

Lynette's Valentine "Gift"

"A sword would not cut as deep," says Lynette, her eyes suffused with unshed tears. "I had no idea a human being could endure so much pain," she adds, fiddling with a paper punch on Stella's desk.

She is petite, chocolate brown and shy. But not as she narrates her painful ordeal to a group of GEMINI staff seated around the Director's office.

"Betrayal is an understatement word: I still believe I could be headed to a mental breakdown..." she says, boldly looking directly at me. I flinch.

You see, in December, Lynette was all set for her big day. She was going to be married! She was going to achieve what many of her age-mates had failed. All the preparations were ready. A guest list of about 350 people had accepted the invitation. The community had contributed foodstuff. Wedding dresses had been bought.

On the eve of the wedding, the bride groom disappeared. But nobody noticed until the last minute when the village church was filled to the brim, with Lynette preparing to walk down the aisle. Only a handful of close relatives knew Lynette was 2-months pregnant.

She was devastated. Completely destroyed. Two months later, a few days before Valentine's Day, the "bride groom" was discovered. He was living with Lynette's half-sister!

Starting April, Lynette will be among a group of fresh intakes for GEMINI's Bakery Unit but she will also be going through intense counseling sessions.

"Men are beasts," she declares. "But I know my future is more important than crying over somebody. I have a child coming my way. This supersedes anything else," she gently taps her belly, a thin smile crossing her face.

With your support, Lynette will be able to attend a six-week course on bread/cake baking. She will probably be absorbed as one of GEMINI's volunteers in Sales & Marketing and in July, we will be there awaiting her baby.

Thanks for your continued support!!!

