

TRAGIC TWIN DEATHS: Lovers Die After Sex

What informed the killing of a woman by her man-friend? Also, who killed the man shortly after the duo had sex.

These are puzzles homicide detectives at Lagos State Command CID are battling to unravel.

The incident occurred at 39, Alade Raji Street, Ijebu Road, Ikotun, a suburb of Lagos. The house in which the murder occurred is owned by the slain Funmilayo Fatunsi.

She was suspected to have been violently attacked by her man-friend, one Afolabi Niyi, with a belt after a minor altercation.

Meanwhile, the man-friend, a security guard attached to a company at Ikeja, for fear of the long arm of the law, chose to take his own life by taking a liquid substance suspected to be poison. He allegedly foamed to death. A small bottle containing the substance was recovered on the bed in the room.

Prior to the incident, *Saturday Independent* gathered that two of the dead woman's children, Kunle and his younger sister who lived elsewhere but born to her legitimate husband, had visited her between 12 noon and 1.00p.m on Wednesday, January 3, 2007. When they arrived, they met their mother's lover, whom they were familiar with, and thus, regarded him as their stepfather. Though, they had no child to show for their relationship, virtually relations and friends of the 45-year-old woman were aware of their love affair.

To show how open the affair was, it was learnt that sequel to the unfortunate incident, the 52-year-old stepfather, had pledged to assist Kunle, his woman-friend's first-born child to travel abroad for greener pastures.

Her skepticism about how Afolabi could raise such a substantial amount of money to sponsor Kunle's trip to Europe according to sources may have been responsible for the cold murders.

Investigations revealed that Afolabi Niyi, who was legally married and had his family in Okokomaiko, oftentimes passed the night with Funmilayo Fatunsi at her one-bedroom apartment which she demarcated into two.

Although details of her early marriage with an Igbo man, Agu, which later crumbled, were sketchy but it was gathered the union was blessed with four kids.

However, Afolabi, it was further learnt, pledged and assured Kunle and his mother that he inherited a storey-building in a part of Lagos from his late father which he intended to dispose off in order to raise funds to process and procure the boy's travelling papers to Europe.



•Funmilayo Fatunsi

Kunle waited anxiously for Afolabi to give him the money but nothing was forthcoming; and to show that he was sincere, *Saturday Independent* gathered Afolabi phoned and scheduled an appointment with Kunle, to meet him on Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 12 noon at his mother's apartment.

The deceased, sources disclosed, told Kunle that he was billed to collect the house rent on his inherited property from his tenants before 4.00p.m on that fateful day. He told Kunle that he had changed the decision to dispose off the building.

He asked Kunle to check back later in the day, as he would have gone to the place and collected the

house rent for the new year, which he (Kunle) would use to facilitate his trip to Europe.

"You shouldn't worry, Kunle, as you are going to get a surprise by the time you come back later in the day. I will go to the place now and collect the house rent for the new year. And by the time you come back by 4.00p.m you would meet me in your mother's home with the money I pledged to give you", the deceased assured the young man.

According to Kunle, he left his mother's apartment around 1.00p.m with a pledge to return in three hours to keep the appointment. He added that his younger sister remained with their mother and stepfather.

In a fit of anger, Funmilayo Fatunsi was suspected to have pulled out a pestle with which she pelted her man-friend but, however, Afolabi Niyi overpowered her and he inflicted bodily injuries both on the face and neck of his woman with the buckle of a belt

Kunle said he learnt his younger sister also left the place by 3p.m. to where she stays and what transpired thereafter remained a mystery to him.

Sources stated that the duo had sex shortly after Kunle and his younger sister left Ikotun, going by available evidence gathered at the crime scene.

Detectives at Ikotun Division, probing the puzzling murder, suspected that Afolabi Niyi might have been irked and decide to snuff life out of his woman-friend, probably when the latter mockingly doubted the former's financial ability fulfil his pledge on or before the appointed time (ie, 4.00p.m).

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face and neck of his woman with the buckle of a belt.

As if undone, it was learnt Afolabi sprained his diminutive lover's neck with the belt until the latter gave up the ghost. The operatives noted that when they placed the recovered belt on the fresh bruises on the woman's neck, it fit into it, it was suspected to be a case of strangulation.

Distraught by the gravity of the crime committed, *Saturday Independent* gathered Afolabi, elected to take to his own life by taking a liquid substance suspected to be poison. Foams were allegedly oozing out of his mouth before he passed away.

At the appointed 4.00p.m time, Kunle showed up and met the door of the room he left earlier under lock and key, suggesting that something was amiss.

When he forced the door open, Kunle met his mother and stepfather lying dead beside each other on the bed.

However, a small bottle allegedly containing the purported poison was found beside the man on the bed.

Consequently, the operatives claimed they could not hurriedly conclude that Afolabi actually poisoned himself until the autopsy report revealed such.

Nonetheless, the remains of the two lovers had been deposited at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja for postmortem examination.

Kunle, the deceased woman's eldest child, sources said, told the police that he and Afolabi's younger sister had been able to raise the sum of N50, 000 to pay autopsies on the two corpses, while they were yet to get the remaining balance of N10, 000.

The N10, 000 balance, he said, has dashed the hope of obtaining the coroner's forms.

To worsen the matter, Kunle, who resides in Mushin, stressed that he had visited Afolabi's younger sister's Okokomaiko home twice to enable them source for the N10, 000 balance but the woman seemed fed up.

And before he left on the second visit, Kunle was said to have left a note, and four mobile telephone lines, through which he and Afolabi's other relations could reach him on how they would all come together to meet the police investigating team.

On the other hand, detectives have vowed not to release either corpse until the families and relations of the affected victims show up at Ikotun Police Station for further investigation.

The detectives said they had ordered the crime-scene room to remain under lock and key until the families of the two victims report at the station to enable them conclude investigation into the matter.

Families and relations of the late Funmilayo Fatunsi, except her son, Kunle, police said, had been reporting at the station but that the woman's elder and younger siblings are based in overseas.

Besides, spirited efforts to locate Afolabi Niyi's nuclear family at Okokomaiko has proved unsuccessful, as the man's younger sister, who is expected to assist at this crucial moment, has gone into hiding.

Kunle admitted, five days after he visited the woman's Okokomaiko home, of receiving a call from the woman, who promised to get across to and mobilise all her families but since then, he had not heard from her.

The Lagos State Police Command Spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed the incident.

The Superintendent of Police (SP) said that detectives were still investigating the twin deaths with a view to unearthing the mystery behind the gory incidents.

"But the major task before the detectives is how the operatives would unravel the mystery surrounding the tragic twin murders shortly after the two lovers had sexual intercourse", co-tenants noted.



•Afolabi Niyi