

## ACT I

### Synopsis

Dr. Mlembi Dingi Mhabi is on a campaign, fighting for the position of the Imperial Manager of the state. His greatest weapon of campaign is marrying a Aliphena (white lady). This move makes him to be the outstanding candidate; direct link with the donor community is a promise of riches and wonderful rein. However the parents of Aliphena wants a catholic man for a son in-law, Mhabi is determined to do whatever it takes to fulfill his political ambitions. He will join any church and chop everything along the way that stands as a block.

### Characterisation

Dr. Mlembi Dingi Mhabi

Fr. Francis Manyengo

Khina

Rosheen

Jobe

Master of ceremony

### Scene 1

*Father Francis Manyengo, a Roman Catholic priest's office, he is on phone in a heated moment. He is wearing his white rob and looks to be a very pious man, but angry, troubled and remorseful*

ROSHEEN (ON THE PHONE, SNOBBISHLY AND AGGRESSIVE)

You haven't gotten the best of me, the whole world will get to know f it

MANYENGO

Hey Rosheen calm down, lets settle this amicably as we always do, I am really trying hard to normalize things... but this transfer has done me no good, i am not a parish priest like before

ROSHEEN

I don't care, your son here doesn't care and guess what today he called me mum and know that the next thing he will start to ask of his father, you know i am too economical with the truthful

(CONTINUED)

MANYENGO

But how do you expect me to raise such amount of money, 5million is not a joke...

ROSHEEN

I don't need questions I want answers, stop playing with me Francis, (she hung up, Priest still wants to negotiate)

MANYENGO

(Begging)

Roshie... Rosheen (there is a gentle knock on the door, he is alarmed wombles and drops the receiver, his adrenaline has gotten the best of him) come in please...

*Dr. Mlembi Gausi Mhabi a renown politician, elegantly walks in, wears a very neat suit and walks with a swag.*

*Priest thinks he has heard everything, he is scared stiff, he acts strange and Mlembi notices it*

MANYENGO

Uh Its Dr. Mlembi Dingi Mhabi, what brings you here?

MHABI

Peace within the cell Father Manyengo, nothing but peace (They shake hands and they are both studying one another, Mhabi takes a sit)

MANYENGO

Thank goodness, you how pressing it is to receive a guest like (fakes a smile) politicians, oh (he forces himself into laughing and its plastic)

MHABI

You know what politics is just an intoxication of the best hearts, as wine is for the strongest heads. No man is wise enough or good enough to be trusted with a volume of power over mankind...

MANYENGO

For Christ's sake play down your arguments, don't camapign to me I won't vote (They both smile) anyway what sort of peace within the cell brings you here?

MHABI

Father when we have waves on the lake, it looks as if though its joy that propels them to hit the shore, actually its total disturbance that formulates instability and yields to un-blissfulness state of the calm waters

(CONTINUED)

MANYENGO

Oh Oh please forgive me I am not so good with words and parables...

MHABI

Just to hit it on the head, I have been dating a white lady, and matters of the hearts have attracted the dark opposition in me to the white opposition in her... It has attracted the ugly difference of a master and serf into a knot of love. All my life I have been looking for a woman that would understand me and boom! she appeared like a rainbow when I was giving in to chaos of the storm... I intend to marry her but love and marriage are of a different nature, marriage is conditional, the only way I can make her mine forever is through baptism... So I want to become a member of your church (Manyengo thinks about it)

MANYENGO

Well you really have to go through all the classes and the lessons do take sometime and I don't think a man of your caliber and especially with the campaigning period that is amidst us that can be achieved

MHABI

Exactly my point... You baptize me right here and right now, I will handle the lessons as we go, nobody will take notice of what will happen... I have already told her that I was born a catholic raised a catholic, what her parents want is just a certificate of baptism

MANYENGO

No this is not a political ground, its a holy dwelling of our Lord. The walls can shield you from the rest but it naked in as far as God is concerned... To put it simple I don't tolerant corruption

MHABI

Point of correction its not corruption...

MANYENGO

... Whatever name you can give it... I am a man of God, the defender of the cross that is the truth

MHABI

Be hold father, it does not take time to sing a millionaire tune. The word corruption is too acidic to the ear, lets call it neighbors courtesy of I scratch your back you scratch mine, in that order we can call the money a token of appreciation perhaps a gift of some sort

MANYENGO

Please go with your gifts, I don't have to shout there is the door

MHABI

Father, when a man like me comes to beg it means there is a lot in store... Aliphena is a young sweet soul, born in the hands of fifthly rich parents, her only struggle in life is to break free from life of extravagance. She is a dreamer, naive and wild, she likes to say, my wish is that I can travel to the land that has less, dance in the moon and live more simply. where else can she find that place that is better than our country. Making ties with her will mean a lot to your congregation, it will mean a lot to the nation... Don't be like fool who lives to regret one moment when they made a bad choice... think father, think

MANYENGO

I still say leave my office...

MHABI

I heard you calling Rosheen (Manyengo is startled, Mhabi registers his fear) The only thing that can shake God from heaven is impurity, admit it father your are just a man bound to error... but blackmail is a game of toddlers

MANYENGO

(Heat by the words)  
Who directed you to me?

MHABI

God, but you see I am not claiming to be, I just want to be human and accept my status and manifest the erroneous nature in me... Your little secret is safe with me if you accept this cheque that is worth one million Us dollars, we will both swear by our blood to keep each others secret a secret

MANYENGO

Is that all that is there for a man who will hold and build wall of protection around your fame and success?

MHABI

Porridge is usually a stater meal, a million dollar cheque is just a preamble there is more to come

MANYENGO

Early morning on Saturday next week your name and certificate will be processed records will even be found at the cathedral dating back to 1970 (All sense of indifference has left them, Manyengo literally glows, they shake hands)

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MHABI

History has been written both on earth and heaven there  
is much jubilation especially in heaven as we speak  
(They laugh out loud)

CURTAIN CLOSES

Scene 2

*Mhabi's house, with some cool furniture of a  
middle classed Malawian man, the simplicity and  
its interior design is evident that Mhabi travels  
across the boarder*

*Mhabi enters wearing the same attire who wore in  
the priest's office, there is deadly silence in  
the house*

MHABI

Khina...Khiiii

KHINA

(Off stage)

Bwana!

MHABI

(Protesting to bwana)

Uh uh

*Khina appears on the stage, Mhabi is smiling*

KHINA

Bae

MHABI

I was wondering, where are your manners... calling me  
bwana is sexy but it turns me off you know

(Khina shy smiles, he is getting close  
to her, staring at her with lust)

How about we take it right here?

(she gets away from him)

Just like in the old days playing hard to get, come on  
Khina you are a grown up girl now.

KHINA

Bwana I am not too fit now

MHABI

Don't worry I will take care of it you don't have to do  
more, I want us to celebrate about my success...

(CONTINUED)

KHINA

Bwana its not that I don't want you, but I have been vomiting all day long, the maids next door thinks I am pregnant

MHABI

Pregnant?

KHINA

Yes bwana but its mare speculations

MHABI

(Jealousy)

SO of which of these gasping creatures might have contributed to the action of forcing out those swimming microorganisms which collided with your oval shaped organism as a propaganda, to decampaign me?

KHINA

Bwana I understand the question part but for the rest i have no idea on what you are saying

MHABI

So seeping my saliva has not transpired any sparks of genius on you? I mean which one of the primitive beasts are responsible for the mess done to deter my name and good reputation?

KHINA

mmmh?

(Mhabi shakes his head)

MHABI

Who is the owner of the pregnancy?

KHINA

Bwana you are the only man who made me bleed when we first started and i have never known any man apart from you

MHABI

Uh, so its me, so much the better. But what gives you confidence that the compilation of blood cells into a fetus in side of your womb is my pregnancy?

KHINA

Its the women who are saying it and not me

MHABI

we cannot be too sure of anything unless we have concrete and convincing evidence that you are pregnant, so you have to go for check up but tomorrow

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KHINA

A white woman called on the phone and she was speaking fast

MHABI

Aliphena? What can you remember

KHINA

She was fast, and she asked me are his sister, I said no, wife and I said to be that was after I had discovered I am pregnant.

(Mhabi gets furious)

But she said she is a mother of someone and the name

*Mhabi looks at her as if to harm her badly*

CURTAIN CLOSES

Scene 3

*We open at clinic in a consultation room. A very sick person walks being helped by a friend, she must be suffering from STIs. Mhabi enters and closes the door, Jezzel the nurse wears heavy make-up and is vain, is surprised. There is a moment of awkward silence.*

MHABI

(clears his throat)

You seem surprised

JEZZEL

No, I actually surprised... Fame doesn't get sick

(Mhabi laughs)

MHABI

I can see you have a good sense of humor, I am here to frustrate your swollen ideology about fame, it does get sick only that its hospitals are not in the country...

JEZZEL

that entails that the sickness is not gotten from the country because fame is all over the globe but home

(Mhabi laughs hilariously)

Anyway what brings you here?

MHABI

I like you

(pause: Jezzel makes a-what-the-hell face)

I mean your charm and good sense of humor, it will be very handy in the little assignment that I am to offer you. its really something small that will buy your dreams, I see you have a good sense of fashion.

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(Jezzel studies him)

JEZZEL

So whats that small thing you want of me?

MHABI

I wont state the obvious, as we both know that I am the only remedy to the venom that is screaming in the veins of this country. I am a white canvas with accidental splashes of paint

JEZZEL

Just come out straight, I am sure your saw the queue outside looking forward to be in this room... Its hard work here and fame has no patience like those standing outside so stop wasting my time

MHABI

I am sorry, Its just part of my nature to lay out a background to each and every story I tell.

JEZZEL

so the thing hospitals are not interested in your background stories

MHABI

They say he who has found a wife has found a good thing. something is standing as a stumbling block to this wise saying from the ancient believes of the Bible  
(Jezzel looks at him, she is starting to be pissed)

Just bear with me, I have found my wife, she is precious than gold. Beautiful like the morning silence, meek like the sunset at the lake. She will be coming to my place in three months time

JEZZEL

So what? Just because you have fallen in love you think we are all interested to know?

MHABI

Block to the "they lived happily and rich ever after" is one stupid daughter of a homosapien, in some language they call such "Anyapapi" She got pregnant and she claims its me and she is a mare house maid of mine

JEZZEL

You talk as if she didn't give you what you wanted, you should be asking what made you to sleep with her for a solution

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MHABI

You see when the power of nature caresses your mind and electrons run deep to awaken sleeping dogs and they bake and awaken the libido, the only way to restore law and order is to reach for what is nearby... She has been falling victim of the system

JEZZEL

what i have gotten from your story is that you admit to be sleeping with her, on top of that you never used condoms and you have accepted the pregnancy

MHABI

Don't be judgmental, you see she just told me about it and i have told her to get tested before we celebrate... I will send her here, I am sure what she has inside her is just a pill of blood. I would like you to clear it out

JEZZEL

the fact that my name is Jezzel doesn't mean I in anyway close to being Jezebel... I was trained to cure and prolong lives and not to end it

MHABI

How much do they pay you? How much are you celebrated for doing such a noble job of saving lives. How many lives are lost everyday in trying to preserve one life. If i die today the world will be shaken, someone from your village dies no newsroom will waste time to write about their death. My point is in a dilemma always choose the lesser evil... I have seven million that will sing your glories, banknotes that will make you kiss this medicine smelling desert goodbye. (He digs in his briefcase and brings out a chenqueu book)

JEZZEL

Eh... (She falls for the money) Dr. Mlembi Dingi Mhabi, you should have said that you are a politician with a difference, because some talk a good game and demonstrate less

MHABI

I knew it that after boiling, its evaporation and then condensation, here you are my nurse, this is the warm heart of Africa

JEZZEL

lets make it snappy before someone comes with unwelcome intervention.

(He hands her the signed chenqueu and a business card)

(MORE)

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