

A Flora Suya's
"DEAR PEN PAL"

Written for the Screen by

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FADE IN

Close up; on a woman's face she is beautiful and strong. She is crying.

INT. PRISCA'S BEDROOM LILONGWE CITY - NIGHT

The Woman is PRISCA KHONYONGWA, 27. Tears drip down her cheeks, she is seated on the bed, her wedding photo album lies open.

The room is almost empty, everything is packed as if she is waiting for departure.

She gazes at the wall clock and its Midnight. She Sighs very hard.

She opens one of the bags and brings out a box. She firmly presses the box close to her chest and warms herself up with a sweet thought.

She hears the door opening and quickly puts the box back in its place. Switches the light off.

She goes onto the bed and pretend as if she has been sleeping.

INT. IAN'S HOME - LOUNGE - NIGHT

IAN KHONYONGWA, 35. Enters the house. He locks the main door. He composes himself and checks around everything has been packed and he can hear echoes of his own footsteps. He looks at his wrist watch and makes a face that shows that he is in some sort of trouble. He silently walks to their bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

Ian enters, silently removes his shoes not wanting to disturb his wife.

PRISCA
You can switch on the light

IAN
Its fine... Did I wake you up babe?

PRISCA
Switch the light on

Switches on the light, he goes to sit on the bed, trying to win Prisca's forgiveness

IAN

That guy is really stupid imagine
they kept me waiting with one story
after another... but to cut the
long story short the Van is coming
in the morning

Prisca looks directly at him, she notices there are stains of
lipstick on his shirt. She does not say anything she tenderly
tries to rub them off. Ian looks at the mess and tries to
cover up

IAN (CONT'D)

I have been through a lot of drama
my love, met some girl who was
beaten in the streets and I had to
rescue her...

Prisca does not say anything, There is a call on Ian's phone.
The contact name is MUMMY and it has a little boy's face as
its contact photo. Ian hangs up

PRISCA

Answer the phone

IAN

Its not important... one of my
crazy friends they think i am still
in town probably they want us to go
drinking

PRISCA

Can I see your phone

IAN

Why? You don't trust me or what?
This is my phone you have to learn
to trust me

He moves out of the bed heading to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

Tight on: Ian quickly clearing the log list

Reveal: Prisca leaning by the door.

PRISCA

Ian... how can I trust you, when
you have shut me out of your world

IAN

What are you complaining about?

PRISCA

You haven't touched me in ages

IAN

We are both home tired... do we really have to talk about this? We have more important issues to discuss

PRISCA

Oh yeah like what? When we are going to have a child?

IAN

Those are gifts from God and you of all people must know that... Why is that everything with you has to do with sex?

PRISCA

We have been at it for so long... why cant we be what we promised each other through our romantic letters

IAN

Marriage is never a walk in the park... But you and I have a good thing going

Prisca looks down

IAN (CONT'D)

Your uncle has secured us a house in Namiwawa and its a good one according to him... let us be good children tomorrow when he comes. Plus we will be neighbors to my secondary school friend

PRISCA

That's what matters to you? Meeting new people... Ian are you seeing someone else?

Ian confidently looks at her and grows silent. Prisca furiously walks back to their bedroom. Ian follows behind.

EXT. ESTABLISHING - BLANTYRE CITY-

We see the city's buildings at evening. People knocking off from their works. Cars queued up in traffick.

We move with the city lights to Namiwawa. Ian and Prisca's new residential area.

INT. STEVEN'S HOME - DINING- EVENING

MATILDA JAMU 29,

pours juice in two glasses, at the same

time she anxiously dial TOBIAS' number on her phone. Tobias cannot be reached. We hear male voice from outside

STEVEN V.O.

Hunie! Don't forget the cards

Matilda is in panic. She tries the number again but she can't get through. She takes the glasses and goes outside.

EXT. STEVEN'S HOME -GARDEN- EVENING

STEVEN JAMU 37, is under the summer heart. A newspaper in his hands.

He constantly looks to the road going to the next door. The fence surrounding their house is made of bugler bars that he is able to see passersby in the street.

Matilda brings out two glasses and hands one to Steven.

STEVEN
Thanks... And the cards?

MATILDA
Eish! I forgot

She leaves her drink on the table, turns...

MATILDA (CONT'D)
But Hunie, why can't we just go inside and bake something together instead of sitting out here...

STEVEN
I am waiting on the new neighbors... If its the Nkhonyongwa I know I will be very happy...

MATILDA

But we can see them tomorrow, lets
just make this our romantic
evening... Its very rare to have
moments like...

STEVEN

Hunie just get the cards... That
will be romantic as well... To beat
you

Matilda sighs and leave.

After a beat Tobias confidently enters the gate. He can't see
Steven on the shade. He walks straight to the door.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Excuse me sir!

Tobias is startled but he holds it together and goes to
Steven. Matilda immediately comes out.

Walking towards the two

MATILDA

Hello Mr. Tobias... Honey I forgot
to tell you about the TV... Tobias
is a technician specialized in
Television

Tobias has no idea on what Matilda is talking about. Steven
sits up and gives him a hand shake.

STEVEN

Forgive my rudeness... You must be
an expert indeed, no tools

MATILDA

Oh no he fixed it yesterday and
actually he is coming to get his
money

STEVEN

I see... How much was it sir?

TOBIAS

You can just give me anything

Steven digs in his pocket, brings out a wallet and gives him

STEVEN

You are very generous

TOBIAS

Thank you...

Tobias leaves.

EXT. DRIVING SCENES - EVENING

We see a Van with furniture moving.

EXT. STEVEN'S HOME -GARDEN- EVENING

Matilda trembles, her adrenaline has not yet settled.

Steven looks at her suspiciously

To fight the tension, Matilda goes to sit on Steven's laps,
She does funny romantic movements to cloud Steve's mind.

MATILDA

I love you very much Steve. You
make me happy.

STEVEN

You know I love you too, don't you

MATILDA

Of course I do!
(Kiss)

STEVEN

Tell me, why do you love me?

Matilda turns her head and stirs at the house. Steven turns
to see the Van with furniture moving past their house.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

At last

MATILDA

Excuse me before my food gets
burnt.

Matilda Goes inside, Steven reflectively watches her.

EXT. PRISCA'S HOME - EVENING

The Van enters the gate. It stops and Ian jumps out. He
stands at distance to admire the house. Prisca joins him. She
embraces Ian but he quickly takes himself out from Prisca's
arms. Prisca is bewildered.

Ian is actually answering a phone call and its Prisca's Uncle, MR. NYONI

IAN

Hello... Yes we are safe... Thank you its nice as you said... Thank you very much... Alright it will be done as you say... Sure she is here with me

Ian hands the phone to Prisca, he waits on her. Prisca gestures him to start unpacking but he just waits attentively listening to her.

PRISCA

Yes I like it and thanks a lot Uncle... You have helped us quite a lot... Greet the little ones... Good night

She hangs up, Ian quickly grabs the phone away from her.

PRISCA (CONT'D)

Hey! What's in it?

Ian goes to help the driver unpacking.

EXT. STEVEN'S HOME - EVENING

Matilda stands by the door beckoning Steven

MATILDA

Honey, come with me!

STEVEN

Where? No I think you should come with me... and help our friends to unpack...

MATILDA

No honey, come inside. I have a better idea, come! You know you can trust me.

Steven reluctantly follows Matilda

INT. IAN'S HOME - MORNING

The house still looks empty, Prisca and Ian haven't settled yet. Prisca cleans the dinning table and prepares it for breakfast.

Ian comes in with his briefcase drops it down under the table.

IAN

I`m running late. I have to start off.

PRISCA

But today is supposed to be your day off

IAN

No your Uncle, my boss wants me to meet the board of trustees today... time is money in business

PRISCA

And how do you expect these things
(pointing at their
furniture)
To be organized?

IAN

I am not sleeping there, hello!

Ian reaches for a slice of break and takes a quick bite

PRISCA

I think you are only living to please my uncle... why did you even lie to him that I am pregnant

IAN

Prisca we have the whole night for that drama now let me go to work... and for your own information I said I think

Ian takes his briefcase and starts off. Prisca looks at him and she feels sorry for herself.

INT. IAN'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Prisca has toiled herself with general cleaning. She is now making her working space. She takes books out of her bag and line them up. Most of them have to do with Interior designing and Marriage.

The one entitled "Happy Marriage" attracts her attention. She takes it out and flips the pages. She closes it and hides it in her desk drawer.

She brings out her interior design sketches, spreads them on her desk. She is critically looking at them.

She digs in her bag and brings out picture frame which has her and Ian frozen in a romantic bliss.

She puts it up and after a beat turns the faces down.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Matilda and Tobias have just finished making love. Matilda caresses Tobias's muscular and well built body. Tobias seem to wonder very far.

MATILDA

What's wrong?

TOBIAS

I need to know something from you

MATILDA

OK

TOBIAS

Where are we going with us?

MATILDA

Where is this coming from Tee?

TOBIAS

I didn't like the way you treated me in front of him yesterday

MATILDA

Him? Come on Tee, he is still my husband by law that is... I just couldn't say hey here comes Tee... Plus I tried to stop that from happening but your phone was off

TOBIAS

So are you blaming me, now?

MATILDA

No! I was not expecting him yesterday... He had forgotten his passport and missed the flight, he was in such a mood like a woman yesterday, and he stayed there he says some friends of his will be our neighbors

Tobias takes her hand off and turn to her

TOBIAS

Why are you telling me all this?

MATILDA

Our world is growing small just so
that you know... We should be
meeting here until everything is
cleared

Matilda winks at him, he still looks mad. She tickles him and he starts to chuckle. He tickles her back and they turn bananas

INT. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

The bedroom is comfortably arranged. It looks neat. She goes to the bag she hid the box in and brings it out. After grabbing the box she throws herself on the bed.

She spreads the papers from the box on the bed and we discover that they are letters from her secondary school Pen-pal. One of the letters reads: I dream of the day I will see your face, feel your heart and forever be with you in physical...

As she continues to read the letters we can see her heart melting through her glowing cheeks.

Every letter finishes with a line saying: You know we rock and our souls blend

After a beat she feels very relaxed and ready to love again.

She falls asleep after going through all the letters

EXT. IAN'S HOME - EVENING

Ian drives in a fancy car, he gets out and closes the gate.

He stands beside the car and calls on his wife

IAN

Prisca! Prisca love! He opens the door and hoots Prisca comes out looking sleepy. She looks at her husband who is very jovial, she pushes a smile on her face and goes to appreciate the car.

IAN (CONT'D)

For my new position

PRISCA
Yeah he told me that he has bought
us a car

Ian is astounded

IAN
Us?

PRISCA
Of cause us... I am pregnant
remember and he thought it wise to
give the baby an early gift

Ian's jaw drops. Prisca's spirits are lifted

PRISCA (CONT'D)
You are a Genius my love... Now
come and see what I have done with
the place

Prisca takes Ian by the hand and they go inside

INT. IAN'S HOME - EVENING

Ian is puzzled with his wife's change. Stands at the door and
pretends to appreciate what Prisca has done.

Prisca invites him to her desk.

PRISCA
Come, I want you to see something

They go to the desk, Ian looks at prisca's work without
really comprehending, or seeing.

PRISCA (CONT'D)
This is what I have been doing

Still Ian is not reacting accordingly. Prisca looks at him
and he notices her.

IAN
Nice!

Ian is looking at one her poetry books.

PRISCA
That's it? Nice?
(She sees how Ian is
interested in
the poetry book)
Talking of that Ian...
(MORE)