BARUA KWA BINTI

Oliver S. Oduor

Xania
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Xania by Goelway Ltd

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ISBN: 978-9914-50-538-2

Printed in Kenya
First Edition: January, 2024

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KIPEPEO
Sikuambii wapendeza
Ewe kipepeo
Rangi zako na madoa
Aina ainati
Mbawa zako, shina, pua
Na macho ya gololi
Yote haya bila shaka
Yashuhudia umeumbika.

Ila wanishangaza
Ewe kipepeo
Sifa sufufu zilotamba
Kuihusu yako mienendo
Mara amka twende tezi
Waliona ua zuri
Ama wacha twende omo
Tuloliacha lina asali.

Watakani? Nakuuliza
Ewe kipepeo
La ngamani lakulilia
Waliacha pweke na ukiwa
Halua kwishaimumunya
Ukapiga zako mbawa
Ila cha kusikitisha
Huridhishiwi ua moja.

SOMEONE FOR EVERYONE

Tempting indeed

Is this vain thought

Of life's constant speed

Leaving you all out

Everyone seems to

be finding their place

Save only you

With a gloomy face.

Frown not so hard

At this mirage of circumstance

Though looking so bad

This current instance

It won't be long

Sooner or later

You'll sing a song

As it changes for the better.

Envy not at all

Your sister and brother

It's pointless after all

Your life so much to bother

Don't you know there is one

Waiting somewhere for a fact?

And that someone for everyone

Is my message in fact.

THE PERFECT MATCH

Attention! Attention!

Ladies and gentlemen

Let me make mention

Of this special announcement

The arrival of the piece

Missing from the puzzle

Bringing a sudden end

To your search for answers.

Let us call to an end

All manner of confusion

All the factors that tend

To plunge us into delusion

Standing up in applause

Showing appreciation

The end of a worthy cause

That brought the solution.

Felicitation! Felicitation!

Felicitation are in order

For this auspicious occasion

Let's call the meeting to order

Before I reveal to you

The long sought piece

Showing it in plain view

Bringing perfect peace.

GOD GAVE ME YOU

I hope to say one day honey
That God gave me you
Though it doesn't yet appear what we'll be
But I know it's true
On my knees I have waited
Praying through and through
Choosing Of A Bride and The Marriage Of The Lamb
The Future Home too
I've read in total patience
Waiting for you

I trust that someday sweetheart
We'll walk the aisle with you
Though right now you and I don't yet see
The picture in full view
We appear to be looking at a mirage
Down down the avenue
But lay aside your worry darling
The chauffeur shall come for you
The rings by then will be ready
For us to say ' I do'

I know that this day my queen
Is just about due
I'm beginning to feel our Heavenly King
Returning me you
I've woken up from my deep sleep already
Can't you feel it too?
Look at the beautiful band my angel

And our wedding crew
Curious onlookers in my dream already
Singing ' God gave me you...'

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

What would you do

If you were a man

Single and searching

For that special one

Just to behold

Get her for your bride

To have and to hold

And get her to your side?

What would you do

If you allowed her

To steal your heart

And run away with it

To another camp

Where you just couldn't

Find her again

Because of the fence?

But what would you do

If somehow you knew

That it was for good

For this to be so

According to the plan

Of the Master planner?

Yet what would you do

To get back your heart?

WASTED CHANCES

After the handshake
He walked away
Thinking of his mistake
Through the following day
Such a gentleman
He surely had been
For his secret tears
Could hardly be seen.

He took to his knees
At the usual place
Seeking consolation
His creator's face
Praying in His presence
To be rid of the pain
Strength and more patience
To take heart again.

All he could recall
Was the tactful approach
With no intent at all
To result in reproach
But sadly brought to naught
Were all his advances
Bringing him much thought
Of his wasted chances.

Another day will arrive
Another day he will thrive
Now all of his test

Is to trust it's all for good
Wish them the very best
And lighten up his mood
For one day circumstances
Will recover his wasted chances.

NEWEST LOVE STORY
We've heard of Romeo and Juliet
The beloved characters
Of William Shakespeare
Also read of Isaac and Rebecca
Of love at first sight
But ours has never been told.

What of Christ and the Bride?
Redemption of the church
The greatest love story
How Christ gives His own life
To save that of His lost bride
But ours has just begun honey.

You remember how it was
Back in the eternal realm
It's just starting to manifest
Within this curtain of time
It appears to have just began
Yet it was before the beginning.

So give me your hand dear
Let us agree together
For two cannot walk together
Except they be in agreement
I must cherish you like myself
Your simple portion is to honor.

DONE DEAL

When the deep calls to the deep
There has to be a deep to respond
God works on both ends of the line
To accomplish His will and purpose
He cannot reveal it only on one end
While the other is left in darkness.

I have loved you already princess
That there's not an iota of doubt
All I'll do is now simply to wait
For the Lord to reveal it on your end
To confirm that truly there's a pull
Placed in you by Jehovah Himself.

I cannot try to engineer it out
Lest I help the chick to hatch
I will resist every temptation
Compelling you to see it my way
But will solely hang onto God
To complete his divine plan.

KADOGOO
Kadogoo e jamani!
Nakuita kadogoo
Nifananishe na nini?
Hulka yako ya kondoo
Haja gani ya miwani?
Yatosha macho kioo
Kutazama hadharani
Uzuri ulionao

Ucheshi na subira
Tabasamu isokoma
Mpole wa hasira
Yote bado sijasema
Si mchwa si duduvule
Uwapikuo bidii
Kujituma vilevile
Kwenye kazi sikwambii

Lakini ninalo swali
Nimalize kwa ufupi
Sifa zako nyingi kweli
Ila umekuwa wapi?
Nikimsaka mwenzangu
Sekunde hukutokea
Hata mara moja kwangu
Niweze kujionea.

HOW CAN I COME?

How can I come
unless you asked me to?
How am I welcome
unless I hear it from you?
I feel so afraid
to invite myself
And also ashamed
to impose myself.

How can I come
to say I love you?
How can I make
you believe it's true
I feel so limited
to make you aware
And also uncertain
until you'd want to hear.

How can I come
to know you're the one?
How can I tell whether
I am your man?
I feel so eager
to know from our God
And also with vigor
to finally have your word.

THE BRIDGE

I see there's a bridge between
your heart and mine honey
So tell me something sweetie
Is it safe for me to cross over?
Is it strong enough moreover?
Or will it topple and fall over?

I think that we can use it to
bridge our hearts honey
So tell me something dear
Can you come over this way?
Should I cross over that way?
Or is it possible midway?

I realize that I'm yet to confirm
the bridge builder honey
So tell me something darling
Is He the Master Builder we know?
Has He truly bid us go?
Or are we trying to steal His show?

THE KEYS

Give me the keys to your
heart honey
I've sought so long to
have them
I seem not to have the
access yet
But I just know it's because
of the keys.

Open the door to your
heart dear
I've wanted so long to
come in
To come in and commune
with you
In a heart to heart connection
that's real.

Grant me a space in your
heart darling
I'm willing to take the
special chance
To try with all that's
within me
Just to make you feel
loved and happy.

TELL ME HOW

Tell me how I can
stop being official with you
It seems hard for us
Though I've tried so much to
Looking through your eyes
Confirms there's a pull therein
A deep in you responding
to the deep I harbor within.

Tell me how to
express my love to you
I get so excited each
time I come around you
Many are the calculations
that race through me thence
To show you my intentions
without causing an offense.

Tell me how to make you
feel truly loved
To speak your language
of love oh! My beloved
So that when I speak
it's a voice that cares
So that none of my lyrics
is a word that scares.

Tell me how with you
I can be free
To make you truly know

how much you mean to me
So that finally I may
bid this dilemma flee
To eventually reveal what
we were meant to be.

WHAT IF I CALLED

What if I called you to come
spend some time with me
What if I told you of what
quality time means to me
Would it mean so much to you too?
Would it bring joy and make you come through?
Or would it ring as empty talk that is not true?

What if I called you that
special name so rare
What if I told you how about
you so much I care
Would it raise your faith to believe in me?
Would it suggest the beauty that in you I see?
Or would it alarm you from me to flee?

What if I called you the rib that's
been missing from my side
What if I told you my feelings
with nothing to hide
Would it convince you to give me your heart?
Would it join your hand to mine on the spot?
Or would it repel you and bring my efforts to
naught?

What if I called you in the
earnest prayers that I make
What if I told you the marriage
decision I'd like to take
Would it send you on your knees also?

Would you fervently seek God on this more so? Or would you finally claim that all these are not so?

THE STRUGGLES

The struggles of a virtuous bachelor
Is the tale of my pen this day
An apt and true storyteller
I've become before you today
In the end to paint a picture
Of his hidden reality
With the hope that I may capture
His sincere and honest fidelity

He looks and looks and looks again
But waits for The Spirit to lead
And nears and nears and nears the gain
A praying mantis in deed
Then comes the advice from the pulpit
Flashing through the back of his mind
Then he slowly takes a retreat
If only from his adventure to unwind

Thereafter comes the time question
Is it too early? Is it too late?
I should just show the intention
Or is it worth the wait?
But I don't want to delay
My youthful ambitions
Or else I'll have to pay
For my delayed decisions

Shortly creeps in every doubt
Is she really the right one?
What does mother say about

Girls like this one?
Is she truly lovable?
Or there's something I must watch
Or is it unbelievable
To present her before church?

Finally he remains clueless
Whether left or right is the way
Only left under duress
To move and not go astray
Meanwhile the clock keeps ticking
Adding another one of the juggles
All the while these keep leaving
The virtuous bachelor with his struggles.

OH MY HEART!

Oh my heart!
Why beatest thou so fast?
Why take it all to heart?
Precious heart of mine
Don't you know it is well with my soul?
Don't you know that God is in control?
Or don't you think that He will console?

Tell me O loving heart
Why causest thou me gloom?
Why preemptest thou doom?
Oh fragile heart of mine
Don't you think it wasn't for me?
Don't you feel it mustn't be me?
Or do you think it has to be?

Show me O darling heart
Where are you running to?
What can you surely do?
Dear heart of mine
Don't you want me to show my face?
Must I vanish without a trace?
Or must you all my memories erase?

Oh throbbing heart!
Why draggest thou my eyes along?
Why make me sick without a song?
Oh wandering heart
Don't you see the coming day?
Don't you think twil come to stay?

Or thinkest thou only of today?
Tell me O heart, tell me.

CASTLES OF THE AIR

They've been built
Since time immemorial
From their foundations
To the lightning arrester
Some threaten to rip the sky
Others span from ocean to ocean.

Interesting is the number
Of architects and consultants
These structures bring along
Right from project conception
Building up all the way
To official inauguration.

Many are the materials
Used in their construction
Chosen just at random
Convenience the sole criteria
Making it so easy
To speedily hit the sky.

Smile not so fast though
At their wonderland technologies
For much is at stake
In their structural integrity
Because up to this day
Am yet to see just one.

THE CULMINATION

The struggle is real
The stakes are high
An uphill task
With multiple choices
Each with a consequence
A surrounding implication.

The venture begins
With an interesting realization
That a riven piece
Is missing from its position
Yet even more interesting
It could be found anywhere.

Around goes the emissary
Mission: to restore the piece
Climbing high mountains
Crossing plains and valleys
Traversing murky waters
Taming beasts of the wild.

Nowhere to be found
Is this missing piece
But the emissary is wasted
So he sits leaning on a tree
Hopelessly staring the horizon
The piece right before him.

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART

Someone said to me

"Listen to your heart"

And I answered within myself,

"What if someone has stolen

The heart in question

And ran away with it

Leaving you struggling to live?

What if living without them

Has proven but futile?

Compelling you to pursue them

Chasing after your stolen heart

In the midst of great opposition

From detractors of all kinds

Coupled with fightings and fears

From within and without.

And what if eventually

You catch up with them
And get back your heart
Into its place as your lifeline
But realize the noise within
Is so loud with confusion
That it causes you ringing ears
Till you can hardly listen?"

So I went on my knees
I sought His face;
The creator of my heart
I desperately invited Him
To come and hush the noise
Pick up the microphone
And be the only voice
I listen to in my heart.

LETTER TO MY HEART

Dear heart of mine

It has been a minute

Since we last talked

So I thought it nice

To pen down a few lines

Perhaps to let you know

Just how I feel

Maybe to get some closure.

You see, I am tired

Tired of this war

The war of dilemma

That you've been waging

Waging within in total silence

A silence as loud as a siren

Raging like an inferno

Consuming all my energy away.

Listen to me dear

Nature abhors a vacuum

That is exactly how

You ended up like this

But yet again remember

Time and tide are ruthless

Neither waiting for no man

Nor kind to indecision.

So please, give me a break

Is all I can ask

I badly need some rest

From this labor of love

Love that somehow seems

I've not known much about

Poor me! The novice

Trying to follow you; my heart.

HARD TO GET

Hard to get
I hear is its name
A classic sure bet
His ego to tame
Or maybe say let
Nomenclature be same
Stage well set
Old name but new game

Take your time so sweet
No need for hurry
Late reply his tweet
Set him up for worry
Keep him on his feet
Till he wants to marry
Longing badly you to meet
This trick they secretly carry

Sense him giving up?
Loosen grip a bit
Enough to set the trap
To bring him back on it
Then simply take a nap
His fire is well lit
Enough for another lap
Till he feels to quit

How long will it go?
This drama I ask
Till he finally let go

I put you to task
You fell in love long ago
But hide in a mask
Are you willing to forgo
In his sunshine to bask?

THE COLD FIRE

Intriguing is the story
Of this unfamiliar flame
Honestly quite scary
Even to the vessel
From which it came

The start was a glow
Graduating to a spark
Melting the snow
Lighting the dark
Excitement filled the air

Shortly the drama
Began to unfold
Blizzard of dilemma
Ushering the cold
The fire still burning

Making it colder
Situation like a fridge
Was this massive boulder
That broke the bridge
Return near impossible

Choices on the latter end
Remained feeling like a trap
Either bask and pretend
Or call it a wrap
The fire gone cold

HEART ATTACK

What a showdown it has been!

In the valley of decision

My mind against my heart

Throwing me into desperation

Sometimes at the brink

Of deep depression as well

The puzzle seeming unsolvable

The dilemma so paralyzing

But now it seems

It's coming to its end

So what's the verdict?

I also ask myself

Who is the winner

Is it my heart or my mind?

What is the outcome

Of this loud silence?

Do we finally have
The answer to this suspense?
Who carries the weight
In settling the great debate?
What will sort us out
Once and for all?
Is it what I feel in my heart
Or what is reasonable to my mind?

And on the suspense lingers
Perhaps just for a bit
Before it comes to a halt
And unveil the good news
The feeling in the air
Seems great already
Every other thing falling into place
Save the identity of the winner.

BARUA KWA BINTI

Imebidi nikwambie

Ya moyoni ewe binti

Hisia zikufikie

Maneno mie sipati

Basi nikuandikie

'Ngawa roho atiati

Ila bora ulijue

Penzi langu kwa wakati

Wakati sifuji tena

Kauli nimeshakata

Muda wayoyoma sana

Mwana si wangu 'tapata

Nishakupenda waona

Nashindwa kuficha hata

Ushikwapo shikamana

Hivyo tena sitasita

Sitasita kueleza
Ulivyoniteka moyo
Bimithili ya pweza
Anasavyo atakayo
Najaribu kujikaza
Kusahau kweli hiyo
Ila bado sijaweza
Kuyaganga yajayo

Yajayo sina habari
Yatakavyotuishia
Naona pia askari
Wengi washika doria
Mitutu yao tayari
Risasi kunifyatua
Wasihofu yote shwari
Wino umeniishia.