

CHAPTER 1

"**Chike**, can I have a little of your cake?" Chinedu asked, walking up to his school friend.

"No, you didn't give me any ice cream the other day," Chike answered, tilting away from his friend.

Chinedu and his siblings decided to stay with Aunt Chidinma for Christmas. Aunt Chidinma had a shop where she sold food items, and each child took turns helping her daily.

It was Chinedu's turn this time, and his school friend visited while he watched the shop.

"But you didn't ask..."

"Must I ask before you give?" Chike said, cutting him off.

"Yes, even the Bible says, ask, and it shall be given unto you?"

new term. He welcomed the new students and explained the school's rules and regulations. Mr. Okoro reminded everyone to respect seniors, teachers, and all elders.

When the assembly was over, the students marched into their classes. Miss Janet, the teacher of the primary five class, settled the pupils and began the day's lesson.

She was also their English language teacher, a subject everyone liked. The day went on fine, and the pupils quickly made friends with the new students.

During the lunch break, the children *dispersed*. Chinedu did the same but returned quickly to his class to prepare for the next lesson.

As he read, Chike walked into the classroom.

Chike was a very good person who came from a godly home and was raised well. He was also like Chinedu in character.

well.

They passed with flying colours.

They cried that day because they would not see each other again, but Chike promised to try to visit during the holidays.

Chinedu was admitted into 'The Lord's Glory Secondary School'. There, he made friends with students from different classes.

People liked him, both the teachers and the Principal, because of his excellent character.

Chinedu had good friends: Daniel, Chimdi and Chijioke.

"What would you like to be in future?" Asked Chimdi

"I want to be a medical doctor." Answered Daniel.

"I would like to be an engineer." Replied Chijioke.

"I wish to become a lawyer." Chinedu finally spoke.

"Wow" applauded Chimdi. "That's great!! I would like to be a pilot."

They all laughed as they went to their hostels.

One day, Bright had asked a student to call out Chinedu. He made it seem like an emergency and Chinedu, without thinking, came to the school gate rather than go to class.

The Lord's Glory Secondary School had zero tolerance for skipping classes and leaving school premises as a student who lived in the hostel.

Bright knew this and was hoping to set him up.

Chinedu ran to where the other student had told him an emergency was but found nothing, and no one was there. As

he was searching to make sure.

The school principal was making his rounds across the school. Classes had already begun, so he questioned Chinedu.

Chinedu explained the situation to him. They both went to the student who had called him out and, after investigation, found that it was all a prank by someone not even in the school.

Chinedu returned to his class.

Bright transferred to The Lord's Glory Secondary School by the next semester. Since no one knew the extent of his naughtiness, he could put up a *facade* and claim to be a good person.

To get close to Chinedu, he made a public show of knowing him as soon as he started classes.

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"But if only Bright had never come to the school and we had never made them friends, thinking that they came from the same primary school, maybe he would have remained a serious student." Daniel wondered.

"That's a lot of maybe's, and at this point, there is nothing we can do," Chijioke answered.

"Don't worry too much. Life will teach them a lesson. Hopefully, it won't be too late," Chimdi said, and they all returned to reading.

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he saw what they were doing.

"I thought you told our PE teacher that you were sick; what are you doing in the classroom and with balloons?" Chimdi inquired.

"Mind your business." Bright retorted.

Chimdi was the only one in class who hadn't become afraid of the troublesome boys, and Bright disliked him for that.

"I'll definitely report you since I've seen that you are only skipping classes," Chimdi said as he picked up his bat.

"It's just for fun. Why do you have to take everything so seriously? Calm down." Chinedu said, trying to stop him in the corridor.

"Leave me alone. Where are you taking me, Bright?" Chimdi questioned as Bright dragged him to the end of the JSS2 classrooms and into the last classroom, which acted as an

He blacked out.

Chinedu was sorry for what had happened and could not help but imagine how afraid Chimdi must have felt.

He apologised to everyone.

He was only allowed to remain in the school because Chimdi said Bright had locked him up and left the water balloon. The school also forgave him because he had come back to save Chimdi.

Bright, on the other hand, became afraid when the smoke started spreading and feared that Chimdi had died in a fire. He ran away and went outside the school.

This was enough to get him expelled.

Chinedu was finally well enough to return back to the hostel.

His friends helped him to copy his notes and put him through