
Sweet Heart not Tonight
Eli Constant Botchway

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DEDICATION

To Miss Commey Helina Naa Labiede,

A student at the University of Ghana,
And a dedicated member of Prayer Tribe UG and Pleasant Place Church Campus Ministry.

Thank you for your faith, support, and inspiration. May this book serve as a reflection of the journey we all walk as we seek to honor God in our relationships and choices.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Bishop Gideon and Lady Olivia Titi-Ofei have played a big role in shaping who I am today. Their advice and guidance have been priceless, and I'm so grateful for their ongoing support.

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INTRODUCTION.

Love is a powerful word—one that can bring the greatest joy but also the deepest confusion. In today's world, relationships are often filled with mixed signals, rushed decisions, and unexpected heartbreaks. As Christians, it's easy to get caught up in the pressures of dating, courtship, and marriage, especially when society's ideas of love don't always align with God's plan.

This book, "*Sweetheart Not Tonight*", is a journey through the life of Akosua, a young woman who is trying to navigate the maze of love, relationships, and faith in Accra, Ghana. Like many of us, Akosua faces the pressure of making decisions—should she date? Should she settle down with Kwame, the handsome, charming man everyone seems to like, or is there something deeper she needs to understand before taking that step?

In this story, you'll walk with Akosua as she faces the real challenges of love: attraction, heartbreak, temptation, and the search for true commitment. She will face

moments where her emotions push her one way, but her faith pulls her in another direction. With suspense building in every chapter, you will find yourself asking: What will Akosua choose? Will she follow the world's idea of love or wait on God's plan?

Set in the bustling streets of Accra, "*Sweetheart Not Tonight*" weaves Ghanaian culture with timeless Christian values. It explores the real struggles that young people, especially Christians, face when it comes to dating and marriage. This book is not just a love story—it's an educational guide for singles and those seeking to understand where they stand in making decisions about relationships. It delves into the deeper meaning of love, beyond the butterflies and fleeting emotions.

Whether you're wondering how to deal with lust, how to tell the difference between infatuation and real love, or how to build a relationship based on faith, this story will speak to you. It's about setting boundaries, learning patience, and discovering what it means to truly love someone the way Christ intended.

As you read, prepare for twists and turns, suspense, and moments that will leave you on the edge of your seat. But more than that, prepare to grow in your understanding of what real love is—a love that goes beyond feelings, a love that lasts.

Let's join Akosua on this exciting journey of discovering love, making decisions, and holding on to Christian values in a world that often pulls us in the opposite direction.

CHAPTER 1:

"The First Encounter"

The sun was setting over the bustling city of Accra. The streets were filled with the usual evening traffic—tro-tros honking, people rushing to finish the day's errands, and students heading home from university. Among the crowd was **Akosua**, a young woman in her early twenties. She was smart, driven, and deeply rooted in her Christian faith.

Akosua was pursuing her degree in Business Administration at the University of Ghana, Legon. Life for her was not just about lectures and exams; she was also active in her church fellowship on campus, where she led the women's ministry. Many admired her dedication, but being so focused on her faith sometimes made her feel out of place. It seemed like everyone around her was rushing into relationships, but she wasn't sure that was the right path for her, at least not yet.

Akosua often found herself struggling with the pressures that came from friends and society. *"Why aren't you dating yet? All the good men will soon be taken,"* her

friend Aba teased. Aba was carefree about relationships, hopping from one guy to the next, never seeming to get serious about any of them. But Akosua was different. She knew that dating wasn't just for fun. For her, it was a step towards marriage, and marriage was a covenant, not something to take lightly.

Yet, Akosua sometimes felt torn. As much as she believed in waiting on God's timing, the pressure to settle down was real. Everyone seemed to be pairing off, and she began to wonder if she was missing out. Maybe Aba was right, she thought. Maybe it wouldn't hurt to give dating a try.

Meeting Kwame

One Saturday afternoon, after a long day of classes, Akosua decided to stop by the **Café Afrikiko** near her campus. It was a peaceful spot where she could read, study, and enjoy a quiet moment. As she sat down with her favorite cup of tea, she noticed a tall, well-dressed man at the counter. He had an air of confidence about him, and as their eyes met, he smiled.

"*Is this seat taken?*" the man asked, pointing to the empty chair opposite her.

Akosua was caught off guard but managed to nod. *"No, please, you can sit,"* she replied politely.

*"My name's **Kwame**, by the way,"* he said, extending his hand.

"I'm Akosua," she responded, shaking his hand.

Kwame was different from the usual men who approached her. He was charming, well-spoken, and successful—a young entrepreneur who owned his own tech start-up. He had just returned from the States after finishing his MBA and was setting up business in Accra. Kwame had the kind of charisma that could easily draw people in, and Akosua couldn't help but feel intrigued.

As they talked, Kwame asked her about school, her plans after graduation, and her thoughts on life in general. The conversation flowed easily, and Akosua found herself laughing and sharing more about herself than she had planned to. Kwame was engaging, witty, and seemed genuinely interested in getting to know her. But beneath all the charm, something didn't sit quite right.

When Kwame asked if she had a boyfriend, Akosua shook her head.

"*Why? A beautiful, smart woman like you? I find that hard to believe,*" Kwame said, giving her a playful smile.

"I'm just waiting on God's timing," Akosua replied, half-joking but serious about her words.

Kwame laughed softly. "*Well, I'm here now, maybe I'm that 'God's timing' you've been waiting for.*"

Akosua smiled but stayed silent. Deep down, she knew that Kwame didn't share her values. He was the type of man who lived in the fast lane—successful, but not necessarily rooted in the things of God.

Internal Struggles Begin

That evening, Akosua returned to her hostel feeling both excited and confused. Kwame had asked for her

number, and though she hesitated at first, she eventually gave it to him. After all, what harm could come from just talking to him, right? But as she lay in bed, she found herself turning things over in her mind.

Her heart was telling her that Kwame was different, that he was the kind of man who could sweep any woman off her feet. But her spirit warned her to be cautious. She had been taught in church that first impressions could be deceiving, and that was something she couldn't ignore.

Proverbs 4:23 echoed in her mind, "*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*" She knew she had to be careful.

The next few days, Kwame kept his promise and called her frequently. He would invite her out to dinners at upscale restaurants, text her sweet messages during the day, and make her feel special. It wasn't long before Akosua's friends started to notice. Aba was particularly excited for her. *"Akosua, I'm telling you, this one is a keeper. Don't be too hard on yourself. You're always too careful. Just let yourself enjoy the moment."*

But Akosua couldn't shake off her reservations. Kwame seemed perfect on the surface—he had a good job, a bright future, and he was very attentive. But something was missing. He didn't talk about his faith, and when she brought up church, he would change the subject or make light of it. When she mentioned her commitment to abstinence before marriage, he raised an eyebrow and said, *"Well, I respect that, but you know, times have changed."*

This was a red flag. Akosua had made a covenant with herself and with God that she would wait until marriage, no matter what anyone said. But the more time

she spent with Kwame, the harder it became to hold onto her resolve.

Lessons From Chapter 1

This chapter highlights the power of first impressions and how easily they can sway our decisions. Kwame seemed perfect at first glance—successful, good-looking, and full of charm. But as the Bible teaches, not everything that glitters is gold.

1 Samuel 16:7 says, "*The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*"

Akosua found herself drawn to Kwame's outward qualities, but she knew deep down that something was off. This is where the internal battle began—between what her emotions told her and what her faith warned her against.

As the chapter progresses, I believe you are left in suspense, wondering if Akosua will follow her heart or her faith. Will she give in to the pressures of modern dating

culture, or will she hold onto the values that have always guided her? The tension builds as Kwame continues to pursue her, making it harder for her to discern what's right.

By the end of the chapter, Akosua is left at a crossroads. She must decide whether to keep entertaining Kwame's advances or take a step back and listen to the still, small voice of God. What she doesn't know is that this decision will set the stage for everything that happens next in her journey of love, faith, and self-discovery.

The suspense of what comes next is palpable. Kwame's charm is undeniable, but is it enough to make Akosua compromise on her faith? Or will she walk away before it's too late***? This chapter sets the tone for the rest of the novel, continue reading to find out what Akosua's next move will be.***

CHAPTER 2:

"Friends, Flirts, or Something More?"

The next morning, Akosua sat in her room, the sun filtering through the curtains as she went over her notes for class. But her mind wasn't on her studies—it was on Kwame. Despite her reservations, he was still on her mind, and the more she thought about their conversations, the more confused she became. Akosua needed advice, so she called her best friend, **Aba**.

Aba and Akosua had been friends since their first year at the University of Ghana. They were opposites in many ways—while Akosua was deeply rooted in her Christian faith, Aba had a more liberal approach to life, especially when it came to dating. For Aba, relationships were meant to be enjoyed, no strings attached. She believed in exploring her options and never felt the need to be tied down by serious commitments.

When Akosua arrived at Aba's hostel, the air was filled with the smell of fried plantain. Aba, always cheerful, greeted her with a warm hug. *"Ei, Akosua, what brings you here this early? Has the holy spirit led you to finally ask me for dating advice?"* she teased, waving a spatula in the air.

Akosua smiled weakly and sat down. *"I met someone, Aba. His name is Kwame. He's smart, successful, and... persistent."*

Aba's eyes lit up. *"Tell me more! Is he fine?"*

"He's good-looking, yes, and very charming. We've been talking a lot lately, but I don't know, something doesn't feel right."

Aba scoffed. *"Not every guy has to be your future husband, Akos. Sometimes it's okay to just go with the flow. You think too much. Life is short! Have fun with it."*

Akosua shook her head, her face serious. *"But I'm not sure Kwame is serious about me or about faith. I don't want to be led into something that will hurt me later. You know where I stand on relationships."*

Aba leaned in. *"But Akosua, not everything has to be so deep. Sometimes it's just about enjoying each other's company. Maybe Kwame will surprise you, or maybe he won't, but how will you know if you don't take a chance?"*

Kwame's Growing Persistence

Later that evening, Akosua received another call from Kwame. He was becoming more persistent, calling every day and texting her sweet messages. At first, it was flattering, but Akosua couldn't shake the feeling

that Kwame was more focused on winning her over than genuinely getting to know her.

"Let me take you out tonight," Kwame suggested on the phone. *"There's a new restaurant in East Legon. I think you'll love it."*

Akosua hesitated. Part of her wanted to go, to enjoy the attention, but the other part knew that the more time she spent with Kwame, the more attached she would become. And yet, she still couldn't figure out if Kwame was truly serious about her, or if this was just another flirtation for him.

"I'll think about it," she finally replied, not wanting to sound too eager.

Kwame laughed softly on the other end of the line. *"Alright, just let me know. I'll be waiting."*

Kwame's Intentions Remain Unclear

As the days passed, Kwame's intentions remained a mystery. He continued to pursue Akosua, making her feel special, but he rarely spoke about anything deeper than surface-level charm. Whenever Akosua brought up her faith or her boundaries, he would change the subject or joke about it.

One afternoon, Kwame asked Akosua to meet him at a café near the university. They sat down, and as usual, the conversation was light and pleasant, but Akosua couldn't help but wonder if this was all there was to Kwame—charm and good looks, but no real depth.

"*Kwame, can I ask you something?" she said suddenly, her voice serious.*

"*Of course,*" he replied, leaning back in his chair.

"What are your intentions with me? I mean, do you see this going anywhere serious, or are we just having fun?"

Kwame looked taken aback for a moment, then smiled. *"Why rush things, Akosua? We're just getting to know each other. Can't we just enjoy the moment without labeling it?"*

His answer left Akosua more confused than ever. Was he playing games, or was he genuinely interested but just not ready for commitment? The suspense of not knowing where they stood began to weigh heavily on her. As Kwame continued to pursue her, Akosua was left questioning whether she should continue seeing him or walk away before things got too complicated.

Lessons From Chapter 2

Boundaries and Rushing into Labels

The conversation with Aba and Kwame highlighted two very different approaches to relationships. Aba's carefree attitude was appealing in its simplicity—why worry about labels or long-term commitments when you could just enjoy the present? But for Akosua, relationships were more than just flings or casual fun. They were steps toward something greater, something ordained by God.

The tension between Akosua and Aba's views brought up an important question: Should relationships be defined early on, or should people just *"go with the flow,"* as Aba suggested? Akosua wasn't sure anymore, and Kwame's persistence didn't help. He wasn't pressuring

her to define their relationship, but he wasn't exactly reassuring her either.

Akosua's faith had always been her guide, and she knew that God's design for love and relationships was clear.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says, "*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*"

But was this the kind of love Kwame was offering, or was he just flirting with no real intention behind his words?

Akosua began to realize that **boundaries** were not just physical; they were emotional too. She needed to guard her heart, as the Bible instructed in Proverbs 4:23, "*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*"

Rushing into labeling the relationship would not solve the confusion, but neither would allowing things to remain undefined. Akosua needed clarity, and Kwame was not giving it to her.

A Deeper Conversation: Love, Lust, and Infatuation

That evening, after her meeting with Kwame, Akosua met Aba again in the hostel. This time, the conversation took a more serious tone.

"*Aba, I'm confused,*" Akosua admitted. "*Kwame says we shouldn't rush into defining things, but I need to know where we stand. I can't just keep going along with this if I don't know his intentions.*"

Aba shrugged. "*Akosua, you're overthinking this. Sometimes, people just need time. Maybe he's not ready to define things yet, but that doesn't mean he's not serious about you.*"

"*But what if I'm just infatuated with him?*" Akosua asked. "*What if this isn't real love, but just a passing attraction?*"

Aba rolled her eyes. "*Infatuation, love, lust—it's all the same at the beginning, isn't it? You like someone, you're drawn to them, and you see where it goes.*"

Akosua shook her head. "*No, it's not the same. Infatuation is based on how someone makes you feel in the moment. It's fleeting. Love is patient, kind, and sacrificial. Lust is just physical attraction. I need to know if what I'm feeling is real love, or if I'm just caught up in the excitement of it all.*"

Aba sighed. "*You make everything sound so complicated, Akosua. Why not just enjoy it for what it is? If it's love, it'll grow. If not, you move on.*"

But for Akosua, the distinction between **love, lust, and infatuation** was crucial. She had read enough Christian teachings to know that love was not just about feelings or attraction—it was about commitment, sacrifice, and faith. Lust, on the other hand, was purely physical, and infatuation was an emotional high that didn't last.

Akosua needed time to figure out which of these she was dealing with when it came to Kwame. Was she genuinely falling in love with him, or was she just infatuated with his charm and good looks? And more importantly, was Kwame offering her real love, or was he just flirting with no intention of anything more?

Where to Draw the Line?

As the chapter draws to a close, I believe you are left with a sense of uncertainty. Akosua is standing at a crossroads, unsure of whether to continue seeing Kwame or to step back and reevaluate her feelings. Kwame's intentions remain unclear, adding to the suspense. He's charming, persistent, and makes Akosua feel special, but is it all just a game to him? Or is he genuinely interested but taking things slow?

The tension between Akosua's values and Aba's carefree approach to relationships sets the stage for a deeper exploration of what love truly means. Should Akosua continue to guard her heart and wait for something more defined, or should she follow Aba's advice and go with the flow?

This chapter raises important questions about the **boundaries** we set in relationships and the importance of understanding the difference between love, lust, and infatuation. Akosua's journey is far from over, and the reader is left wondering what decision she will make next. Will she continue to pursue something with Kwame, or will she realize that his persistence may not be as genuine as it seems?

As the suspense builds, you are drawn deeper into Akosua's internal struggle, eagerly anticipating what comes next in her journey of love, faith, and self-discovery.

CHAPTER 3:

"The Pressure to Settle"

The warm sound of Ghanaian highlife music filled the air as Akosua sat quietly at her cousin Ama's wedding reception. The vibrant colors of kente, gold, and beads draped the women, while the men in their agbadas and suits moved through the crowd. Laughter echoed in the open-air garden of the hotel, and children danced joyfully in front of the live band. It was a beautiful day—a day filled with celebration and love.

But as much as Akosua loved her cousin, there was a knot in her stomach that grew tighter with every passing minute. Weddings had a way of reminding her of what she didn't have—a husband. And it wasn't just a personal feeling; it was the weight of **societal pressure** that came with being a woman in Ghana, especially one in her mid-twenties. Family members were beginning to look at her with questions in their eyes, and she could

almost hear their thoughts: *"When will it be Akosua's turn?"*

Sure enough, as the reception reached its peak, one of her aunts approached her with a knowing smile. *"Akosua, my dear, this wedding is beautiful, isn't it?"* the aunt asked, sitting beside her.

"It's lovely, Aunty," Akosua replied with a polite smile.

Her aunt nodded thoughtfully, then leaned in closer. *"So, when are we going to celebrate yours? You're not getting any younger, my dear. By now, you should at least have a fiancé."*

Akosua's smile faltered. She knew this conversation was coming, but it didn't make it any easier to hear. *"I'm trusting God's timing, Aunty,"* she said softly.

The aunt let out a gentle laugh. *"Yes, yes, we are all trusting God. But you have to be smart too. There are so many young men out there. If you wait too long, all the good ones will be taken. Look at your cousin Ama. She's younger than you, but she found a good man. Don't wait too long, ooo. The clock is ticking."*

Akosua felt the knot in her stomach tighten as her aunt's words sank in. This wasn't the first time someone had said these things to her. Every wedding, every family gathering, there was always someone reminding her that she wasn't married yet. And the older she got, the more intense the pressure became.

Kwame's Invitation

After the wedding, Akosua returned home feeling emotionally drained. The day had been beautiful, but the constant questions from family members had left her

with a heaviness she couldn't shake. As she sat on her bed, reflecting on the day's events, her phone buzzed. It was a message from **Kwame**.

"Hey, hope you're doing well. I was thinking we could go out for dinner tomorrow night. There's a nice place in Osu I want to take you to. Let me know if you're free."

Akosua's heart skipped a beat. She hadn't heard from Kwame in a few days, and now here he was, inviting her out to what sounded like a romantic dinner. But instead of feeling excited, she felt conflicted. The pressure from her family was fresh in her mind, and she couldn't help but wonder if Kwame's persistence was a sign that she should give him a real chance. After all, wasn't this exactly what her aunt had been talking about? If she waited too long, wouldn't all the good men be taken?

Akosua sat on her bed, staring at the message, her mind swirling with questions. Should she go? Should she take this as a sign that Kwame was serious about her? Or was she just feeling the pressure to settle, letting her family's words influence her decision?

Inner Turmoil

The next morning, Akosua called her best friend **Aba** to talk things through. Aba had always been her go-to person when it came to relationships, even though they didn't always agree.

"Aba, Kwame invited me to dinner tonight," Akosua said, her voice filled with uncertainty.

Aba's voice on the other end of the line was full of excitement. *"Ei! That's good news, Akosua! He's obviously serious about you. You should definitely go."*

"But I don't know if I should," Akosua said, her mind still replaying the conversations from the wedding. *"I feel like I'm being pressured to settle down just because everyone else around me is getting married. I'm not even sure if Kwame is the right person for me."*

Aba sighed. *"Akosua, you think too much. Look, you're not settling just because you go on a date with someone. And besides, Kwame is a great catch. He's successful, he's handsome, and he clearly likes you. What more are you waiting for? Are you expecting God to send an angel to tell you 'This is the one'?"*

Akosua chuckled, but the weight of her decision still hung over her. *"It's not that simple, Aba. You know how important my faith is to me. I don't want to just date anyone. I want someone who shares my values, someone who is serious about his relationship with God."*

"Well, have you asked Kwame where he stands on those things?" Aba asked.

Akosua was silent for a moment. *"I've tried, but every time I bring up faith or anything serious, he changes the subject."*

"That doesn't mean he's not interested. Maybe he's just shy about it or not ready to talk about those things yet. Give him a chance, Akosua. Don't let other people's expectations get in the way of something good."

Akosua knew Aba was right in some ways, but the internal battle continued. Was she being too cautious? Or was her caution a sign that God was telling her to wait for something better? The uncertainty gnawed at her, and the suspense of not knowing what to do left her feeling more confused than ever.

Lessons From Chapter 3

The Pressure to Marry in Ghanaian Culture

One of the biggest challenges Akosua faced was the **pressure to settle down**, a pressure that was deeply rooted in Ghanaian culture. For many young women in Ghana, marriage was seen as a natural step in life, something that should happen by a certain age. Once a woman reached her mid-twenties or thirties, the questions began. *"When will you marry?" "Why aren't you in a relationship?" "Are you waiting for all the good men to be taken?"*

These questions were not just annoying—they were heavy. They carried the weight of societal expectations, and for someone like Akosua, who was trying to navigate life through the lens of her Christian faith, it made things even more complicated. **1 Corinthians 7:32-34**

echoed in her heart: *"An unmarried woman is concerned about the Lord's affairs; her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world – how she can please her husband."*

Akosua believed that marriage was important, but she also knew that rushing into a relationship for the sake of pleasing her family or society wasn't God's plan for her. She had always been taught to **wait on God's timing**, but the more she attended weddings, family events, and church gatherings, the more difficult it became to hold onto that belief.

The pressure to marry didn't just come from family. It came from friends, the church, and even from within. Akosua found herself questioning whether she was being too picky, whether she was holding out for something that didn't exist. The suspense of not knowing what God had in store for her added to her internal conflict.

The Impact of Faith on Decision-Making

For Akosua, her faith was central to every decision she made. While society pressured her to settle down, her faith told her to wait for the right partner. But waiting wasn't easy, especially when she didn't know what the future held.

Proverbs 3:5-6 was a scripture she often meditated on: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

But the reality was, trusting God's timing didn't make the waiting any easier. The more persistent Kwame became, the more Akosua began to question if perhaps this was God's answer. Maybe this was the opportunity she had been waiting for. But every time she considered moving forward with Kwame, something held her back.

The thought of settling down with someone who didn't share her values terrified her. Akosua didn't just want to marry any man—she wanted a partner who would walk with her in faith, someone who would encourage her to grow spiritually, not pull her away from her relationship with God.

The Struggle to Balance Societal Expectations and Personal Faith

Akosua's struggle was one that many young Christians faced—how to balance societal expectations with personal faith. In Ghanaian culture, marriage was often seen as a milestone of adulthood, and women who remained single for too long were often viewed with suspicion. There was a belief that if a woman wasn't married by a certain age, there must be something wrong with her.

But for Akosua, her faith told her a different story. She believed that **marriage was a gift from God**, not something to be rushed into just to meet societal expectations. Yet, the weight of her family's questions and the persistence of someone like Kwame made it hard to hold onto that belief.

The more Kwame pursued her, the more Akosua wondered if she was being too cautious, too focused on finding the "*perfect*" man. But then she would remind herself that she wasn't looking for perfection—she was looking for someone who shared her values, someone who would love her in a way that reflected God's love for His people.

A Decision to Make

As the chapter comes to a close, Akosua finds herself at a crossroads. The pressure to settle down is mounting from all sides—her family, society, and even her own internal desires. Kwame's invitation to a romantic dinner adds another layer of complexity, leaving her to wonder if this is a sign that she should give him a chance or if it's just another distraction from waiting for God's best.

The suspense builds as Akosua contemplates her next move. Should she go to the dinner with Kwame and see where things lead, or should she listen to the voice inside her that tells her to wait for something more? The decision isn't easy, and I believe you are left wondering what Akosua will do next.

This chapter highlights the **tension between societal pressures and personal faith**, a struggle that many young Christians face. Akosua's journey is far from over, and as the suspense builds, the reader is left eagerly anticipating what will happen next in her quest for love, faith, and purpose.

CHAPTER 4:

"When Lust Knocks"

It was a quiet Saturday evening in Accra, and the warm night air was heavy with the scent of fried street food and the sound of distant music. Akosua was sitting on her bed, staring at her phone, unsure of what to do next. **Kwame** had just texted her, inviting her over to his apartment for dinner. Normally, they would meet at restaurants or cafés, but this was the first time he'd asked her to come to his place.

She was hesitant. Akosua had grown more comfortable around Kwame, and despite her reservations, she couldn't deny the attraction she felt toward him. His charm, his attention, his persistence—it was all starting to pull her in. But deep down, she knew that **physical attraction** wasn't the foundation for a meaningful, God-centered relationship. The Bible teaches that love is patient and pure, and she was determined to hold onto her values, no matter how much her emotions wanted to take over.

Still, the temptation was there. Akosua had been raised to believe that intimacy was something sacred, something meant for marriage, but she wasn't blind to the fact that her feelings for Kwame were growing stronger. Her body reacted to his touch, and her heart fluttered whenever he was near. But she had to remind herself that **feelings** and **desires** weren't enough to justify crossing the boundaries she had set.

That night, she prayed for clarity, for strength to resist the temptations that were slowly creeping in. Kwame was persistent, but Akosua knew that giving in to physical attraction without considering the spiritual and emotional consequences wasn't what God wanted for her. She had read books, heard sermons, and even written about the delicate balance between emotions and faith, but now she was living it.

As she got ready to leave, her thoughts were heavy. Would this dinner change things between them? Would she be able to stay true to her boundaries? And what did Kwame really want from her?

Kwame's Advances Become More Physical

When Akosua arrived at Kwame's apartment, he greeted her with his usual charm, a wide smile and a bouquet of flowers. His apartment was sleek, modern, and well-kept, a reflection of his success. The dinner was already prepared, and Kwame had gone out of his way to make the evening special—candles, soft music, and a table set for two.

"Wow, Kwame, this is beautiful," Akosua said, her voice soft with surprise. She felt flattered by the effort he had

put in, but at the same time, something in her spirit felt uneasy.

Kwame smiled, pulling out her chair. *"Only the best for you,"* he replied smoothly.

As they sat down to eat, the conversation flowed easily, as it always did with Kwame. He was attentive, charming, and seemed genuinely interested in everything she had to say. But there was an underlying tension in the air, something that made Akosua feel like the night was heading in a direction she wasn't prepared for.

After dinner, Kwame suggested they move to the couch to watch a movie. Akosua hesitated but agreed, telling herself it was just a movie. But as the movie played, Kwame moved closer, his hand resting on her leg, his arm around her shoulder. Akosua's heart raced. She could feel the warmth of his body, the tension building between them.

At first, she didn't pull away. Part of her wanted to see where this would go, to allow herself to feel something more. But as Kwame's hand moved up her leg, the alarm bells in her mind began to ring. She knew where this was headed, and it wasn't a place she wanted to go.

"Kwame," she said softly, her voice trembling. *"We need to slow down."*

Kwame looked at her, surprised but not deterred. *"Akosua, come on. We're both adults. We're just enjoying each other's company, nothing more."*

But Akosua knew better. She could feel the **temptation** creeping in, and the more she stayed in this moment, the harder it would be to resist. Her body was reacting to his touch, but her spirit was telling her to stop.

"Kwame, I told you from the beginning, I'm not comfortable with this. I want to wait until marriage," she said, pulling away from him.

Kwame sighed, leaning back on the couch. *"I respect that, Akosua, but don't you think you're being a little too rigid? We're attracted to each other, right? What's the harm in enjoying that?"*

Akosua stood up, her heart pounding. She had to get out of there before she crossed a line she couldn't uncross. *"I need to go,"* she said, grabbing her bag.

Kwame looked frustrated but didn't stop her. *"Akosua, don't be so hard on yourself. We're just getting closer, that's all."*

But Akosua knew that wasn't the whole truth. She left the apartment, her mind swirling with emotions—guilt, frustration, but also relief. She had escaped the situation, but the **temptation** was still there, lurking in the background, waiting for the next opportunity to knock.

Kwame's Persistent Advances

In the days that followed, Kwame's behavior changed. He became more distant, his texts less frequent, his calls shorter. Akosua could sense the shift, and it only deepened her inner conflict. Had she made the right decision by pulling away, or had she ruined what could have been a good relationship?

Kwame's silence only made things worse. She missed him, missed the way he made her feel, and wondered if maybe she had been too strict with her boundaries. After all, Aba had always told her that love was about compromise. Wasn't that true? But in her heart, Akosua

knew that compromising on something as important as physical boundaries wasn't what God wanted for her.

One night, as she lay in bed, her phone buzzed. It was Kwame.

"I miss you," the message read. *"I've been thinking about you a lot. Can we talk?"*

Akosua's heart skipped a beat. She missed him too. But she knew that talking would lead to more, and she wasn't sure she was ready for that. The suspense of what would happen next hung in the air, heavy and unresolved.

Lessons From Chapter 4

Lust vs. Love

This chapter brings to light the stark difference between **lust** and **love**, and how easily the lines can become blurred in moments of emotional and physical connection. Akosua had always believed in waiting for love that was grounded in something deeper than physical attraction, but Kwame's advances made it hard for her to hold onto that belief.

The Bible speaks clearly about the dangers of lust and how it can lead us away from God's plan for our lives.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 says, *"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God."*

Akosua had to remind herself that what she was feeling wasn't love—it was lust, a fleeting emotion that wouldn't last.

This chapter also ties into the themes from by one of my book on relationship titled **"Body No Be Firewood,"** emphasizing that while physical attraction is natural, it doesn't have to control us. The human body is sensitive, both emotionally and physically, but as Christians, we are called to set boundaries that protect us from falling into temptation. Akosua knew that her body's response to Kwame was real, but she also knew that giving in to those desires without the foundation of love and commitment would only lead to regret. You should get a copy of that book and read it. You can request it for free. (call or text 0277727271)

The Struggle to Set Boundaries

One of the key lessons in this chapter is the importance of setting boundaries in relationships. Akosua had always been clear about her boundaries, but when faced with the heat of the moment, she realized just how hard it was to stick to them. The **struggle between emotions and faith** became real for her, as she had to choose between following her desires and staying true to her beliefs.

Boundaries are not just about saying *"no"* to physical advances; they are about guarding your heart and your mind from situations that can lead you down a path you don't want to go.

Proverbs 4:23 says, *"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."*

Akosua understood that guarding her heart meant more than just avoiding physical intimacy—it meant being mindful of the situations she allowed herself to be in and the emotions she let take control.

The Path Forward

As the chapter comes to an end, Akosua is left grappling with the fallout from her evening at Kwame's apartment. The attraction between them is undeniable, but so is the **tension** between her desire to stay true to her faith and the pull of physical attraction. I Believe by now you are left wondering what Akosua's next move will be. Will she continue seeing Kwame, knowing that he doesn't share her values, or will she walk away and wait for someone who aligns with her beliefs?

The tension between **lust and love** is a powerful theme in this chapter, and Akosua's struggle mirrors the challenges many young Christians face in today's world.

Will Akosua hold onto her boundaries, or will the pressure of lust and attraction cause her to compromise?

CHAPTER 5:

"Prayer and Patience"

The following weeks were heavy for Akosua. After the encounter at Kwame's apartment, she felt an overwhelming sense of guilt, but more than that, she was confused. Her emotions were entangled with Kwame's charm and attention, but her spirit was restless. She had always believed in waiting on God's timing, but the pressure from Kwame—and herself—was making it harder to hear God's voice.

One afternoon, while sitting in the Legon Hall chapel, Akosua bowed her head in prayer. The gentle hum of the ceiling fans and the quiet murmurs of others in the room created a calm atmosphere. She was searching for peace, for clarity, for something to tell her she was making the right decisions. Her prayers were simple yet desperate: *"Lord, show me what to do. Help me to see Your plan for my life. Am I walking in the right direction? I need Your guidance."*

Akosua knew that the only way forward was to seek God. Her heart had been distracted by her feelings for Kwame, but she had to refocus on her faith. She turned to her **pastor** and her **mentors**, people who had walked with her through her spiritual journey. It was time to get advice from those who could offer biblical wisdom, not just emotional support.

Seeking Guidance from Her Pastor and Mentors

A few days later, Akosua met with **Pastor Botchway**, the head of the **Prayer Tribe**, one of many Christian fellowship group on campus. Pastor Botchway was a kind, wise man who had been guiding young Christians like Akosua for many years. When she explained her situation with Kwame, the pastor listened intently, nodding occasionally but not interrupting.

"*Akosua,*" Pastor Botchway finally said, "*it's clear that you're at a crossroads. You've been asking yourself whether Kwame is the right person for you, and I can see that his persistence is making you question your own values. But the first thing you need to understand is this: God's timing is perfect. We often rush into things because we feel pressure from the world, but you must remember that God doesn't operate on the world's timetable.*"

Akosua nodded, feeling the truth of his words sink in. "*But how do I know if Kwame is the one God has for me? He says he cares about me, but I don't feel peace about it.*"

Pastor Botchway smiled gently. "*Peace is one of the most important signs that God is guiding you in the right direction. If you don't feel peace in your spirit, that's something you must pay attention to. The Bible tells us in* ***Philippians 4:6-7****, 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your*

requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' Have you been praying for peace, Akosua?"

Akosua lowered her head. *"I've prayed, but it's hard to wait. I feel like I'm letting everyone down if I don't move forward with Kwame."*

Pastor Botchway shook his head. *"The only person you should be concerned about pleasing is God. Relationships built on pressure – whether from others or ourselves – rarely stand the test of time. You need to focus on what God is saying to you, not what others are expecting."*

This conversation with Pastor Botchway gave Akosua much to think about. She wasn't hearing peace from God about Kwame, but she still had feelings for him. It was hard to know if her emotions were clouding her judgment.

Tension in Her Relationship with Kwame

As Akosua wrestled with her thoughts and prayed for guidance, her relationship with Kwame began to shift. He noticed her growing distance and became frustrated. Kwame was used to getting what he wanted, and Akosua's hesitance was starting to wear on him.

One evening, they met for coffee at a small café near campus. The conversation was tense from the start.

"Akosua, what's going on? You've been pulling away from me. Is it something I did?" Kwame asked, his voice tinged with frustration.

Akosua hesitated, unsure of how to explain what she was feeling. *"It's not you, Kwame. It's just... I need time to*

think. I want to be sure about us, and right now, I'm not sure."

Kwame leaned back in his chair, visibly annoyed. *"You're overthinking things again. Why can't we just enjoy being together? Why does everything have to be so complicated with you?"*

Akosua felt a lump form in her throat. She wanted to explain that this wasn't just about overthinking—it was about her faith, her values, and her desire to be with someone who shared those things. But Kwame didn't seem to understand.

"Kwame, this is important to me," she said quietly. *"I don't want to rush into something if it's not right. I need to be sure that we're on the same page spiritually, and I'm not sure we are."*

Kwame frowned, clearly frustrated. *"I've told you before, I respect your faith. But you need to relax, Akosua. Not everything has to be about religion."*

His words cut deep, and Akosua realized that they were on different paths. Her faith wasn't something separate from her life—it was her life. The tension between them was growing, and it became clear that Kwame didn't fully understand the importance of her relationship with God.

A New Character Enters—Kojo

Around the same time, a new figure appeared in Akosua's life—**Kojo**, a fellow student at her university and an active member of the Christian fellowship group. Kojo was quiet, kind, and deeply committed to his faith. He had a calm presence about him, and Akosua found herself drawn to his humility and his love for God.

One evening, after a Bible study session on campus, Kojo approached Akosua as they were walking out of the lecture hall.

"Akosua, I've been meaning to ask—how are you doing? I've noticed you seem a little distant lately," he asked, his voice gentle.

Akosua was surprised by his question but appreciated the concern. *"I've just had a lot on my mind,"* she admitted. *"I'm trying to figure out some things, especially about relationships."*

Kojo nodded thoughtfully. *"Relationships can be tricky, especially when we're trying to balance our emotions with our faith. But I've always believed that when it comes to love, God's guidance is the most important thing. If there's no peace, then it's worth paying attention to that."*

Akosua was struck by Kojo's words. He seemed to understand exactly what she was going through, and his perspective mirrored what Pastor Botchway had said. Over the next few weeks, Akosua and Kojo began to talk more. Their conversations were centered on faith, prayer, and their shared desire to follow God's will in all areas of their lives, including relationships.

Kojo wasn't as flashy or persistent as Kwame, but there was something about him that felt steady and sure. He wasn't trying to impress her—he was just being himself, and that authenticity spoke to Akosua's heart.

As Akosua spent more time praying and seeking guidance from her mentors, she began to wonder if Kwame was truly the right person for her. Could it be that God had something better in store for her, someone like Kojo who shared her values and her desire to build a relationship on faith?

The **suspense** built as Akosua's feelings for Kwame began to wane, and her connection with Kojo deepened. But she wasn't ready to make any decisions just yet. She needed to be patient, to listen for God's voice before making any moves.

Lessons From Chapter 5

Prayer, Patience, and Listening to God's Voice

This chapter highlights the critical role of **prayer** and **patience** in making relationship decisions. Akosua realized that while emotions and attraction were important, they weren't enough to build a lasting relationship. The Bible speaks often about the importance of waiting on God's timing, and Akosua was learning that firsthand.

Isaiah 40:31 says, "*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*"

Akosua was discovering the strength that came from waiting—waiting for God's direction, waiting for the right person, and waiting for peace.

In her conversations with Pastor Botchway and her mentors, Akosua was reminded that **prayer** is the most

powerful tool a Christian has when making decisions. She needed to bring her concerns to God and trust that He would guide her in the right direction.

This chapter also introduces the importance of **listening to God's voice**. Akosua had been so focused on what others thought—Kwame, her family, her friends—that she had forgotten to listen for what God was saying. But as she prayed and sought guidance, she began to feel the stirrings of peace. She knew that rushing into a relationship with Kwame just to meet societal expectations wasn't the answer. She needed to wait for God's best, even if it meant being patient.

Choosing Prayer Over Pressure

As the chapter draws to a close, Akosua is still in the midst of her internal battle. Kwame's frustration with her hesitance has created tension, but Akosua is beginning to see that their paths may not align. At the same time, Kojo has entered the scene, offering a glimpse of what a relationship grounded in faith might look like.

But Akosua isn't ready to make a decision yet. She knows that rushing into something without peace is not God's will for her life. The suspense continues as the reader is left wondering what Akosua will do next—will she end things with Kwame? Will her relationship with Kojo develop into something more?

This chapter emphasizes the importance of **prayer** and **patience** in relationships, reminding readers that God's timing is always perfect. Akosua's journey is far from over, and I believe you are eager to see where her prayers will lead her next.

CHAPTER 6:

"Red Flags and Realizations"

The dry season in Accra had arrived, and with it, a sense of unease settled over Akosua's heart. The days were hot and long, and while she went about her studies and her work with the church fellowship, her mind was constantly occupied by thoughts of Kwame. Something had shifted in their relationship, and it wasn't just the tension from her hesitance. Kwame had become harder to understand. The more she thought about it, the more she realized there were small inconsistencies in his behavior—things that didn't add up.

It started with little things. Kwame would say he was working late, but she'd hear from mutual friends that he had been out with other people. When she asked him about it, he would brush it off with a charming laugh, telling her not to worry. *"You're overthinking again, Akosua,"* he would say. And while his words were sweet, something about his dismissive tone bothered her.

Akosua tried to ignore the nagging feeling in her chest, telling herself that she was being paranoid, that no one was perfect. But the more time she spent with Kwame, the more those **red flags** became harder to overlook. There were moments when Kwame would become possessive, subtly trying to control who she spent time with. He would make comments about her friends, especially when she mentioned Kojo. *"I don't understand why you're always hanging around that guy,"* Kwame said one evening. *"He seems like he's interested in you. Be careful."*

The possessiveness was strange, and while Akosua wanted to believe it was just Kwame being protective, she began to see it for what it really was—control. The small lies, the dismissive attitude, and the possessiveness all pointed to something deeper, something that Akosua couldn't ignore.

Inconsistencies and Possessiveness

It was a Saturday afternoon when everything came to a head. Akosua had planned to spend the day with Aba, catching up over lunch. They hadn't seen each other in a while, and Akosua needed to talk to her about the growing doubts she was having about Kwame. But just as she was about to leave, Kwame called.

"Hey, what are you up to today?" he asked casually.

"I'm meeting Aba for lunch," Akosua replied, grabbing her bag.

Kwame was silent for a moment. *"Oh, I thought we could spend the day together."*

Akosua hesitated. She knew that Kwame didn't like Aba much—he always said she was a bad influence, too carefree and reckless. *"I already made plans with Aba,"* Akosua said. *"Maybe we can meet later?"*

There was a pause on the other end of the line, and when Kwame finally spoke, his tone was cold. *"Why do you always put your friends before me? I thought we were trying to build something here, but it feels like you're not serious."*

Akosua was taken aback. "Kwame, that's not fair. I've made time for you, but I also need to spend time with my friends."

Kwame sighed, his frustration evident. *"Fine, do what you want. I just thought we were more important than that."*

The conversation left Akosua feeling uneasy. Why was Kwame so upset about her spending time with her friends? And why did he always seem to get defensive whenever she tried to maintain her other relationships? She couldn't shake the feeling that Kwame was trying to isolate her, to make her dependent on him. It was a subtle kind of control, but it was there.

Later that day, during lunch with Aba, Akosua brought up the conversation.

"Aba, I don't know what's going on with Kwame. He's been acting strange lately – controlling, even."

Aba raised an eyebrow. *"What do you mean?"*

"He gets upset whenever I spend time with anyone but him. He doesn't like it when I hang out with Kojo, and now he's upset about me meeting you today."

Aba frowned. *"Akosua, that's not okay. A guy who tries to control who you can and can't spend time with? That's a red flag."*

Akosua sighed. *"I know. But he's also so charming and sweet sometimes. It's confusing."*

Aba leaned forward. *"You need to listen to your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, don't ignore it. Charm can hide a lot of things, Akos. Just because he's nice sometimes doesn't mean he's the right guy for you."*

Torn Between Kwame and Kojo

Akosua found herself increasingly torn. On one hand, Kwame was the guy everyone thought she should be with—successful, charming, and persistent in his pursuit of her. On the other hand, there was **Kojo**, the quiet, thoughtful man who had become a close friend. Kojo never pressured her, never made her feel like she had to be someone she wasn't. He was supportive of her friendships, and when they talked, their conversations were always centered on faith, on growth, on things that mattered to Akosua.

But Kojo wasn't flashy. He didn't have Kwame's charisma or his bold confidence. He wasn't constantly trying to impress her, and because of that, Akosua sometimes overlooked him. Still, there was a growing part of her that wondered if Kojo's quiet strength was what she really needed.

One evening after Bible study, Akosua found herself walking with Kojo again. As they talked about the lesson from that evening, Akosua couldn't help but feel a sense of peace around him—a peace that was absent when she was with Kwame.

"Kojo, can I ask you something?" Akosua said, her voice hesitant.

"Of course," he replied. *"Do you ever think about relationships? About what kind of person you want to be with?"*

Kojo smiled softly. *"I think about it sometimes. But I've always believed that the most important thing is to find someone who shares your values, someone who you can grow with in faith. Everything else is secondary."*

Akosua nodded, his words resonating with her deeply. Kojo wasn't flashy or insistent, but he was genuine. And that was something Akosua was beginning to value more and more. As she walked home that night, her mind was full of questions. Was Kwame the right person for her, or was she holding onto him because of his charm? And what about Kojo—was there something more between them that she hadn't allowed herself to see?

Lessons From Chapter 7

Recognizing Red Flags in Relationships

This chapter explores the importance of recognizing **red flags** in relationships. While Kwame's charm and charisma had initially drawn Akosua in, she was beginning to see that there were deeper issues beneath the surface. The **small lies**, the **possessiveness**, and the way he dismissed her concerns were all signs that something wasn't right.

The Bible teaches us about what love should look like in **1 Corinthians 13:4-5**: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."*

Kwame's behavior didn't reflect these qualities. Instead, his love seemed to be more about control than kindness, more about possession than patience.

This chapter emphasizes the importance of being aware of the warning signs in relationships. **Red flags** can be easy to ignore, especially when someone is as charming and charismatic as Kwame. But charm can often mask deeper issues, and Akosua was beginning to realize that. A person's true character is revealed not in their words, but in their actions. Kwame's possessiveness and dishonesty were not characteristics of a healthy relationship, and Akosua had to decide whether she would continue to ignore the signs or walk away.

Realizing What Matters

Akosua's internal struggle was becoming more intense. She had to weigh the charming, yet controlling, nature of Kwame against the quiet, but genuine, presence of Kojo. Kwame offered excitement, but there was a lack of trust. Kojo, on the other hand, offered stability and shared values, but their relationship was still undefined.

Akosua had always believed that love should be built on trust, respect, and shared faith. But Kwame's actions were making it clear that he didn't see love the same way. His attempts to control her relationships, his dishonesty, and his tendency to dismiss her concerns were all signs that their relationship was not based on mutual respect. And while Akosua still had feelings for Kwame, she knew that those feelings weren't enough to sustain a relationship built on shaky ground.

Kojo, though quieter and less flashy, represented something that Akosua had always wanted—someone who would walk with her in faith, someone who respected her boundaries, someone who didn't feel the need to control her. It was becoming clear to Akosua that what

she had with Kojo was more genuine than what she had with Kwame.

The Turning Point

As this chapter comes to an end, Akosua is faced with a difficult decision. The **red flags** in her relationship with Kwame have become impossible to ignore, and while part of her is still drawn to his charm, she knows that charm alone isn't enough to sustain a healthy, godly relationship. At the same time, Kojo's quiet strength and his shared values are becoming more appealing, but Akosua is hesitant to make any sudden decisions.

The suspense builds as Akosua grapples with the realization that she cannot continue ignoring the signs. She must choose between a relationship that is based on control and manipulation, or one that offers trust and mutual respect. The chapter leaves the reader wondering what Akosua's next move will be—will she finally confront Kwame about the inconsistencies in his behavior, or will she walk away before it's too late?

This chapter serves as a powerful reminder to readers about the importance of paying attention to **red flags** in relationships and understanding that true love is not about control or manipulation, but about patience, kindness, and mutual respect. Akosua's journey is far from over, and the reader is eager to see what decisions she will make as she navigates this challenging time in her life.

CHAPTER 8:

"The Call to Courtship"

It was the beginning of the harmattan season in Accra. The air was dry, and the cool breeze brushed against Akosua's skin as she walked to her Bible study group. Lately, her mind had been quieter, her heart more settled. The turmoil she had experienced with Kwame was behind her, and she felt lighter—though not without moments of sadness. After all, she had hoped Kwame would be the one, but the truth had become clear. Kwame wasn't the person God had for her, and she had finally made peace with that realization.

In the weeks since ending things with Kwame, Akosua had grown closer to **Kojo**. What had started as casual conversations after Bible study and friendly exchanges had deepened into something more meaningful. Kojo had always been there—patient, kind, never pushing her to rush or make decisions she wasn't ready for. His presence was a calming one, and Akosua found herself

looking forward to their conversations. He didn't try to impress her with grand gestures or flashy words; instead, he listened, offered thoughtful advice, and respected her space.

One evening, after another Bible study, Kojo walked her home as he often did. The sun had long set, and the night was quiet, the sound of their footsteps echoing on the sidewalk.

"*Akosua,*" Kojo began, breaking the comfortable silence between them, "*I've really enjoyed getting to know you these past few months. You have a strong heart and a deep faith. It's rare to find that these days.*"

Akosua smiled, feeling warmth in her chest. "*Thank you, Kojo. I've appreciated your friendship as well. It's been... peaceful.*"

But even as she said the words, Akosua knew there was something deeper growing between them. And she couldn't deny that the way she looked at Kojo had started to change. His quiet confidence, his steady faith, and his unwavering respect for her boundaries made him stand out from anyone she had ever known.

Kojo paused as they reached her doorstep, his face thoughtful. "*I've been praying about this for a while, Akosua, and I feel like I need to share what's been on my heart.*"

Her pulse quickened slightly. Was this the moment she had been waiting for? She had sensed it was coming, but hearing the words would make everything real.

"*I've developed feelings for you,*" Kojo said, his voice calm and sincere. "*But I don't want to rush anything. I believe*

that relationships are about more than just feelings – they're about purpose, faith, and commitment. I'm not just interested in dating for fun. I want to pursue courtship with the intent of marriage. I wanted to be honest with you about where I stand."

The words hung in the air, and Akosua found herself standing at a crossroads once again.

Kojo Expresses His Intentions

Kojo's confession left Akosua's mind swirling. She had known for a while that Kojo was different from Kwame, but now she had to confront her own heart. Was she ready to move forward? Was she ready to enter a relationship that wasn't just about dating but about something much more serious?

Her heart had been through so much with Kwame, and the thought of opening herself up to the possibility of love again was both exciting and terrifying. Yet, there was something about Kojo's approach that made her feel safe. He wasn't pushing her into anything. He wasn't trying to win her over with charm or persuasion. He was simply stating his intentions clearly and leaving the decision up to her.

"Kojo," Akosua began, her voice soft, *"I appreciate your honesty. I've also grown close to you, and I value our friendship more than you know. But... I've been through a lot recently. I'm not sure if I'm ready to enter into something as serious as courtship right now."*

Kojo nodded, his expression understanding. *"I completely understand, Akosua. I don't want you to feel pressured. I believe that if this is meant to be, God will guide us both. I just wanted to be upfront with you so that there's no*

confusion. Take your time. I'll be here, waiting for you, no matter how long it takes."

Akosua was moved by his words. Kojo wasn't like Kwame. He wasn't trying to rush her into a relationship or make her feel guilty for needing more time. He was offering her something that went beyond just dating—he was offering her **patience**, respect, and a commitment to something greater.

Is Akosua Ready?

As the days passed, Akosua found herself reflecting deeply on Kojo's proposal. She had never experienced this kind of intentionality before. With Kwame, it had been all about the excitement of being pursued, the thrill of someone who seemed too good to be true. But now, with Kojo, things felt different. It wasn't about feelings of infatuation or attraction; it was about something much deeper—**purpose**.

She remembered the words from **Proverbs 19:21**: "*Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*" Akosua had many hopes for her future, but she knew that God's purpose had to come first. And in Kojo, she saw a man who was committed to that same purpose, someone who shared her values and her faith.

But was she ready to open her heart again? The wounds from Kwame hadn't fully healed, and though Kojo had proven himself to be a man of integrity, the fear of being hurt again still lingered in the back of her mind. What if things didn't work out? What if she wasn't ready for the commitment that Kojo was asking for?

Akosua prayed about it every day, asking God for clarity and wisdom. She knew that this wasn't a decision

she could make lightly. Courtship wasn't just about getting to know someone—it was about preparing for **marriage**, and that was a responsibility she didn't take lightly.

As she spent more time with Kojo, she began to notice the ways in which he was different from other men. He didn't just talk about his faith—he lived it. He was consistent, dependable, and always sought to honor God in everything he did. And as Akosua prayed, she began to feel a growing sense of peace about the idea of moving forward with him.

But there was still a part of her that hesitated. Could she trust her heart again? Or was she still too wounded from her past to embrace the possibility of love with someone like Kojo?

Lessons From Chapter 8

Moving from Dating to Intentional Courtship

This chapter explores the idea of moving from **dating** to **intentional courtship**—a shift that many young Christians find themselves navigating. In today's world, dating is often seen as a casual, fun activity, something to pass the time or test the waters. But Kojo's approach to relationships was different. He wasn't interested in dating for the sake of dating. He saw relationships as a path toward marriage, a commitment that required purpose, patience, and faith.

In **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**, we are reminded of what love truly looks like: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

Kojo's intentions reflected this kind of love—patient, kind, and respectful. He wasn't rushing Akosua or demanding that she make a decision on his timeline. Instead, he was willing to wait, to walk alongside her as she sought God's guidance. This is the essence of **courtship**—it's not about rushing into a relationship based on fleeting emotions, but about building a foundation that can lead to a lasting marriage.

For Akosua, this chapter marks a turning point. She begins to see the difference between dating for fun and dating with a purpose. Kojo's commitment to courtship shows her that love is not just about feelings of attraction—it's about shared values, mutual respect, and a desire to build something that honors God.

A Step Toward Commitment

As the chapter draws to a close, Akosua stands at the threshold of a new beginning. She hasn't fully made up her mind about Kojo's offer of courtship, but she is beginning to feel the stirrings of peace in her heart. The fears and doubts from her past are still there, but they are slowly being replaced by the quiet assurance that comes from trusting God's plan.

I believe you are left wondering whether Akosua will take the leap of faith and enter into a courtship with Kojo. Will she allow herself to move beyond the hurt of her past and embrace the possibility of love with someone who shares her values? Or will she continue to hold back, afraid of what might happen if things don't go as planned?

This session emphasizes the importance of understanding that love is more than just a feeling—it's a commitment to growth, to faith, and to building a future together. Akosua's journey is far from over, but she is beginning to see that true love is about much more than physical attraction or fleeting emotions. It's about purpose, patience, and a desire to honor God in all things.

By now you should be left eager to see what Akosua will decide, knowing that whatever choice she makes, it will be one that is grounded in her faith and her desire to follow God's will for her life.

Chapter 9:

"Love and Sacrifice"

Akosua and Kojo had finally entered into a courtship. It wasn't like the dating she had seen around her or even what she had experienced with Kwame. This was different—more intentional, more serious. They spent their time getting to know each other's values, discussing their faith, and dreaming about a future built on shared beliefs. But, like any relationship, it wasn't without its challenges.

Kojo's job required him to travel frequently. He had recently accepted a position in Kumasi, which meant that he and Akosua were now in a long-distance relationship. They went from seeing each other after Bible study to relying on video calls and weekend visits. The distance wasn't easy. Both of them missed the ease of being able to spend time together in person, but they also knew that their relationship had a purpose beyond physical presence.

At the same time, Akosua's family wasn't fully supportive of her relationship with Kojo. They had grown

attached to the idea of her being with Kwame, the charming, successful man who seemed to fit the image of the "*ideal*" partner. While Kwame hadn't been right for Akosua on a deeper level, her family hadn't seen the struggles she had endured with him. They only saw his polished exterior, and compared to him, Kojo seemed quiet and unassuming.

One evening, as Akosua sat on her bed, her phone buzzed. She picked it up to see a name she hadn't expected—**Kwame**.

For a moment, her heart raced. Why was he reaching out now? She hadn't heard from him in months, not since their relationship had ended. Part of her wanted to ignore the message, but curiosity got the better of her. She opened it.

"Akosua, I've been thinking about you. I made mistakes, and I'm sorry. Can we talk?"

She stared at the screen, unsure of how to respond. What did Kwame want? Why now, when she was finally moving forward with Kojo, did he decide to reappear?

The Challenges of Love

As Akosua navigated the complexities of her courtship with Kojo, she found herself facing challenges that tested the depth of their love. The long-distance relationship wasn't easy. There were moments of frustration, moments when they couldn't communicate as freely as they wanted. Akosua missed the comfort of having Kojo close by, and though their phone calls helped, it wasn't the same as being in the same room, holding hands, or praying together in person.

On top of that, her family's disapproval weighed heavily on her. Her mother often mentioned Kwame during family dinners, bringing up how well he had treated them, how successful he was, and how much she wished Akosua would give him another chance. Akosua knew her family meant well, but they didn't understand what she had gone through with Kwame. They didn't know about the lies, the control, the subtle manipulation that had left her feeling trapped. And now, with Kwame reaching out again, Akosua felt her resolve weakening.

She couldn't deny that Kwame had once held a special place in her heart. He had been her first real relationship, and the memories weren't easy to erase. But Kojo was different. With him, things felt calmer, more secure. There wasn't the same rush of excitement or the same drama, but there was peace. And yet, that peace was being tested.

As she stared at the message on her phone, Akosua knew she had a decision to make. Should she respond to Kwame? Should she let him back into her life, even if only to hear what he had to say? Or should she focus on her relationship with Kojo, the man who had proven his commitment to her over time?

Kwame Reappears

The reappearance of Kwame threw Akosua into a whirlwind of emotions. She hadn't anticipated this. She thought her past with Kwame was firmly behind her, and yet, here he was, asking for another chance.

She couldn't help but think of all the moments they had shared—good and bad. Kwame had been her first love, and that wasn't something that was easy to forget. But

the memories were bittersweet. For every moment of laughter, there had been a moment of doubt, a moment where Kwame's charm hid something deeper, something manipulative.

And now, just as she was beginning to move forward with Kojo, Kwame's presence in her life threatened to complicate everything.

Akosua prayed about it. She knew that her emotions couldn't be trusted alone. She needed God's guidance. **Matthew 6:33** came to her mind: *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* She knew that this wasn't just about what felt good in the moment—it was about what was right, what would help her grow spiritually and emotionally.

But the question still lingered—what if Kwame had changed? What if he had realized his mistakes? Could she ignore him without at least hearing him out? At the same time, she knew that opening the door to Kwame could put her relationship with Kojo at risk. It wasn't just about her feelings anymore; it was about the commitment she had made to Kojo and the foundation they were building together.

Lessons From Chapter 9

Love as Sacrifice

This chapter delves into the Christian concept of love as **sacrifice** and **service**. Love, as described in the Bible, isn't just about emotions or attraction—it's about putting the needs of others before our own, about making choices that honor God and reflect His character.

In **John 15:13**, Jesus says, "*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*"

While this verse speaks of the ultimate sacrifice, it also serves as a reminder that true love involves putting aside selfish desires for the sake of someone else. For Akosua, this meant considering what was best not only for herself but for her relationship with Kojo. It meant recognizing that love wasn't about excitement or the thrill of rekindling old feelings—it was about building something lasting, something rooted in faith and commitment.

Akosua also had to come to terms with the fact that love sometimes meant **sacrifice** in other areas of life. The long-distance relationship with Kojo required patience, trust, and perseverance. It wasn't easy to maintain a connection when they were miles apart, but both of them were willing to put in the effort because they knew that their relationship had a higher purpose. They weren't just dating for fun—they were preparing for marriage, and that required sacrifices on both sides.

The Importance of Choosing Spiritual Growth Over Feelings

As Kwame re-entered her life, Akosua was forced to confront an important truth: not every relationship that feels good is right. Kwame had made her feel special, desired, and loved, but those feelings had been fleeting. Beneath the surface, there had been manipulation, control, and a lack of true respect for her boundaries.

With Kojo, the relationship was different. It wasn't about the thrill of attraction; it was about mutual respect, shared faith, and a commitment to growth. And though their relationship came with its own challenges, Akosua knew that Kojo's love was rooted in something deeper—something that would help her grow both spiritually and emotionally.

In **Romans 12:2**, Paul writes, *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

For Akosua, this meant not conforming to the expectations of the world or even the expectations of her family.

It meant seeking God's will above all else, even when it was difficult.

The Crossroads of Love and Sacrifice

As the chapter comes to a close, Akosua finds herself at a crossroads. On one hand, there is Kwame, the man who once made her feel loved but ultimately left her feeling broken. On the other hand, there is Kojo, the man who has been patient, kind, and committed to building a future with her. The decision she faces isn't just about which man to choose—it's about choosing a path that leads to spiritual growth and honors God's design for love.

The **suspense** continues to build as the reader is left wondering whether Akosua will respond to Kwame's message or whether she will stand firm in her commitment to Kojo. Will she allow herself to be swayed by old feelings, or will she embrace the kind of love that requires sacrifice and service?

This chapter emphasizes the importance of choosing relationships that foster **spiritual growth** rather than just satisfying fleeting emotions. Akosua's journey is a reminder that true love is about more than just what feels good in the moment—it's about making choices that reflect God's love, even when those choices require sacrifice.

Chapter 10:

"The Big Decision"

Akosua stood by the ocean in Cape Coast, the sound of the waves crashing against the shore matching the intensity of her thoughts. She had always found peace by the sea, a reminder of God's vast creation and His control over the world. But today, that peace was elusive. The man she had come to love and respect, **Kojo**, had proposed. He had knelt down with sincerity in his eyes, offering her a ring not just as a symbol of love, but of commitment, of a shared life journey.

She had looked at him, speechless. A part of her wanted to shout "*yes*" and embrace the future with this man who had treated her with such care and respect. But the other part, the cautious, prayerful side of her, hesitated.

Before she could answer Kojo, she needed to reflect on everything she had been through, the lessons she had learned, and the truth about love that God had revealed to her. This decision wasn't just about saying yes to a marriage proposal—it was about choosing the direction of her life, her faith, and her heart.

And there was **Kwame**. His reappearance had complicated things in ways she hadn't expected. Every time she thought she was done with the past, Kwame would find a way to make her question her choices. His messages, his charm, and his apologies had stirred emotions she had tried to put to rest. Now, with Kojo's proposal on the table, the pressure was higher than ever. Would she make the right decision?

Kojo's Proposal and Akosua's Reflection

Kojo's proposal had been simple, intimate, and genuine. He hadn't tried to impress her with grand gestures or elaborate plans. Instead, he had chosen a quiet moment during their visit to Cape Coast to ask her to be his wife. He spoke from the heart, telling her how much he admired her faith, her strength, and her commitment to honoring God in everything she did. He promised to love her with a love that was patient, kind, and sacrificial, just as Christ loves the church (**Ephesians 5:25**).

But Akosua couldn't just say yes right away. She needed time to think, to pray, and to reflect. The weight of the decision pressed on her like never before.

She thought back to the beginning of her journey, when she had first met Kwame. Back then, she had been swayed by his charm, his success, and his attention. But that relationship had taught her some hard lessons. Kwame had never fully respected her boundaries, and his desire for control had nearly drowned her. She had mistaken **infatuation** for love, and it wasn't until things had fallen apart that she truly understood the difference.

Then Kojo had come into her life, quietly, patiently, without demanding anything from her. He had shown her what it meant to love selflessly, to care for someone

in a way that reflected Christ's love. Their relationship had been built on a foundation of faith and respect, not just fleeting emotions.

But was she ready for marriage? Could she truly commit to Kojo, knowing that marriage was a covenant not just with him, but with God? And could she say yes with Kwame still lurking in the background, reminding her of the passion and excitement she had once felt?

Suspense: The Struggle to Decide

As Akosua stood by the ocean, she felt a sense of **anxiety** creeping in. Kwame had been persistent in his pursuit of her since his return. He had apologized for the way things had ended, claiming he had changed and was ready to be the man she deserved. He had even gone as far as to say that he still loved her and wanted another chance.

The confusion was overwhelming. Kwame represented the past, a time when she had been naive and easily swayed by surface-level attraction. But he also represented a familiar comfort, a relationship that, though flawed, had once made her feel alive. Kojo, on the other hand, represented stability, respect, and a love grounded in faith.

The temptation to go back to Kwame was strong, but Akosua knew deep down that it wasn't the right path. **Proverbs 14:12** echoed in her heart: *"There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death."* She

knew that choosing Kwame would be choosing an emotional rollercoaster, one that could lead to heartbreak all over again. But that didn't make the decision any easier.

Marriage was a lifetime commitment. It wasn't something to be entered into lightly, and Akosua knew that. She had spent so much time learning what love truly meant—through her experiences, through scripture, and through prayer. Love wasn't just about passion or attraction. It was about sacrifice, service, and a mutual commitment to grow together in faith.

But even with this knowledge, the weight of the decision felt heavy. What if she made the wrong choice? What if she said yes to Kojo, only to later regret it? What if Kwame really had changed, and she was missing out on the chance to rekindle something special?

Lessons From Chapter 10

Christian Decision-Making in Courtship and Marriage

This chapter explores the **importance of making decisions regarding courtship and marriage** based on **Christian values**, rather than emotions or societal pressures. Akosua's journey highlights the need for careful consideration, prayer, and discernment when it comes to entering into a marriage covenant.

Marriage as a Covenant
Marriage, according to the Bible, is not just a legal contract but a **sacred covenant** between two people and God.

In **Genesis 2:24**, it says,

"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."

This union is meant to be unbreakable, a partnership where both husband and wife grow together in love and faith.

For Akosua, the decision to marry Kojo wasn't just about her feelings for him; it was about her understanding of marriage as a lifelong commitment. She knew that saying yes to Kojo meant committing to walking with him through every trial, every joy, and every season of life, always with God at the center.

The Role of Prayer and Discernment
Throughout her journey, Akosua had leaned on her faith for guidance. In this moment, more than ever, she needed to pray and seek God's will.

Philippians 4:6-7 encouraged her:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This verse reminded Akosua that God's peace would guide her decision if she brought her worries to Him. The world might be telling her to choose based on feelings or convenience, but she knew that true wisdom came from seeking God's will above her own desires.

Understanding Love Beyond Emotion
A central theme in Akosua's journey has been understanding that **love is more than just a feeling**. While emotions are a part of love, they are not the foundation. The Bible's famous description of love in

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 had been a guiding light for Akosua throughout her courtship with Kojo:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

As she reflected on these words, Akosua realized that the love Kojo had shown her was this kind of love. He had been patient, kind, and respectful. He had never pressured her or manipulated her. He had walked alongside her, allowing their relationship to grow in God's time.

Kwame's Continued Pursuit

The tension in the story builds as Kwame continues to pursue Akosua. His attempts to win her back are relentless, and while she has grown spiritually and emotionally, the temptation to give him another chance still lingers. What if Kwame really had changed? What if she was missing out on a second chance at happiness?

Kwame's persistence creates doubt and confusion, testing Akosua's resolve and making her decision even more difficult. The reader is left wondering whether Akosua will be able to see through the distractions and follow God's will for her life, or whether she will be swayed by the emotions stirred up by Kwame's reappearance.

A Decision Rooted in Faith

As the chapter draws to a close, Akosua is faced with a life-altering decision. Will she choose to say yes to Kojo, embracing a future grounded in faith, sacrifice, and commitment? Or will she allow Kwame's charm and promises to pull her back into the emotional whirlwind of the past?

Akosua knows that the decision she makes will shape the rest of her life. But one thing is clear—whatever choice she makes, it will be one that is deeply rooted in her faith, her understanding of love, and her desire to follow God's will above all else.

In the final moments of the chapter, Akosua bows her head in prayer, asking for God's guidance. The suspense lingers, leaving readers on the edge of their seats, eager to see which path she will choose and how her decision will shape the rest of her journey.

CHAPTER 11:

"Sweetheart, Not Tonight"

Akosua sat on the edge of their bed, the soft glow of the bedside lamp casting long shadows across the room. The house was quiet, but the silence felt heavy. She looked over at **Kojo**, her husband of six months, who was gently reading through some work documents. Marriage had been everything she prayed for, yet it wasn't without its challenges.

They had spent years courting, guided by faith, prayer, and a deep commitment to doing things God's way. But now, after the wedding, **real life** was starting to settle in. Work, family responsibilities, and the everyday grind made it harder to focus on the love they shared. Kojo was still the man of patience and faith she had fallen in love with, but the pressures of life seemed to be wearing on both of them.

Akosua sighed. Tonight, Kojo had gently hinted that he wanted to be close to her—physically, emotionally, and

intimately. But the truth was, she wasn't ready. Not tonight.

They had always agreed that marriage was more than just physical connection. It was a commitment of the heart, mind, and spirit. But balancing the natural desires of a husband and wife with mutual respect was proving to be more challenging than she had anticipated.

Kojo turned to her, his smile soft, but there was a question in his eyes. *"Akosua, are you okay?"*

She nodded, feeling the weight of the moment between them. How could she explain that sometimes love meant waiting? Sometimes love was about saying, "**Not tonight**." Would he understand? Or would this create more tension between them?

Marriage's Realities and the Balance of Intimacy

The honeymoon phase of their marriage had been blissful. Akosua and Kojo had finally been able to enjoy the fruits of their love and commitment, free from the struggles and boundaries they had set during courtship. But as the months went by, the demands of daily life began to crowd in. Kojo was working long hours to support their family, and Akosua, juggling both her job and their new home, was feeling increasingly tired and overwhelmed.

Tonight, as Kojo reached out for her, Akosua's heart was torn. She loved him deeply, but the exhaustion of the day and the emotional weight of her responsibilities were pulling her in a different direction. She wanted to be close to him, but she also knew that true intimacy couldn't be forced or rushed.

She remembered the many conversations they'd had about this before marriage—the discussions about how **physical intimacy in marriage** should be a reflection of their spiritual connection. Love wasn't just about satisfying desires, but about building a foundation of trust, patience, and respect.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 came to mind once again:

> *"Love is patient, love is kind… it is not self-seeking."*

Kojo, sensing her hesitation, reached for her hand. *"Sweetheart, if you're not ready, it's okay. We have forever,"* he whispered, his voice full of understanding.

Her heart swelled with gratitude. This was the love she had prayed for—the kind of love that waited, that respected boundaries, even within the sacredness of marriage.

But Akosua also knew that they needed to communicate more deeply about the challenges they were facing. Avoiding the conversation could create distance between them, something she didn't want to happen.

"I love you," she said softly. *"But tonight, I'm just tired. I need us to talk about how we can make space for each other without feeling pressured. I don't want you to feel like I'm pushing you away."*

Kojo squeezed her hand gently. *"We'll figure it out together."*

Lessons From Chapter 11

Balancing Love, Intimacy, and Life's Pressures

The tension in this chapter builds as Akosua and Kojo navigate the delicate balance between their physical desires and the emotional realities of marriage. Akosua feels the pressure to be the perfect wife—loving, attentive, and always ready to meet her husband's needs. Yet, she also knows that forcing herself into moments of intimacy when she isn't emotionally or physically prepared would harm the bond they have worked so hard to build.

Kojo, on the other hand, has his own struggles. He loves Akosua deeply and respects her boundaries, but he also longs for closeness, especially after a long day of work. The unspoken tension between them creates a subtle sense of **suspense**—will their marriage face strain as they try to balance their individual needs with the demands of everyday life?

I believe this chapter leaves a lingering question: **How can a couple keep the fire of love alive, especially when life's realities hit hard?** Akosua and Kojo's journey becomes a reflection of the universal challenge many Christian couples face—learning how to prioritize love, respect, and patience over the immediate gratification of desires.

The Deeper Meaning of Love Beyond the Wedding Day

True Love Is Sacrificial and Patient

One of the core themes of this chapter is the understanding that **love goes far beyond physical intimacy**. While the physical connection between husband and wife is a beautiful and important part of marriage, it isn't the foundation. As Akosua and Kojo grow in their marriage, they begin to understand that true love is about sacrifice, patience, and mutual respect.

Ephesians 5:25 reminds us that husbands are called to love their wives

"just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

Kojo, in his desire for physical closeness, is called to reflect Christ's sacrificial love by respecting Akosua's needs and feelings. Akosua, in turn, learns that saying "no" or "not tonight" can be an expression of love when done in the context of mutual care and understanding.

Balancing Physical Desire with Emotional Connection

Throughout their courtship, Akosua and Kojo were

intentional about setting boundaries and keeping their relationship focused on **emotional and spiritual intimacy** rather than just physical attraction. Now that they're married, the challenge shifts. How do they maintain that same balance within the context of marriage, where physical intimacy is both expected and encouraged?

This chapter explores the **complexities of physical desire** in marriage, reminding readers that while physical intimacy is a gift from God, it must always be handled with care and respect. Love is about more than fulfilling physical needs—it's about building an emotional and spiritual connection that can withstand the pressures of life.

Marriage Is a Journey, Not a Destination

As Akosua reflects on their wedding day and all the excitement that came with it, she realizes that the wedding was just the beginning of their journey. The real work of marriage comes in the everyday moments—when they're tired, when they don't feel like being romantic, and when life's challenges make it hard to focus on each other.

This chapter highlights that **marriage is not the culmination of love, but the beginning of a lifelong journey**. It takes continuous effort, communication, and patience to keep the relationship healthy and growing. Akosua and Kojo's story serves as a reminder to all couples that love doesn't end with the wedding—it evolves, deepens, and matures over time.

The Importance of Communication in Marriage
A key takeaway from this chapter is the importance of **open and honest communication** between spouses. Akosua's hesitation to be physically intimate wasn't about rejecting Kojo, but about needing to communicate her emotional and physical exhaustion. Likewise, Kojo's willingness to listen and understand her feelings is crucial to maintaining a healthy marriage.

Proverbs 15:1 says,

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

In their marriage, Akosua and Kojo are learning how to communicate gently, with love and respect, even in moments of tension or disappointment.

Will They Navigate the Challenges Together?

As the chapter progresses, the **suspense** grows around whether Akosua and Kojo will be able to navigate the challenges of balancing physical desire, emotional intimacy, and the pressures of everyday life. Will they grow closer through this experience, or will the unspoken tensions create distance between them?

I believe you are left wondering how Akosua and Kojo will continue to build their relationship on the principles of love, sacrifice, and patience as they move forward in their marriage. The real test of their love comes not in the grand romantic gestures, but in the quiet moments where they choose to put each other's needs above their own.

The Ongoing Journey of Love

In the end, Akosua and Kojo realize that **love is not a destination**, but a continuous journey. They will face many more moments like this—moments of tension, compromise, and mutual understanding. But as long as they keep their faith at the center of their marriage, they will continue to grow together in love and respect.

The title of the chapter, "*Sweetheart, Not Tonight,*" mirrors the central lesson Akosua and Kojo are learning—that love, in its truest form, is not about immediate gratification, but about patience, sacrifice, and understanding. True love waits, listens, and puts the other person first, even when it's difficult.

As they fall asleep, holding hands, Akosua knows that their love is deeper than ever, not because of grand gestures or physical intimacy, but because they are committed to walking this journey together, guided by faith, trust, and God's perfect love.

CHAPTER 12:

"The Power of Commitment"

A Reflection on the Journey

It was a bright Saturday afternoon, and **Akosua** stood in front of a small group of young women in the church hall. The room buzzed with excitement and curiosity as they prepared for the day's discussion on love, dating, and marriage. These young women, some of whom were single and others in relationships, had come seeking wisdom and guidance from someone who had walked the path before them.

Akosua smiled warmly at them. Now happily married to Kojo, she had grown and matured through every twist and turn of their relationship. The journey hadn't been easy—there had been heartbreak, doubt, and difficult decisions—but through it all, she had learned that

true love, grounded in faith, was more than worth the wait.

As she stood there, she reflected on her journey: her internal struggles when Kwame first pursued her, the temptations and pressures she had faced, and the eventual peace that came with finding a partner who shared her Christian values. Kojo, her husband, had been the answer to her prayers, but it was the lessons God taught her along the way that truly shaped her understanding of love and commitment.

Today, she was ready to share her story with these young women, not just as a testimony, but as a message of hope, faith, and encouragement.

Akosua's Talk with the Young Women

Akosua began speaking, her voice steady but full of passion.

"When I was younger, I thought I knew what love was. I thought it was about feelings, butterflies, and excitement. But over the years, I've learned that ***real love goes much deeper****. Love is about commitment – commitment to God, to yourself, and to the person God has for you."*

The young women listened intently as Akosua shared her story, from the moment she met Kwame, to her struggles with lust and temptation, to the pressure she had felt from society and her family to settle down quickly. She spoke candidly about the difficult moments—when Kwame's charm blinded her to his red flags, and how hard it was to resist when the world told her to give in.

*"I learned that **commitment to God's design for love** means saying 'no' to things that don't align with His will, even when it's hard. It means trusting Him when you can't see the whole picture. It means choosing faith over fear, and patience over pressure."*

Akosua then shared how she met Kojo—a man whose quiet strength, patience, and commitment to God had won her heart. It wasn't the kind of romance she had imagined as a teenager, but it was real, deep, and meaningful. Kojo's love wasn't based on fleeting feelings or physical attraction alone; it was grounded in faith and mutual respect.

"**Commitment is the foundation of marriage,**" Akosua continued, *"but it's also what sustains us through the highs and lows of life. Marriage is not always easy. There are days when love is more about serving and sacrificing for one another than about romance. But that's where the power of commitment comes in—it keeps you grounded when emotions fade or when challenges arise."*

Lessons From Chapter 12

The Power of Commitment in Love and Faith

Commitment to God's Plan for Love

One of the central themes of this chapter is the importance of **committing to God's plan** for love and relationships. Akosua shares how easy it is to be swayed by the world's definition of love, which often focuses on instant gratification, lust, and fleeting emotions. But as Christians, they are called to a higher standard.

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act," Akosua quoted from **Psalm 37:5**. She explained how her journey had been one of learning to trust God with her heart and her future, even when she didn't have all the answers.

"God's love is sacrificial, patient, and kind. He calls us to mirror that love in our relationships—not just

through words, but through actions and commitments. Trust Him, and He will lead you to the partner who will love you as Christ loves the church."

Faithfulness in Relationships

Akosua then emphasized the importance of **faithfulness** in relationships. Many of the young women in the audience were either dating or considering courtship, and she wanted to remind them that faithfulness was more than just loyalty to a person—it was about staying true to God's principles.

"When you're committed to God first, everything else falls into place," she said. "Kojo and I had to make difficult choices early in our relationship to keep our focus on God. We made a commitment to wait until marriage for physical intimacy, and that required faithfulness to the promises we made—not just to each other, but to God. And when things got tough, it was that faithfulness that kept us going."

She encouraged the young women to **remain faithful** in their own relationships—whether that meant setting boundaries, resisting temptation, or waiting on God's timing. **1 Corinthians 13:7** says, *"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."* Faithfulness, Akosua explained, is the key to enduring love.

Commitment Beyond the Wedding Day

The wedding day is often seen as the culmination of a love story, but Akosua reminded the young women that **true commitment begins after the vows are made**.

"Marriage isn't the end of the journey; it's the beginning," she said. "Kojo and I faced challenges we didn't expect—long-distance, disagreements, and the pressures of daily life. But we made a commitment to each other and to God, and that commitment gave us the strength to work through everything."

She stressed that **commitment in marriage** means showing up every day, even when it's hard. It's about choosing to love and serve each other, even when emotions fluctuate or when circumstances are challenging. Marriage, she said, is about continually growing together, with God as the center of the relationship.

The Importance of Trusting God's Timing

One of the most important lessons Akosua wanted to share with the young women was the value of **trusting God's timing** in all things, especially relationships. She remembered the pressure she had felt from her family and society to marry quickly, and how difficult it was to wait for the right person.

"Looking back, I'm so glad I didn't settle," Akosua admitted. *"There were moments when I questioned whether God had someone for me, or if I was being too picky. But I trusted Him, and His timing was perfect. He knew what I needed in a husband long before I did."*

She encouraged the young women not to rush into relationships out of fear or pressure. *"God's timing is perfect. If you trust Him with your heart, He will bring the right person into your life at the right time. Don't settle for anything less than His best."*

Will They Take Her Words to Heart?

As Akosua concluded her talk, she noticed that the young women were deep in thought. They were reflecting on her words, considering how they applied to their own lives. Some were wrestling with the idea of waiting on God's timing, while others were thinking about their current relationships and whether they reflected the kind of commitment and faith Akosua had described.

There was a quiet **suspense** in the room. Would these young women take Akosua's words to heart? Would they choose to commit to God's plan for their love lives, even if it meant waiting, sacrificing, or making difficult decisions?

The chapter leaves readers wondering how these young women will respond to the wisdom Akosua has shared. Will they follow in her footsteps and trust God's design for love, or will they give in to the pressures of society and settle for less?

Commitment as the Foundation of Love

The final chapter brings together all the lessons from Akosua's journey, emphasizing that **commitment is the foundation of true love**. Whether it's commitment to God, commitment in courtship, or commitment in marriage, the power of sticking to one's values and trusting God's plan is what sustains love over time.

1. **Commitment to God First**: Every relationship should begin with a strong commitment to God. When individuals place God at the center of their lives, their love becomes grounded in faith and trust, rather than just emotions or physical attraction.

2. **Commitment in Courtship**: Akosua's journey reminds readers that **courtship is not just about finding a partner, but about discerning God's will for your life**. Courtship should be a time of intentionality, prayer, and patience, where both individuals seek to honor God in their decisions.

3. **Commitment in Marriage**: Finally, the chapter emphasizes that **marriage is a lifelong commitment**. Love is more than just feelings or romance—it's a choice to love, serve, and grow together every day, no matter what challenges arise.

A Message of Hope

As the young women gathered their things and left the hall, Akosua felt a deep sense of peace. She had shared her story, not as a perfect blueprint, but as a testimony of God's faithfulness. Her prayer was that these young women would leave with hope in their hearts—hope that God had a plan for their love lives, and that commitment, faith, and patience were the keys to finding and sustaining true love.

Akosua and Kojo's story wasn't just about their love—it was about **God's love** and how it transforms relationships when we trust Him. For Akosua, the power of commitment wasn't just about staying with one person; it was about staying faithful to God's design for love, no matter the cost. And that, she knew, was the greatest love story of all.

CHAPTER 13:

Practical Lessons for Everyone

As Akosua reflected on her journey and the lessons God had taught her about love, dating, and marriage, she realized that her story wasn't just about her and Kojo. It was about the countless young men and women navigating similar challenges in relationships—dealing with temptations, societal pressures, and the deep desire to find lasting love.

In this chapter, Akosua shares **practical lessons** from her story that anyone can apply in their own relationships. Whether you're single, dating, courting, or married, these lessons are designed to help you approach love from a place of faith, wisdom, and commitment to God's design.

Lesson 1: Know Your Worth in Christ

The first lesson Akosua learned was about **identity**. Before she could love someone else well, she needed to understand her own worth in Christ.

When Kwame first entered her life, Akosua found herself swayed by his charm and attention. It was easy to feel flattered, but in moments of quiet reflection, she realized that she was basing her sense of worth on his approval. She had to step back and remind herself of her true identity—**a child of God, loved and valued by Him**.

For anyone navigating relationships, it's essential to remember that **your value doesn't come from a romantic partner, but from God**. This is crucial in making wise decisions in relationships because when you know your worth, you won't settle for less than what God has for you.

- **Scripture Reference:** *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago"* (Ephesians 2:10, NLT).

Practical Step:

- Spend time in prayer and reading Scripture to remind yourself of who you are in Christ. Write down verses that affirm your identity in Him and reflect on them daily.
- Avoid relationships that cause you to question your value. A healthy relationship will affirm your worth, not diminish it.

Lesson 2: Set Boundaries Early

Akosua's relationship with Kwame taught her the importance of setting **boundaries** from the very beginning. In her story, the physical attraction between them grew

quickly, and she found herself wrestling with emotions and desires that were hard to control.

But when she took a step back and sought God's guidance, she understood that true love is not just about physical intimacy. Love is about respecting each other's boundaries and honoring God in all aspects of the relationship.

For anyone in a relationship, **setting boundaries** is essential to protect both your heart and your faith. Without clear boundaries, it's easy to get caught up in the moment and make decisions that can lead to regret.

- **Scripture Reference:** *"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body"* (1 Corinthians 6:18, NIV).

Practical Step:

- Have an open and honest conversation with your partner about boundaries early in the relationship. Discuss what is important to you and how you both can honor God in your actions.
- Set physical, emotional, and spiritual boundaries that align with your values. For example, you might agree to limit time alone in private places or have regular check-ins with a mentor or pastor.

Lesson 3: Pray About Your Relationships

Akosua often turned to prayer when she felt confused or unsure about Kwame and later Kojo. Her faith guided her decision-making process, and it was through

prayer that she gained clarity on what God's will was for her love life.

One of the key lessons from her story is that **prayer is essential in all relationships**. Whether you are single, dating, or married, it is through prayer that God reveals His will, offers wisdom, and provides peace in moments of uncertainty.

Prayer is not just about asking for the perfect partner, but about aligning your desires with God's. It's about asking for wisdom to make the right choices, patience to wait for the right person, and strength to maintain your boundaries.

- **Scripture Reference:** *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV).

Practical Step:

- Make prayer a regular part of your relationship journey. Before making any major decisions in dating or marriage, seek God's guidance and wait for His peace.
- If you're in a relationship, consider praying together as a couple. It strengthens your bond and helps keep God at the center of your relationship.

Lesson 4: Look for Red Flags Early

During her time with Kwame, Akosua began to notice **red flags** that indicated the relationship wasn't as

healthy as it seemed. Kwame's possessiveness, dishonesty, and attempts to pressure her into situations that made her uncomfortable were warning signs she couldn't ignore.

It's important to **pay attention to red flags** in a relationship. These might be subtle at first, but over time, they can reveal deeper issues that can lead to hurt and heartbreak. Love is patient, kind, and selfless—not manipulative, controlling, or dishonest.

For those in relationships, it's crucial to **discern whether the person you're with aligns with your values and treats you with respect**. Red flags shouldn't be ignored, no matter how charming or attractive the person may be.

- **Scripture Reference:** "*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs*" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV).

Practical Step:

- Be honest with yourself about any behaviors or attitudes in your relationship that make you uncomfortable. Don't brush off red flags just because the person seems perfect in other ways.
- Seek counsel from trusted friends, mentors, or spiritual leaders if you notice red flags. They can offer an objective perspective and guide you in making wise decisions.

Lesson 5: Don't Let Society Rush You

One of the hardest parts of Akosua's journey was dealing with the **societal pressure to marry**. In Ghanaian culture, like in many cultures, there's a strong expectation to settle down and start a family at a certain age. Akosua felt this pressure from her family, friends, and even her church community, but she learned that rushing into marriage out of fear or pressure was not the right path.

This lesson is critical for anyone feeling pressured to settle down. **God's timing is perfect**—it's better to wait for the right person than to rush into a relationship that isn't aligned with His plan for your life.

- **Scripture Reference:** *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).

Practical Step:

- Take your time in relationships. Don't let the opinions of others rush you into a decision. Trust that God knows the desires of your heart and has a plan for your life.
- Surround yourself with supportive people who encourage you to wait for God's best, rather than pushing you to settle.

Lesson 6: Understand the Meaning of Sacrifice in Love

When Akosua and Kojo began their courtship, she quickly realized that **love requires sacrifice**. There were moments when they had to make decisions that were

difficult but necessary for the health of their relationship. Whether it was maintaining boundaries, dealing with family disapproval, or managing long-distance challenges, their love was built on the foundation of **selflessness and sacrifice**.

Love in a Christian relationship is not about seeking what feels good in the moment, but about choosing what is best for the other person and for your spiritual growth. Sacrifice, in this sense, means giving up your own desires for the sake of the relationship and for God's glory.

- **Scripture Reference:** *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends"* (John 15:13, NIV).

Practical Step:

- Evaluate your relationship based on **mutual sacrifice**. Are you both willing to put in the work, make compromises, and put each other's needs first?
- In marriage, continue to practice daily acts of sacrifice—whether it's small things like serving each other, or bigger decisions like how to handle finances or family matters.

Lesson 7: Commit to God First, Then Each Other

The final lesson Akosua learned—and the most important—is that **true love starts with a commitment to God**. Throughout her journey, she realized that her relationship with Kojo worked because they were both committed to God first. Their love for each other flowed from their love for God, and this made all the difference.

For anyone entering a relationship or marriage, it's essential to place God at the center. When you are committed to God's will, His Word, and His timing, everything else falls into place. Your relationship becomes a partnership not just with each other, but with God.

- **Scripture Reference:** *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"* (Matthew 6:33, ESV).

Practical Step:

- Make a conscious decision to place God at the center of your relationship. Pray together, read Scripture, and attend church as a couple.
- Always check your actions and decisions against God's Word. Let His truth guide your relationship, rather than societal norms or fleeting emotions.

In conclusion, Akosua's journey teaches us that **real love is not a feeling—it's a choice** grounded in faith, sacrifice, and patience. By following these practical lessons, you too can navigate the complexities of relationships with wisdom and grace, trusting that God's plan for love is always the best.

A JOURNEY OF LOVE, FAITH, AND CHOICES

IN SWEETHEART, NOT TONIGHT, FOLLOW AKOSUA, A YOUNG WOMAN FROM ACCRA, GHANA, AS SHE NAVIGATES THE CHALLENGES OF LOVE, RELATIONSHIPS, AND FAITH. TORN BETWEEN THE CHARMING KWAME AND HER COMMITMENT TO GOD'S PLAN, AKOSUA FACES REAL STRUGGLES OF ATTRACTION, HEARTBREAK, AND TEMPTATION.

SHOULD SHE FOLLOW HER HEART OR TRUST GOD'S PLAN? IS KWAME, THE CHARMING MAN IN HER LIFE, THE ONE FOR HER? CAN SHE RESIST TEMPTATION AND MAKE DECISIONS ROOTED IN HER CHRISTIAN VALUES?

THIS CAPTIVATING STORY BLENDS GHANAIAN CULTURE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES, EXPLORING QUESTIONS LIKE: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INFATUATION AND TRUE LOVE? HOW DO YOU SET BOUNDARIES IN RELATIONSHIPS? HOW CAN YOU BUILD A LOVE THAT LASTS?

MORE THAN JUST A LOVE STORY, SWEETHEART, NOT TONIGHT IS A GUIDE FOR SINGLES AND THOSE SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND LOVE BEYOND FLEETING EMOTIONS. WILL AKOSUA WAIT FOR GOD'S TIMING, OR WILL THE PRESSURES OF THE WORLD LEAD HER DOWN ANOTHER PATH?

JOIN HER JOURNEY OF FAITH, LOVE, AND DIFFICULT CHOICES IN A WORLD WHERE TRUE COMMITMENT OFTEN SEEMS OUT OF REACH.

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