

manner of love

• I stabbed my rival to death because I love my girlfriend so much – 19-yr-old

Jamiu Sanni is 19-year-old and a half orphan. He said he lost his father when he was eight years old. An apprentice blockmaker, he fell in love with a girl and he was so overwhelmed by this love (or infatuation?) that he had to kill. Sanni now in police custody, narrates his tragic story in this encounter with **ROTIMI WILLIAMS**.

I HAIL from Ikorodu, Lagos State, both parents came from Ikorodu. We are two from my mother, my younger sister is in school. I was doing menial jobs for contractors most times. My father had two other wives before he died.

I was arrested at Emuren town in Odogbolu area of Ogun State where I was squatting with my friend. I started staying with my friend at Emuren. His name is Seun. When I was finding things difficult and could not find any tangible thing to do, he provided the needed assistance by accommodating me in his parent's house at Emuren. I was just three months at Emuren when I spotted one beautiful lady called Ayedun. I loved her but could not approach her because I was shy and also because prior to that time, I had no girlfriend. I did not know how to woo a girl.

So with the assistance of Seun and his elder brother, I got talking to Ayedun and in no time, we started dating. She actually taught me the act of love making. Each time I made love to her, I always felt I was in another world; so, I became attached.

However, all the while, I did not know that Ayedun had another boyfriend, who

is from the town. I discovered this some days ago when I noticed that this guy gave Ayedun a suspicious smile. You know the type of smile that is laced with love and jealousy?

I immediately noticed what was happening and I later asked Ayedun. She did not deny but told me that she was no longer interested in him. But since then, I never liked their coming together again, not even for a second.

I was watching over Ayedun jealously. I wanted her for myself alone. Also I was avoiding the other guy because at a point, I got to know that he also knew about my relationship with Ayedun and so, we, started avoiding each other. But I knew within myself that there was no way I would

allow anybody to touch her again.

Something happened which changed the course of things. My rival and the elder brother of my friend that I was leaving with had a misunderstanding between them which was not known to me. I did not know the genesis of their misunderstanding. But I later suspected that it had to do with my relationship with Ayedun.

It got to a level that my rival and his friends always sang songs of abuse any time they saw me pass by. What pained me most of all the songs was the one calling me a stranger who came into an unknown territory. Then, I went to Ikorodu on a Friday and, on my return on Sunday, I met my friend, Ade. We decided to see somebody close to the motor garage. So on our return, my rival and his friends who probably saw us when we were going came close to the path we were passing, they started singing again. I replied at this stage and we started fighting.

The elders in the area settled us and we went our ways. At about 8 pm, the same day, these boys came to the house I was staying and started abusing me again. I saw some charms with them. At

this stage, I felt so terrified and so angry that I went into the house, brought out an empty bottle of beer, smashed it on the wall and stabbed my rival on the neck with it.

All I saw was that he fell to the floor while others took to their heels. I learnt later that the guy died on the spot. Sensing that I could be attacked and lynched, I escaped to the next village where I took refuge for some days. But what surprised me most was the fact that Ayedun, my girlfriend who was the major reason why I fought the deceased, never made any attempt to look for me.

On the day I stabbed the young man, I had expected her to show some sympathy by looking for me at the village where I was hiding. But no. I even sent people to her but she refused to come. This devastated me a lot. I have not seen her ever since. All this while, that I complained to her that her former boyfriend was busy abusing me, she was encouraging me to do whatever I could to save my face and take possession of what I felt belonged to me. I actually wanted to marry Ayedun, I was deeply in love with her. I had planned to take care of her from my menial jobs. At least, I was being paid between N300 and N600 a day. I felt that was enough to take care of the two of us if we eventually got married.

But when she refused to see me, I felt there was no need to continue hiding. So, I came out of my hideout and surrendered myself to the police. I now regret my action. I became disappointed that Ayedun rejected me at the hour of need.

I now regret my action. I became disappointed that Ayedun rejected me at the hour of need

