

December 2023

The Act of Witness
Bearing

Why The Rate of Coup
Has Increased in
Africa and Possible

Audrey's Crafts: African
Beauty from Waste

The AFRICAN LANE MAGAZINE



How to Survive
In A War Zone.

GEWUZA: From a painful
past to empowering the
community

List of Novels Africans
Should Read

Unraveling
The
Possibilities
of the World
of Tech

The African Lane Magazine



Showcasing Africa, Promoting Africans

Audrey's craft



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PRECIOUS LOLA

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It is our crafting solutions to the needs and challenges around us, utilizing our resources, talents, and skills, documenting and preserving our history, our changing society, and our daily lives that is making Africa a better place.

Life is all about taking little steps, creating an impact in your life, your community, and those around you. Like every other continent, Africa has a gap that needs to be filled, and there is a global push to accelerate sustainable solutions to all of the world's major problems; from gender inequality to poverty to climate change and many others.

In Africa, it is our crafting solutions to the needs and challenges around us, utilizing our resources, talents, and skills, documenting and preserving our history, our changing society, and our daily lives, that is making Africa a better place.

In this Edition of The African Lane Magazine, we have explored many facets of African society, as well as the issues that are urgently requiring attention and possible solutions. So we invite you to dive into this world of possibilities and greatness with us. Keep in mind to give people copies of this magazine and we would be delighted to speak with you. Reach out to us if you have a story to tell, a product to sell or a lesson to teach. Utilize our social media accounts @The African Lane or send us an email at theafricanlane@gmail.com.

Visit our website <http://theafricanlane.com/>
for more updates on our works on Africa and Africans.

Lane, Dela-Favour Owan
Editor-In-Chief



The African Lane

AN AFRICAN EXPRESSION.

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Fruit Drink

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EFUA TRAORE

IN THIS EDITION





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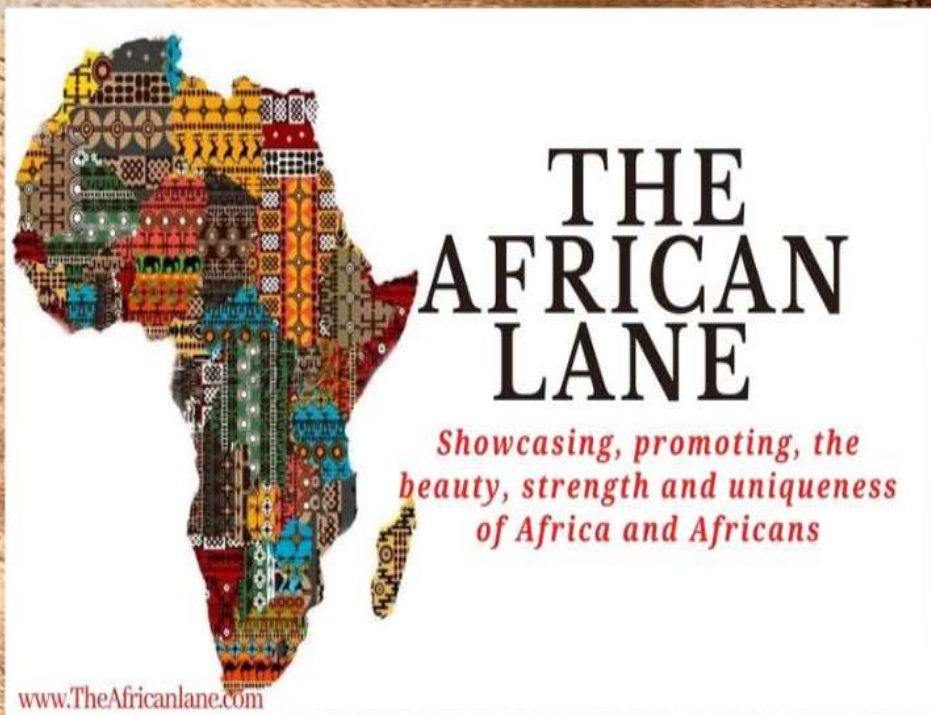
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Together we can cause a good change in Africa.

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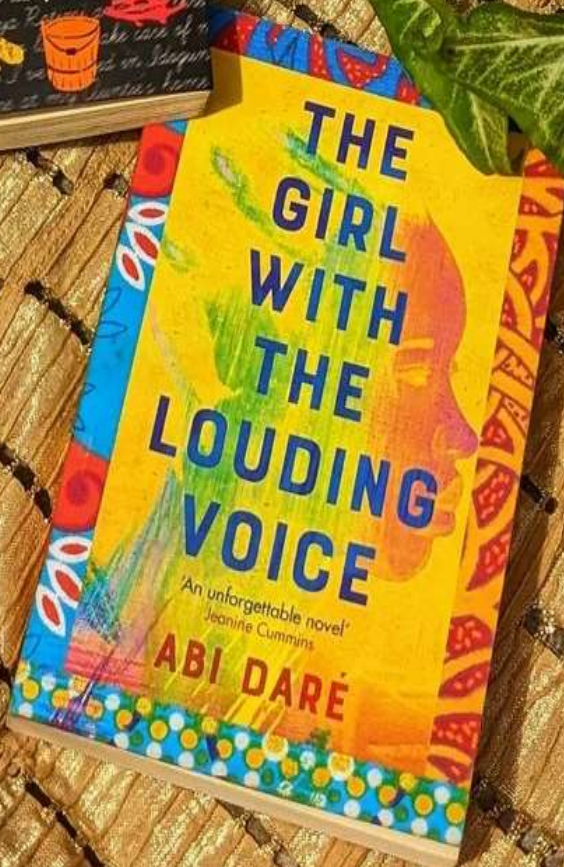
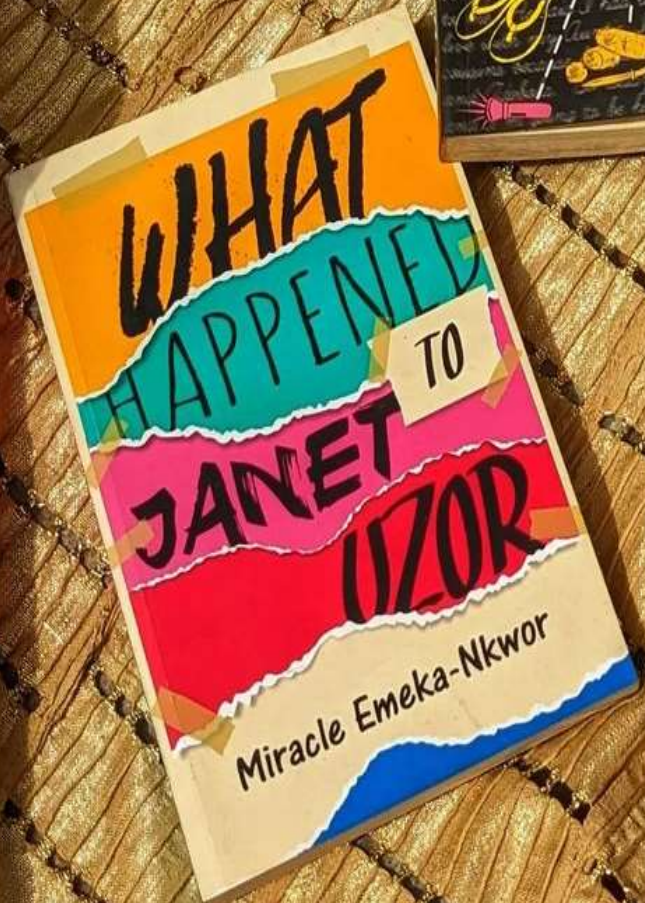
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AN
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WONDER

BUKI PAPILLON



DIVERSITY, PEACE AND UNITY IN AFRICA

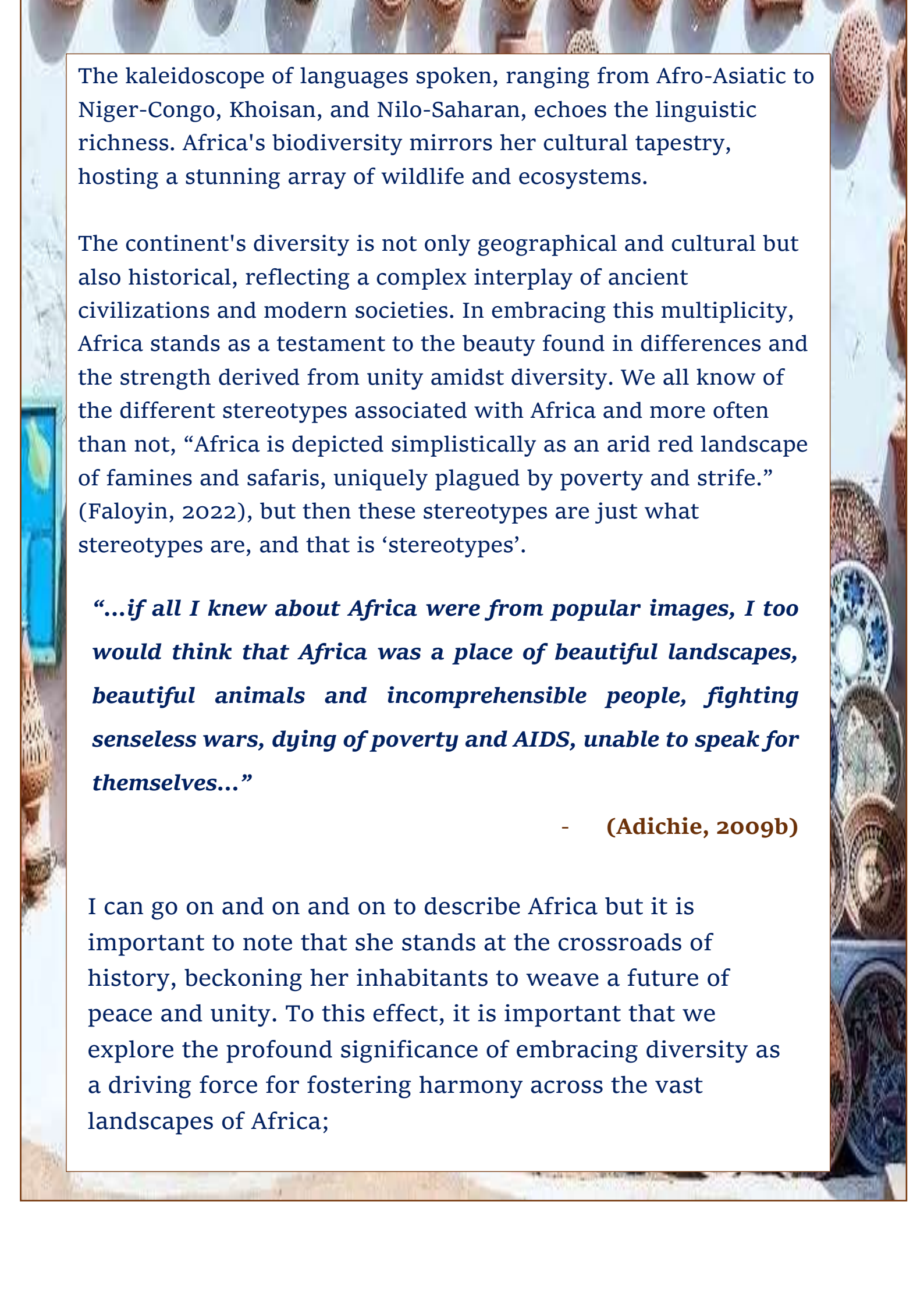
By Precious Lola

“In reality, Africa is a rich mosaic of experience, of diverse communities and histories, and not a singular monolith of predetermined destinies. We sound different, laugh differently, craft the mundane in uniquely mundane ways, and our moral compasses do not always point in the same direction.”

- (Faloyin, 2022, p. 7)



Africa, a continent of unparalleled diversity, is a vast tapestry woven with an intricate collection of cultures, languages, landscapes, and histories. From the northern deserts to the southern savannas, each region breathes its own unique essence into the collective narrative. Countless ethnic groups, boasting rich traditions and vibrant customs, coexist under the sun.



The kaleidoscope of languages spoken, ranging from Afro-Asiatic to Niger-Congo, Khoisan, and Nilo-Saharan, echoes the linguistic richness. Africa's biodiversity mirrors her cultural tapestry, hosting a stunning array of wildlife and ecosystems.

The continent's diversity is not only geographical and cultural but also historical, reflecting a complex interplay of ancient civilizations and modern societies. In embracing this multiplicity, Africa stands as a testament to the beauty found in differences and the strength derived from unity amidst diversity. We all know of the different stereotypes associated with Africa and more often than not, “Africa is depicted simplistically as an arid red landscape of famines and safaris, uniquely plagued by poverty and strife.” (Faloyin, 2022), but then these stereotypes are just what stereotypes are, and that is ‘stereotypes’.

“...if all I knew about Africa were from popular images, I too would think that Africa was a place of beautiful landscapes, beautiful animals and incomprehensible people, fighting senseless wars, dying of poverty and AIDS, unable to speak for themselves...”

- (Adichie, 2009b)

I can go on and on and on to describe Africa but it is important to note that she stands at the crossroads of history, beckoning her inhabitants to weave a future of peace and unity. To this effect, it is important that we explore the profound significance of embracing diversity as a driving force for fostering harmony across the vast landscapes of Africa;



1. The Mosaic of Cultures Yet Similar

Africa is a beautiful mosaic of cultures, languages, and traditions, each contributing to the vibrant fabric of the continent. There's a myriad ethnic groups and their unique contributions to the continent's identity yet our history and beliefs are so similar. The cliché 'unity we stand, divided we fall' is not so cliché as many believe that our cultural differences should make us hate ourselves and be at each other's throats. However, our real beauty as Africans comes from embracing our cultural differences, for in it we find the real beauty of Mother Africa.

2. Challenges and Resilience

The historical challenges faced by African nations and the resilience displayed in overcoming adversity are forever golden. Diversity has been both a source of strength and a challenge, shaping the path to unity. No doubt, we (Africans) ourselves tend to turn against each other but it is important to remember that decolonization in Africa started because people

decided to work together. There were challenges and there are challenges but it is left to us to be resilient and united against them.

3. Ubuntu Philosophy

Ubuntu [ùbúntú], an African philosophy, emphasizes interconnectedness and collective well-being. This philosophy comes from the Zulu and Xhosa languages, and it promotes the idea that one's humanity is tied to the humanity of others, fostering compassion, empathy, and a sense of shared responsibility. In essence, "I am because we are."

Stanlake J. W. T. Samkange (a Zimbabwean historiographer, educator, author, journalist, and nationalist) in 1980, attempted to put together an African epistemology in Ubuntuism. He posited three maxims that helped to shape the philosophy of Ubuntuism and according to him it was a "principle deeply embedded in traditional African political philosophy.":

- a. "To be human is to affirm one's humanity by recognizing the humanity of others and, on that basis, establish respectful human relations with them."
- b. "If and when one is faced with a decisive choice between wealth and the preservation of the life of another human being, then one should opt for the preservation of life."
- c. "The king owes his status, including all the powers associated with it, to the will of the people under him."

According to Samkange, sharing is only one of the many virtues encompassed within unhu, such that in all the ethical domains of unhu, visitors are protected and provided for in every home they go into without the expectation of payment. This is the kind of compassion we are to have towards each other.

4. Education as a Bridge

Education plays a pivotal role in fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion in Africa. By incorporating diverse perspectives, histories, and cultures into curricula, students gain a broader understanding of the rich tapestry that is African heritage. Exposure to various narratives cultivates empathy, dismantles stereotypes, and nurtures a sense of unity amid differences. Moreover, educational institutions can actively promote dialogue on cultural appreciation, encouraging students to embrace diversity as a strength rather than a division. Through such inclusive education, Africans are better equipped to build a society that celebrates its multifaceted identities and thrives on collective strength.

5. Our Pledge

Lastly, we can all achieve peace and unity if we make a personal pledge to contribute to unity in Africa. This will take wholehearted commitment and a deliberate effort to encourage others to join the movement for us to achieve a harmonious and united continent.

In Africa, diversity is not merely a fact but a powerful force that, when embraced, can lead to lasting peace and unity. Together, let us celebrate the unique colors of our collective identity and weave a narrative that transcends borders, fostering a brighter future for Africa and her people.



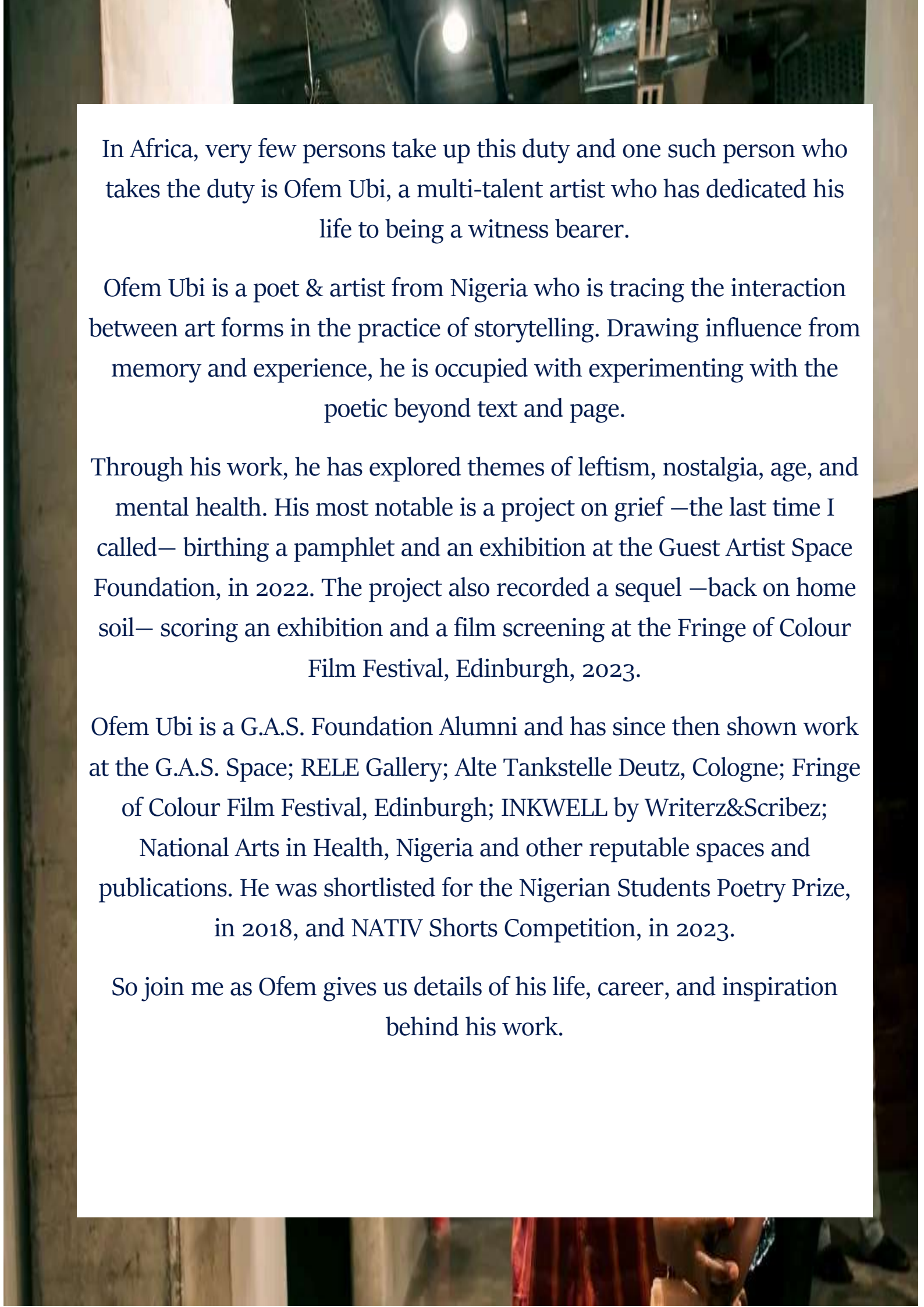
THE ACT OF WITNESS BEARING

We live in a world that is baked with history. We learn these histories through so many forms and more interestingly, we're living in them. History is like the heart; ever rolling, steady in its motion but never-ending still. We need the past to forge ahead. In the same way, we learn from experiences, we learn from our histories to craft a better tomorrow.

Ofem Ubi: The Witness Bearer



Most times people underestimate the essence of writing, be it a poem, prose, or drama, people tend to downplay the essence of art forgetting it is one of the best mediums to remind of things that were, are, and things that are to come. In fact, it is only through art; all forms of art that we know our origin, our history, and our culture that helps us with our identity, and for our generation to come we must serve as witness bearers so they would not lose their bearing in time to come.



In Africa, very few persons take up this duty and one such person who takes the duty is Ofem Ubi, a multi-talent artist who has dedicated his life to being a witness bearer.

Ofem Ubi is a poet & artist from Nigeria who is tracing the interaction between art forms in the practice of storytelling. Drawing influence from memory and experience, he is occupied with experimenting with the poetic beyond text and page.

Through his work, he has explored themes of leftism, nostalgia, age, and mental health. His most notable is a project on grief –the last time I called– birthing a pamphlet and an exhibition at the Guest Artist Space Foundation, in 2022. The project also recorded a sequel –back on home soil– scoring an exhibition and a film screening at the Fringe of Colour Film Festival, Edinburgh, 2023.

Ofem Ubi is a G.A.S. Foundation Alumni and has since then shown work at the G.A.S. Space; RELE Gallery; Alte Tankstelle Deutz, Cologne; Fringe of Colour Film Festival, Edinburgh; INKWELL by Writerz&Scribez; National Arts in Health, Nigeria and other reputable spaces and publications. He was shortlisted for the Nigerian Students Poetry Prize, in 2018, and NATIV Shorts Competition, in 2023.

So join me as Ofem gives us details of his life, career, and inspiration behind his work.

We would love to know you; can you tell us about your journey so far in your career and everything that concerns you?

I am Ofem Ubi, a poet and artist from Cross River State, Nigeria. My first introduction to the arts was via literature, I have always loved writing for as long as I can remember. My interest peaked in secondary school and kept furthering from there. I started with poetry, and as would every hungry person ravished with the appetite for growth, I sought to keep exploring and finding new forms of expression. It was at this point photography and the need for visual storytelling came on board, and again we have morphed into filmmaking. It is all about finding ways to get the point across in a way that echoes the poetic nature of that endeavor.



I like to think of my work as a creative act of bearing witness, first for myself and then for the people next to me.

Ofem Ubi

What is the idea behind your work?

I like to think of my work as a creative act of bearing witness, first for myself and then for the people next to me.

We live in a world that is baked with history. We learn these histories through so many forms and more interestingly, we're living in them. History is like the heart; ever rolling, steady in its motion but never-ending still. We need the past to forge ahead. In the same way, we learn from experiences, we learn from our histories to craft a better tomorrow. What worked and what did not? We are only able to learn these histories because some people were kind enough to document them, and right now we carry them about like an heirloom; familial history, national history, etc as an artist, I see myself as saddled with the chore of documentation

OFEM UBI



The last time I called
the first thing I heard was

**“As-salamu
alaykum”**

I am taking from what was to showcase what is so our descendants can take from what is to forecast what will be. The stories are ours to tell, it is an ancestral occupation.

What inspires you daily especially when it comes to your work?

I think now more than ever; it is the desire to be better at what I do; to make work that I want to see. To pour light on issues and things that we think are too infinitesimal to be considered, but have an effect in hindsight.

What goals have you set out to achieve, especially with your work?

The goal is to be the ultimate version of myself when it comes to my work. What is my apex and how can I get there? I want to make work that lives in spaces we never would imagine them to live in. I want to break boundaries and challenge conventional ideas. I want to blend forms to make work that speaks for itself. At the end of the day, I want to look at what has been done and be enamored by it.

What can you say has brought you this far in life?

Consistency. I look at what has been done and want to improve. In the reel of improving, I'm making work and in making work, I'm learning.

What are the challenges and discouragements you have faced in your life and career first as a Nigerian and an African and how did you overcome them?

I think we all are aware of the damaging effect of the Nigerian space when it comes to young people, so I'll save us the repetition and look rather inward this time.

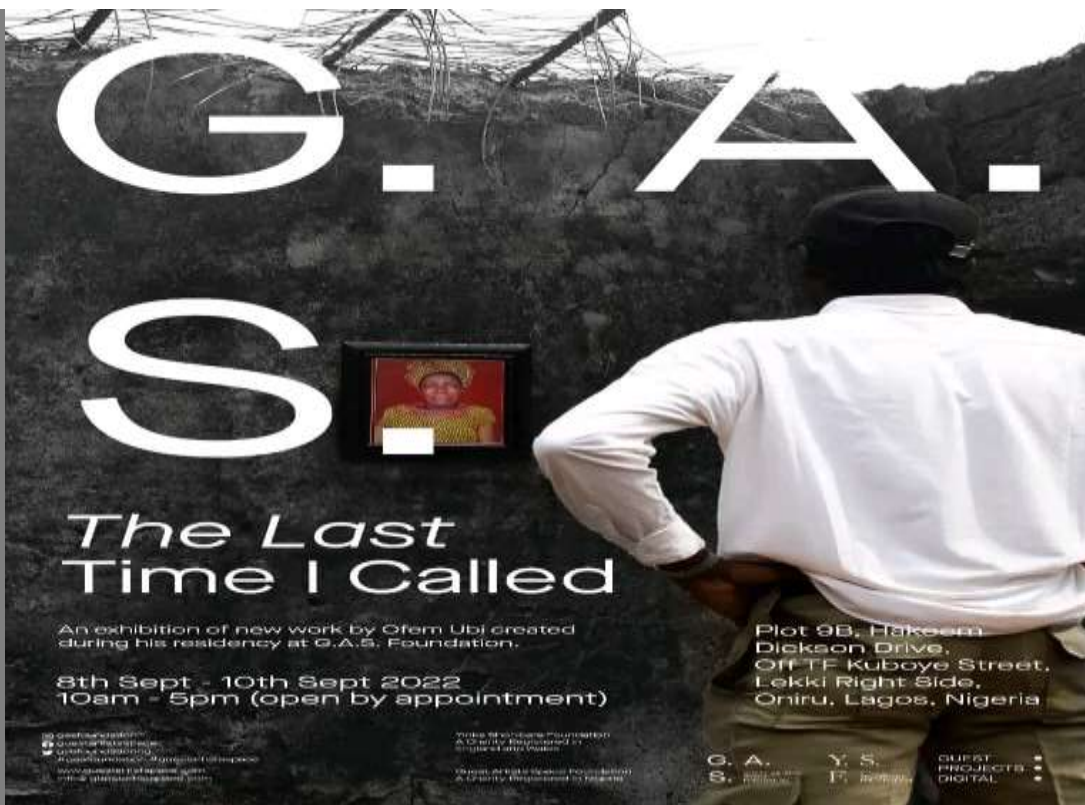
As young people, they are a thousand and one things in our heads clamoring for the same attention and execution. If we're not able to properly partition our time and deal with these things one by one, either nothing gets done or things are done haphazardly. We need to devote our time to making sure things are done and done excellently, and that each item is given its due attention because what is worth doing is worth doing well. Now, I'm more concerned with doing the least excellently than doing the most meagerly. Time management is everything.

With my career and the headspace I'm currently in, I'm learning that you have to fill yourself in as much as you can because only then can you pour out. It was a challenge for me then because I was churning out and not taking the time to introspect. I love the time though because it helped me build consistency and discipline, but I've understood that it is not sustainable for a creative practice.

You need the time to quiet out, shut down from the world, and build. Our greatest gift is the gift of imagination; the gift of dreaming new worlds and bringing them to life, you can't do that if you're not feeding the mind. Take time to reflect, learn, and work on your ideas. Ideas rule the world.

What in your opinion, should young people do to achieve success in their careers?

I once read somewhere that you need a bit of delusion to make it and I think that's true. The obstacles are not leaving anytime soon but neither should the delusion. I think you need this kind of stubborn resolve to keep going, even when you fall. It is your dream; you know what keeps you up at night. Know



What is your advice to young Nigerians and Africans out there?

It is one of self-care; look after yourself. I think sometimes we negate the power of self-care, but a healthy body and mind equals a healthy output. Listen to your body because the last thing you want it to do is break down. Follow your gut. What do you stand to lose if you start, what do you stand to gain if you don't? Just start!

THE AFRICAN LANE

MAGAZINE

December 2023

Third Edition



Gewuza: from polythene bags to solar-powered school

Empowering the community



STORY OF
PAIN, LOSS AND
GREATNESS

GEWUZA: FROM POLYTHENE BAGS TO SOLAR-POWERED SCHOOL

*From a painful past to empowering the community
A story of pain, loss, greatness and
empowerment*

The Gewuza Foundation is committed to making sustainable energy accessible to everyone, especially those living in rural communities.

Approximately 1.3 billion people worldwide still do not have access to electricity. This lack of access not only affects their quality of life but also contributes to environmental degradation.

Imagine the improvement and stability if every child had access to quality education, regardless of their location or access to electricity. That is why Kemigisha Tryphine exists to lead an initiative that provides solar-powered school bags to rural children. The bags help students carry their school books and come with an 11-watt solar lamp that can power light for studying after dark.





The small solar systems offer a safer and more environmentally friendly alternative to traditional kerosene lamps, which emit harmful smoke and contribute to indoor air pollution.

The Gewuza Foundation is committed to making sustainable energy accessible to everyone, especially those living in rural communities, empowering these communities to respond to climate change and achieve resilient livelihoods, while also promoting inclusive learning for children. The Gewuza Foundation, believe that access to sustainable energy can improve lives, create economic opportunities, and preserve our planet.

By providing access to sustainable energy, the Gewuza Foundation aims to improve the quality of life



By providing access to sustainable energy, the Gewuza Foundation aims to improve the quality of life for those living in rural communities and reduce their dependence on non-renewable energy sources.

Join me as Kemigisha Tryphine tells us about her journey so far in her career and everything that concerns her.

Can you tell us about yourself?

My name is Kemigisha Tryphine. A social entrepreneur from Uganda. My journey to entrepreneurship was inspired by my experience that happened way back in 2007, when I woke up in the middle of the night and our house was on fire because I forgot to turn off the kerosene lamp that I was using to read my books that night. When I finished high school, during my vacation I had a chance to join a group of social entrepreneurs when I was motivated to turn my painful past into an opportunity, thus the birth of Gewuza.

What is your foundation about?

At Gewuza, we transform waste from polythene bags into solar-powered school bags for students in rural communities off the grid. This way, they are able to extend their studies after the dark hence improving their performances in school. Our bags are waterproof & they protect the education materials even in the rainy season. Using locally available materials like plastic waste paper to create amazing products of inherent value.



GEWUZA FOUNDATION

INSPIRE GENERATIONS



gewuzafoundation@gmail.com

<https://gewuzafoundation.wixsite.com/home>

We introduce our upcycled innovative “MUNAKU solar-powered school bag” which is 100% recycled from plastic waste materials (kaveera), integrated with a solar panel to help students/ pupils from rural communities off the grid also have a chance to read books as well as phasing out the deadly local lamps (Tadooba) which exposes them to risks of death due to much dangerous smoke produced.

We work with rural women whom we engage in the production process that involves sorting, washing waste, adding partners, and finally making a complete bag.

My painful past of losing our home because of the fire that I had caused inspires me to create a solution for other rural kids who still use those risky kerosene lamps to date as their only hope for a source of light.

What services does your foundation provide?

Our bags are 100% recycled and made by women and youths hence helping towards reducing plastic waste.

We have so far worked on our product development and successfully come up with a finished product. We have also legalized our business with the Uganda Registration Service Bureau, and we have produced and distributed over 150 bags within the central and eastern regions of Uganda. We have carried out 3 sensitization campaigns with Mpigi communities. And we are especially proud of our solar panel school bags, which help students in rural areas extend their learning beyond the grid!

What does your brand need to grow?

We are looking forward to creating partnerships with different corporate social responsibilities who will contribute towards distributing our solar bags on a bigger scale.

What are the challenges and discouragements you have faced in your life and career as an African and how did you overcome them?

We have faced quite a lot of challenges starting with changing the communities' mindset towards waste since our product is new to them. We have also faced challenges building our product since the technology was new to us but by using the locally available resources and a cheaper technology for fusing waste we are improving each day. We have also been facing challenges with product penetration since most people are used to other usual bags so it is quite challenging to convince them to switch to ours however the response is now positive compared to



"Craft is passionately creating something with your hands."

How can people buy your product both in your country and in other African countries?

Our bags are not free. We sell them at \$11 and we have not yet started selling them outside Uganda but we are looking forward to putting a purchasing option on our website and our social media platforms.

A SOLAR POWERED SCHOOL BAG

PLASTIC WASTE

91%

NOT recycled.

We are recycling plastic waste into school bags.



SOLAR PANEL

Allows pupils/students have extra-time of **READING** books especially those in marginalised communities where electricity can't be accessed

What is your advice to young Africans out there?

Young people, especially those trying to make the world a better place, could utilize opportunities around them, however, they could also practice patience, hard work, and perseverance because success does not come in one day.

Join the Gewuza Foundation in efforts to make sustainable energy accessible to everyone. Together, we can create a brighter and more sustainable future for all!

You can contact Kemigisha Tryphine via their website:

<https://gewuzafoundation.wixsite.com/home>

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DUTIES OF THE MASSES IN GOVERNANCE: VITAL ROLE OF EVERY CITIZEN

By Confidence Dee-ue (Brand Strategist & Graphic Designer)

In this exciting tapestry of African societies, the duties of the masses in governance form the cornerstone of a thriving democracy. While the term 'governance' might sound lordly, it simply means how we manage our communities, our towns, our nations, and even our beloved continent Africa. In this article, I will look into the fundamental duties that each one of us, that is, you and I, as ordinary citizens hold in the governance of our beloved African continent.



I. The Power of the Ballot Box:

Let us start with a small yet powerful instrument: the ballot. Many people do not know that voting is not just a right; it is a responsibility. When we mark our choices on the ballot paper, we are shaping the future of our country and the generations to come after us. By choosing leaders who understand our needs, we pave the way for progress and development. In Nigeria, where colorful celebrations and diverse cultures intertwine, every one of the votes we cast is a step towards a brighter future. The same holds for every African nation. By participating in elections, we express our collective will, ensuring that our voices echo in the chambers of power.

II. Voice Your Concerns:

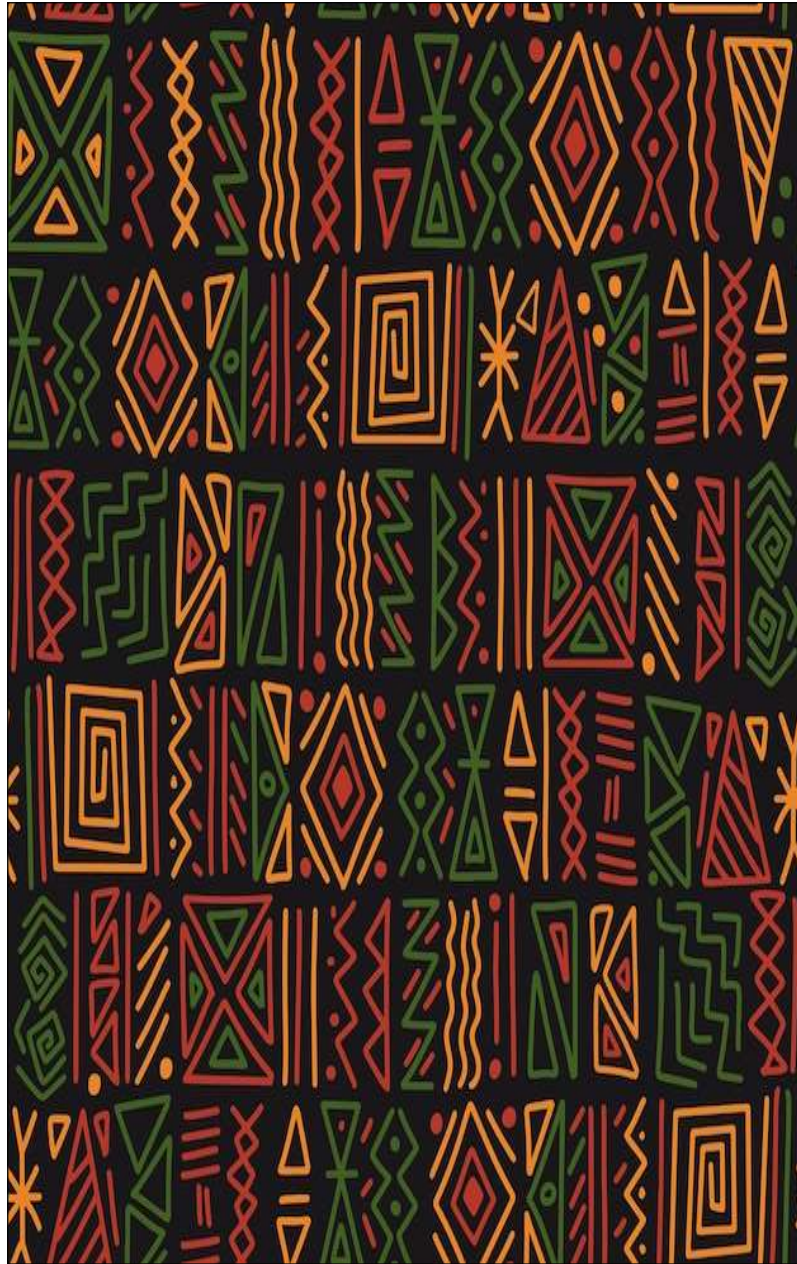
Our voices matter. In the bustling markets of Lagos, on the streets of Port Harcourt, the colorful streets of Nairobi, or the serene villages of Ghana, every one of our opinions counts. Engaging in public discussions, debates, and peaceful protests are ways to let our leaders know what we need. It is when we express our concerns, that we hold them (our leaders) accountable for their actions and decisions. In our collective voices, dear Africans, lies the vibrant rhythm of African societies. It is in these voices that the true essence of democracy resides.

III. Upholding the Law:

Respecting the laws of the land is not just an obligation, it is a duty to ensure that there is harmony and order. When we all follow the rules, our communities prosper. From the northern deserts of Chad to the southern plains of South Africa, upholding the law is a shared commitment. It is this commitment that has built the foundations of stable nations all around the world and it can also do the same in Africa.

IV. Education and Awareness:

Knowledge is power; Understanding our rights, the Constitution and the roles of our leaders empowers us to make informed decisions. Civic education should be accessible to all,



It is in the enlightened minds of the youth that the future leaders and change-makers of Africa are nurtured.

In conclusion, the duties of the masses in governance are not burdens but opportunities. They are the building blocks of a prosperous and harmonious society. As Africans, our strength lies in our unity and our active participation in the governance of our nations. Let us embrace these duties with pride, for it is through our collective efforts that we can create a brighter tomorrow for ourselves and the generations yet to come. With each duty fulfilled, we weave a stronger fabric for the future of Africa, and the world.



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The African Lane

THIRD EDITION

THE AFRICAN LANE

DECEMBER 2023

MAGAZINE

RECYCLING, CREATING,
AND SAVING THE WORLD.

AFRICANNESS, ART, TALENT,
BEAUTY, PASSION, INNOVATION
AND COMMITMENT

AUDREY'S CRATFS
African beauty
from waste

<https://theafricanlane.com>



AUDREY'S CRAFTS: AFRICAN BEAUTY FROM WASTE

Climate change, global warming, and how to save the planet in recent times are of great importance to everyone in the world. The first on the list when it comes to saving our planet and preventing global warming, is to: Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle. Everyone talks about the 4Rs but how many people really recycle or encourage others to use recycled products?

Luckily, we have Esther Ufot who is using her art as her quota to save the world, communicate a message, express her values, and showcase her creativity and innovation by finding new ways to use old materials and giving them a new purpose and meaning.

Esther Ufot Ubak is an artisan hailing from Ikot Abasi LGA, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. She is the founder of Audrey's Unique Craft and Signature. For over 2 years, she has immersed herself in the world of art and craft, honing her unique talent, dedication, and commitment.

Join me as we follow the life and career of Esther Ufot.

FROM SCRAP TO CRAFT

We would love to know you. Can you tell us about your journey so far in your career and everything that concerns you?

My name is Esther Ufot Ubak and founder of Audrey's Unique Craft and Signature. My innovative ideas have earned recognition for transforming waste into extraordinary creations. I aspire to create sustainable job opportunities for our youth and harness the potential of young people to generate employment. I invite you to join me in shaping a future where artistry thrives and empowerment flourishes.

What is the idea behind your work/brand?

My innovation has to do with reusing waste inorganic materials, turning them into valuable Art

And I believe that by practicing recycling and creating durable items, we would be adding our quota to saving the world.

What services does your brand provide?

We create valuable Art for interior and exterior decorations and other purposes.





What inspires you daily, especially when it comes to your brand?

Everything around me inspires me.

What goals have you set out to achieve, especially with your brand

When I started this business, I just wanted to do something different and outspoken, something I could do to impact my community. I love creative art, so I decided to go into waste art.

A lot of people out there do DIY projects, mine is unique and different because I play around with waste, which helps in the reduction of waste in our society

What does your brand need to grow?

- * Creating awareness about waste and its effects on our society.
- * Having a big Art gallery where I can display my Art from waste.
- * Creating job opportunities for our teeming unemployed youth.





* Going to school to create an Art club group for the kids, where they can learn more about waste art.

* More visibility.

* DIY tools and machines to make our work easy and give it a perfect finishing, with the machine we can also make more products to meet up with the customers' order

How can people buy your product both in your country and in other African countries?

Through the online marketplace and also our office at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.



What has your brand been able to achieve?

* We have been able to go out to schools to train them on how they can turn waste into crafts.

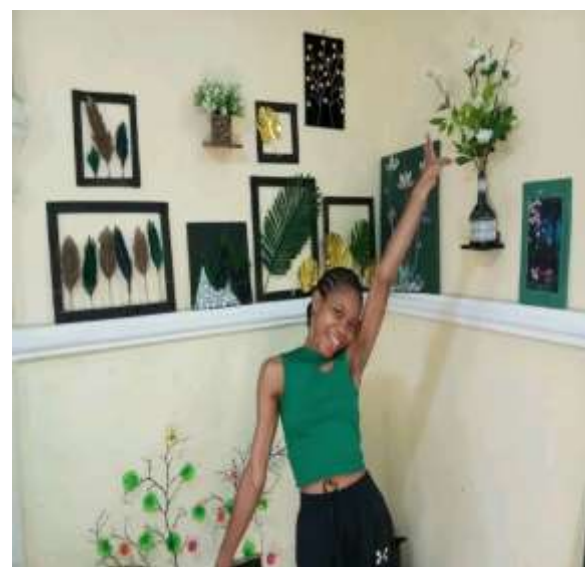
* We have successfully registered the business name.



* We have also trained people out there, both young and old, online and physically, on how they can turn waste into wealth, even from the comfort of their homes.

What can you say has brought you this far in life?

All I can say is God, my hard work and consistency.





* We have sold our products to more than 150 people and are still counting.

* We have also trained people out there, both young and old, online and physically, on how they can turn waste into wealth, even from the comfort of their homes.

What can you say has brought you this far in life?

All I can say is God, my hard work and consistency.

What in your opinion, should young people do to achieve success in their careers or businesses?

All I can say is:

- *Know what you want and go for it
- *Stay focused, and do not let any confuse you
- *Be consistent
- * Be patience
- *And in all, always put God first

October 2023 makes it 3 years since I started the business. Sincerely, it has been tough, but you hardly give up because of the passion. It requires patience and time and also needs most of your strength, especially the brain, the hands, and your mind. Just be focused, and be creative.

It requires a lot of calculations and thinking like: how to start, what colour will come out best, should it be left or right, and should make it scattered or arranged; all these will be going on in one's mind, at the end of the day, you may want to try both ways.





What are the challenges and discouragements you have faced in your life and career as an African and how did you overcome them?

* Discouragement: People criticizing my work: "It is waste...", "I can't put this in my house...", "Your prices are too low..." "Your products are too expensive...", "You are wasting your time..."

* Challenges: Lack of tools and machines, distance (logistics), no steady electricity, materials are expensive, etc.

How did you overcome them?

For discouragement, I am always a step ahead, I try as much as possible not to let side talks get to me, and sometimes I filter what I need and dispose of whatever negative talk. The 'Waste Art' is the signature of the brand, I cannot change that, instead, I try to improve and give value to my products.

For the challenges, I must say, I am still battling with some of them, but I make sure it does not stop me from doing what I want, I will not stop until I overcome them.



What is your advice to young Africans in your industry/ field?

Art requires patience, time, brain, and energy. It can easily drain you, but with passion, this would not be a problem, even when you are stressed, you still see yourself doing it because you know what you are fighting for.



Don't stop!
Don't quit!
Keep pushing!

If you are tired, rest, sleep, wake up,
and continue from where you
stopped. It will pay you someday,
just be patient and always pray for
God's direction.

You can contact Esther Ufot via her
social media handles @ Esther Ufot
or Audrey's Crafts



THE AFRICAN LANE MAGAZINE



100 MOST INFLUENTIAL AFRICANS

TONY ELUMELU

5 tips to building a successful business and what it takes to succeed in Africa.

Exclusive!

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KOMLA DUMOR 'THE BOSS PLAYER'

20 grants and scholarships opportunities for Africans.

DOCUMENTARY

- CHESS IN THE SLUM.
- LEFTISM: WHO MADE USING THE LEFT HAND A TABOO?
- LESOTHO - THE ROOF OF AFRICA.

20 Most seen and read African movies and books.

TRIUMPHANT AGAINST THE ODDS!

Poem by Violet Muwanigwa

*She finds nothing, but a cold and ruthless monster sharing the same gaze with nothing but despise,
kunge munhu akatarisa zvinosemesa*



*Cladded with certainty that at this
juncture the stars have aligned,
mumwedzi mishoma rwavo rwusvava
mumaoko vaizenge varubata,
With those five minutes' countdown
feeling like ziyenda-nakuenda,
Anxiety consuming every fiber of hope
yavainge vachakagumbata,
Her eyes tightly closed and time on
standstill kunge vanhu vari pamoment
of silence,
Anticipating that long-awaited
victorious chant, kuti zvavo
zvazoringana,*

*Woefully, an agonizing slap swept
across her 'once breathtaking' face
causing her kuona nyeredzi kuti ngayi
ngayi masikati machena,
mudumbu kudambuka,*

*Blood profusely flowing down her nostrils kunge rwizi Nile,
Trying to balance herself only to be met with an intense back kick right in the solar
plexus, kunzwa dzese tambo*

*And the searing pain that enveloped her delicate form, chero iye
atsikwa nechitima anosara pasi,
Bent in two, clutching her abdomen in agony, her body giving in,
plummeting to the floor, her skull becoming one with the ground,
kurovera kunge damba,*

*With the ounce of energy left, tears streaming down her cheeks,
hwake huso akasimudza kuti anyatsonzvera murume amire mberi
kwake,*

*Her sweetheart, her 'balm in Gilead', wake murume wepasvitsa
tsvene,*

*Gazing on his eyes but digging deep into his soul trying to retrieve
that loving man whom in his soul-stirring wedding vows,
Vowed kuzomira naye pazvose zvinhambwe zvhupenyu, mukufara
nomukusuwa,*

*Promised to always be her best friend, sahwira mukuru kunge
Nyaradzo Group,*

*She finds nothing, but a cold and ruthless monster sharing the same
gaze with nothing but despise, kunge munhu akatarisa zvinosemesa.*

*For the first time in the decade they have been married, she heard the
most heart-wrenching words rolling down from his tongue
'zingomwa remunhu!'*

*Though she has gracefully endured all the undefinable torture down
the years, haana kumbobvira atarisira manzwi akarema kudero
muduramanzwi rewake Solo,*

*Left sprawled on the floor kunge gwavava nemibvunzo isina
anopindura,*

*Hasn't she lived her life the Proverbs 31-woman way, pasi powake
murume sokurairwa achizviisa nomutsa?*

*Devotedly attending church services panoshumira vamwe achitoshumirawo,
The word being preached sevamwe achitodavirawo Hallelujah!*

*With Sarah and Hannah her paragons, kuti kunyangwe zvaizatora makore
wake Isaka kana Samuel aizopiwawo,*

Staring blankly at the 'bleak' pregnancy test lying by her head,

With that one question like Mtukudzi asking, 'kwandiri seiko Mwari nhai?'

*A quinquennium later standing before a sea of faces, with support from
allies and champions of change,*

Lifted her head with poise, meeting the gaze of her jubilant audience,

*Her voice reverberating off the walls, filling the air with purpose and
conviction,*

*Her words infused with the strength and determination of a woman who
had overcome incredible odds, zvomene sefodya pamhino ainge azvionera,*

*As a renowned Mwanasikana Wanhasi saying 'No to Any Form of Gender-
Based Violence!!'*

#Unite!Investtopreventviolenceagainstwomenandgirls

#notoanyformofviolence

#notoGBV

APPENDIX

1. Mumwedzi mishoma yaizotevera rwavo rwusvava mumaoko vaizenge varubata – *in a few months' time they would be holding their little one.*
2. Ziyenda-nakuyenda – *eternity*
3. Yavainge vachakagumbata- *they were still embracing tightly to.*
4. Kunge vanhu vari pamoment of silence- *like those people on moment of silence*
5. Kuti zvavo zvazoringana – *that they have finally been blessed enough.*
6. Kuona nyeredzi kuti ngayi-ngayi masikati machena – *seeing twinkling stars in the midst of the day.*
7. rwizi Nile – *river Nile*
8. kunzwa dzese tambo mudumbu kudambuka – *feeling like her intestines were breaking*
9. chero iye atsikwa nechitima anosara pasi – *the pain surpassing of that who have been hit by a train.*
10. kurovera kunge damba – *hitting the ground like damba (damba is one of the indigenous fruits in Zimbabwe).*
11. hwake huso akasimudza kuti anyatsonzvera murume amire mberi kwake – *her eyes lifted to with a penetrative intensity so as to survey the man before her.*
12. wake murume wepasvitsa tsvene – *her holy matrimonial husband.*
13. kuzomira naye pazvose zvinhambwe zvohupenyu, mukufara nomukusuwa – *to stand by her at every stage of life, through happiness or sorrow.*
14. sahwira mukuru kunge Nyaradzo Group – *great friend like Nyaradzo Group (one of the biggest funeral service providers in Zimbabwe and abroad).*
15. kunge munhu akatarisa zvinosemesa – *with that look of revulsion.*
16. **'zingomwa remunhu!'** – **a barren person.**
17. haana kumbobvira atarisira manzwi akarema kudero muduramanzwi rewake Solo – *she never thought she would ever hear such heavy words from her sweetheart.*
18. kunge gwavava nemibvunzo isina anopindura – *like a gecko with no one to answer to her questions.*
19. pasi powake murume sokurairwa achizviisa nomutsa? – *humbly subjecting herself under her husband as she was taught?*
20. panoshumira vamwe achitoshumirawo – *joining others in worship*
21. sevamwe achitodavirawo Hallelujah – *like others answering t Hallelujah!*
22. kuti kunyangwe zvaizatora makore wake Isaka kana Samuel aizopiawo – *that even if it was going to take years she would be given her own Isaac or Samuel.*
23. Mtukudzi – *now late, Oliver Mtukudzi was one of the greatest music icons from Zimbabwe,*
24. Kwandiri seiko Mwari nhai? - *'why me dear Lord?'*
25. zvomene sefodya pamhino ainge azvionera – *a Shona proverb to testify to one's personal experience.*



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M f r e k e A s i g b e

MANAGING STRESS

**Managing Stress: The Pathway to Building
a Healthy Relationship and Family**



WHY THE RATE OF COUP HAS INCREASED IN AFRICA AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

By Wofia Usani

This is a question of whether absolute power corrupts absolutely. Power monopolization is a cancer that has eaten into the deep fabric of most African leaders starting up civil unrest within the continent

Africa is the second largest and one of the most popular continents in the world. According to the *World's Population Prospects* (2022), "Africa accounts for 18% of the world's population." The continent contains an enormous wealth of mineral resources, and some of the world's largest reserves of fossil fuel, metallic ores, gems, and precious metals. Its richness is marked by a great diversity of biological resources that includes the intensely lush equatorial rainfall of Africa and the world's famous population of wildlife of the Eastern and Southern parts of the continent.

Although agriculture still dominates the economies of many African countries, the exploitation of these resources became the most significant economic activity in the 20th century. It currently has a GDP of \$8.05 trillion annually. Collier, et al. (2021) state that despite the wide range of natural resources, Africa is the least wealthy and developed continent in the world.

This has been attributed to different factors including geography, climate, tribalism, colonialism, imperialism, wars, neocolonialism, lack of sustainable democracy, and corruption which has resulted in numerous military interventions within countries in the continents leading to increasing military coups even in the 21st century. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez spoke of an epidemic of coups after the Shoe Dance Coupe in October 2021, the year in which there were four successful government overthrows in Africa. However, since 1950 Africa has seen 220 coups with 109 of them successful between 2020 and till date the African continent has witnessed over 7 coups with Mali opening the floodgates and the most recent Niger and Gabon military juntas. The Niger junta of July 26th, 2023 when the military announced that they had overthrown President Mohammed Bazoum. General Abdulrahman Tchiana becomes the new strongman of the country.

These recent incidents draw the question of why the increased rate of coups in Africa;

-Neocolonialism

This concept in Africa is described as the deliberate and continued survival of the colonial system in independent African states by turning the state into victims of political, mental, economic, social, military, and technical forms of domination carried out through indirect and subtle means that did not include direct violence. Africa remains the white man's Farm through this system. Kwame Nkrumah, the first democratic president of independence Ghana noted that "the concept of neo-colonialism warns us of the potential regressive impact of unregulated forms of aid, trade and foreign direct investment to poverty reduction and well-being of African countries." This powerful tool is used to manipulate the African political, economic, and social system thereby masterminding coups against democratic leaders that tended to oppose the system. For instance, Nkrumah's key text *Neocolonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism*, published in 1965, provoked an immediate political reaction from the USA at the height of the Cold War less than a year after it was released. President Nkrumah was overthrown in a military Coupé abetted by Washington.

-Power Monopolization

This is a question of whether absolute power corrupts absolutely. Power monopolization is a cancer that has eaten into the deep fabric of most African leaders starting up civil unrest within the continent. Most African leaders prefer to die in power than to willingly hand over to another government. For instance, Muammar Gaddafi who came into power in Libya through the military coup of 1969 monopolized himself, ruling for 42 years, and when the opposition demanded a power shift it resulted in unrest. Robert Mugabe, the former president of Zimbabwe defied demands to step down for almost a week after a military takeover and expulsion from his own ruling ZANU-PF party. After 37 years as a president at the age of 95 one will begin to imagine what is left of you to still be holding on to power. Paul Biya, the current president of Cameroon celebrated 41 years as president (1982-2023) on 6 November 2023. I believe he's the next African leader to be ousted from government through a military junta.

-Corruption

Corruption in African countries is hindering economic, political, and social development. It is a major barrier to economic growth, good governance, and basic freedom, such as freedom of speech for citizens and the right to hold governments to account. It has led to many failed administrations in Africa resulting in a weak democratic system in the continent which has given birth to today's plethora of coups. Most civilian governments have always proven to have a high corruption index

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

1. Establish an independent economic force in Africa that will not be negatively influenced or manipulated by Western countries.
2. Strengthen Africa's democracy to accommodate tribal, ethnic, and religious differences of most African countries.
3. Strengthen Africa's military and security system to intelligently manage civil unrest and other forms of insecurity within the region.
4. Eliminate corruption from the African system because if corruption is not eliminated it may in turn eliminate the region.
5. Define Africa's bilateral relationship and foreign policies and proffer adequate sanctions for both African and non-African countries that may undermine the dignity and unity of the African region.

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Republic of Botswana
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DERIVING VALUE FROM WASTE

Eco Zera, has taken a revolutionary step to create paper based pencil. The budding entrepreneur uses discarded newspapers and papers to make pencils and through this practice the company is able to manage waste and recycle it. The eco friendly pencils are available in multiple colors to appeal aesthetically to potential customers.

#RecycleReuseReduce



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The background of the entire page is a light, neutral color, possibly white or light grey. It is decorated with several small, realistic-looking pumpkins of various sizes and colors (orange, light orange, and yellow). Scattered around the pumpkins are pieces of candy corn, which are small, triangular candies with yellow, orange, and red segments. There are also a few small, yellow and orange leaves scattered throughout the scene. The overall aesthetic is clean and autumnal.

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**BUILDING A POLITICALLY, FINANCIALLY, MENTALLY
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DON'T JUST LIVE, BE BOLD WHILE AT IT.



HOW TO SURVIVE IN A WAR ZONE

By Daniels Emmanuel Agada

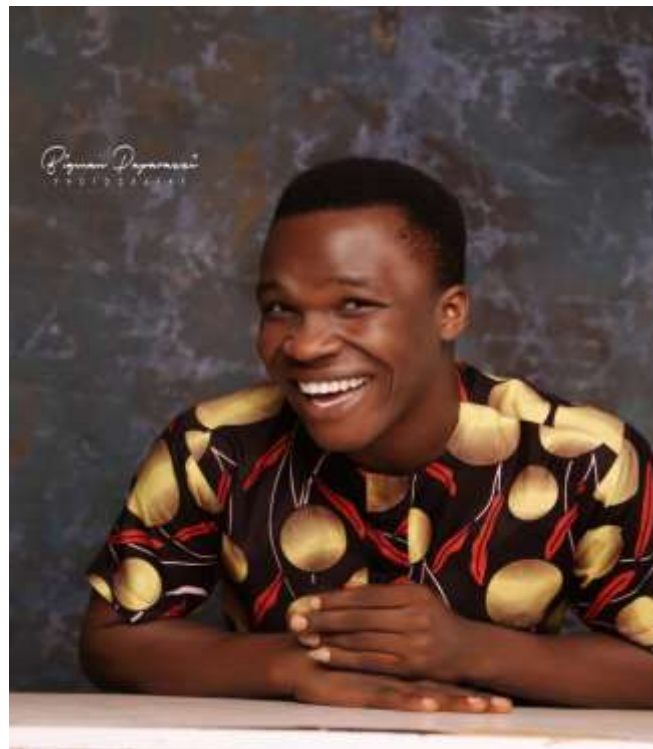
War has a catastrophic effect on the health and well-being of a nation. Studies have shown that conflict situations cause more mortality and disability than any major disease

While a war probably makes you think of fighting, in reality, civilians usually survive a war by avoiding fights as much as possible. Many people, however, stay and hold out in the war zone, and often nobody is there to protect them. Movies and popular world culture often portray that there are a few survivors. However, this reoccurrence has not and will never stop the blast of guns and bombs, killing and surviving in our world today.

Only a few people are better able to describe how to survive in a war zone than those who have seen and experienced it firsthand.

But before we go with this study, the African local slang will say, "NO BOTHER IN JUNGLE...", on this, we shall take a voyage into the effect of war in our world today.

The major effect of war is how it destroys and disrupts economic growth, communities, and families, which is the fabric of any nation's growth. It is also important to talk about the mental consequences of this action (war). Among the consequences of war, the impact on the mental health of the civilian population is one of the most significant. Studies have shown a definite increase in the prevalence of mental disorders, in which women are more affected than men, children and the elderly are top on the list. This prevalence rate is associated with the degree of trauma.

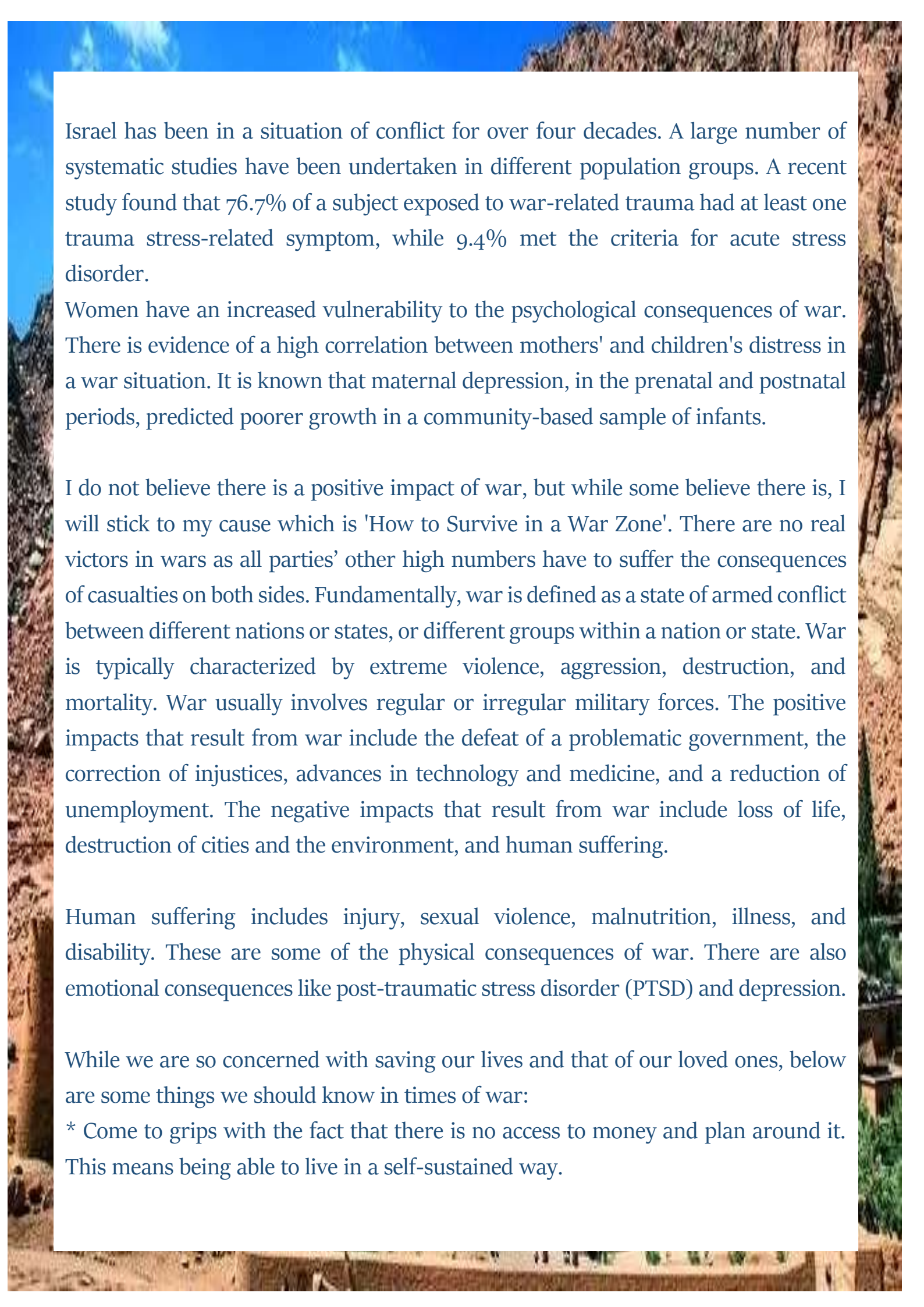


The recent years are significant in understanding the relationship between war and mental health. The media brought to us the horror of the "war" situation in Iraq. Some quotations from the media depicted the impact of war on mental health; "War takes a toll on Iraq mental health...", "War trauma leaves physical harm...", and "War is hell..." It has an impact on the people who take part and never heal. War is terrible and beyond the understanding and experience of most people. Some generations have grown up knowing only war. War has a catastrophic effect on the health and well-being of a nation. Studies have shown that conflict situations cause more mortality and disability than any major disease. Death, as a result of war, is simply the tip of the iceberg. Other consequences besides death include endemic poverty, and social decline to mention only a few.

In Uganda, Sudanese refugees fled into Northern Uganda in two waves in 1988 and 1994. Symptoms of PTSD post-traumatic stress disorder and depression were found to be highly prevalent among Sudanese children living in the refugee camps. The consequences of long-term exile were still present 5-15 years later, with an increase in the rates of suicide and alcohol use.

A study carried out on ex-combatants in Somalia found high psychiatric morbidity and the use of khat. UNICEF study found evidence of the psychological effects of the prolonged conflict situation in a high proportion of a sample of 1,000 children.

The mental health problems of the survivors of genocide in Rwanda have been documented in a result community-based study examining 2,091 subjects, 24.8% met symptoms for PTSD, and respondents who met PTSD criteria were less likely to have a positive attitude towards the Rwanda National trial suggesting that the effect of trauma need to be considered if reconciliation has to be successful.



Israel has been in a situation of conflict for over four decades. A large number of systematic studies have been undertaken in different population groups. A recent study found that 76.7% of a subject exposed to war-related trauma had at least one trauma stress-related symptom, while 9.4% met the criteria for acute stress disorder.

Women have an increased vulnerability to the psychological consequences of war. There is evidence of a high correlation between mothers' and children's distress in a war situation. It is known that maternal depression, in the prenatal and postnatal periods, predicted poorer growth in a community-based sample of infants.

I do not believe there is a positive impact of war, but while some believe there is, I will stick to my cause which is 'How to Survive in a War Zone'. There are no real victors in wars as all parties' other high numbers have to suffer the consequences of casualties on both sides. Fundamentally, war is defined as a state of armed conflict between different nations or states, or different groups within a nation or state. War is typically characterized by extreme violence, aggression, destruction, and mortality. War usually involves regular or irregular military forces. The positive impacts that result from war include the defeat of a problematic government, the correction of injustices, advances in technology and medicine, and a reduction of unemployment. The negative impacts that result from war include loss of life, destruction of cities and the environment, and human suffering.

Human suffering includes injury, sexual violence, malnutrition, illness, and disability. These are some of the physical consequences of war. There are also emotional consequences like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression.

While we are so concerned with saving our lives and that of our loved ones, below are some things we should know in times of war:

* Come to grips with the fact that there is no access to money and plan around it. This means being able to live in a self-sustained way.

* Most important, and usually ignored, is the reality that you live in an arena of pure politics. Pure politics distilled down means answering 2 questions:

1. What will you kill for?
2. What will you die for?

You will either figure out quickly that most people want to survive and if it is at your expense, so be it, or you will find out the hard way. War is the most politicized event a human being can live through. It is either us or them. People that you were friends with and liked, may decide they do not like/trust you. If your safety gets in the way of someone trying to keep their family safe, it is a no-brainer to say you are the screwed party.

Here Are Some Tips to Help Survive a Warzone:

* Move to an area far from fighting if you can. These could be rural areas or strategically unimportant towns. There may be designated civilian safe zones set up. Travel to one of these if there is one nearby. Unfortunately, your home may become unsafe in the event of a war or invasion. If your area is no longer safe, do your best to relocate and find another place to live. Where you end up settling depends on the progress of the war. Stay updated on the fighting so you can know which areas are safer.

* Rural areas may be safer because fighting is often focused around cities and population centers. However, remember that you will need some jungle boy experience to stay alive here. It may also be more difficult to receive aid since relief organizations also focus on cities.

* Gather information from trusted sources. Having information about what areas are free of active conflict, where you can get supplies or medical care, and how you can escape dangerous situations is crucial to your survival. Only believe information provided by trustworthy NGOs, journalists, or authorities in your region. During an invasion, disinformation can be used as a tactic to frighten or otherwise destabilize the population. Be careful believing news you hear from unverified accounts on social media or by word-of-mouth.

* Avoid confrontation as much as you can. While a war probably makes you think of fighting, in reality, civilians usually survive a war by avoiding fights as much as possible. Unless you are in the armed forces, in most cases you are much safer avoiding confrontations. Lay low and do not start fights with people. Take care of your family, friends, and yourself, but try not to get involved in problems that do not affect you.

* If hostile troops enter your area, it is best to hide or avoid interacting with them at all costs. Make it clear you are not a threat.

* Do not try to steal from people or hurt anyone except in self-defense. This will lead to confrontations as desperate people try to defend themselves.

* Avoiding fights may also mean fleeing an unsafe area. Always be ready for this possibility to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

* Locate a clean water source. Water is the most important resource for humans, and clean water may become scarce in wartime. Bottled water sources will only last so long. As soon as the war starts, find all of the potential water sources in your area. Do the same for every new area you move into. Nearby lakes and streams are potential water sources, but you may have to purify the water before drinking it.

* If you live near the ocean, do not drink salt water. It is difficult to resist, but saltwater will cause serious illness.

* If you do find a clean water source try to preserve your bottled water for emergencies.

* If no other water sources are near you, collect rainwater for drinking and bathing. Leave out buckets and tubs to catch the rain when it falls. Remember to purify all rainwater before you drink it.

FINALLY,

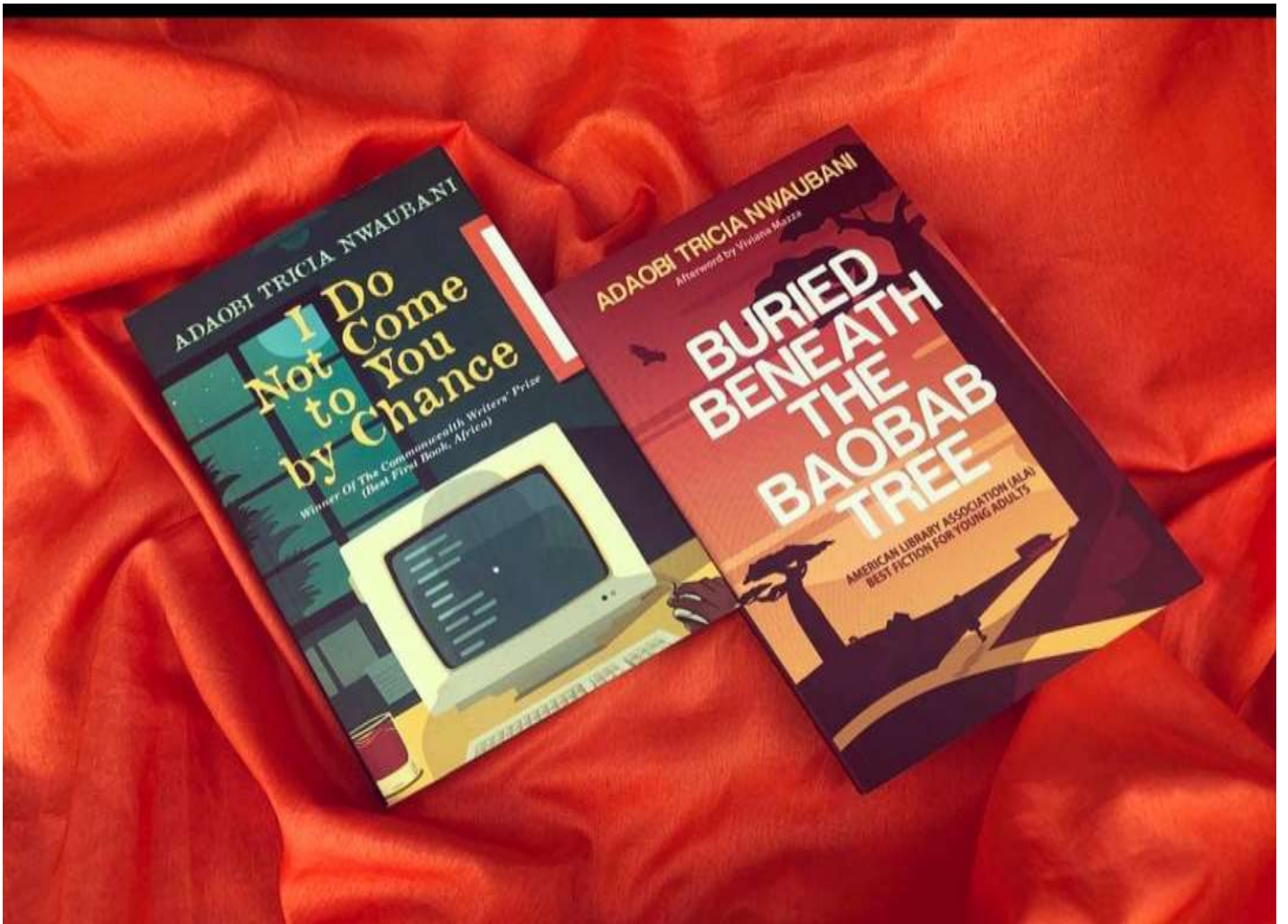
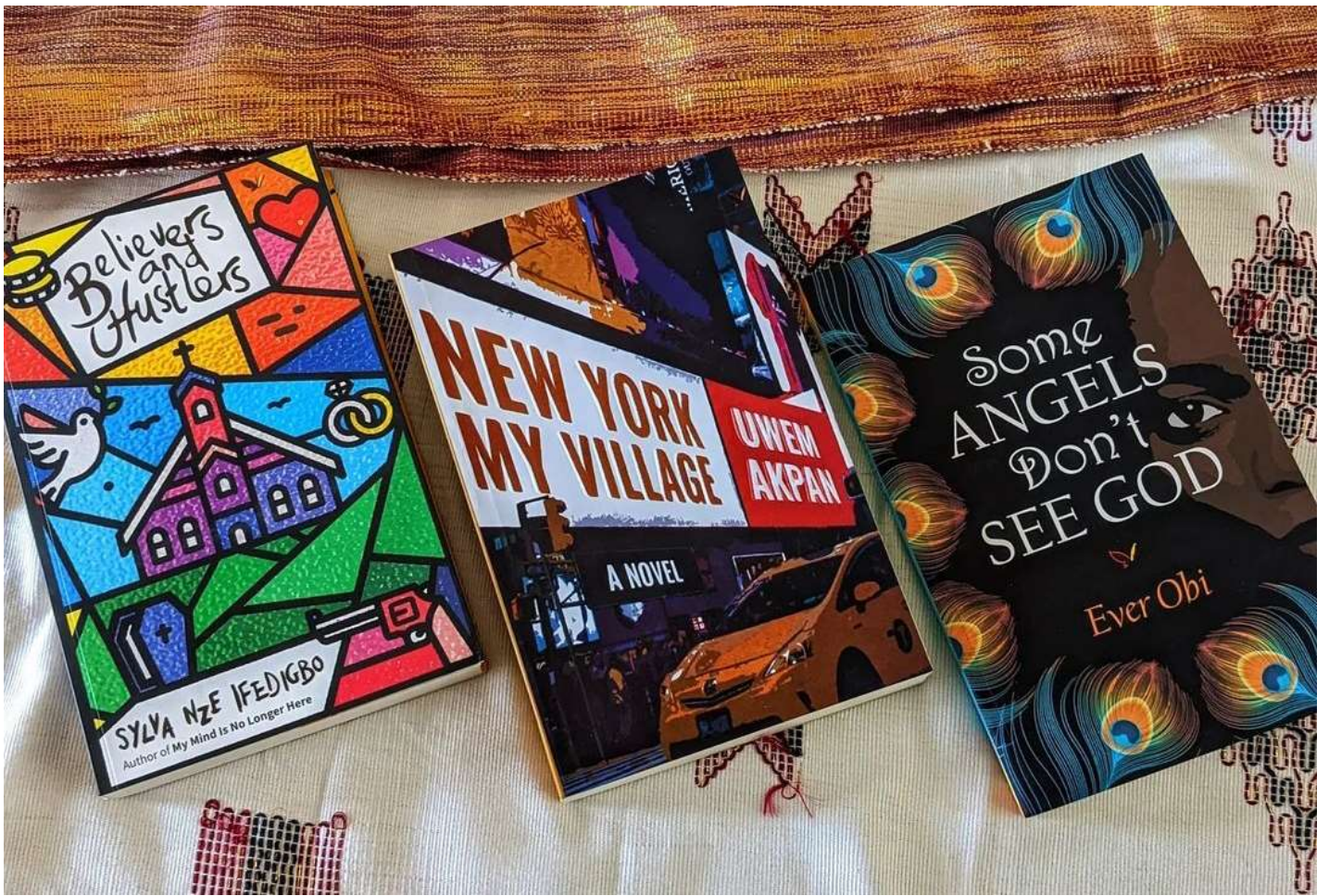
Build a positive mental attitude... In any survival situation, maintaining your composure and ability to think logically is key. Letting despair and grief take over your mind will make logical thinking much harder. This will be especially difficult in wartime, but it is extremely important to keep a positive mindset. Do all you can to think positively!

Developing and refining emergency plans can help you stay positive. It ensures that you will always have a procedure in place if something goes wrong.

Take steps to reduce anxiety and keep your head clear in stressful situations.

Building and maintaining personal relationships can help you keep your composure.

In my African mind, I will say TRUST IN GOD. It is so difficult for humans to put things together when facing little challenges but it is very important to trust in God.





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DECEMBER 2023

THE GIFTED HANDS OF
CHRISTINE ZARI

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THE GIFTED HANDS OF CHRISTINE ZARI



The Inspiring Story of passion, not giving up, and conquering odds behind Christine Teddy Bear

Starting out with nothing Christine never wanted was to be poor, so she had to be innovative decided to learn crocheting with her friend, then got a loan from her to start her business.

Gamuchirai Christine Zari, a South African, creates and markets cute teddy bears to support her family.

Christine, who uses wool to crochet adorable teddies and other stuffed animals, decided to learn how to crochet from her friend because of her family's financial situation and her desire to use it to help her family.

The last thing she wanted was to be poor, so she had to be innovative. After her crochet classes with her friend, she got a loan from her to start her business.

She launched her little business, Christine's Teddy Bears, in 2017. In her words, "I work from home and sell [my teddies] in the streets and markets.



I started this business because my mom couldn't afford fees for me, so I had to drop out of school. My name is Christine I started crocheting in 2017 after I dropped out of school. My idea is to make the little ones have memories of my work. People around me and my family inspire me. My goal is to become a big company that will be able to employ more unemployed women. I have managed to build my own house in my rural area. My brand needs some more sales to grow. People can buy using courier services in and out of South Africa. I believe those who still have the chance to school need to take it seriously because without education there is no life. In business, you must not give up and you must take risks to achieve your goals".



Currently, Christine uses the money she earns selling the toys to support her mother, brothers, and son. According to her, she has dreams of opening her own company and supplying her teddy bears to many stores.



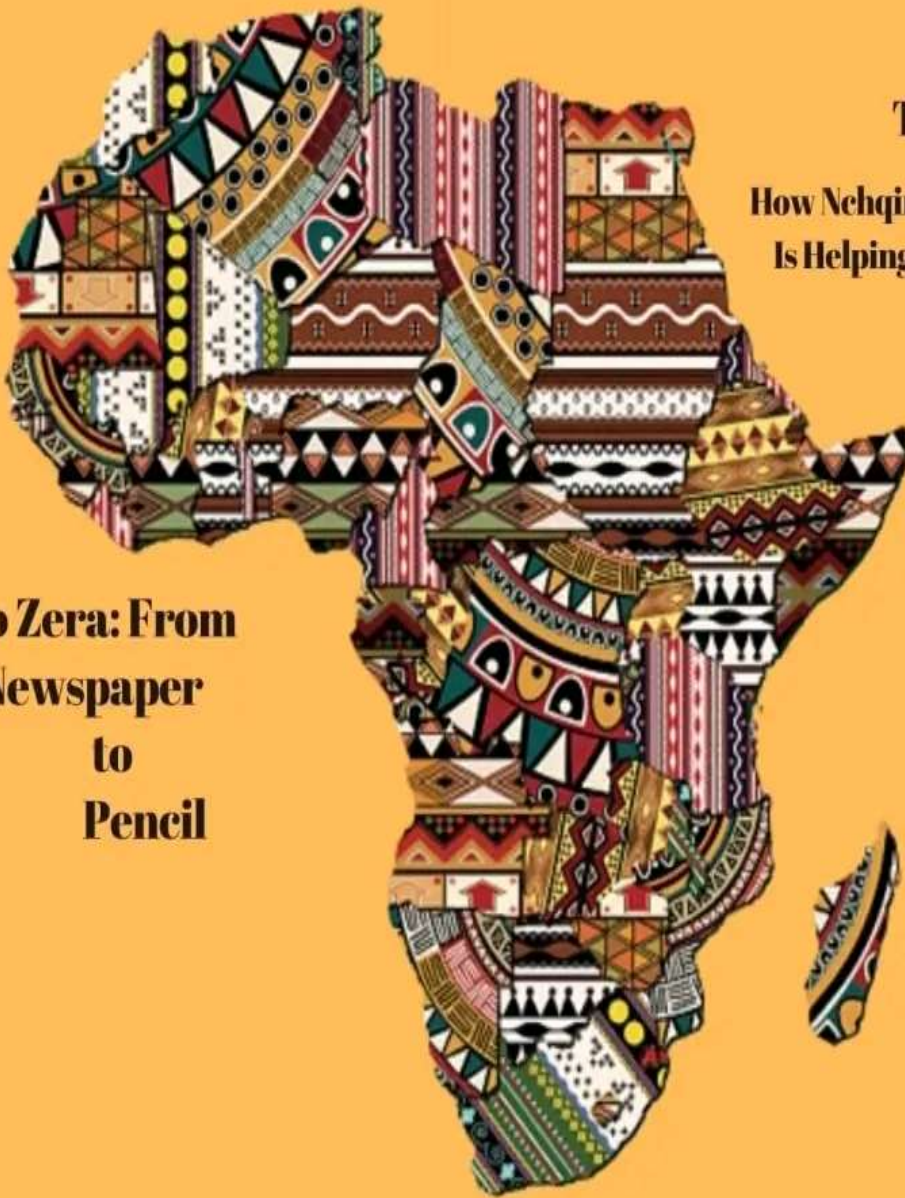
You can place your order for Christine's Teddy Bear by contacting Christine via:

- WhatsApp @ +27 64 368 1507 - Facebook @ Christine's Teddy Bears - Instagram @ Teddiesbychristine



THE AFRICAN LANE MAGAZINE

July 2022



TOHKAM

**How Nchqini Tathiana Claudia
Is Helping to Fight Domestic
violence**

**Eco Zera: From
Newspaper
to
Pencil**

8 SHADES OF A STRIVING AFRICA

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UNRAVELING THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE WORLD OF TECH

The world is changing from traditional ways to doing things on the Internet, like money transfer, business, designs, and a lot of others.

When it comes to tech there are a lot of unanswered questions and Africans who are in the field or want to go into the field have little or no knowledge about it. Especially when it has to do with coding
So join me as two professionals give a deeper view into the world of coding.

How long have you been in the world of tech? What can you tell us about coding?

I have been in tech for Two Years. Tech is tough. Coding is a lot. You need to understand the foundation and continuous learning because it is too broad and too big.
So whoever is coming into tech should have it in mind that it's not as easy and fast cash as it is portrayed out there.

How long have you been in the world of tech? What can you tell us about coding?

I have been in tech for Two Years. Tech is tough. Coding is a lot. You need to understand the foundation and continuous learning because it is too broad and too big.

So whoever is coming into tech should have it in mind that it's not as easy and fast cash as it is portrayed out there.

Why has tech, especially coding, become the latest gold mine?

Because there is a demand for it. And it's not like what is being portrayed out there that 'once you start it you will be rich in the next six months' which is not true and that easy because before people will start demanding your services it will be over 2 to 3 years. Because by then you have been grounded in the field.

It's not the gold mine people believe it is but it's a versatile industry and being a tech person one can be a frontend developer, backend developer, a Web3 engineer, etc. It has a lot of branches or aspects and the whole world revolves around tech because the world is changing from traditional ways to doing things on the Internet, like money transfer, business, designs, and a lot of others

How and where can people learn to code?

a. Register for boot camps: There are lots of boot camps that are not expensive. And the advantage is that it offers structured learning. It gives you one-on-one interaction and class work and you are committed and report to someone. Learning tech is not easy so being in a boot camp will help keep you in check.

b. Learn online: There are tons of videos online, especially on YouTube. You can see videos that can guide, direct, and teach you any aspects of coding online.

What grounds do you see coding breaking in the future, maybe 5 to 10 years?

Coding has broken ground already. Don't see it as coding, see it as tech. Because it has gone far and people outside Africa are doing almost everything with tech over here in Africa we are trying to catch up. Tech makes life easy; WhatsApp and Facebook today, Mark Zuckerberg started coding Facebook in 2016. In Africa, over the years, I see more people getting into tech.

How can a tech person get coding jobs?

How to get coding jobs is through networking. The market is too saturated just like a school where thousands of graduates come out every day so there are thousands of people applying for the same tech work. But if you know people working in the tech that knows your capabilities they can help you. And you need to be good.

So first to get a job in Tech you need to be good and know your stuff. You can network with senior software developers by reaching out to them on Facebook, X(Twitter), and LinkedIn, and let them mentor you on what to do

As they are helping you out you can also show them what you can do and they can refer you for a job. So this is how tech works because applying for and getting tech jobs is difficult.

What in your opinion, should young people do to achieve success in this field?

You have to constantly learn and keep learning. I have seen software developers who have been in the field for 7 years going back to learn something new. In this field, things keep changing and updating. If you do not keep learning and be up to date in your area of expertise they will beat you out of a job. It's consistent learning. you should learn and keep learning. At times you will get frustrated, and your code might not work out. Things will be messed up and all but it's from this failure you will use to understand more. Also attend seminars, boot camps, and meet up with other tech persons. Expand your mind, be open to new things, and learn

Advice,

Keep pushing, keep doing what you are doing it is not going to be easy, continue learning and be persistent.

Another programmer

How long have you been in the world of tech? What can you tell us about coding?

I started programming in the year 2011 as a website designer. I used software like Notepad, Microsoft Frontpage, Sublime Text, Adobe Dreamweaver, and eventually VS code.

About coding,

Imagine coding is like creating your virtual world. You know how in video games, you can control characters and make them do cool stuff? Well, coding is like having superpowers to make those characters and worlds from scratch!

It's a bit like giving instructions, but not to people – to computers. Computers are smart, but they need very clear and detailed instructions. That's where coding comes in. You get to be the boss, telling the computer what to do and how to do it.

Now, think of coding languages like secret codes that only you and the computer understand. There are lots of these languages, like Python, JavaScript, or even Scratch. Each has its superpowers, and you get to choose which one you want to use.

Coding is like solving puzzles. You have a challenge, and you need to figure out the steps to solve it. It's a mix of creativity and logic. You can build websites, games, or even apps. Ever played a game and thought, "I wish it had this feature!"? Well, as a coder, you can make that happen.

The coolest part? Mistakes are part of the game. It's like playing a level and learning from each try. In coding, we call these mistakes "bugs," and finding and fixing them is like being a detective.

And guess what? You don't need to be a genius to start coding. Anyone can do it! There are tons of resources and communities to help you along the way. So, coding is not just for tech wizards; it's for creative thinkers, problem solvers, and anyone who wants to make things happen in their virtual world.

Finding coding jobs involves a mix of strategies. Here are several approaches:

a. **Online Job Platforms:**

- i. LinkedIn: Create a strong LinkedIn profile showcasing your skills and experience. Connect with professionals and follow companies.
- ii. Indeed, Glassdoor and Monster are job boards where you can find various tech-related positions.

b. **Freelance Platforms:** Upwork, Freelancer, Fiverr; If you're interested in freelancing, these platforms connect you with clients looking for coding services.

c. **Company Websites:** Check the careers section of the websites of companies you're interested in. Many post job openings directly on their sites.

d. **Networking:** Attend tech meetups, conferences, and workshops. Networking often leads to job opportunities through personal connections.

e. **Recruitment Agencies:** Some agencies specialize in tech recruitment. Submit your resume to them, and they may match you with suitable positions.

f. **GitHub and GitLab:** Contribute to open-source projects on platforms like GitHub. It's a great way to showcase your skills, and sometimes job opportunities arise from such contributions.

g. **Tech Job Boards:** Websites like Stack Overflow Jobs, Dice, and GitHub Jobs focus specifically on tech roles.

h. **Social Media:** Follow companies and recruiters on Twitter and other platforms. Sometimes, job opportunities are shared through social media.

i. **Build a Portfolio:** Create a personal website showcasing your projects. This not only demonstrates your skills but also gives employers a glimpse of what you can do.

j. **Coding Bootcamps:** If you've attended a coding boot camp, they often have partnerships with companies, and some even have dedicated job placement support.

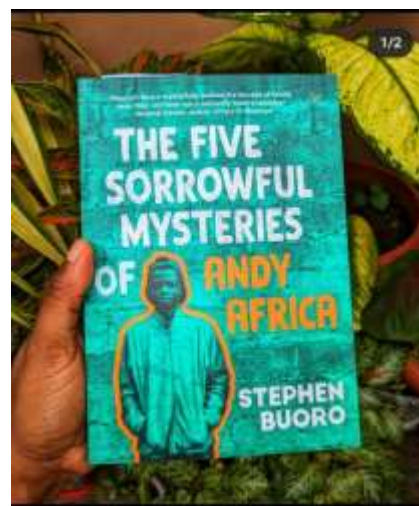
k. **Internships:** Consider internships, especially if you're a recent graduate or transitioning to a tech career. They can be stepping stones to full-time positions.

Remember to tailor your resume and portfolio to each job application, emphasizing the skills and experiences most relevant to the position. Also, don't shy away from entry-level positions if you're just starting; they can be valuable stepping stones in your career.

LIST OF Novels AFRICANS SHOULD READ



1. **All That It Ever Meant** by Blessing Musariri
2. **All the Children, Scattered** Beata Mairesse Umubyeyi
3. **A Spell of Good Things** by Ayobami Adebayo
4. **Butter Honey Pig Bread** by Francesca Ekwuyasi
5. **Call and Response** by Gothataone Moeng
6. **Daughter in Exile** by Bisi Adjapon
7. **Days Come and Go** by Hemley Boum
8. **Edge of Here** by Kelechi Okafor
9. **Even When Your Voice Shakes** by Ruby Yayra Goka
10. **Honey and Spice** by Bolu





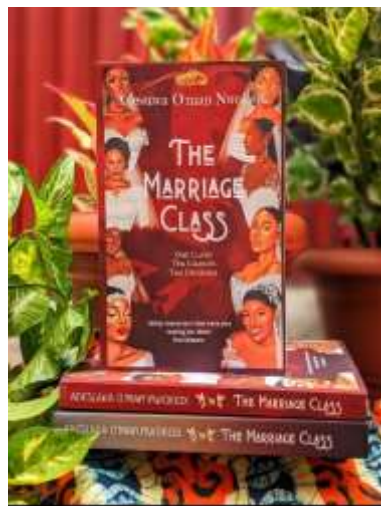
- 11. **How to Say Babylon** by Safiya Sinclair
- 12. **Jellof Rice and Other Revolutions** by Omolola Ijeoma Ogunyemi
- 13. **Loose Ties** by Yara Nakahanda Monteiro
- 14. **Lucky Girl** by Irene Muchemi-Ndiritu
- 15. **One Chance Dance** by Efua Traoré
- 16. **On the Rooftop** by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton



- 17. **Out of Darkness, Shining Light** by Petina Gappah
- 18. **Patience is a Subtle Thief** by Abimbola Ishola Ayodeji
- 19. **Pleasant View** by Celeste Mohammed
- 20. **Riambel** by Priya Hein
- 21. **River Spirit** by Leila Aboulela
- 22. **Shigidi and the Brass Head of Obalufon** by Wole Talabi



- 23. **What Napoleon Could Not Do** by DK Nnuro
- 24. **When We Were Birds** by Ayanna Lloyd Banwo
- 25. **When We Were Fireflies** by Abubakar Adam Ibrahim
- 26. **The Beautiful Side of the Moon** by Leye Adenle
- 27. **The Bishop's Prodigal Daughter** by Timendu Aghahowa



- 28. **The Five Sorrowful Mysteries of Andy Africa** by Stephen Buoro
- 29. **The Marriage Class** by Adestina Omani Nwokedi
- 30. **Tomorrow I Became A Woman** by Aiwanose Odafen



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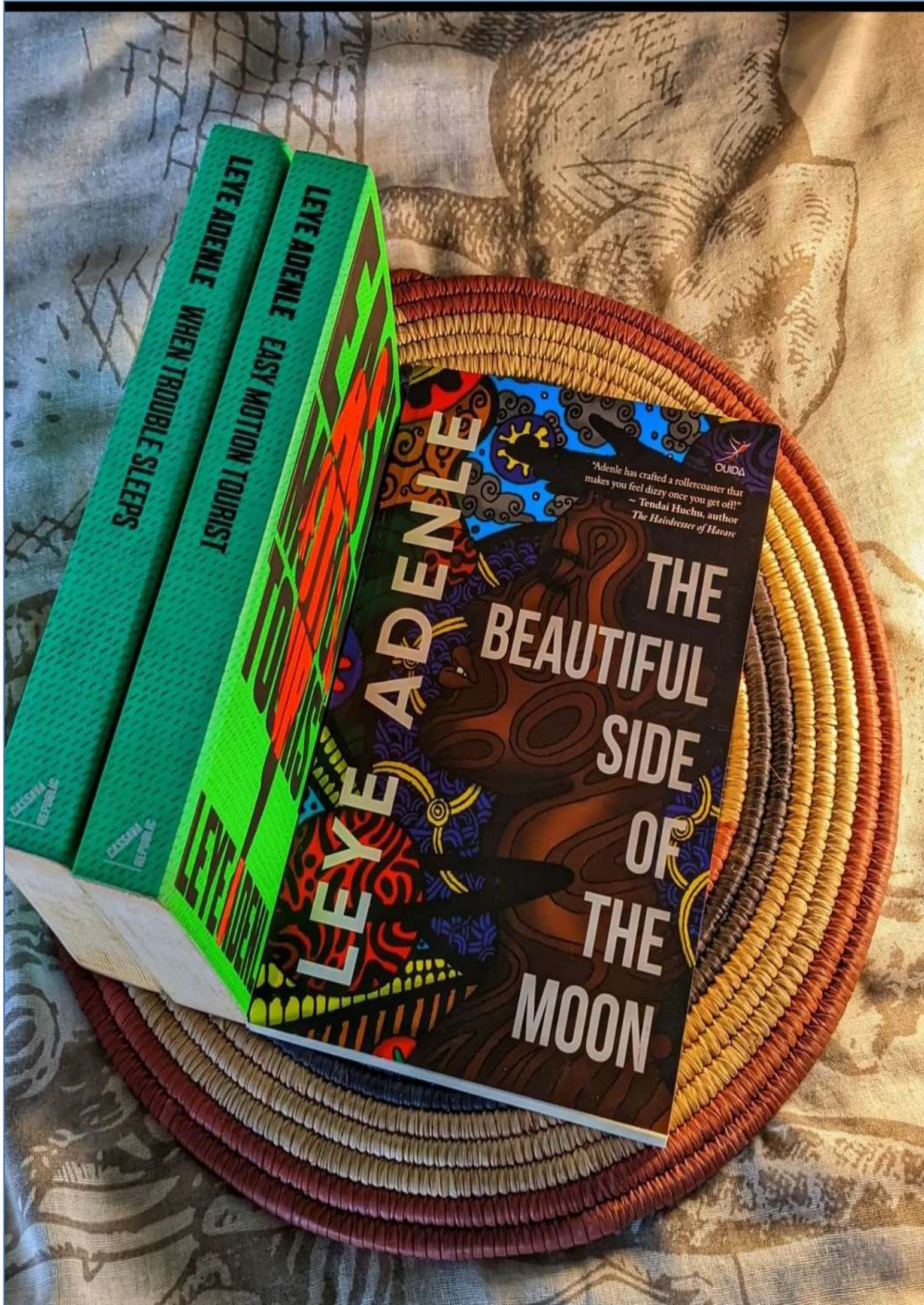
CASEREA
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LEYE ADENILE

THE
BEAUTIFUL
SIDE
OF
THE
MOON

"Adenle has crafted a rollercoaster that makes you feel dizzy once you get off!"
~ Tendai Huchu, author
The Hairdresser of Harare

OUIDA



A pine branch with snow, red berries, and pinecones is positioned on the left side of the image. The branch is covered in white snow and has several red berries and two pinecones attached to it. The pinecones are also covered in snow.

Merry Christmas

An A Very Happy New Year

**HAVE A
BLESSED
2024**

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