

INTERSECTION

Written by

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INT. ROOM. MORNING

Fade in.

Figure sleeping face up on a worn mattress in a small dingy room. It's Aliyu (early 20's, bearded, lean) and he is not having pleasant dreams.

He comes awake abruptly. Rolls out of bed with a cry. He calms down when he gets his bearings.

We hear...

Deep, wracking coughs coming from somewhere nearby.

Aliyu sighs.

INT. BEDROOM. CONTINUOUS

It's only slightly bigger than Aliyu's room. Sparse, old and worn furniture, a wooden bed frame that creaks...

A figure is bundled under wrappers, coughing piteously.

Aliyu stands by the door, watching, a look of concern on his face. He approaches the bed and sits, reaches out and gently shakes the figure.

ALIYU

(in Yoruba) Maami, wake up.

Mama Aliyu (early 50's but looks 70, lean, sickly) turns and squints at her son in the morning light. Another bout of coughing shakes her.

Aliyu passes her a cup of water on the table beside the bed and watches her drink in silence.

ALIYU (CONT'D)

Maami. Just rest today. Don't go to the market. I am expecting small money today. We will go to the doctor.

Mama Aliyu just grunts and snuggles back under the wrappers, turning away from her son.

Aliyu stares at her for a bit, then gently adjusts the wrappers around her. He eyes an old tin of milo on the table. Quietly, he reaches for it and opens it.

There is money inside.

Aliyu looks between the tin and his mother, then he quietly takes some of the money.

On second thought, he takes all the money, gently replacing the tin back in it's former position and gets up to leave.

Mama Aliyu starts coughing again.

MAMA ALIYU  
(Hoarsely) Aliyu...

Aliyu starts guiltily.

ALIYU  
I'm coming.

He quickly exits the room, throwing on a shirt and heading towards the front door.

He pauses at a side door, opening it to reveal...

Baskets of fruits on the ground. He grabs some fruits and heads out.

INT. KITCHEN. MORNING

A well lit, modern kitchen with all the bells and whistles. Tayo(mid 30's, handsome, polished) hums a lively tune as he puts finishing touches to a meal arranged on a tray. He places a single rose beside the dish and carries it to...

INT. MASTER BEDROOM. CONTINUOUS

The room is spacious and modern. Sunlight peeks out from behind heavy drapes. A figure is bundled under the duvet.

Tayo gently places the tray on the foot of the bed and opens the drapes. The figure stirs.

The duvet falls away as the figure turns and we see...

Sharon(late 20's, beautiful, svelte). She opens her eyes.

TAYO  
Hey beautiful.

SHARON  
Hey. What time is it?

TAYO  
It's almost 7.

Tayo presents the tray to her with a flourish. She laughs, delighted.

SHARON

Oh my.

TAYO

Happy anniversary babe.

She puts the tray aside and pulls him in for a kiss.

SHARON

I am the luckiest girl in the world.

They kiss some more. The kiss gets heated. Tayo withdraws, laughing softly.

SHARON (CONT'D)

(Pouting)

Do you really have to go to work?

TAYO

You know i do.

Sharon coyly pushes aside the duvet and bats her lashes at him.

SHARON

Are you sure?

Tayo doesn't need a second invitation.

INT. BETTING SHOP. MID MORNING

Regular midday crowd at a betting shop. Loud football commentary.

Aliyu stares apprehensively at the monitor on the wall, occasionally looking down to the betting slip clutched in his hand.

The display on the monitor changes, mixed reactions from the crowd. Cheers and cursing.

We see from Aliyu's face that he just lost.

He squeezes the betting slip and tosses it to the side.

EXT. STREET. CONTINUOUS

Aliyu stands outside the betting shop. He looks annoyed. Somebody shouts his name and he turns to look.

Across the street, two guys, Bawo(short, dreadlocks) and Timi(well built, chain smoker) wave at him. They motion him over.

Aliyu smiles in recognition. He heads in their direction.

He crosses the road leisurely, a car screams to a halt as the driver stomps on his brakes and horn.

Aliyu ignores him, smirking at his friends as they hail him.

The driver hurls some choice insults at Aliyu and drives off.

INT. OFFICE. MIDDAY

A modern office space. Tayo is busy at his desk, engrossed. There is a mountain of paper work on his desk. His phone rings. It's a video call from BABY.

Tayo answers with a huge smile on his face.

TAYO  
Hey Beautiful.

SHARON  
Baby. How is work?

TAYO  
Going good. Though I feel like I ran a marathon.

SHARON  
(purring) You did. I can still feel you touching me... pinning me down...

TAYO  
Babe! I'm at work.

Sharon begins to moan loudly and Tayo struggles to reduce the volume of his phone. Sharon bursts into laughter.

TAYO (CONT'D)  
You are a crazy woman.

SHARON

You are Husband to a crazy woman.  
That makes you crazy too. Come,  
where are you taking me tonight?

TAYO

It's a surprise.

SHARON

Hmmmmnn... You know I love  
surprises.

TAYO

Uh huh.

SHARON

I have a surprise for you too.

TAYO

Ooohhh...

SHARON

That reminds me. I want to go see  
Amina. She's sick and I promised  
I'll drop by and check on her.

A secretary steps into the office and places some documents  
on his desk. Tayo waves her away.

TAYO

Uh huh..

SHARON

Just a brief visit. Maybe buy her  
some fruits or something. You can  
pick me up at her junction when you  
get out of the office.

TAYO

That'll be around 6, 6:30. Good  
enough?

SHARON

Awesome. I love you, boy.

TAYO

You better.

SHARON

See this one! Shift e!

Tayo noisily blows her a kiss. The call disconnects. Tayo has  
this stupid grin on his face. He dives back into work with  
renewed vigor.

INT. BEDROOM. MIDMORNING

Mama Aliyu sits up in bed. She reaches for the cup beside the bed. It's empty.

MAMA ALIYU  
(hoarsely) Aliyu! Aliyu!!

No response.

She struggles out of bed. Deep coughs make her sit back in bed. Her eyes fall on the Milo container. She reaches for it and opens it.

She sighs deeply, resignation evident in every breath.

She gets to her feet and slowly goes about her waking rituals.

She goes into a side room and slowly drags baskets of fruits out.

EXT. STREET. EVENING

A lonely untarred street, low budget housing area.

Sharon turns and waves goodbye to her friend as she leaves through the gate.

She glances at her wrist watch. Its almost 6pm. Dusk fast approaching.

Smiling to herself, Sharon fishes her phone from her bag.

She walks down the road towards the junction, passing three guys smoking weed and walking the other way.

It's Aliyu and his two friends.

They catcall after her, she totally ignores them.

The trio stop in their tracks and leer at her.

BAWO  
(Chortling)  
See as the babe just fashi us. She  
no even look our side.

Timi takes a drag of his roll and glowers at Sharon's retreating form. He isn't laughing and has a dangerous look in his eye. He takes one final puff and flings the blunt aside.

Bawo stops laughing when he realizes he is the only one that thinks its funny. He glances uncomfortably at Timi and then at Aliyu who shakes his head quickly.

Timi starts walking in the direction the girl was walking.

ALIYU

Timi...

TIMI

I just wan talk to am.

Bawo hesitates then follows. Aliyu just stands there staring.

Bawo turns and sees he hasn't moved.

BAWO

Aliyu?

Aliyu reluctantly follows his friends.

EXT. STREET. CONTINUOUS

Sharon is standing by the junction. She glances at her wristwatch. Tayo is late. The junction is deserted and dusk is fast approaching.

She calls Tayo's phone again, turning just in time to see the three hoodlums from before approaching.

The line begins to ring.

INT. OFFICE. EVENING

Tayo is engrossed with work. His phone rings, It's Baby!

But he doesn't hear it.

The phone rings again, He glances at the phone, then at his wristwatch and curses. Time has flown.

He guiltily lets the phone ring, quickly packing up his things.

EXT. STREET. EVENING

Sharon is scared and trying not to show it. The thugs are leering at her as they approach. They box her in.

SHARON

Can I help you?



TIMI

Yes. You can help us. We bin dey  
call you, why you bone us, dey  
carry face like say we no be human  
being abi?

SHARON

Excuse me?

TIMI

(Mimics her) excuse me... you deaf?

SHARON

Look, I don't want any trouble. My  
husband is coming to pick me...

TIMI

Wetin this one dey yarn? All this  
girls wey go dey do like say na  
them get the world. Say nobody fit  
talk to una. abi? Abi???

Sharon backs off, fear twisting her features.

INT. OFFICE. EVENING

Tayo heads out of the office at a half run. Sharon must be  
really pissed. He dials her number. It begins to ring...

EXT. STREET. EVENING

Sharon's phone begins to ring. It says Hubby.

SHARON

That's my husband calling me... he  
is close...

Timi slaps the phone out of her hands. Sharon tries to run  
but Bawo grabs her.

BAWO

If you shout...

Aliyu tries to interfere, getting between Timi and the  
terrified lady.

ALIYU

Timi... Hafa, calm down na...

TIMI

Guy, I go stab you oh, you dey mad?

Timi grabs the front of Aliyu's shirt brandishes a pen knife to prove his point.

Sharon begins to scream. Bawo drags her away from the junction with Aliyu's help.

Bawo tries to silence her but she is putting up one hell of a fight.

TIMI (CONT'D)  
Shut up. Bawo, hold this girl na.

In her desperation, Sharon yanks her arms free and scratches Timi's face, drawing blood.

TIMI (CONT'D)  
Bitch!

Timi stabs her in retaliation. Sharon goes down, clutching her abdomen. Aliyu grabs Timi, slapping the bloody knife to the side and preventing him from stabbing her again.

The trio stare at Sharon's whimpering form, watching blood seep out from underneath her.

Like a switch is thrown, their paralysis is broken and they swing into action.

TIMI (CONT'D)  
Grab e bag! Quick, quick.

Timi takes off, Bawo grabs Sharon's bag and hightails after him. Aliyu stares at Sharon's crumpled, whimpering form. His eyes wide, terrified. He should help... he wants to.

Instead, he runs after his friends.

Zero in on Sharon's phone, lying on the ground nearby...

Ringin'.

EXT. STREET. CONTINUOUS

The trio slow to a halt, veering off into an abandoned building. Timi furiously grabs Aliyu by the throat.

TIMI  
You be bastard? Why you hold me?!  
Ehn??

Bawo quickly gets between the two of them.

BAWO

Guy e don do. Make we fast comot  
from there.

Timi curses at Aliyu and grabs the bag from Bawo and upends  
its contents on the floor.

TIMI

(To Bawo) why you no carry the  
phone join?

BAWO

No be as you run I run?

Among the contents of the bag, there is a small wad of cash.  
They whistle appreciatively.

Timi deftly divvies up the money and hands each person their  
share.

Aliyu reluctantly takes the money.

TIMI

Wo, better lost o. This area go  
soon hot. I don go.

They shake hands and Timi and Bawo go in separate directions.  
Aliyu

Aliyu quickly walks off in another direction, pocketing the  
money. He doesn't get far.

We see in the distance...

A betting shop.

Aliyu stares at the sign.

EXT. STREET. EVENING

A jeep pulls up at a familiar looking junction, headlights  
cutting a swath in the growing darkness.

We see it's the same junction Sharon had been waiting at.

A figure reclines in the car, the light from his phone  
display illuminates his features.

It's Tayo.

He calls Sharon again for the umpteenth time. It rings with  
no response. Tayo starts to get worried.

Could she have left already?

Tayo gets out of the car to look around. He dials her number one more time as he turns to get back in the car... and freezes.

We hear her ringtone faintly. It's coming from nearby.

TAYO

Sharon?

Tayo follows the sound.

He doesn't get far. What he sees almost makes his knees buckle in horror.

TAYO (CONT'D)

oh Jesus! Oh God no!

INT. BETTING SHOP. EVENING

Thinning crowd at the betting shop. The sounds of an ongoing football match playing over the speakers. The day's activities are rounding up.

Aliyu stares apprehensively at the monitor on the wall, occasionally looking down to the betting slip clutched in his hand.

His apprehension is palpable.

The screen's display changes.

Scores cascade down the screen.

EXT. STREET. DUSK

Tayo manages to carry Sharon to the car. He is barely holding it together. Sharon is whimpering in pain. She has lost too much blood.

TAYO

Hang in there babe, I'll get help.

He places her in the passenger seat and secures her seat belt. He pulls off his suit, balls it and presses it against her abdomen to stop the bleeding.

TAYO (CONT'D)

You'll be fine. You'll be fine. I'm here.

He runs to the other side and gets in the car.

With a squeal of tires, he speeds off.

EXT. BETTING SHOP. EVENING

Aliyu stumbles out of the betting shop in a daze. He looks dazed...

Then a huge smile cracks his face and we see...

A wad of cash in his hand.

He won!

Aliyu breaks into a brisk jog. He's going home..

INT. ROOM. DUSK

Aliyu bursts into the house excited.

ALIYU

Maami. Maami!!!

He enters the room, stares at the empty bed. He heads to the side room and takes in the empty space.

He groans and heads back out the door.

INT. TAYO'S CAR. DUSK

Tayo is near hysterical. He can't keep his eyes on the road. He swerves in and out of sparse traffic at breakneck speed, Tires squealing.

Beside him, Sharon is beginning to fade.

TAYO

Hang in there babe... Sharon! Don't you dare give up on me.

SHARON

(weakly) Tayo...

EXT. ROADSIDE STALL. DUSK

Mama Aliyu begins to pack up her stall. It has been a slow day. Her cough is getting worse.

Across the road, a figure waves excitedly as it approaches from an adjoining road.

We see it's Aliyu.

INT. TAYO'S CAR. DUSK

Sharon alternates between consciousness and unconsciousness. Tayo is distracted when Sharon starts crying.

SHARON

It hurts...

TAYO

I know babe, I know. Hang in there okay?

EXT. ROADSIDE. DUSK

Aliyu sets out across the road, grinning. He glances unbothered at the jeep speeding down the road, straight at him.

INT. TAYO'S CAR. CONTINUOUS

Sharon's whimpering ceases, dragging Tayo's attention. He furiously blinks away tears and sweat.

TAYO

Sharon? Sharon, stay awake baby, stay with me. Please!

EXT. ROADSIDE STALL. CONTINUOUS

Mama Aliyu watches in concern as her son starts towards her. Then she notices the jeep barreling down the road at breakneck speed.

It's not slowing.

Realization dawns, followed quickly by horror.

MAMA ALIYU

(Horrified) Aliyu!!!

INT. TAYO'S CAR. CONTINUOUS

Tayo is reaching over to hold the cloth against Sharon's wound. She slowly regains consciousness. Then her eyes widen suddenly...

SHARON

Tayo!!!

Tayo looks back at the road just in time to see the lone figure caught in his headlights.

He reacts instinctively and yanks his steering wheel to the side at the last moment.

EXT. ROADSIDE. CONTINUOUS

Aliyu stares paralyzed with horror as the jeep bears down on him. He freezes in mid-step, his eyes round.

The car swerves at the last moment and misses him by a hairsbreadth, climbing the curb instead and crashing into a stall.

His mother's stall.

Aliyu begins to scream.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM. MORNING

Aliyu comes awake abruptly. Rolls out of bed with a cry. Breathing heavily. He calms down when he gets his bearings.

We hear...

Deep, wracking coughs coming from somewhere near.

Aliyu sighs.

INT. BEDROOM. CONTINUOUS

It's only slightly bigger than Aliyu's room. Sparse, old and worn furniture, a wooden bed frame that creaks...

A figure is bundled under wrappers, coughing piteously.

Aliyu stands by the door, watching, a weird look on his face. He approaches the bed and sits, reaches out tentatively and gently shakes the figure.

ALIYU  
(in Yoruba) Maami, wake up.

Mama Aliyu (early 50's but looks 70, lean, tough) turns and squints at her son in the morning light. Another bout of coughing shakes her.

Aliyu passes her a cup of water on the table beside the bed and watches her drink in silence.

ALIYU (CONT'D)  
Maami. Just rest today. Don't go to the... the market. I'm expecting... expecting...

Aliyu abruptly stops talking. There is a look in his eyes, confusion mixed with a little trepidation.

Aliyu stares at his mother funnily. He can't shake the feeling that something is terribly wrong.

Mama Aliyu turns to regard her son.

MAMA ALIYU  
Aliyu. kilon soro?  
(Beat)  
What is wrong with you?

Aliyu visibly shakes off the feeling. He offers her a shaky smile.

ALIYU  
It's nothing, Maami. Try and rest.

Mama Aliyu stares at her son for a bit. She decides it's nothing and snuggles back under the wrappers.

Aliyu hesitates, then gently adjusts the wrappers around her. His eyes land on the tin of milo on the table.

There's that feeling again.

Quietly, he reaches for it and opens the tin.

There is money inside.

Aliyu freezes, poised between decision and indecision.

(Extended beat)

Blackout.