

Cast of Characters

Patient

Doctor

Another Patient

Nurse

[The scene opens in an office. There are just two chairs facing each other separated by a table. A middle age man is occupying one of the chairs. He is holding a paper file with one hand and holding a pen with the other. The chair opposite him is occupied by a woman on hospital blue wear for patients.]

Patient: Doctor I know I'm here because everyone believes I'm mad. But I am not. I am a doctor too and you know that as well. I know myself very well and I know if I'm mad I won't know. But I know who I am so I'm not mad. I am far from normal but I am not mad doctor.

DOCTOR: *[Writes on the file for some seconds and then raises his head]* Ma your record here says you started pulling your clothes and your hair two days ago and you fought everyone that tried to stop you. From your experience as a doctor, where will you place such a behavior Ma?

PATIENT: Doctor two days ago I would have placed someone acting like that in a psychiatric hospital like I am now. But I won't do that today, I will just allow the person to exercise his or her emotional melt down.

DOCTOR: I understand what you are passing through.....

PATIENT: No you don't. You only know what you were told. I am the culprit, the victim and the witness. Keep your pen down let me tell you the story of what really happened.

[Flashback]

[The scene changes to another office almost like the first scene except in this scene Patient is sitting down dressed in white suit. A stethoscope is on her neck. Opposite her seat is Another Patient]

PATIENT: What's your complain? *[Operating a Tab after the question]*

ANOTHER PATIENT: *[speaks in a low tone]* Ma my head....

PATIENT: *[Shouts]* I can't hear you lady, I am busy with my phone, get out if you are not ready to talk.

ANOTHER PATIENT: Ma talking loud increases the pain.....

PATIENT: Then don't talk again. *[Picks a paper and writes a prescription.]* You can go. Go wait at the pharmacy, your drugs will be given to you. I don't have time to waste on people.

ANOTHER PATIENT: *[A bit louder]* But ma you have not yet heard my complaints.

PATIENT: You said you can't talk, go and take pain relief until you are ready but don't come back to me, tell the nurses to take your file to someone else I can't stand people like you.

ANOTHER PATIENT: I did not say I cannot talk I only....

PATIENT: Lady please excuse me. My shift will end in two minutes and I want it for myself.....

NURSE: [*Rushes into the office*] Ma there have been an accident and we need you to join others. They are transporting the victims to the hospital. [*A siren is heard*] Oh they are here, hurry up ma.

PATIENT: So you don't have manners anymore. How dare you barge into my office like that? Do you know how many years I spent in school? Get out of my office now.

NURSE: Sorry Ma it's because of the situation of things Ma.

PATIENT: Just get out. [*Pointing at Another Patient*] I thought I told you to get lost earlier. Oya follow her. And Nurse, my shift just ended, I am not on duty.

[*Another Patient walks away with Nurse. Patient seats and goes back to her Tab. After ten minutes she carries her bag in one hand, her tab on the other and walks out of the office.*]

PATIENT: [*Drops her bag and tab*] Jesus. What is going on here? [*Runs to a bed where a young boy is being covered with a cloth by Nurse*] No no no. What are you doing?

NURSE: Ma he is one of the ten accident victims. There were just four doctors so they treated the ones that looked serious first, but unfortunately he too had a head injury and before anyone one could attend to him, he died.....

PATIENT: [*Screams*] No no no [*She pushes Nurse away and starts shaking the boy*] Nooo Ben wake up.... Wake up [*She stops suddenly.*] I am dreaming right? [*She starts laughing*] This is a dream and since weird things happen in dreams I can do this [*She pulls out her wig, pulls her suit trouser and starts pulling her shirt. Nurse tries to stop her but fails. She calls others to come and help*]

[Back to the present]

PATIENT: Doctor, I spent three barren years in my husband's home. He sent me out the fourth year and married another woman. I discovered few weeks later that I was pregnant. I was so glad when I gave birth to a boy. The other woman gave birth to twin girls. My ex-husband came to beg with his mother but I used a knife to chase them out. I was very happy when I later heard from a colleague of mine that my ex will never be able to impregnate a woman because of a sickness he suffered. Ben was the only thing that kept me sane and I lost him. Sorry I killed him. I was stripping off my clothes because I don't deserve to wear them. I am far from normal but I am not crazy. I could have saved him. I could have. So I don't deserve pity I deserve a death sentence Doctor. *[Stands up]* We are done here, you can submit your report. I have to go. The world can move on without me. *[She raises her gown and brings out a small knife from her underwear pocket, Doctor rushes to stop her but he is too late. She stabs her heart and collapses]*

[Doctor holds her and screams for help]

THE END