses attend to mother.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
I was born a boy...

The doctor, with the rapped baby now, walks up to the couple. Smiling. He hands over the baby to the couple. They look at their baby. Totally happy.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
My parents must have been very happy. Finally they did it. After twelve years of marriage...

MOTHER  
What are we going to call him?

FATHER  
We will call him Victor.

INT. SITTING ROOM - HOUSE - DAY

Boy child Victoria (7) sits and plays with toys.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
My parents loves me very much. I am the only child.

Father enters and young boy Victoria runs over to him. Father scoops him up.

FATHER  
My boy...

VICTORIA (V.O)  
My dad must have loved me more. Which is why he was more devastated when I started changing...

INT. HOSPITAL - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Father and Mother with young boy Victoria (15) sits across from the doctor.

We meet them in the middle of a conversation.

FATHER

Doctor, what exactly do you mean by that?

The doctor collects himself.

DOCTOR

Mr and Mrs Okaka, your son's body is starting to produce female hormones. Now, we ran a few test and we discovered that the male hormones are still there. Some times it happens and on most cases, because he is a boy, the male hormones dominate.

FATHER

(To Victoria)

Stand up.

Young boy Victoria stands. We notice his breast are starting to develop. Fully visible underneath her clothes.

FATHER (CONTD)

I may not understand medical mumbo jumbo but I know this. This is not normal. A boy does not grow a pair of breast that big. Do whatever you have to do to bring it back to normal.

The doctor considers this. Beat. He opens his drawer and brings out a file. From the file he takes out a form and hands it over to Father.

DOCTOR

There is a course of treatment we can follow...

As the doctor continues to speak, his voice drowns out and we hear...

VICTORIA (V.O)

I didn't remember much of what happened that day but I remember the injections. They were exceptionally painful...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Young boy Victoria lies in the bed struggling to be let free. Two nurses hold him down.

The doctor holds an injection. Steps forward and inserts it in his arm. Young boy Victoria screams loudly.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
 ...They pumped me with male hormones...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - ANOTHER DAY

Young boy Victoria is held in place by four nurses now. They make him sit on the bed.

Doctor steps forward. A needle in hand. This time it is a bigger needle. Much bigger than the last one.

Victoria sees the needle. Scared to death.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
 ...They took samples. They drew my spinal fluid. And then they pumped me with more male hormones...

Somewhere in the room, Father and Mother stands watching. Their faces doesn't look good but they have to save their child.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - LATER

Mother helps a weak young boy Victoria to walk. Father behind them. They are leaving the hospital.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
 ...I lost count of how many hospitals we visited. Each time, I stayed for weeks. They did everything they could. I got worse...

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Father and Mother are in the middle of an argument.

MOTHER  
 We can't abandon our son. Not now that he needs us most.

FATHER  
 That thing is not my son. It is not even my daughter. I don't know what it is.

MOTHER

How can you say that?

FATHER

Woman, you have destroyed my life.

You gave me a...

(Loss for words)

*Tufiakwa.*

MOTHER

Don't you dare put the blame on me.

It takes two to have a child!

FATHER

How can I explain to people that my son is now my daughter or what?

MOTHER

You are worried about what people will say? He is our child!

FATHER

A child without gender. What would you call it? A boy? A girl?

We notice young boy Victoria by the door peeping at his parents.

VICTORIA (V.O)

That was the first time I became aware of what is really happening to me.

He turns and walks away as the argument wears on...

MOTHER (O.S)

This came as a shock to me. To all of us. We can't solve this problem by arguing. We need to make a plan.

INT. VICTORIA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Young boy Victoria enters and stares at himself in the mirror.

His breast has grown bigger now.

His face is starting to shape up. Like a girls' but still retains a hint of a strong boy's jaw.

VICTORIA (V.O)

That night, I made a decision. I accepted my fate.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Father throws bags out of the house. Mother and Victoria pleads with him.

VICTORIA (V.O)

My father was simply afraid of what I was becoming. He never saw me as human. My mother and I paid for it.

FATHER

Take your mermaid child and leave my house. Don't ever come back!

He storms inside and bangs the door.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Mother and Victoria stands before a mirror. Victoria is trying out some dresses. They all fit her body.

We notice she is now wearing earrings. Looks very much like a typical teenage girl.

VICTORIA (V.O)

My mother taught me all I need to know about been a girl. She bought all the girl things for me except... you know- pads.

EXT. SCHOOL COMPOUND - DAY

Children play on their own. Boys on one side playing football. Girls on the other side playing a different game.

Victoria sits somewhere. Alone.

She watches them.

VICTORIA (V.O)

I always was aware of what I am. I mean one moment I was attending an all boys school. Next I was attending an all girls school. Now, It's coeducation...

(Then)

I never really had a friend. I never really confided in anyone. I kept it all inside.

INT. BOB'S OFFICE - DAY

Victoria (28) on suit, sits across from a man. He is Bob, 40's. He is viewing a file. Her file.

It's a job interview.

BOB  
Impeccable results. Very impressive.

VICTORIA  
Thank you sir.

BOB  
The name here says Victor.

VICTORIA  
A mistake sir.  
(Beat)  
Typing error. From the school.

Bob eyes her.

Victoria looks away.

Then he goes back to looking at the file.

BOB  
When can you start?

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Victoria, with a portable recorder in hand, interviews a young man. Face straight. Focused.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
I am a reporter. Or I used to be. I was a workaholic. I never had time for relationships...

INT. NEWSROOM - VICTORIA'S DESK - DAY

Victoria talks to a colleague. Seems they are straightening out some issues.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
...No social life. None whatsoever. It was always work.

INT. BATHROOM - VICTORIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Victoria stands naked in the shower.

Her back to us.

Water streaming down her face. Down her body.

Her hand is moving below vigorously. Her left hand.

She is stroking her penis.

VICTORIA (V.O)

When I'm horny, I masturbate. I'm  
always horny. So I do that a lot.

Her body starts to convulse. She is cumming.

She lets out a cry. Cry of pleasure.

INT. VICTORIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Victoria sits behind her desk. Going through papers and documents.

VICTORIA (V.O)

In just four years, I was doubled  
promoted to assistant editor. I was  
very good at reporting.

Bob breezes in.

BOB

Vicky. How are you today?

VICTORIA

I'm very fine sir. Thank you once  
again for recommending me to the  
board.

BOB

Don't mention. You are the right  
person for the job.

(Then)

Vicky... you and I know exactly why  
I recommended you.

VICTORIA (V.O)

Ever since I started working here,  
this guy has been pressuring me to  
go out with him. He laid off me for  
a while but now he is back.

VICTORIA  
With all due respect sir, I'm  
sorry. I can't do that.

BOB  
Why Vicky? Am I not good enough for  
you?

VICTORIA  
You are married. That is why.

BOB  
Ah... Marriage has always been your  
excuse. You are tough Vicky. You  
work all the time. I always wonder,  
do you have a boy friend at all?

VICTORIA  
With all due respect sir, I don't  
discuss my personal life during  
working hours.

BOB  
How about you discuss your personal  
life with me over dinner tonight.

VICTORIA  
I'm sorry sir. I can't do that.

A knock on the door and then a lady (20's) enters.

She is Samantha. Very pretty. In the way that makes your jaw  
drop. She has some files with her.

BOB  
Think about what I told you. I have  
to go.

Bob leaves.

Samantha walks over to Victoria's desk and quietly drops the  
files.

Victoria looks at her. Surprised.

VICTORIA  
Who are you?

SAMANTHA  
Samantha. Your new secretary. I  
started today.

Victoria continues to look at her. Her gaze lingering. Just  
for a moment.

VICTORIA (V.O)

I was never really aware of my sexuality but in that moment, something flipped in me. Like a fire that just started to burn.

Victoria recollects herself. Waves Samantha away.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

It's a small party. A send off party. A few people around.

Chatting here and there.

Samantha is not here.

We spot Victoria at a corner chatting with some people.

Everyone has a glass of wine with them.

Light music in the background.

Bob stands with an older man. The person retiring.

BOB

Can I have your attention please. When I first started out in this business, as a moron...

(Laughter from everyone)

Someone was always patient with me. Though he bosses me around, he also advises me. Over time I began to mimic him. I ate when he eats. I rest when he rests. Might as well say I fuck when he fucks...

(More laughter)

The point is I walked in his foot steps. I still do. That is because he is a man of honour. Someone who has done it all in this business. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome he who needs no introduction...

Laughter. Applause. Older man steps up to begin his speech.

On that, we catch Victoria slipping out of the room.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - BACK YARD - DAY

Victoria steps out. Sighs. Sips her wine. Stops.

She is hearing something.

A sob.

She rounds the corner to find...

Samantha sitting sobbing.

She quickly wipes her eyes as Victoria approaches.

VICTORIA (V.O)

I don't like people very much and I don't normally care what happens to them but for the first time in a long time, I was moved to care.

SAMANTHA

Ma'am...

VICTORIA

Is everything alright?

SAMANTHA

Yes...

(Beat)

No.

Victoria stands there. Don't know exactly what to do.

She turns to go away. Stops. Turns back to Samantha.

Awkward.

VICTORIA

Tell me about it.

As Samantha begins to speak, we don't hear her. We hear...

VICTORIA (V.O)

Turns out their family house is about to be foreclosed. I helped out. Paid off a huge chunk of the debt. I don't know why I did it. I still don't know till now. After that incident we got real close.

INT. VICTORIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Samantha hands over a file to Victoria. They smile at each other.

VICTORIA (V.O)

Our working relationship changed.

INT. VICTORIA'S CAR (MOVING) - EVENING

Victoria is driving. Samantha on the other seat. Chatting happily.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
Sometimes I pick her up in the morning and drop her off after work. She became my best friend. My only friend. I began to feel something more. I wanted more.

INT. VICTORIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Victoria opens the door and Samantha steps in.

Victoria pours a glass of wine for Samantha. Hands it to her.

A small cake is on the table.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
My birthday is a cursed day. I don't celebrate them but on my 33rd birthday, I invited her over.

They take a seat. Victoria cuts a piece of the cake. Hands it to Samantha. She takes a bite.

SAMANTHA  
It's too sweet.

VICTORIA  
I have never heard anyone complain of something been too sweet.

As Samantha takes a second bite, we catch Victoria staring at her lips.

Sensual full lips coated with red lip stick.

Her eyes drifts down to Samantha's full breasts.

Victoria sucks in breathe. She is turned on.

Samantha, of course, is oblivious of this.

SAMANTHA  
Hm... Now every nerve in my body is feeling that.

Samantha laughs. Victoria tries to join but only manages a smile.

She is transforming on the inside.

Her own nerves are on fire.

Victoria stares. Noticing every movement. Every breathe.  
Every blink.

She moves closer to Samantha.

VICTORIA  
Do you have a boy friend?

Samantha looks her over. Beat.

SAMANTHA  
Not really. There is this guy but  
it is nothing serious.

They stare at each other.

SAMANTHA (CONTD)  
What about you?

VICTORIA  
No one serious.

Samantha's eyes catches a collection of movies at a corner.  
She stands. Goes over. Looks at them. Takes one.

SAMANTHA  
May I?

INT. VICTORIA'S APARTMENT - LATER

They watch the movie together. Samantha is watching.  
Laughing.

But Victoria is watching Samantha. Half interested in the  
movie.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
Her voice was like music to my  
ears. I was in love with her but I  
didn't know at the moment. All I  
knew was that I had a feeling and I  
like it. At the same time, I was  
afraid. Afraid of what she will  
make of me.

Samantha's phone on the table rings.

Victoria is closer to the phone. She reaches out to get it in  
the same time that Samantha reaches out...

Their hands touch. They both freeze.

Their lips inches from touching. Eyes fixed on each other. The phone keeps ringing.

If Victoria was on fire before, now she is on double fire.

A moment. Something sensual. Beat.

Victoria moves first. Kisses Samantha.

Then she pulls herself away forcefully. Stands and moves away.

VICTORIA

Sorry- I'm- I am so sorry for- for  
doing that. I will understand if  
you want to leave now.

Samantha stands. Goes over to Victoria.

SAMANTHA

Actually, I think I will stay for a  
while.

Samantha smiles at her. That does it.

Victoria closes the gap between them. They kiss. Slowly. Again, Victoria pulls away.

VICTORIA

Do you trust me?

SAMANTHA

(Beat)  
Yes.

VICTORIA

There is something you should know  
about me.

SAMANTHA

What?

VICTORIA

I-

She hesitates. This is hard for her to say.

VICTORIA (CONTD)

I'm not like others. I'm different.

SAMANTHA

Okay... How different?

VICTORIA  
Very different.

SAMANTHA  
You are making me scared.

VICTORIA  
No. You are the one making me  
scared.

SAMANTHA  
How?

VICTORIA  
I'm scared because I think that  
once you know the real me, you will  
reject me.

SAMANTHA  
Are you a serial killer?

VICTORIA  
No.

SAMANTHA  
Are you a kidnapper or their agent?

VICTORIA  
God! No.

SAMANTHA  
Just tell me. How different are we  
talking about?

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Samantha sits on the bed. Puzzled look on her face. Victoria  
stands in front of her.

VICTORIA  
Brace yourself. Just don't freak  
out.

Samantha nods.

Victoria starts to undress. Samantha watches.

She pulls off her top. Then she unhooks her bra. Her breasts  
spill out. Free. She discards the bra.

Then she unbuttons her trousers. Pulls it down. Steps out of  
it.

Then she gives Samantha one last look. Sighs heavily.

Taking the decision.

Pulls down her boxer shorts. Straightens.

Samantha's eyes widens. One hand covering her mouth. *Holy shit.*

VICTORIA  
Please say something.

SAMANTHA  
You are a little bit of both man  
and woman.

VICTORIA  
Yes.

SAMANTHA  
You are really different.

VICTORIA  
Yes. So you don't think I am weird?

SAMANTHA  
No.

VICTORIA  
(Confused)  
No, you think I'm weird or no you  
don't think I'm weird. Which is it?

SAMANTHA  
No. I don't think you are weird.  
(Wicked smile)  
My turn.

Samantha starts to unbutton her shirt...

VICTORIA (V.O)  
For the first time in my entire  
life, someone other than my mom  
accepted me for who I really am.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

They are in the middle of sex. Under the sheets.

They kiss for a while.

Victoria stares deep in Samantha's eyes.

SAMANTHA

What?

VICTORIA

You are perfect.

They kiss. Victoria starts moving. Samantha moans in pleasure.

Our eyes MOVE away as the sex continues.

INT. VICTORIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Victoria sits behind her desk. Leaning back in her chair. Eyes closed.

Then she moans softly and her body jerks.

She grabs the arms of the chair.

Moans again in pleasure. Tries to muffle it. Can't.

VICTORIA

Oh... my... yes... Don't stop.

Then her hands goes under the desk.

She is grabbing something there.

Her moan grows and continues until it reaches a crescendo...

She groans in pleasure as her body jerks again and again.

Her eyes rolling at the back of her head.

Then it's over.

From under the desk, Samantha clumsily comes out. Wipes her mouth with the back of her mouth.

Victoria strengthens herself as Samantha adjusts her clothes. They smile at each other.

VICTORIA (V.O)

I have never done anything this  
kinky in my life before but I know  
one thing, I love it.

Samantha goes away

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Victoria and Samantha walks around shopping.

VICTORIA (V.O)

Ever since I started work, I have never taken any vacation. It seemed like the perfect time to do so. I was so happy.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha sits on the bed eating fruits. Naked under the sheets.

Victoria comes out of the adjoining bathroom.

A towel round her body. Walks over to Samantha.

Takes a bite of the fruit she has from the other side. Smiles at her and goes away.

VICTORIA (V.O)

If people can die of too much joy,  
I will drop dead right there.  
Because that is exactly how I feel.

EXT. BUILDING - DAY

Victoria arrives work. Steps out of her car. Bright. Shiny. Smiley. Happy.

She walks in.

VICTORIA (V.O)

My vacation ended and I was back at work. I have a job I love and someone special in my life. What more can I ask for? Life can't be any sweeter.

INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Victoria steps in. Walks down the hall.

Notices something strange. Something different.

Everyone is looking at her. Pointing at her. Whispering to each other and no doubt, it is about her.

She walks by.

Bob approaches.

BOB  
My office. Right now.

INT. BOB'S OFFICE - DAY

Victoria and Bob steps in.

Bob takes his seat. Opens a laptop on the desk. Gestures to her.

BOB  
Have a seat.

Victoria takes the seat. Senses trouble.

BOB (CONTD)  
There is this video trending on  
social media right now. Have you  
seen it?

VICTORIA  
No sir. I just got here.

Bob hits a few buttons on the laptop. Turns the screen to Victoria.

We can see it too.

BOB  
Have a look.

LAPTOP SCREEN: A video of Victoria and Samantha having sex is playing. Victoria is giving it to Samantha from behind. Exactly like a man she is.

Bob closes the computer.

BOB (CONTD)  
You can't keep your extra  
curricular activities to yourself.  
You have made us a liability.

VICTORIA  
I swear sir. I have no idea who  
recorded this.

BOB  
Save the apologies for yourself  
Victoria. Or should I say Victor.  
Are you surprised? I know all about  
you.

VICTORIA  
You did this...

Bob sits back in his chair.

BOB  
We are all reporters here. I was looking for the next big story and then it struck me. You, my dear, are a very interesting character.

VICTORIA  
How can you do this to me? You just destroyed my life.

BOB  
The way I see it, I just got a promotion. Do you know how many likes I got on Facebook alone? It's amazing how much money one can make from social media these days.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
He just made my life a living hell and he is happy about it.

BOB  
You know, I just needed a sex scandal story. You, been a *lady boy*, added the bonus.

(Then)  
In case you are wondering how this ends, the board has already made a decision. Clear your desk by the end of the day.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
There was nothing I can do. I was devastated. Battered on the inside. Broken. Lost. Devastated.

Victoria stands and leaves.

INT. VICTORIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Victoria packs her things in a box. She is sobbing.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
I lost my job. My identity is plastered all over the internet. Bob gave it a title "Freak of nature". The one thing I have been

hiding most all through my life has  
been exposed.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Victoria walks to her car with her box in hand.

VICTORIA (V.O)  
I can deal with unemployment and my  
new found fame if that is all there  
is...

BLACK

Over it...

VICTORIA (V.O)  
...But there is Samantha. She  
disappeared immediately. It took me  
a year to track her down. I was  
hoping I can still salvage what is  
left of our relationship.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dark. Samantha opens the door comes in. Switches on the  
lights to find...

Victoria sitting there.

Samantha shocks. One hand to her heart.

SAMANTHA  
God! Victoria. What are you doing  
here?

VICTORIA  
I came to see you.

SAMANTHA  
You have to go.

VICTORIA  
So you are given up on us? After  
everything we shared together?

Samantha looks away. Victoria peers at her.

VICTORIA (CONTD)  
Please tell me you weren't part of  
the plan.

SAMANTHA

I was called to do a job. That's  
it.

Those words land on Victoria's ears like a thunder bolt.

VICTORIA

You were employed to make my life a  
living hell and you call that a  
job.

SAMANTHA

I needed the money. I had a lot of  
debts on my hands. I had to do what  
I had to do to be free.

VICTORIA

Who employed you?  
(Silence)  
Who gave you the job?

SAMANTHA

Bob.

VICTORIA

And you were just leading me on all  
this while.

SAMANTHA

It wasn't like that. At first, It  
was about the job. Then...

VICTORIA

Then what!

SAMANTHA

I started to like you.

VICTORIA

You expect me to believe that.

SAMANTHA

Believe whatever you want. It's the  
truth.

Silence. Beat.

VICTORIA

Come with me.

SAMANTHA

What?

VICTORIA

Come with me. We can build our lives together. We will be a real family. We can have children.

Samantha is already shaking her head. NO.

SAMANTHA

What kind of life are we going to have together? Look at yourself. You are every bit a woman except...

VICTORIA

Except my penis...

SAMANTHA

Yes. I'm sorry Victoria... I just- I can't.

VICTORIA

(Teary)

Sammy... please don't leave me. I have lived till this moment because I thought I could convince you. Please, don't abandon me now. You are all I have. I will do anything for you.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry Victoria. Whatever we had before is over. You should move on. I already did.

Right there in that moment, Victoria's heart is shattering into a million pieces.

She stares into space...

INT. ROOM - DAY

Then we are back to where we started.

Victoria sitting facing us.

VICTORIA

It's been three years since then. I thought about surgery but the truth is surgery will leave me penniless. I will be a man but I will be a beggar on the streets. It's not worth it. Everywhere I go, people avoid me. Discussions halt the

(MORE)

## VICTORIA (CONT'D)

minute I show up. No one will even give me a job. I have lived in solitary all my life but this is different. I have learned one thing. Things are a lot different in this part of the world. People see us differently in this part of the world. They see us like some sort of demon in flesh. We are simply God's creatures like everyone else. It's just that we are a little bit of both. People like us suffer. An untold suffering once our true identities are exposed. Wherever I go, I see the hatred on people's faces. The rejection. Fear. I can never have the one thing I want most in my life. A family.

(Then)

I know there are others out there. This is a wake up call for people like me who are still here and the ones that are yet to be born. I am not strong enough. The society must learn to accept us or the next me may decide to fight back.

(Then)

I have made one final decision.

She reaches out of frame and picks something.

It is the black bottle we saw in the beginning.

She opens it. Takes one final breathe and drinks the contents.

We catch a glimpse of the label on the bottle...

It says "*Cyanide*".

BLACK.

FADE OUT.

...THE END...