SHORT STORIES

BY ZEE SWETO

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Please note, no character in this issue ever existed. All names and the storyline are from the author's creativity. Read and enjoy but don't forget to mask up. Stay safe from Covid 19. Images used in this publication are for illustration purposes only.

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THE STORY OF MY LIFE

I am just an ordinary lady who grew up in the rural areas of Shurugwi. The life I wanted and dreamt of versus my current life, it's like two different worlds. I never wanted to be a lady of the night, a prostitute. Destroying marriages wasn't part of my dreams either. I really wanted to lead a normal life cherished by many and to be a role model to those around me including my siblings. But the devil had other plans for me, destroying my well being, separating me from the family. Just a lady from the ghetto, I even changed my name, now they call me, Trish.

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22 years ago my parents were blessed with a beautiful bubbling baby girl and they named me, Chiedza meaning light. To them I represented light for the whole family. All they wanted was to see me prospering and leading a better life and to look after them. Just like any other kid, during holidays you may be asked to go for holidays and I loved travelling. I was in grade 6 when I was sent to Harare for the August school holidays.

I arrived in Harare and murume watete is the one vakatondimirira paShow ground. I didn't face any problems on my journey and was so excited to meet tete and bamukuru. It was my second time to meet them. Their family was well up and their kids didn't know how to speak in shona.....like seriously. They lived in Chishawasha Hills. This was a difficult moment for me as I was to learn a lot of things, from cooking, speaking in english, using the television. Ko ndaizvizivirepi asikana. Ini munhu wandaitojairirana naye was the maid and tainzwisisana aidawo kutaura shona plus aisadada. Aipota achindidzidzisawo zvimwe .

In life never trust anyone even your relatives. My life is where it is because of trust which was bestowed on the wrong person

Tete vakaita trip yekuSouth Africa nebasa and takasara tega nevana nasisi. Bamukuru vakandimutsa makuseni seni zvikanzi geza ndoda kunokutengera hembe kuTown. Ini nevana vavo taisanatsokuwirirana plus vaisatomboda kudzidzira shona. Bamukuru vakazorova mota tikapinda mutown. Zveshuwa hembe vakatenga dzakawanda asi kubata kwavaindiita plus rudo rwacho rwavairatidza iiih ndaingozvibvunza nechemumoyo kuti izvi zvinopera bho here.

Vakazoenda neni kune imwe restaurant soo ndikatengerwa chikafu apakwaive kwakuda kusviba ini hana yangu yaive yava kurova coz mai kumba vaisatomboda kuti zuva ridoke munhu asiri pamba. Takasvika kumba bamukuru vakandibata ruoko vakati endesa boots dzangu kuBedroom. Iwas so innocent and I

just did as I was instructed. He followed me. Ndakapinda mubedroom ivo kwakubva vavhara door kwakukiya. Ini ndaive ndakangonyarara nekutya. He then opened the wardrobe kwakubudisa banga zvikanzi shamwari yangu iyi kana ukasangoterera saka ibva wanyarara usambochema.

Vakatora water glass vakaisa drink kwakundipa kuti ndimwe ndakabva ndatanga kunzwa kuneta kusvika ndisisazive zvirikuitika. The whole night bamukuru vakarara neni up to now handiumbozive kuti vakandibata kangani. In the morning vakamuka vakati unogezera muno ndikageza vakandipa hembe dzekupfeka. Bamukuru vakaswera zuva rese vachingorara neni vachiti ukangotaura chete I will kill your parents and you too.

Kutaura chokwadi ndainzwa kurwadziwa apandichichema but hapana aindinzwa vaitowedzera volume yeradio. Vakazondiburitsa husiku sisi vadzoka kubva kuOff. Ndaisagona kunyasofamba zvakanaka but ndaisakwanisa kutaura problem yangu. Ndaingoti gumbo ririkurwadza and

bamukuru ndivo vaimhanyira kundipindurira hanzi akakuvara gumbo nezuro akatsvedza akadonha mutown. Tete vakazodzoka the following day. At first vakabvuma kuti igumbo zveshuwa asi vakazonditora kuenda kubedroom and asked me kuti ndirare ndakatarisa mudenga. She touched my private parts ndakaridza mhere nekurwadziwa. She realised that I had been sexually abused, I had been raped. She questioned me kuti ndiani akaita izvozvo and I was adamant kuti handizive coz ndaitya. Tiri pakati pekutaura bamukuru vakapinda. Tete vakatoti ndionereiwo mashura pano mwana akabatwa chibharo zvino arikutadza kundiudza kuti ndiani. Saka ndakufunga kuenda kumapurisa nekuti iri ndiro jeri chairo. Munhu uyu anofanirwa kufira mujeri shuwa kundikanganisira mwana wehanzvadzi yangu nhai Mwari weeee ndozviudza aniko ini..tete vakatanga kuchemawo.

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What I vividly remember is bamukuru vakati kuna tete musiye totaura naye mangwana anotiudza. Vakabva vanditi chienda unorara. Ndakarara ndichirwadziwa. Early in the morning tete vakanditora kwakuenda kumba kweshamwari yavo handichaziva kuti ndekupi kwacho. While we were there takambogara mumota and she promised me kuti ndikavaudza kuti ndiani akandibata vaizondichinja chikoro kuuya mutown.

Ndakangovatarisa ndokutanga kuchema ndikati ndibamukuru. Ndakavaudza zvese asi mamwe mashoko aisanyanyokubuda because ndaichema nekurwadziwa. Friend yatete akazondipa mushonga nekundirapa. Tete vakaona kuti vakaenda kumapurisa murume wavo aizosungwa saka vakangonditi iwe hauchadzokeri kumusha wakudzidza kuno ndakutofonera amai nababa vako. Vabereki vangu pavakaudzwa izvi kuti ndakudzidza kuHarare vakafara chose.

Since that time life was never the same again. By the time I reached grade 7 ndaive ndakutorara nevakomana vakawanda. Shamwari dzabamukuru vaingonditorawo vachirara neni. At form 2 ndakaramba chikoro kwakutiza pamba. Because of my age, ndaive neMarket ndikamira muroad or ndikapinda muNight club madhara aiita kubuda rute akanditarisa apa ndakapfeka kamini skirt. Pandakazoiswa tatoo pagumbo ha ndakabva ndapedza masports ese. Ndaisatora time ndisina anditora for short time. I was told never to come back to see my brother because ndaive ndarwadzisa vabereki and for sure vakarwadziwa and hapanawo aive akambovaudza zvekuti I was raped when I stayed natete. So to them vaingoti mwana akashaya hunhu apindwa neHarare. Izvo bodo mwana akatopinda nema1 pakukura ndirikuna tete. Nekuda kwekuti ndaive ndine market ndaitova neDifferent prices for those that want sex with or without protection. As for me I loved it without protection because it was expensive meaning I would get more money. I became talk of the clubs in town ndichinzi mwana ane

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tunhu twake. MaSTIs aya ndakarapwa kasingaperi. Ndakazotanga kuita small house yemadhara vamwe vaitoputsa dzimba dzavo nekuda kwangu. Mazimota maLand cruiser aya vaiuya kuzorara muka1 room kangu kuGlen norah. Ndakazoita STI yakanetsa isingapori kwakuzotestwa wanike ma1 ropa raive rashata ndaive ndabata necheshuramatongo ichi. Last December I managed to get more money ndikatenga magumbeze, groceries, hembe imwewo mari ndikasungirira.

Ndakazokwira bus ndakananga kumusha asi ndakasvikira kwasabhuku nekuti kumba kwedu ndaive ndakatoudzwa kuti ndisadzoke. Ndakaudza sabhuku my problem nekwayakatangira dzamara vazoti tiende kumba kwedu kwakunopira nyaya yose kuvabereki. Babavakandirova mbama padama chero nanhasi ndichirikungohwa kurwadza kwayo. Vese vakashami sika nenyaya yangu sabhuku akati hatichatombogari handeyi kumapurisa izvozvi bamukuru vasungwe ava.

Nyaya yakafambirwa bamukuru vakasungwa musi wa7 January gore rino. Tete vakauya kumba vakandituka zvisingaiti vachiti wasungisa murume wangu. Takazoti musi wa14 January tiri kuCourt, mwana wavo akasimuka muCourt akataura kuti baba vake vakatombomubatawo chibharo ari form 3. -Kutaura kudai tangomirira kuti vachitongwa and I wish vafire mujeri chaimo. Inini ndongoshingawo pamwe makore achawanda ekurarama asi ndakapindiwa neshuramatongo. Unfortunately, tete vakashaikawo last week neCovid 19 and hama hapana akambovachema.

My lesson:

Mhosva hairovi. Ngatisasimbisaneyi pahukama kuvharidzira nhubu, ny'any'a mharapatsetse, mhondi vanobata vana or vakadzi chibharo. Chero ari ani munhu ngaasungwe. The future and potential in the persons who have been raped will never be realized. The damage can not be controlled. And their lives will never be the same. Don't judge us prostitutes, some of us didn't choose to be who we are today. My story pains me and there is nothing I can do to reverse everything what happened to me. To my family, I apologize for bringing the family name into such a disgrace. Protect the girl child. No to women abuse.

___________based on a true story------------------

*******the end*****

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