

# ***BURNED OUT***

*By Seenaire.*

*What will we eat now? Ebere doesn't like Yam and it's been a while she ate plantain.*

Patience heaved a sigh as she exited the lecture hall for the hostel. It was 5:37 pm and a cold Tuesday in Osun State, Nigeria.

*I'll just get roasted plantain and fish.*

As a 200L Microbiology student, she had lectures daily from 8am to 5pm, except on weekends.

*No one prepared me for life in Ife.*

Her stomach growled suddenly and Patience placed her hands on it hoping no one heard the noise.

Close to the Hostel, she bought the quantity of roasted plantain she could afford, with three sachets of water.

*Why does our room seem farther?*

She arrived to her room 6 minutes later and washed her hands with a sachet of water. Once inside, she hung her handbag on the bunk she shared with Ebere.

"Eby, here's yours." Patience handed her a small black polythene bag of plantain, with a sachet of water.

Ebere took a break from her iPhone and sat upright with her feet dangling. Without any response, she collected them and almost immediately squeezed her eyes shut when she saw the meal. "You didn't get fish for me?"

Patience raised her brows.

"I have told you many times; when buying something for someone, do it wholeheartedly. How do you expect me to eat this without fish? Please," she stretched the polythene bag to Patience, "give it to someone else or better still, add it to yours."

*'We are birthday mates and roomies.' That has always been my excuse. But not anymore.*

"No wahala." She whispered to Ebere who continued with her phone.

Patience took the two polythene bags of roasted plantain out of the room and into the trash.

*It's time to start living my life.*