THE STORY TRAPPED IN A DREAM IS A STORY INVOLVING A YOUNG MAN WHO ALLOWED HIMSELF TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HIS DREAM GIRL, ONLY HE WASN’T DREAMING.

HE WOULD SEE HER IN HIS DREAMS BUT HE COULDN’T SEE HER FITTING INTO HIS PLANS BUT THEY GOT MARRIED ANYWAY.

SHORTLY THERE AFTER, HIS THOUGHT TO BE DREAM STARTED TURNING INTO A NIGHTMARE AND THERE WAS NO WAY TO TURN THIS AROUND BECAUSE SINCE HE WASN’T DREAMING WAKING UP COULD NOT PROVIDE HIM WITH AN ESCAPE.

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT MISGUIDED LOVE.

TRAPPED IN A DREAM ACTUALLY HAS TWO MAIN CHARACTERS WHOSE NAMES ARE, SWALDO AND PETUNIA, YOU WILL READ A LITTLE FROM BOTH CONCERNING THEIR LOVE AFFAIR AND HOW THEY MET.

I HOPE YOU ENJOY READING TRAPPED IN A DREAM.

# TRAPPED IN A DREAM

 THE STORY OF SWALDO&PETUNIA

 A LOVE STORY BY H. L. HILL

CHAPTER-1

WHILE SITTING IN THE PARK RELAXING AND ENJOYING THE SUN ONE AFTERNOON, AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE WHO GREW UP WITH ME IN THE HOOD APPROACHED ME LOOKING VERY BEWILDERED AND A LITTLE CONFUSED.

HE SAT ON THE BENCH NEXT TO ME AND ASKED IF HE COULD TELL ME A STORY?

I SAID SURE, WHATS ON YOUR MIND?

WELL HE STARTS BY TELLING ME THAT THIS STORY WILL TAKE US ON A TOUR THROUGH SEVERAL YEARS OF HIS LIFE THAT INVOLVE MISENTERPTED AND MISDIRECTED LOVE, AND THAN IN A TONE OF DISSAPOINTMENT HE SAYS TO ME, HANK,A DREAM IS JUST THAT, A DREAM AND TELLS US THAT YOU CANT LIVE IN A DREAM AND MAKE

PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE, A DREAM LIFE IS JUST THAT, A DREAM.

 HELLO READERS MY NAME IS HANK AND I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE MAIN CHARECTERS IN THIS STORY, THEY ARE NAMED SWALDO AND PETUNIA, SWALDO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THE GHETTO WHERE HE LIVED AND WORKED AS A YOUNG MAN, SWALDO SPENT A LOT OF HIS CHILDHOOD LOOKING FOR A BETTER WAY OF LIFE BUT FINDING NONE, SO SWALDO WOULD SPEND A LOT OF TIME DREAMING AND TRYING TO PLAN HIS FUTURE JUST WANTING TO DO BETTER IN LIFE BUT DIDN’T KNOW HOW, YOU SEE SWALDO HAD NO MEANS, JUST DREAMS, HE TOLD ME A STORY ABOUT HOW HIS PLANS AND HIS DREAMS COLLIDED AS HE GREW OLDER, BUT NO WISER, SWALDOS SOULMATE (THE GIRL IN HIS DREAMS) IS NAMED PETUNIA, A YOUNG LADY WHO HAD MOVED FROM ANOTHER PLACE AND NOW WAS LIVING WITH HER BOYFRIEND IN SWALDOS OLD NEIGHBORHOOD.

PETUNIA WASN’T TO HAPPY LIVING WITH HER BOYFRIEND AND REALLY WANTED TO LEAVE, TO FIND A BETTER PLACE.

PRTUNIA NEVER DREAMED OR PLANNED TO RAISE A FAMILY WITH SWALDO, NOT EVEN AFTER THEY MET, ALLTHOUGH YOU CANT PREDICT THE FUTURE.

SWALDO SAID THAT AFTER TRYING FOR SO LONG TO FIGURE IT OUT BY HIMSELF AND SEEING THAT IT ISNT WORKING FOR HIM HE WOULD LIKE TO TELL US HIS SIDE OF A STORY INVOLVING HIS LIFE AND SOME THINGS THAT HE EXPERINCED WHILE GROWING UP IN THE STREETS NEVER REALLY LEARNING ANYTHING ABOUT LIFE OR LOVE, HE NOW HOPES THAT WE CAN HELP HIM BY READING HIS STORY.

 SWALDO LIVED IN A SMALL PART OF A BIG CITY AND GREW UP WITH A HUGE IMAGINATION BUT HE SOON UNFORTUNATLY MADE THE MISTAKE OF FALLING IN IMAGINARY LOVE, AND THAT’S HOW HE BECAME TRAPPED IN THIS DREAM, WHICH WASN’T REALLY A DREAM BUT ACTUALLY HIS LIFE, NOT ANY PART OF HIS IMAGINATION THIS WAS ACTUALLY THE REAL DEAL.

(THINGS HAPPEN IN LIFE THAT YOU CANT PREPARE FOR)

SWALDO INSIST ON TELLING US ABOUT SOME OF THE SITUATIONS THAT HE EXPERIENCED AND WASN’T PREPARED FOR, SWALDO WAS SPEAKING ABOUT UNEXPECTED THINGS WHICH BEGAN TO HAPPEN SHORTLY AFTER HE AND PETUNIA MET, AND THAT WAS THIRTY SEVEN YEARS AGO, NO ONE COULD EXPECT THEIR LIFE TO PLAY LIKE THIS, CONSIDERING HOW GOOD THEY LOOK TOGETHER.

 SWALDO WANTS TO TELL US ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE OF FALLING IN IMAGINARY LOVE AND NO WAY OF FALLING OUT BECAUSE THE GIRL THAT HE THOUGHT WAS IN HIS DREAMS WAS ACTUALLY THE GIRL IN HIS LIFE.

SWALDO MADE THIS STORY SOUND SO AMAZING TO ME THAT AFTER I HERD IT I FELT THAT I HAD TO TELL SOMEBODY ABOUT IT AND I CHOSE YOU MY READERS.

WELCOME TO SWALDOS SIDE OF THE STORY.

 THIS ALL BEGAN ON A HOT SUMMER NIGHT ACCORDING TO SWALDO WHILE HE WAS TALKING TO HIS GIRLFRIEND HE WAS TALKING TO HIS GIRLFRIEND ABOUT HIS DREAMS AND HIS PLANS FOR THEIR FUTURE AS A HAPPY FAMILY, BUT ODDLY ENOUGH THE FACE ON THE GIRL THAT SWALDO WAS TALKING TO WAS NOT THE SAME FACE ON THE GIRL IN HIS DREAMS, AND BY THAT BEING THE CASE SWALDO FELT THAT SOMETHING WASN’T RIGHT ABOUT THIS SITUATION BUT HE COULDN’T FIGURE IT OUT.

SWALDO WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE BY TELLING US ABOUT HOW HE THINKS THAT HE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE WRONG GIRL, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS ONLY ONE, THE SAME ONE IN HIS DREAMS WAS THE GIRL TO BE IN HIS PLANS, HE DIDN’T KNOW IT THEN BUT THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE, AND BY HER BEING THE ONLY ONE SEEN IN HIS DREAMS SWALDO JUST FIGURED THAT PETUNIA MUST BE THE ONE THAT BELONGS IN HIS PLANS.

SWALDO IS GOING TO CLEAR UP SOME OF THIS CONFUSION AND TELL US HOW THAT MISTAKEN IDENTITYY MANAGE TO DETOUR HIS THINKING OF HIS PLANS IN MANY WAYS, THEN WHEN FINALLY REALIZING THAT HE IS NOT IN A DREAM, THINGS BEGIN LOOKING VERY DIFFERENT AND THEN HE BEGIN TO WISH IT WAS JUST A DREAM.

SWALDO SAYS THAT WHEN HE FINALLY REALIZED THAT HE WAS LIVING HIS LIFE IN A DREAM IS WHEN HE KNEW WHY HIS PLANS DIDN’T WORK OUT FOR HIM.

SWALDO CLAIMS THAT AFTER MEETING PETUNIA HE STARTED SPENDING LESS TIME WORKING ON HIS PLANS AND THE MAN THAT HE WANTED TO BE AND SPENDING MORE TIME TRYING TO BE THE MAN HE THOUGHT PETUNIA WANTED HIM TO BE.

 ACTUALLY SWALDO SPENT MORE TIME MAINTAINING DREAMS WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SETTING GOALS FOR HIS PLANS.

SWALDO SAYS THAT HE WAS IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN WHICH HE LEARNED HAD MORE CONCERN FOR THE WOES OF INSUGNIFICANT OTHERS THAN SHE HAD FOR HIM.(SWALDO WAS IN LOVE-PETUNIA WASN’T)

 SWALDO SHARED WITH ME THE EXPERIENCE HE HAD AFTER FALLING SO DEEPLY IN LOVE IN A DREAM, AND THEN THE DISSAPOINTMENT HE FELT WHEN HE SAW THAT IT WASN’T A DREAM AND WHAT HE HAD DONE WITH HIS LIFE WITHIN THE PAST 40 YEARS.

 SWALDO BEGIN TO WISH THAT HE COULD GO BACK AND FIX THIS MESS BUT HE KNOWS THAT HE CANT, BECAUSE THE PEN USED TO WRITE HIS DESTINY HAS NO ERASER.

 THIS IS A TRUE STORY ABOUT THE PRICE SWALDO HAD TO PAY WHEN HE MADE A BIG MISTAKE IN HIS LIFE, THEN DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND HIS CONTROL AND BECAUSE HE WASN’T DREAMING HE WAS MADE TO TOLERATE AND EXPERIENCE MANY LIFE CHANGES.

YOU SEE SWALDO FELL IN LOVE WHILE BELIEVING HE WAS DREAMING AND AT THE SAME TIME INVOLED WITH MENTALLY WORKING ON HIS PLANS, UNFORTUNATELY THE GIRL THAT SWALDO FELL IN LOVE WITH WHEN HE THOUGH HE WAS DREAMING UNFORTUNATLY WASN’T DREAMING, PETUNIA WAS JUST IN HIS DREAMS AND HE MADE THE MISTAKE OF NOT REALIZING THAT SHE WAS PART OF HIS PLAN.

CHAPTER-2

AS A YOUNG MAN UNEMPLOYED IN THIS BIG CITY SWALDO SAID THAT HE WAS KEPT BUSY LOOKING HIGH AND LOW FOR WORK IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AT A TIME IN HIS LIFE THAT HE WAS STRUGGLING JUST TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET, THERE WAS NO KINDS OF WORK FOR SWALDO AND HE REALLY NEEDED SOME WORK BECAUSE JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE IN THE HOOD, SWALDO HAD BILLS TO PAY, AND IS ALSO IN DEEP DEPT. BELIVING THAT THERE WAS NOWHERE TO TURN FOR HIM BUT TO THE STREETS,

 SWALDO STARTED WORKING FOR A GYPSY CAB COMPANY IN THE CITY, THAT’S THE BEST WORK SWALDO COULD FIND, AND IT WAS THE ONLY WORK THAT REQUIRED NO SKILLS AND NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND THAT WAS RIGHT UP SWALDOS ALLY.

SWALDO STAYED ON THAT JOB JUST DOING WHAT HE HAD TO DO FOR SURVIVAL HE CONTINUED DRIVING UNTIL HE WAS FINALLY ABLE TO MAKE AND SAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY A USED CAR AND HAVE HIS OWN CAB SERVICE AND WORK FOR HIMSELF AND THAT’S HOW HE TRIED TO MAKE ENDS MEET.

THE TIME SPAN BETWEEN DRIVING HIS OWN CAB AND WAKING UP FROM THIS NIGHTMARE ALL UNEXSPECTEDLY BECAME THE MOST UNBELIEVABLE PERIOD IN SWALDOS LIFE, THIS WAS AN UNBELIEVABLE AND FRIGHTNING EXPERINCE FOR SWALDO BECAUSE OF WHERE HE WAS PLANNING TO BE AT THIS STAGE OF HIS LIFE AND WHERE HE WAS.

LET ME SUGGEST TO YOU MY READERS THAT WHILE YOU ARE READING THESE UNPREDICTABLE LINES, ALLOW YOUR IMAGINATION TO TAKE A TOUR OF YOUR OWN MIND, YOU MAY SEE SOME SIMILARITIES.

 FOR INSTANCE WHEN YOU FIND OUT THAT THE WOMEN THAT YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH, DREAMING OR NOT, USALLY BECOMES SOMEONE ELSE AFTER YOU SAY I DO.

 SWALDO SAID THAT IT WAS AS THOUGH HE WAS IN A COMA FOR THE LAST FORTY YEARS AND WHEN HE FINALLY WOKE UP IT SEEMED LIKE YESTERDAY AND HE WAS COMPLETELY LOST.

SWALDO REMEMBERS HE WAS TRYING TO FIND BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS FOR HIMSELF AND MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT HIS LIFE.

ALTHOUGH AT THAT TIME HE WAS STILL GANG BANGING, CHASHING GIRLS, UNEMPLOYED EXCEPT FOR HIS CAB AND STILL ACTING STREET STUPID.

HE STAYED IN THAT DUMB MODE ACTING STREET STUPID MUCH LONGER THAN HE SHOULD HAVE, TO HIM EVERYTHING WAS A JOKE.

SWALDO WAS OUT THERE IN THE STREETS WITH HIS BOYS AND NOTHING REALLY MATTERED TO THEM NOT EVEN THE FACT THAT NONE OF THEM HAD A JOB.

 THEY JUST STAYED IN TROUBLE IN THE STREETS HANGING OUT DOING NOTHING POSITIVE.

AFTER TOO MANY YEARS OF THAT KIND OF STUPID LIVING SWALDO MET A GIRL WHO HAD JUST MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND LUCKILY AFTER REGULAR DATING AND SPENDING TIME TOGETHER THEY REALLY BEGIN TO LIKE EACH OTHER,

THE GIRLS NAME IS PETUNIA AND BECAUSE SWALDO LIKED PETUNIA SO MUCH HE BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE ON THE SAME PAGE SO HE DECIDED THAT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE THIS LOVE THING WORK, SWALDO DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME TO FIND A REAL JOB MAKING SOME REAL MONEY AND FINALLY GET HIS ACT TOGETHER, THAN WITHOUT A WARNING THE YOUNG LADY PETUNIA (IN WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A DREAM) HAD A BABY AND SAID THAT SWALDO WAS THE FATHER SO HE MOVED IN WITH PETUNIA AND THE BABY, NEVER ASKING ANY QUESTIONS JUST FEELING LIKE A DADDY AND HELPED TAKE CARE OF THEIR BABY, NOW SWALDO IS FINDING OTHER THINGS TO DO LIKE RAISING HIS OWN FAMILY , AND NOT A DAY GOES BY THAT HE REGRETS THE DADDY PART AT ALL, IT WAS THAT HUSBAND ANNOYANCE THAT HE COULDN’T STAND.

SWALDO FEELS THAT THINGS JUST COULD HAVE WENT BETTER BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM AS FAR AS HES CONCERNED, THIS IS NOT THE WAY SWALDO WAS PLANING IT BUT THAT’S THE WAY IT WAS.

AFTER A WHILE OF DRIVING FOR THE CAB COMPANY AND DOING WHAT HE COULD TO HELP TAKE CARE OF THE BABY, THINGS BEGAN TO GET A LITTLE BETTER FOR SWALDO AND HIS UNPLANNED FAMILY SO HE DECIDED TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT WHAT TO DO SINCE HES A FAMILY MAN NOW SO HE STARTED WORKING DAY AND NIGHT UNTIL HE FINALLY MANAGED TO SAVE UP ENOUGH MONEY TO OPEN UP A CANDY STORE NAMED THE HUT HE BEGAN MAKING ENOUGH MONEY IN THE HUT THAT SWALDO WAS ABLE TO SELL HIS CAB AND JUST WORK THE STORE ALL DAY, THIS WAS HIS JOB NOW AND SWALDO KEPT THAT STORE GOING DAY AND NIGHT JUST LIKE HIS CAB FOR A LONG TIME JUST TRYING TO MAKE A BETTER LIVING, THINGS WERE GOING GOOD OR SO SWALDO THOUGHT .

CHAPTER 3

 IT’S NOW BEEN SEVERAL YEARS SINCE SWALDO HAS BEEN LIVING WITH HIS DREAMGIRL PETUNIA AND THEIR NOW TWO BABYS SO THEY DECIDED THAT THEY WANTED TO GET MARRIED. SWALDO WASN’T REALLY READY FOR THIS YET BUT HE SAID YES ANYWAY BECAUSE HE WAS IN LOVE AND DIDN’T WANT TO LOSE HIS DREAM GIRL EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW HE WASN’T MAKING THAT KIND OF MONEY FOR MARRIGE.

 THAN RIGHT ON TIME AND RIGHTFULLY NEEDED SWALDO RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FOR A CITY JOB THAT HE’S BEEN TRYING TO GET SO THAT WHEN THE TIME FOR MARRIGE DID COME HE WOULD BE ABLE TO AFFORD IT, SO SWALDO FIGURED THIS MUST BE THE TIME IN THE FUTURE THAT HE WAS WAITING FOR SINCE THINGS WERE HAPPENING LIKE THIS.

UNFORTUNATLY SWALDO WAS ORDERED TO REPORT TO WORK TWO DAYS AFTER THEIR WEDDING SO THEY NEVER HAD A HONEYMOON THAT WAS A BAD SIGN GONE UNRECOGNIZED, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, LOVE IS BLIND.

 IN JUST A FEW YEARS AFTER SWALDO AND PETUNIA SAY THEY DO, THIS DREAM MARRIAGE BECOMES AN UNFORGETABLE NIGHTMARE, DEFINATLY NOT THE WAY SWALDO WAS PLANNING IT.

 I BELIVE THAT IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE YOU’RE NOT AWARE OF WHAT YOU’RE DOING WHILE YOU’RE DOING IT, YOU ONLY SEE IT WHEN IT’S DONE SO PLAN WELL, BECAUSE YOU CANT GO BACK, THATS A LESSON WELL TAUGHT BUT LEARNED TOO LATE AS FAR AS SWALDOS CONCERNED, HE KNOWS THAT HE CAN LOOK BACK BUT HE CANT GO BACK .

SWALDO IS CLAIMING THAT HIS GIRL PETUNIA BECAME A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON SHORTLY AFTER THEY GOT MARRIED, PETUNIA DIDN’T EVEN LOOK THE SAME TO HIM ANYMORE AND SOMETIMES SWALDO HAD NO IDEA WHO PETUNIA WAS OR WHO SHE MIGHT BECOME IN THE NEXT MINUTE, SWALDO WAS TRAPPED ALREADY.

TO ME BASICALLY THIS STORY TRAPPED IN A DREAM DESCRIBES AN EXPERIENCE IN MY FRIEND SWALDOS LIFE THAT KEPT HIM BLINDLY IN LOVE AND HE NEVER WANTED TO BELIVE THAT THIS WAS NOT REAL LOVE.

 THEN AFTER FINNALY ACCECPTING REALITY AND REALIZING THAT THIS WASN’T TRUE LOVE AT ALL, AND THIS IS NOT A DREAM SWALDO STARTED WISHING THAT IT WAS.

HE CAN’T FORGET ABOUT THAT LARGE PIECE OF HIS LIFE THAT HE INVESTED INTO TRYING TO DO IT RIGHT FOR THE ONES THAT HE LOVED.

 BEING A GOOD FATHER AND KEEPING HIS FAMILY HAPPY IS WHAT HE WAS PLANNING TO DO, JUST BE THE HAPPY HUSBAND AND ENJOY FATHER HOOD, BUT IT WASN’T THAT EASY BECAUSE SWALDO HAD NO GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW BUT HE REFUSED TO LET ANY LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN FARTHERHOOD RUIN HIS CHANCE TO BE A FATHER.

SWALDO WAS WILLING TO LEARN WHAT HE DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT FATHERHOOD,

HE NEVER THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO SACRIFICE HIS FATHERHOOD PLANS TO PROTECT HIS MANHOOD INTENTIONS, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SWALDO WAS KEPT BUSY PROTECTING AND DEFENDING BOTH.

SWALDO SAYS, IT WAS HARD BEING A MAN AROUND PETUNIA.

 HE COULDN’T EVEN FEEL LIKE A FATHER LET ALONE ACT LIKE ONE.

 WHENEVER HE WAS TRYING TO TALK TO PETUNIA ABOUT ANYTHING CONCERNING THEIR FUTURE IT WOULD BE OF NO IMPORTANCE TO PETUNIA BECAUSE SHE WAS NEVER HEARING WHAT SWALDO WAS SAYING, HER MIND WAS ALWAYS SOMEWHERE ELSE IN ANOTHER WORLD PERHAPS, PETUNIA WAS LOST, ACCORDING TO SWALDO, DEFINATLY NOT IN THIS DREAM WITH HIM, PETUNIA WAS LOST IN THE WRONG DREAM.

SWALDOS POSITIVE PLANS WERE BEING INTERFEARED WITH BY A DREAM OF IMAGINARY LOVE AND GOING FROM PLAN TO DREAM TO NIGHTMARE IN WHAT SEEMED LIKE OVERNIGHT.

ACCORDING TO SWALDO THIS IS HOW IT ALL BEGAN.

 IT WAS APPROXIMATLY 37 YEARS AGO DURING THE SUMMER OF 1973.

SWALDO HAD JUST LEFT HIS APARTMENT SATURDAY MORNING ON HIS WAY TO WORK WITH INTENTIONS OF MAKING SOME EXTRA MONEY TO HELP PAY SOME BILLS AND MAYBE A LITTLE MORE TO HANG OUT SINCE IT WAS THE WEEKEND.

(SWALDO DROVE A GYPSY CAB)

 IT GOT PRETTY BUSY ON THE WEEKENDS IN THE HOOD, SO SWALDO GOT HIS CAB A LITTLE EARLIER THAN USUAUL THIS MORNING, THEN AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF DRIVING AND MAKING JUST A LITTLE BIT OF CASH, SWALDO DECIDED TO PARK HIS CAB ON THE DRIVE NEAR THE RIVER FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND TAKE A NAP, YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE THE RIDE HE WAS TAKEN ON WHILE NAPPING IN HIS CAB AND DREAMING.

 BUT BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER WITH SWALDOS STORY I WOULD LIKE TO SAY ONE THING AND THAT IS THAT WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR DREAMGIRL, NOT KNOWING THAT SHES THE SAME GIRL IN YOUR LIFE REALITY TAKES A LONG TIME TO KICK IN AND THE LONGER YOU DREAM THE LONGER IT TAKES, BUT NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES ITS ALWAYS TOO LATE (YOU CANT GO BACK).

SWALDO HAS BEEN MISDIRECTED AND MISUNDERSTOOD BECAUSE HE WAS LIVING THAT UNBELIEVABLE DREAM.

THIS WAS MENT TO BE A SUCCESS STORY NOT A DEPRESSING STORY AS IT TURNED OUT TO BE.

SEX WILL MAKE YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE IN LOVE, EVEN IN A DREAM.

CHAPTER-4

THE DREAM BEGINS.

 AFTER RIDING AROUND IN THE CITY AND MAKING NO MONEY FOR MANY HOURS SWALDO FINALLY PICKED UP A FARE AND HE DECIDED TO VISIT A FRIEND OF HIS IN HARLEM SINCE HIS FARE THAT HE PICKED UP IS GOING TO HARLEM ANYWAY, SWALDOS FRIENDS NAME IS JACK AND JACK OWNED THE NEIGHBORHOOD LIQUOR STORE IN SWALDOS OLD NEIGHBORHOOD IN HARLEM.

 SWALDO DROVE THROUGH THAT NEIGHBORHOOD EVERY ONCE AND A WHILE TO SAY HELLO AND HANG OUT WITH SOME OF HIS OLD FRIENDS THAT STILL LIVED THERE IN THE AREA AND HE FELT THAT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO DO THAT SINCE BUSSINESS WAS SLOW.

 SO AFTER SWALDO DROPPED OFF HIS FARE HE CONTINUED ON HIS WAY TO VISIT JACK BUT SWALDO GOT CAUGHT UP IN TRAFFIC AND HAD TO STOP BEHIND THREE OTHER CARS AHEAD OF HIM BECAUSE OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHT ON THE CORNER, SWALDO SAID THAT HE WAS SITTING BEHIND THREE OTHER CARS AT THAT LIGHT,

 AND JUST WHEN THE LIGHT TURNED GREEN AND SWALDO WAS ABOUT TO GO FORWARD THIS SKINNY FEMALE WITH HER TWO DOGS SLOWLY STEPPED OUT IN FRONT OF HIS CAB, SWALDO HIT THE BREAKS AND CAME TO A STOP RATHER THAN HIT HER,

 WELL THAT UNEXPECTED MOVEMENT CAUSED HIM TO MISS THE LIGHT AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT HE WAS LOOKING AT HER NOT AT THE LIGHT LIKE HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

 BUT SINCE HE ALREADY MISSED THE LIGHT HE DECIDED THAT HE MIGHT AS WELL CONTINUE TO LOOK AT HER UNTIL THE LIGHT CHANGES IN HIS FAVOR AGAIN, AND THAT DIDN’T TAKE AS LONG AS HE WISHED IT WOULD THIS TIME.

 SO INSTEAD OF CONTINUING TO LOOK AT HER SWALDO WENT ACROSS THE LIGHT AND AROUND THE CORNER TO THE STORE TO SEE JACK, SHORTLY AFTER HE ARRIVED AT THE STORE HE AND JACK FOUND A LOT TO TALK ABOUT, LIKE WHATS BEEN HAPPENING IN THE HOOD AND WHO’S NEW SINCE HIS LAST VISIT.

INCLUDING HOW BUSSINESS WAS GOING AT THE STORE, JACK IS TELLING SWALDO THAT BUSINESS IS GOING PRETTY GOOD, AND ASK HOW ABOUT YOU MY MAN? I SEE THAT YOU BEEN WORKING PRETTY HARD? SWALDO ANSWERED BACK WITH, MAN IM DOING THE BEST I CAN JUST TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET, AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, JACK LAUGHS AND SAYS OH COME ON SWALDO I KNOW YOU BEEN DOING MORE THAN JUST THAT MAN, I KNOW SOMETHING ELSE IS GOING ON WITH YOU MAN, I KNOW SOMETHING GOT YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE THIS EARLY, IM WONDERING WHAT IT COULD BE THAT BRINGS YOU AROUND HERE SO EARLY ON A SATURDAY SWALDO? YOU GOT GIRL TROUBLE AGAIN OR WHAT?

 WELL JACK YOURE ALMOST RIGHT REPLIES SWALDO, GIRLS ARE INVOLED BUT THEY AINT THE REASON IM OUT SO EARLY, I JUST THOUGHT THAT I COULD MAKE A LITTLE EXTRA MONEY IF I GOT AN EARLY START, MAYBE I CAN GET A BIT OF HANGOUT TIME TONIGHT IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN? I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN JACK REPLIES YOU’RE ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR GIRL TROUBLE RATHER THAN HAVING GIRL TROUBLE.

THEN AFTER TALKING FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR WITH JACK ABOUT THE HOOD AND OTHER THINGS AND JUST BEFORE SWALDO WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE, JACK SUDDENLY CHANGES THE SUBJECT AND SAYS TO HIM, HEY SWALDO WE BEEN TALKING SO MUCH ABOUT THE HOOD THAT I FORGOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS NEW GIRL THAT JUST MOVED IN THE HOOD WHO LIVES SOMEWHERE AROUND THE CORNER, SHE JUST MOVED IN SOMEWHERE AROUND THERE , HEY LISTEN SWALDO I KNOW THE KIND OF GIRLS YOU BEEN DATING BUT THIS ONE DON’T LOOK LIKE THAT KIND OF GIRL, IM SURE YOU WOULD LIKE THIS ONE MAN TROUBLE OR NOT.

 I SEE HER WHEN SHE COMES PASS HERE ON SATURDAYS AND I BE CHECKING HER OUT WITH HER TWO DOGS AND LOOKING NICE, NOW I KNOW HOW YOU LIKE TO MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICES IN WOMEN SWALDO BUT IM QUITE SURE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE THIS CHOICE I MADE FOR YOU THIS TIME.

I THINK YOU SHOULD GO FOR THIS ONE SWALDO, SHE COULD BE THE ONE.

(I BELIEVE THAT IT’S THE DECISIONS THAT YOU MAKE, WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TROUBLES IN YOUR FUTURE). SWALDO RESPONDED WITH, COME ON JACK YOU KNOW THAT I GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS AND I REALLY DON’T NEED ANOTHER ONE, ANYWAY SHE MUST BE WITH SOMEONE IF SHE LOOKS AS GOOD AS YOU SAYING.

AND YOU’RE RIGHT I DO LIKE TO MAKE MY OWN CHOICES ESPECIALY WHEN IT COMES TO GIRLS, I STILL REMEMBER THAT LAST CHOICE YOU MADE FOR ME, SHE GAVE ME HELL AND SHE DIDN’T LIKE YOU TOO MUCH EITHER, JACK REPLIES WITH, YEA YOURE RIGHT MAN BUT THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS BORN FOR YOU, WELL I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS JACK MY BOY BUT LOOKS CAN BE VERY DECEIVING, BEAUTY IS ONLY SKIN DEEP, ITS WHATS ON THE INSIDE THAT REALLY COUNTS.

SWALDO STOPS AND THINKS FOR A SECOND AND THEN HIS MEMORY KICKS IN AND HE SAYS TO JACK, HEY YOU KNOW WHAT MAN I THINK I JUST SAW THE GIRL WITH THE TWO DOGS THAT YOU TELLING ME ABOUT, I THINK I JUST SAW HER WHEN I WAS AROUND THE CORNER, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO PULL OUT WHEN SHE JUST WALKED OUT IN FRONT OF MY CAB, HER AND HER TWO DOGS, AND THEY MADE ME MISS THE LIGHT IF YOU TALKING ABOUT THE SAME GIRL, AND IT SOUNDS LIKE ITS THE SAME GIRL TO ME.

CHAPTER-5

NOW IT’S BEEN FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE HAVING THAT CONVERSATION WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT SWALDO SAW HIS DREAM GIRL AGAIN IN REAL LIFE AND SHE STILL DIDN’T LOOK LIKE HIS GIRLFRIEND, SO HE REALLY DIDN’T KNOW WHO SHE WAS YET, BUT IT WASN’T LONG BEFORE SWALDO FOUND OUT.

IT ALL BEGIN TO UNFOLD WHILE SWALDO WAS DRIVING HIS CAB IN THE HOOD AND DECIDED TO VISIT JACK AT HIS STORE AGAIN BEFORE CALLING IT A NIGHT.

ANOTHER FRIEND OF THEIRS CAME INTO THE STORE A FEW MINUTES LATER NAMED CARL, CARL STILL LIVES AROUND THE CORNER WITH HIS FAMILY,

CARL SAYS HEY SWALDO HOW YOU BEEN DOING MAN?

SWALDO KNEW CARL AND HIS FAMILY FOR MANY YEARS, CARL ASK SWALDO IF HE CAN HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH HIM ON THE OUTSIDE FOR A MINUTE? SWALDO ANSWERS BACK WITH, SURE CARL ILL BE RIGHT THERE, THEN SWALDO TELLS JACK THAT HE WILL BE RIGHT BACK AND THEN STEPS OUTSIDE WITH CARL TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY AND AS SOON AS THEY REACHED THE OUTSIDE CARL SAYS, HEY LISTEN SWALDO THERES A YOUNG LADY AROUND THE CORNER WHO SAW YOU THE OTHER DAY AND ASKED ME IF I KNOW YOU AND WOULD I INTRODUCE HER TO YOU, SHE WANTS TO GO OUT TONIGHT BUT NOT ALONE, YOU MIGHT GET LUCKY TONIGHT MAN.

SWALDO THINKS FOR A SECOND AND THEN HE ASK CARL WHAT GIRL IS HE TALKING ABOUT FROM AROUND THE CORNER AND DOES SHE HAVE A DOG? CARL SAYS YEAH SHE GOT TWO DOGS SWALDO SO WHAT? SWALDO REPLIES WITH OH NOTHING MAN IT’S JUST THAT I THINK I SAW THE GIRL YOU TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER DAY WHEN I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE STORE, WELL ANYWAY LISTEN CARL TELL HER MY DAY DIDNT GO TO GOOD FOR ME SO I CANT REALLY HANG OUT TONIGHT, BUT I WOULD LOVE TO SOME OTHER TIME, TELL HER I SAID THANKS FOR ASKING, I THINK IM JUST GOING TO HANG OUT WITH JACK FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER THAN CALL IT A NIGHT AND GO HOME.

THEN AFTER SAYING THAT SWALDO TURNS AND WALKS BACK TO THE STORE TO TALK A LITTLE MORE WITH JACK UNTIL CLOSING AND KILL A LITTLE MORE TIME BEFORE SAYING GOODNIGHT.

CHAPTER-6

WELL USUALLY ON HIS WAY HOME SWALDO WOULD STOP AT THE CLUB JUST TO SEE IF ANYONE WAS GOING HIS WAY, THE CLUB IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD BAR AND ON SATURDAY NIGHTS ITS PRETTY CROWDED, IF HES LUCKY HE’LL GET A FARE, MAYBE HE CAN MAKE A LITTLE MONEY TONIGHT BEFORE GOING HOME.

WHEN SWALDO ENTERS THE CLUB HE SEE’S MANY PEOPLE THAT HE KNOWS SO HE BEGANS TO GREET THEM AND WHEN HE SEES THE BARMAID HE GREETS HER ALSO AND THE BARMAID OFFERS TO SERVE HIM, HEY SWALDO HOW YOU DOING? WE GOT A PRETTY BIG CROUD TONIGHT YOU MIGHT GET SOME FARES OUT OF HERE TONIGHT, IF YOU ARE HAVING YOUR REGULAR DRINK SWALDO SIT TIGHT ILL BE RIGHT BACK WITH IT FOR YOU, SHE SAYS BEFORE WALKING AWAY AND DISSAPEARING INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE BAR.

SO WHILE SWALDO WAITS FOR THE BARMAID TO RETURN FROM THE DARKNESS OF THE BAR WITH HIS DRINK HE DECIDED THAT MAYBE HE SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AROUND THE BAR IN SEARCH OF A FARE ,WITH HOPE THAT SOMEBODY WAS READY TO GO HOME AND THEY WERE HEADING HIS WAY, SWALDO WAS SO BUSY FARE SEARCHING THAT HE DIDN’T EVEN NOTICE THAT THE BARMAID HAD REAPPEARED FROM THE DARKNESS OF THE BAR WITH HIS DRINK, SHE CAME AND LEFT WITHOUT SAYING A WORD AND WHEN HE RAISED HIS GLASS TO TAKE A SIP HE NOTICED A PRETTY FEMALE ACROSS THE BAR OPPOSITE HIM RAISING HER GLASS TOWARDS HIM LIKE MAKING A TOAST SO SWALDO THOUGHT TO HIMSELF THAT MAYBE THIS LADY WANTED A RIDE, HE DIDN’T RECOGNIZE HER SO HE FIGURED THIS WAS A FARE, BUT HE FELT THAT BY THE WAY SHE WAS LOOKING AT HIM FROM ACROSS THE BAR SHE MUST HAVE BEEN WATCHING HIM FROM THE TIME HE ENTERED THE CLUB AND SHE KEPT HER EYES ON HIM UNTIL SHE CAUGHT HIS ATTENTION AND THAN SHE MADE THAT MOTION LIKE A TOAST RIGHT ON TIME WITH HIS TAKING A SIP, BECAUSE WHEN THEIR EYES MET AFTER THE TOAST SHE BECKONED HIM OVER TOWARDS HER, HE KNEW FOR SURE THIS LADY WAS A FARE NOW AND THAT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE A LITTLE MONEY TONIGHT BEFORE GOING HOME, BUT AS SWALDO GOT CLOSER HE NOTICED WHO SHE WAS, SHE WAS THE TWO DOG GIRL FROM AROUND THE CORNER AND SHE WAS STANDING AT THE BAR WITH HIS FRIEND CARL AND HIS DATE, SWALDO WENT OVER TO SPEAK TO THEM AND TO MEET HER, THE LADY STILL MAY BE A FARE.

AFTER TALKING WITH CARL FOR A FEW MINUTES CARL FINALLY INTRODUCED SWALDO TO THE TWO DOG GIRL FROM AROUND THE CORNER, CARL SAYS HEY SWALDO LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO PETUNIA, THE YOUNG LADY I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT EARLIER TODAY, SWALDO THIS IS PETUNIA, PETUNIA THIS IS SWALDO A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE FROM THE BLOCK, SAY SWALDO WE WERE JUST ON OUR WAY OUT OF HERE MAN ITS GETTING TOO CROWED FOR US, BUT WE GONNA STAY AND HAVE A DRINK WITH YOU BEFORE WE LEAVE,THE FOUR OF THEM SAT AND TALKED FOR AWHILE AND THEN

 CARL AND HIS DATE LEFT THE BAR AFTER THAT ONE DRINK JUST LIKE HE SAID THEY WERE, SO PETUNIA AND SWALDO WERE LEFT ALONE TOGETHER IN THAT CROWED BAR, BUT TO SWALDO IT WAS JUST THE TWO OF THEM THERE.

PETUNIA AND SWALDO SAT AND TALKED WITH EACH OTHER IN DIFFACULTY TRYING TO HEAR ONE ANOTHER OVER THE NOISE IN THE BAR, THEY WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTERED TO BOTH OF THEM, THEY SIPPED THEIR DRINKS AND TRIED TO LISTEN TO THE MUSIC AND EACH OTHER OVER THE EVEN LOUDER NOISE OF THE CONTINUIOUSLY GROWING CROWD IN THE BAR, THEY COULDN’T REALLY HEAR EACH OTHER OVER THE NOISE BUT AFTER A WHILE OF TALKING SWALDO KNEW THAT HE WAS ON A POSITIVE ROLL AND WAS READY TO GET IT ON, SO AFTER THEY FINISHED THEIR DRINKS THEY LEFT THE NOISY BAR BEHIND THEM AND WALKED TO SWALDOS CAB THEY WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE SO THEY COULD HAVE A LITTLE PRIVACY, SWALDO WANTED TO BE ALONE WITH PETUNIA FOR AWHILE SO THAT THEY COULD REALLY GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER LIKE CARL SUGGESTED, SWALDO DROVE PETUNIA TO LOVERS LANE, NOT TOO FAR FROM THE BAR THAT THEY LEFT AND SWALDO LEFT THERE WITH NOTHING BUT SEX ON HIS MIND SO HE DIDN’T WANT TO RIDE TO FAR, SO SHORTLY AFTER THEY REACHED THE LANE THEY DID A LITTLE LESS TALKING AND A LOT OF KISSING AND RUBBING ON EACH OTHER, THAT’S WHY THEY WANTED SOME PRIVACY, WELL ANYWAY THIS ACTIVITY BEGIN CAUSING STEAM TO RISE IN BOTH OF THEM, IT WAS GETTING HOT IN THAT CAB BUT PETUNIA IMEDIATLY TURNED DOWN THE HEAT AND STOPPED SWALDO AND HIS INTENTIONS BY SAYING, HOLD ON SWALDO I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE IT EASY, IM NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL, I’M NOT REALLY READY TO GO THIS FAR YET, WE JUST MET SWALDO. YEAH WE JUST MET SWALDO WAS THINKING BUT YET AND STILL HE WAS VERY READY AND HE JUST KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO BE A ONE NIGHT STAND BUT HE END UP BEING STOPPED AND MADE TO BECOME VERY DISAPPOINTED AND SLIGHTLY CONFUSED BUT HE SAID HE QUICKLY AND CALMLY SETTLED DOWN AND BEGAN TO SAY HOW SORRY HE WAS AND THAT HE JUST GOT A LITTLE OVERWHELMED, BUT SWALDO SAID THAT AFTER KNOWING EACH OTHER FOR A FEW WEEKS, THINGS BEGAN TO GET A LITTLE WARMER BETWEEN THEM SO ONE NIGHT WHILE THEY WERE TALKING ON THE PHONE SWALDO ASKED PETUNIA TO MEET HIM AT JACKS STORE THE NEXT EVENING AND THEY WOULD GO OUT SOMEWHERE FOR DINNER, PETUNIA AGREED THAT SHE WOULD MEET SWALDO TOMORROW EVENING, NOW SWALDO AND PETUNIA WOULD TALK TO EACH OTHER ON THE PHONE A LOT BUT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN FACE TO FACE SINCE THAT FIRST NIGHT SO SWALDO ALMOST FORGOT WHAT PETUNIA LOOKED LIKE, SWALDO WAS IMPAINTIENTLY WAITING FOR PETUNIAS ARRIVAL, HE WAS EXICTED ABOUT HIS DATE WITH PETUNIA AND COULDN’T WAIT TO SEE HER AGAIN AND WHEN SHE FINALY ARRIVED AT THE STORE SWALDO WAS ASTOUNDED BY WHAT HE WAS SEEING,THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT SWALDO EVER NOTICED THAT PETUNIA WORE GLASSES , SHE WAS LOOKING JUST LIKE THE GIRL IN SWALDOS DREAMS, HIS DREAMGIRL ,HE IMMEDIATELY FELL IN LOVE, SWALDO SAID THAT HE BEGIN THINKING ABOUT THE SITUATION AND DECIDED THAT MAYBE JACK WAS RIGHT THIS TIME AND MAYBE DREAMS DO COME TRUE AFTER ALL. SWALDO WAS HOPING THAT HE AND PETUNIA COULD HELP EACH OTHER BUILD A FUTURE JUST LIKE IN HIS PLANS, SO SWALDO STARTED FEELING LIKE THIS IS THE WAY ITS MENT TO BE, AND SINCE PETUNIA WAS THE ONLY FEMALE IN HIS DREAMS, HE BELIVES THAT SHE IS THE ONE WHO BELONGS IN HIS PLANS AND THAT’S HOW THE MIXUP BEGAN BETWEEN HIS PLANS AND HIS DREAMS, ALL OF THAT POSITIVE THINKING HE WAS DOING ABOUT PETUNIA WAS TAKING HIS THOUGHS AWAY FROM HIS PLANS,HE DIDN’T REALIZE IT BECAUSE HE THOUGHT HE WAS IN A DREAM, SWALDO HAD GOOD INTENTIONS BUT MADE BAD DICISIONS.HE WAS BEING SPOILED BY PETUNIA AND THAT REALLY TOOK HIS MIND AWAY FROM HIS IDEAS, SWALDO DIDN’T KNOW THAT THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS DREAM GIRL AND HIS PLAN GIRL, BECAUSE HE WAS IN BOTH VERSIONS ,WITHIN SHORT TIME SWALDO GREW A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RESPECT FOR PETUNIA AND THAT AMOUNT OF RESPECT EASILY GREW INTO A LOT OF LOVE THAT HE HAD FOR HER, SO HES NO LONGER JUST THINKING SOULY OF HIMSELF AND HIS PLANS, HE NOW SPENDS HIS THINKING TIME MAKING FAMILY PLANS AND THAT KIND OF THINKING AND PLANNING MANAGE TO TAKE HIS MIND EVEN FARTHER AWAY FROM HIS ORIGINAL PLAN, THINGS WERE HAPPENING TO FAST FOR SWALDO AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE IT WASN’T THE RIGHT TIME ACCORDING TO HIS PLANS FOR HIM TO BE THINKING ABOUT MARRIGE YET, ACCORDING TO HIS PLANS, BUT HE BECAME SO BLINDED BY LOVE IN HIS DREAMS THAT HE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE FACT THAT HE NEVER SAW PETUNIA IN HIS PLANS, ONLY IN HIS DREAMS, BUT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT HE WOULD SEE HE OFTEN WONDERED WHAT COULD PETUNIAS MOTIVE POSSIBLY BE FOR BEING WITH HIM IF NOT LOVE, HE HAD ABSOLUTLY NOTHING TO OFFER HER BUT LOVE, SWALDO SAID THAT HE NEVER SAW HER FITTING INTO HIS PLANS, BUT HERE SHE IS ALL OVER HIS DREAMS SO SINCE PETUNIAS FACE IS THE ONLY FACE THAT HE EVER SEES ANYWAY, SHE MUST BE THE ONE, SWALDO AND PETUNIA STARTED DATING BUT PETUNIA DIDN’T WANT ANYBODY IN THE HOOD TO KNOW OR SUSPECT THEY WERE, SWALDO COULDN’T UNDERSTAND WHY UNTIL HE LEARNED THAT HER BOYFRIEND NOTICED THEN HE UNDERSTOOD WHY? BUT HE DIDN’T ALLOW HIMSELF TO THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT BECAUSE HE FIGURED THEY WERE BOTH CHEATING ON SOMEONE ANYWAY, ALL OF THE GOSSIPERS IN THE HOOD WERE CALLING SWALDO A WIFE STEALER, AND SAYING THAT THE SO CALLED BOYFRIEND PETUNIA CLAIMS, WELL HES REALLY HER HUSBAND THEY WERE SAYING, SWALDO STARTED WONDERING WHAT HE WAS GETTING HIS SELF INTO, AND THAN HE STARTED REMEMBERING THAT THE LAST TIME THAT HE SAW PETUNIA HE DID NOTICE A WEDDING RING ON HER FINGER, HE JUST DIDN’T QUESTION IT BECAUSE HIS MIND WAS NOT ON A RINGFINGER AS IT WAS ON OTHER THINGS, BUT ANYWAY THE NEXT TIME SWALDO SAW PETUNIA HE ASKED HER ABOUT THE RING AND WHY SHE DIDN’T TELL HIM THAT SHE WAS MARRIED? PETUNIA SAID THAT SHE WASN’T, SHE WAS JUST PLAYING THE PART, (HE SHOULD HAVE CAUGHT ON THEN, BUT HE DIDN’T, PETUNIA WAS A MANNABE WIFE) BUT SWALDO WAS ALREADY FALLING IN LOVE BY NOW.

CHAPTER- 8

SWALDO NEVER THOUGHT THAT SUCH A SIMPLE INCIDENT LIKE FALLING IN LOVE COULD HAVE BEEN A RED FLAG FOR HIM AND HIS FUTURE, SWALDO DIDN’T SEE IT COMING HE DIDN’T HAVE A CLUE,

SWALDO THOUGH THIS COULD REALLY BE A SHOT AT A BETTER LIFE FOR HIM SO HE REFUSE TO QUIT, THEREFORE IT WASN’T VERY LONG BEFORE A SITUATION CAME ABOUT IN PETUNIAS HOUSEHOLD THAT CAUSED HER TO MOVE, AND PETUNIA EASILY CONVINCED SWALDO THAT THE REASON THAT SHE WAS MOVING WAS BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BE WITH HIM, BUT HE KNEW THAT PETUNIA WASN’T HAPPY WITH HER PRESENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT AND HE WASN’T HAPPY WITH HIS, SO SWALDO FIGURED IT WOULD BE REALLY GOOD FOR BOTH OF THEM IF HE MOVED IN WITH HER, UPON MAKING THAT MOVE SWALDO FORGOT ABOUT HIS PLANS AND SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME DEVELOPING MORE LOVE AND RESPECT FOR PETUNIA, BUT HE DIDN’T KNOW HOW TO PLEASE HER , ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THAT HE WAS DOING GREAT.

SWALDO SAID THAT HE WOULD NEVER SAY NO TO PETUNIA EVEN AT TIMES THAT HE FELT THAT HE SHOULD, INSTEAD HE WOULD ALWAYS ASK PETUNIA WHAT HE COULD DO FOR HER, SWALDO SAYS THAT HE BELIEVES THAT HE DID THE BEST THAT HE COULD AND HE WISHED THAT SHE WAS AT LEAST A LITTLE APPRECIATIVE AND IN LOVE WITH HIM LIKE HE WAS WITH HER, BUT THIS IS JUST A DREAM, OR SO HE BELIEVED -REMEMBER?

SO MAYBE PETUNIA WAS IN LOVE, BUT IN HER OWN DREAM NOT IN HIS WITH HIM.

SHE WAS A DREAMGIRL IN THE WRONG DREAM, SHE WASN’T DREAMING ABOUT WHAT SWALDO WAS DREAMING ABOUT, SO THEREFORE LOVE WITH SWALDO WASN’T IN PETUNIAS PLANS, AND HER PLANS DIDN’T FIT INTO SWALDOS DREAMS, THEY MAY HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME BOOK BUT ON DIFFERENT PAGES.

HE KNEW THAT THIS WAS HIS DREAMGIRL BUT HE DIDN’T THINK THIS WAS HIS PLAN GIRL. (HE COULDN’T MAKE THE CONNECTION)

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO CONNECTION TO MAKE BUT FOR SOME REASON HE COULDN’T CONNECT WITH WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO HIM, AND WHAT HE WANTED TO BE HAPPENING TO HIM, THIS IS NOT WHAT HE WAS PLANNING.

SWALDO BELIEVES THAT PETUNIA DIDN’T REALLY HAVE ANY PLANS FOR HERSELF AND IF SHE DID THEY DIDN’T INCLUDE HIM.

SWALDO FEELS THAT IF PETUNIA SPENT AS MUCH TIME WORKING WITH HIM AS SHE SPENT WORKING WITH THE PHONE THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER BETWEEN THEM,

PETUNIA WAS JUST A DREAMGIRL IN THE WRONG DREAM THAT’S WHY SHE SEEMED SO UNCONCEARNED AND INCONSIDERATE OF SWALDOS PLANS, IT WAS LIKE HE WAS WEARING BLINDERS AND PETUNIA WAS WEARING EARPLUGS BECAUSE SWALDO COULDN’T SEE ANYTHING BUT PETUNIA, AND PETUNIA WASN’T HEARING A WORD SWALDO WOULD SAY.

THEY LOOKED GOOD TOGETHER IN THE EYES OF OTHERS BUT WHEN THEY WERE ALONE PETUNIA WOULD BECOME A WITCH AND SHE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT SHE WAS DOING PETUNIA DID HAVE A PLAN AFTER ALL BUT IT DEFINATLY DID NOT INCLUDE HIM.

SWALDO WAS VERY NAÏVE FOR A GUY AND HE WOULD ALWAYS LET HIS HEART AND HIS BRAIN BE LEAD BY HIS PENIS, HE WAS HELPLESS.

 THE NOW HEARTBROKEN SWALDO HAD NO IDEA ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON BETWEEN HIM AND PETUNIA AT THIS POINT, HE DIDN’T EVEN THINK ABOUT THE FACT THAT HE WAS FIGHTING AN UPHILL BATTLE AND LOSING, BUT HE WASN’T GIVING UP, SWALDO WAS DEEP IN LOVE BY THEN.

PETUNIA LIED TO SWALDO A LOT AND HE HAD TO TELL SOME LIES HIS SELF JUST TO KEEP THE PEACE AND TRY TO MAKE HER HAPPY.

 SWALDO SAID THAT HE OFTEN ASK HIMSELF HOW DID HE LET THIS HAPPEN? WAS HE THAT NAIVE? OR THAT STUPID OR A LITTLE OF BOTH? THEY HAVE THREE KIDS NOW AND SWALDO SAYS THAT HE DON’T GET ANY DADDY RECORNITION FROM PETUNIA OR THE KIDS, HE BEGINS TO THINK THAT MAYBE FALLING IN LOVE WAS THE BIGGEST MISTAKE HE EVER MADE, OR MAYBE FALLING ASLEEP WAS.

SWALDO SAID THAT IF HE KNEW A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THE DRAMA OF LOVE AND MARRIGE HE WOULDN’T BE IN THIS MESS NOW, SWALDO WAS NOT READY FOR THIS EVEN IF IT WAS A DREAM.

SWALDO TELLS US THAT IN THE BEGINING IT WAS NICE, PETUNIA WOULD FIX HOT MEALS FOR HIM AND PROVIDE HIM WITH PLENTY OF SEX WHICH HE BELIEVED WAS LOVE, THEN AFTER MARRIGE PETUNIA STARTED SHOWING HIM SO MUCH UNLOVE, SHE NEVER WANTED A HUSBAND SHE JUST WANTED TO WEAR THE RING, REMEMBER THE RING? AND PETUNIA JUST WANTED TO HAVE CHILDREN, SWALDO GUESS THAT’S WHERE HE CAME IN? AND OUT, PETUNIA WANTED TO HAVE HER OWN FAMILY AND RAISE THEM THE WAY SHE WANTED THEM TO BE.

SWALDO KNOWS WHAT PETUNIA HAS BEEN TEACHING THE KIDS SO HE CANT REALLY BLAME THEM FOR THEIR MISCONCEPTIONS OF SITUATIONS, THEY GET UPSET ABOUT NOTHING JUST LIKE MOMMY DOES BUT SWALDO LOVES THEM ALL ANYWAY.

SWALDO SAID THAT HE COULDN’T POSSIBLY IMAGINE WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS RELATIONSHIP IF HE STAYS WITH HIS DREAMGIRL, AND IMAGINES TRYING TO BUILD A LIFE WITH HER, CONCIDERING WHERE HE IS TODAY, SWALDO SAYS IT LOOKS LIKE HIS IMAGINATION WAS WRONG, THINGS WERE NOT GOING ACCORDING TO SWALDOS PLANS.

SWALDO SAID THAT HE HAD TOTAL CONSIDERATION FOR PETUNIAS HAPPINESS AND VERY LITTLE FOR HIS OWN, HE HAD HIS MIND SET ON FAMILY VALUES, VALUES SWALDO WANTED PETUNIA AND THE KIDS TO HAVE, SO HE COULD PROVIDE THEM WITH EVERYTHING THAT HE COULD GIVE THEM INCLUDING A HOUSE, QUESTIONABLY SWALDO WOULD ASK HIMSELF, IF PETUNIA WAS SO UNHAPPY AND SO NOT IN LOVE WITH HIM THEN WHY DID SHE HAVE SO MANY BABIES WITH HIM, OR DID SHE? AT THIS POINT SWALDO SAYS THAT HE DON’T REALLY CARE, HES TRAPPED IN THIS DREAM REGARDLESS.

CHAPTER-9

PETUNIA INSISTS ON ARGUING WITH SWALDO ABOUT NOTHING IN FRONT OF THE KIDS MAKING DADDY LOOK BAD BECAUSE HE DON’T WANT TO ARGUE BACK, SWALDO SAID THAT ITS BECAUSE HE KNOWS ARGUING BACK WILL ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE.

SWALDO STAYED TRAPPED IN THIS THOUGHT TO BE DREAM FOR TOO MANY YEARS AND FEELS THAT IF HE WASN’T HE WOULDN’T BE AS SCREWED UP AS HE IS TODAY.

SWALDO HAD BEEN SPOILED BY PETUNIA AND DIDNT REALIZE IT, AND THEN EVENTUALLY WHEN HE DID REALIZE IT HE REALIZED THAT HE COULDN’T HANDLE IT, PETUNIA WAS LIVING IN HER PAST, NOT FOR THEIR FUTURE AND SWALDO WASNT MAKING THE MONEY THAT SHE WAS USED TO SPENDING.

SWALDO SAID THAT HE WANTED LOVE AND PETUNIA WANTED CASH AND BECAUSE OF THAT FACT THINGS REALLY GOT OUT OF HAND.

IT WAS LIKE A TWO PART NIGHTMARE, HE FAILED TO MAKE PETUNIA HAPPY SO HE WASN’T VERY HAPPY EITHER, SWALDO KEPT TRYING TO GET CLOSER TO PETUNIA, HE JUST WANTED TO SHOW HER SOME LOVE ,

 BUT PETUNIA KEPT MOVING FURTHER AWAY FROM HIM.

SWALDO WAS TRYING TO FIT HIS PLANS INTO THIS THOUGHT TO BE DREAM THAT TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE BUT IT JUST WAS NOT WORKING FOR HIM AND HE COULDN’T UNDERSTAND WHY.

SWALDO SAYS THAT HE CONTINUED HELPLESSLY TO TALK TO PETUNIA ABOUT BUYING A HOUSE ONE DAY, HE WAS TRYING ONCE AGAIN ALTHOUGH NONE OF HIS PREVIOUS ATTEMPS HAVE MANAGED TO CONVINCE HER ENOUGH SO FAR.

BUT SWALDO BOUGHT A HOUSE ANYWAY JUST BEFORE RETIRING ONLY TO LEARN THAT HE WAS WRONG AGAIN, NOTHING WAS WORKING FOR HIM PETUNIA DIDN’T CHANGE HER MIND.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT SWALDO HAD TO MOVE INTO THE NEW HOUSE ALL ALONE, PETUNIA NEVER WANTED HER OWN HOUSE SO SHE NEVER LIVED THERE WITH HIM

PETUNIA WOULD SHOW UP SOMETIMES ON THE WEEKENDS AND SOMETIMES NOT

SWALDO SAID THAT SOMETIMES HE WOULD ASK HIMSELF WHY DID HE BUY THIS HOUSE IF NOT FOR HIS FAMILY, BUT BY THINGS BEING THE WAY THEY WERE IT SEEMS AS THOUGH PETUNIA JUST WANTED TO GET HIM AWAY FROM HER AND THE KIDS,.

HE DONT KNOW ONE WAY OR THE OTHER (HE DIDN’T PLAN THIS DREAM AND HE DIDN’T KNOW THAT THIS DREAM WAS HIS PLAN) BUT WHAT HE DOES KNOW IS THAT HIS LOVE FOR PETUNIA IS GETTING WEAK AND HES TIRED OF THE WHOLE DAMN THING, SWALDO FEELS THAT THIS WAS ALL A BIG MISTAKE, AND HE THINKS HE KNOWS HOW HE MADE IT.

HE LET THIS DREAM GET MIXED UP IN HIS PLANS AND IT GOT OUT OF HAND THEN HE BEGAN WISHING THAT IT WAS JUST HIS IMAGINATION, IT GOT TO THE POINT THAT WHEN EVER PETUNIA WOULD BE AT THE HOUSE ALONE WITH HIM HE COULDN’T WAIT FOR HER TO LEAVE, HE KNEW THAT THIS WAS NOT A PART OF HIS IMAGINATION ALTHOUGH HE WISHED IT WAS,

SWALDO WAS SO UPSET AND DISSAPOINTED WITH THIS SITUATION, IT WAS COMPLAINT AFTER COMPLAINT FROM PETUNIA FOR AS LONG AS SHE WAS THERE AT THE HOUSE WITH HIM, NO COOKING, NO CLEANING, AND NOT MUCH SEX, JUST COMPLAINTS, SWALDO SAID SHE REALLY ANNOYED HIM, THERE WAS NO LOVE FROM HER AND THERE WAS NO PEACE FOR HIM, SWALDO BELIEVED THAT HE WAS BETTER OFF ALONE.

THEN SWALDO TAKES IT TO ANOTHER LEVEL AND SAYS THAT MAYBE PETUNIA WAS MESSING AROUND WITH SOMEONE ELSE, HE REALLY DIDN’T WANT TO THINK LIKE THAT, BUT MAYBE THAT’S WHY PETUNIA DIDN’T WANT TO LIVE IN THE HOUSE WITH HIM . OFTEN HE WONDERED, BUT HE NEVER ASKED SO HE NEVER KNEW, SWALDO FELT THAT IF HE DID ASK HE COULDN’T TRUST HER ANSWER ANYWAY SO HE DIDN’T REALLY WANT TO KNOW, SWALDO JUST ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT PETUNIA DIDN’T WANT TO BE HERE OR ANYWHERE WITH HIM LIKE HE WANTED HER TO BE HE WAS TRYING TO BE MISTER RIGHT AND SHE WAS BEING WHOEVER SHE WAS, SWALDO SAID THAT HE DIDN’T KNOW WHO SHE WAS MOST OF THE TIMES, SWALDO JUST REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT WHAT HE WAS SEEING WITH HIS OWN TWO EYES AND WHAT HE WAS FEELING IN HIS HEART WASN’T CONNECTED WITH WHAT HE WAS PLANNING FOR HIS FUTURE OR WHAT WAS REALLY HAPPENING, SWALDO FEELS THAT HE WAS WITH THE WRONG GIRL ALL OF THESE YEARS AND COULDN’T BELIEVE THAT IT WAS HIS OWN DECISIONS THAT DIRECTED HIS LIFE, NOW HE CANT REDIRECT ANYTHING OR GET OUT OF IT. (WHAT A DREAM) SWALDO BOUGHT A HOUSE THAT NOBODY IN THIS DREAM WANTED BUT IT WAS PART OF HIS PLAN.

 NOW HE WAS STUCK, NOT JUST TRAPPED IN THIS DREAM TURNED NIGHTMARE, BUT WITH HIS NEW HOUSE ALSO, HE WAS LIVING A DREAM LIFE FOR YEARS AND THEN FINALLY REALIZING THAT THIS IS NOT A DREAM AND IT NEVER WAS, THIS IS HIS LIFE THINGS GOT SCARY.

CHAPTER-11

SWALDO BECAME VERY CONFUSED AND BEWILDERED AT THIS POINT AND BEGAN ASKING HIMSELF WHERE DOES HE GO FROM HERE? HE KNOWS THAT HE MADE A WRONG DECISION EARLIER IN HIS LIFE AND NOW HE CAN’T GO BACK AND FIX IT OR MAKE IT DISAPPEAR LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED, HE NEVER SAW IT COMING UNTIL IT HIT HIM IN THE FACE , SWALDO WAS INFECTED BY THE BLINDNESS OF STUPID LOVE.

HE SAYS THAT HE IS STILL TRYING TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS DREAM.

HE ALSO SAYS THE DAMAGE IS ALREADY DONE RIGHT? PETUNIA THINKS THAT SHE IS THE ONLY ONE IN THIS COUPLE WHOSE UNHAPPY, IT DOSNT MATTER TO HER THAT THE HOUSE IS GONE, OR ALL THE MONEY THAT THEY HAD IS GONE, AND BY ALL OF THAT BEING GONE, SWALDO SAYS THAT HE FINALY REALIZED THAT PETUNIA ALSO WAS GONE AND THAT’S WHY ALL OF THAT STUPID LOVE IS GONE.

 SWALDO SAYS NOW HE IS READY TO TAKE HIS LIFE BACK, LATE, BUT BACK, AND HE FELT GOOD ABOUT IT.

 SWALDO SAID THAT PETUNIA NEGLECTED EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM, SAID THAT HE HAD TO GIVE ALL KINDS OF EXCUSES FOR HIS INABILITY TO SATISFY HER., SWALDO WOULD GET THE SILENT TREATMENT SO OFTEN THAT HE WOULD THINK PETUNIA WAS TRYING TO DRIVE HIM CRAZY.

SHE WOULD STAY ON THE PHONE NIGHT AND DAY, ALWAYS LONG ENOUGH FOR SWALDO TO FORGET WHAT HE WANTED TO SAY TO HER AND SOMETIMES HE WOULDN’T HEAR HER VOICE FOR THE WHOLE DAY

EVERYTHING THAT HE EVER TRIED TO DO WAS SOLELY HIS ATTEMPTS TO IMPRESS HER, SHE ALWAYS SAW HIS IDEAS AS DUMB AND STUPID BUT IF SHE SAW HIS LOVE THIS WOULD BE A BETTER STORY TO TELL AND A MORE PLEASANT ONE, AND A LOT MORE OF THE WAY SWALDO WAS PLANNING IT.

TO PETUNIA, SWALDO WAS A FAILURE AT EVERYTHING HE WOULD TRY TO DO, SWALDO SAID THAT PETUNIA NEVER GAVE HIM ANY ENCOURAGMENT, HE WAS JUST A JOKE TO HER, PETUNIA ALWAYS LAUGHED AT HIM NEVER WITH HIM, SWALDO ASKED, WHY DID PETUNIA WASTE ALL OF THIS TIME WITH A STUPID MAN LIKE HIM IF SHE DIDN’T HAVE SOME STUPID IN HER? IT WASN’T LONG BEFORE SWALDO REALIZED THAT HIS FAILURES WERE PETUNIAS PLEASURES, PETUNIA WAS AGAINST HIM NO MATTER WHAT.

HE GETS NO MENTAL SUPPORT, PETUNIAS ALWAYS SO POSITIVE THAT SWALDO WILL FAIL WHATEVER HE FEEL**S** POSITIVE THAT HE CAN DO, THAT’S MENTAL DESTRUCTION.

BUT LOOKING BACK AND REMEMBERING THAT HE WAS IN BAD SHAPE WHEN HE MET PETUNIA AND HE THOUGHT SHE WOULD HELP HIM BUT THAT WAS A TOTAL MISCONCEPTION.

SWALDO NEVER THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD EVER BE SO DISAPPOINTED WITH HIMSELF BECAUSE OF THE CHOICES THAT HE HAD MADE, IT WAS ALL A BIG MISTAKE, HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN TO HIM IT WASNT PART OF HIS PLAN, IT JUST HAPPENED, SWALDO MISTAKENLY TOOK HIS DREAMGIRL FOR THE GIRL IN HIS PLANS, HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN WATCHING WHERE HE WAS GOING AND MORE AWARE OF THE CHOICES HE WAS MAKING , HE WAS WATCHING BUT NOT WHAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN WATCHING BECAUSE ALL HE SAW WAS SEX NOT LOVE, HE KNOWS NOW THAT LOVE SHOULD COME FROM THE HEART NOT FROM BETWEEN THE LEGS BUT BACK THEN HE COULDN’T TELL THE DIFFERENCE.

THEY USED TO HAVE SEX EVERY DAY, HE WAS SEXWASHED AND BRAINWASHED.SWALDO BELIEVES THAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN GONE A LONG TIME AGO BUT MAKING BAD CHOICES AND DEALING WITH STUPID LOVE, ARE SOME OF THE REASONS HE STAYED, MAN WHAT A DREAM.

CHAPTER-12

PETUNIA HAS NEVER BEEN COMFORTABLE AROUND SWALDO AND NOW IT HAS GOTTEN TO THE POINT THAT HE CAN’T RELAX AROUND HER.

WHEN SWALDO IS AROUND PETUNIA SHE MAKES IT SEEM AS THOUGH HES INTRUDING ON HER LIFE BUT THIS IS SWALDOS DREAM AND SHE WAS INTRUDING IN HIS PLANS.

THE DISCOURAGEMENT AND THE FEELING OF BEING UNLOVED AND CONSTENTLY DISRESPECTED HAS GOTTEN OLD AND SWALDO FEELS THAT ITS TIME TO END, AND WHEN SWALDO FINALY AWAKENED AND REALIZED THAT THIS WAS HIS LIFE NOT A DREAM IT WAS TOO LATE, BECAUSE WAKING UP DID NOT PROVIDE SWALDO WITH AN ESCAPE, THIS WAS HIS LIFE, HE THOUGHT HE WAS FALLING IN LOVE, BUT ACTUALLY NONE OF THIS WAS PART OF HIS ORIGINAL PLAN, NOT THE WAY HE WAS PLANNING IT ANYWAY.

 LOVE CAN REALLY SCREW YOU UP, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT’S STUPID, AND UNREAL. SWALDOS NOT HAPPY ANYMORE AND HE DECIDED THAT HES NOT PLAYING THE HAPPY HUSBAND PART ANY MORE.

HE KNEW WHERE HE WANTED TO BE AT THIS TIME IN HIS LIFE ACCORDING TO HIS PLANS.

HE WAS MAKING PLANS FOR HIS FUTURE WHEN THIS DREAM STARTED, IT QUICKLY DISTRACTED HIM BECAUSE THEY JUST SCREWED ALOT, MADE BABY’S AND GOT MARRIED. IT HAPPENED SO FAST HE IDN’T REALIZE WHAT WAS GOING ON OR WHAT HE WAS GETTING INTO, IT WAS HAPPENING TO FAST, SWALDO DIDN’T THINK, HE WAS JUST HAVING FUN.

 ALL THAT FUN LED TO SWALDO FALLING IN STUPID LOVE AND THAT SEEMS TO BE THE WORST THING THAT COULD’VE HAPPENED TO HIM.

SO WHEN SWALDO FINALLY ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT HE WAS GOING TO BE ALONE FOREVER HE JUST COULDN’T STOP THINKING ABOUT HIS PLANS, WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

THIS IS NOT WHERE SWALDO EXPECTED TO BE AT THIS STAGE OF HIS LIFE BUT LOOK WHERE HE IS THIRTY SEVEN YEARS LATER, SWALDO WANTS TO KNOW WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED? HOW DID HE GET HERE? HE CANT BELIVE IT.

 EVERY TIME HE THINKS ABOUT WHERE HES BEEN DURING THOSE THIRTY SEVEN YEARS OF HIS LIFE HE WANTS TO GO BACK TO THE LIFE THAT HE WAS LIVING BEFORE, HIS ORIGINAL LIFE AND HIS ORIGINAL PLAN, HE KNOWS IT WOULD HAVE GOTTEN BETTER IN TIME IF HE WASN’T SO IMPAITIENT AND STAYED WHERE HE WAS.

BUT HES THANKFUL TO BE HERE ALTHOUGH HE FEELS CHEATED.

SWALDO CLAIMS THAT PETUNIA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS SITUATION AND HE WAS SO DESPERATE THAT HE LET IT HAPPEN, HE SAYS THAT HE NEEDED SOME HELP AND WAS ONLY THINKING OF HIS NEEDS.

HE WAS SO SELFISH, HE DIDN’T HAVE ANY REAL CONCERN ABOUT ANYTHING OR WHAT WAS REALLY GOING ON AROUND HIM AND THAT’S WHY HES STILL HERE TRYING TO FIGURE IT OUT.

 NOW HES OLD AND BROKE, AND THERE ARE NO OPTIONS ONLY TOLERATION FOR HIM AT THIS POINT, AND SINCE HES BEEN LIVING HIS LIFE IN A DREAM FOR SO LONG, WHY DOES HE WANT TO CHANGE IT NOW? HE TRIED TO GET AWAY A FEW TIMES BUT HE ALWAYS ENDS UP BACK HERE WHERE THE DREAM LED HIM SO THIS IS WHERE IT IS NOMATTER HOW GRIM.

BY READING THIS STORY ANYONE WOULD THINK THAT EVERY FEELING OF LOVE SWALDO HAD FOR PETUNIA WAS IMAGINARY AND WAS DEVELOPED FROM THE INSIDE OF HIS ZIPPER, BUT SWALDO SAID THAT HIS HEART HAD A LOT TO DO WITH IT ALSO AND THAT’S WHY HE STAYED STUCK IN THIS DREAM FOR SO LONG.

 WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN WHAM BAM THANK YOU MAM BECAME DAM! HE WISHES THAT HE COULD HAVE ENDED THIS DREAM BEFORE IT BECAME A NIGHTMARE BUT HE COULDN’T BECAUSE THIS WAS NOT A DREAM, THIS WAS HIS LIFE.

HE KNOWS THAT HE CAN’T GO BACK AND FIX THIS MESS SO HES GOING TO MAKE THE BEST OUT OF WHAT’S LEFT TO HIS LIFE. SWALDO SAYS TO NOT FEEL SORRY FOR HIM BECAUSE HIS PLANS ARE DEAD FOR NOW, BUT HES NOT, AND THE LOVE THAT HE THOUGHT HAD VANISHED DIDN’T TOTTALY DISAPEAR SO NOW HE MUST TRY TO RECONECT.

THANKS FOR LISTENING.

WELL IVE BEEN SITTING HERE LISTENING TO SWALDOS SIDE OF THIS STORY AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT HES BEEN SAYING, BUT I CANT UNDERSTAND HOW THE DESIRE FOR LOVE COULD BECOME SUCH A SITUATION AS HE HAS DESCRIBED, SO I THINK I SHOULD SEEK OUT PETUNIA AND TRY TO GET HER SIDE OF THIS STORY, THERES ALWAYS TWO SIDES.

I SOON FOUND PETUNIA AND ASKED HER ABOUT SWALDOS STORY, SHE DIDN’T HAVE VERY MUSH TO SAY ABOUT IT, BUT SHE DID SAY THAT SHE WAS GLAD THEY WERE STILL TOGETHER.

TURN THE PAGE AND READ A LITTLE BIT FROM PETUNIA AND HER SIDE.

 PART-TWO

PETUNIAS SIDE OF THE STORY

CHAPTER-14

HI! MY NAME IS PETUNIA, HANK SAYS THAT HE WANTS TO ASK ME SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT MY LIFE WITH SWALDO, AND HOW WE MANAGE TO STAY TOGETHER FOR SO LONG WITH OPPERSITE THOUGHTS? HANK SAID THAT HE WANTS TO ASK ME ABOUT HOW I DELT WITH SWALDOS BLIND AGGRESSSIVENESS TOWARDS LOVE? AND IF I THOUGHT HIS AGGRESIVENESS CAUSED HIM TO CHANG HIS MIND SO OFTEN THAT HE NEVER GOT ANYTHING DONE AND HE NEVER REALLY PAID ATTENTION TO WHAT WAS GOING ON AROUND HIM.

 HANK WANTS TO KNOW IF I FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PART OF SWALDOS STORY, I SAID NO NOT REALLY BUT I CAN TELL YOU A LITTLE ABOUT HOW WE MET AND

I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT HOW I END UP LIVING WITH AND THEN MARRYING THIS GUY, AND THEN FALLING A LITTLE BIT IN LOVE WITH HIM IF YOU WANT TO KNOW STUFF LIKE THAT.

IT ALL BEGIN THIS DAY I WAS OUT WALKING MY TWO DOGS WHEN THE TRAFFIC HAPPEDED TO BE BACKED UP IN THE BLOCK, WHILE WALKING DOWN THE BLOCK I NOTICED THIS CAB DRIVER SITTING IN HIS CAB STUCK IN TRAFFIC, I WONDERED WHO HE WAS,.

THEN IT WAS SEVERAL WEEKS LATER IN A CLUB WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO HIM BY A MUTUEL FRIEND NAMED CARL WHEN WE WERE ALL IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME (THE CLUB)I LEARNED THAT HIS NAME IS SWALDOW.

SHORTLY AFTER MEETING SWALDO (A MATTER OF MINUTES) SWALDO&I WERE LEFT ALONE AT THE CLUB SO WE TALKED FOR AWHILE ABOUT OUR LIVES AS WE DRANK OUR DRINKS AND GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER A LITTLE BETTER.

WHILE WE WERE AT THE CLUB TALKING AND DRINKING IT BECAME PRETTY LOUD AND CROWDED IN THERE FOR US SO WE DECIDED TO LEAVE AND GO SOMEWHERE LESS CROWDED TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE PRIVACY, SWALDO AND I LEFT THE CLUB TOGETHER AND HEADED TOWARDS HIS CAB, WE TOOK A SHORT RIDE AND WE ENDED UP IN A LOVERS LANE NEAR BY, THIS GUY WAS SO AGGRESSIVE THAT AS SOON AS HE PARKED HIS CAB HE WAS ALL OVER ME IM TELLING YOU HANK, THIS GUY SWALDO BEGIN KISSING ON ME AND RUBBING MY BODY AND TALKING SWEET WORDS, HE WAS LIKE A MADMAN.

IT WAS GETTING KIND OF HOT IN THAT CAB, SO I HAD TO SLOW HIM DOWN, ALTHOUGH SWALDO WAS GIVING ME MORE ATTENTION THAN I WAS USED TO, I REALLY BEGIN TO LIKE HIM BUT I WASN’T READY FOR HIM, SO I TOLD HIM THAT AND THAT IM REALLY NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL, I DON’T WANT TO MOVE TOO FAST TOO SOON.

I KNEW WHAT HE WAS THINKING BUT HE CALMED DOWN AND BEGAN TO APOLIGIZE STATING THAT HE GOT A LITTLE OVERWHELMED, I ACCEPTED HIS APOLIGYAND THEN

HE DROVE ME HOME AND WE TRADED PHONE NUMBERS WHEN HE GOT ME HOME PROMISING TO CALL ONE ANOTHER SOON.

THEN A FEW WEEKS AFTER MEETING SWALDO AND HAVING SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM ON THE PHONE, THINGS GOT MUCH BETTER BETWEEN US, SO ONE NIGHT WHILE WE WERE TALKING ON THE PHONE WE DECIDED THAT WE WANTED TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, SO SWALDO ASKED ME TO MEET HIM THE NEXT EVENING AT JACKS STORE SO WE CAN GO OUT TO DINNER, I AGREED ALTHOUGH I ALMOST FORGOT WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE SINCE WE HAVENT SEEN EACH OTHER FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER WE FIRST MET,I REALLY WANTED TO SEE HIM AGAIN.

SWALDO WAS WAITING FOR ME WHEN I ARRIVED AFTER GREETING ME HE HAD ASKED ME ABOUT MY GLASSES AND HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A DREAMGIRL, AND WAS LOOKING LIKE HE JUST FELL IN LOVE, THAT WAS SCARY, AND IT GOT SCARIER WHEN ON OUR WAY TO DINNER SWALDO STARTED TALKING ABOUT FAMILY VALUES AND OUR FUTURE, BUT I WENT OUT TO DINNER WITH HIM ANYWAY.

AFTER AWHILE SWALDO WAS MAKING PLANS FOR OUR FUTURE NOT JUST HIS HE STARTED SHOWING ME A LOT OF RESPECT, BUT I DIDN’T SEE IT TURNING TO LOVE.

SWALDO WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO DO THINGS FOR ME, AND HE WAS MAKING FAMILY PLANS, I THOUGHT HES MOVING TOO FAST AGAIN BECAUSE I NEVER SAW MARRIGE WITH HIM, I FIGURED HE MUST BE DREAMING, (JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH) I MEAN LIKE HE HAD NOTHING TO OFFER ME BUT I FELT THAT THIS WAS GOING TO GET SERIOUS.

SWALDO DIDN’T KNOW IF I HAD A BOYFRIEND OR NOT, HE NEVER ASKED, SO I STARTED WONDERING WHO HE WAS CHEATING ON.

PEOPLE IN THE HOOD STARTED CALLING SWALDO A WIFE STEALER AND TELLING HIM THAT MY BOYFRIEND WAS REALLY MY HUSBAND, YA KNOW WHAT HANK, I USED TO WEAR A WEDDING BAND BECAUSE I WANTED TO GET MARRIED TO MY BOYFRIEND, SO I EXPECTED IT AND IT CAME, AS SOON AS THE NEXT TIME THAT I SAW SWALDO AND HE ASKED ME WHY I DIDN’T TELL HIM THAT I WAS MARRIED? I TOLD HIM THAT I WASNT, I WAS JUST A WANNA BE WIFE BUT I WASN’T IN LOVE WITH ANYONE ANYMORE.

 I WASN’T HAVING ANY FUN AT HOME ANYMORE SO A SHORT TIME AFTER MEETING SWALDO MY BOYFRIEND AND I BROKE UP AND THAT CAUSED ME TO LEAVE , SWALDO THOUGHT THAT I WAS LEAVING BECAUSE OF HIM, HE KNEW THAT I WASNT HAPPY AT HOME ALONE NOW SO SWALDO MOVED IN WITH ME, HE WAS MY NEW BOYFRIEND NOW.

AFTER MOVING IN TOGEATHER I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT SWALDO FOR INSTANCE, SWALDO SPENT A LOT OF TIME SITTING AT HOME DAYDREAMING ABOUT WHAT HE WANTED TO DO, THAN DOING NOTHING, BUT BELIVED HE WAS DOING GREAT.

WE BROKE UP FOR A FEW MONTHS AND WHEN SWALDO CAME BACK I WAS THAT MANY MONTHS PREGNANT WITH OUR FIRST CHILD, SWALDO WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE, HE WOULD NEVER SAY NO TO ME, HE WOULD GIVE ME ANYTHING, HE MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT I WASN’T IN LOVE WITH HIM, BUT SWALDO BELIEVED THAT HE WAS, MAYBE BECAUSE OF THE BABY THAT WAS COMING, I NEVER KNEW WHAT HE WANTED

SWALDO WAS ALWAYS SO DEEP IN THOUGHT, LIKE HE WAS LIVING IN A DREAM.

SWALDO COULDN’T CONNECT, THIS GUY WAS REALLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY.

I DIDN’T EXPECT NOTHING LIKE THIS WHEN I MET HIM, YOU SEE, I HAD DIFFERENT PLANS FOR MY LIFE AND I NEVER SAW SWALDO IN THEM.

I USED TO STAY ON THE PHONE A LOT, HE DIDN’T LIKE THAT, HE WANTS ME TO BE MORE CONCERNED WITH WHAT HES DOING, BUT HE WAS DOING NOTHING, HE DON’T TELL ME NOTHING, HE JUST TALKS, I DON’T UNDERSTAND, HE WANTED SEX EVERYDAY, AND HE THINKS HES IN LOVE, WE HAVE THREE KIDS NOW, SOMETIMES I HAD TO LIE TO SWALDO JUST TO GET AWAY FROM HIM, I DON’T KNOW HOW THIS AFFAIR HAPPENED.

I NEVER KNEW THAT SWALDO WAS IN LOVE LIKE THAT, I BELIEVE WE JUST GOT MARRIED BECAUSE OF THE KIDS AND I GUESS THINGS CHANGED AFTER THAT AND I STARTED FALLING A LITTLE IN LOVE TOO.

I DIDN’T REALLY WANT A HUSBAND BUT I DID WANT A FAMILY.

PETUNIA JUST WANTED TO WEAR THE RING (REMEMBER THE RING?)

PETUNIA ADMITSTHAT SHE RAISED THEIR KIDS THE WAY SHE WANTED THEM TO BE RAISED.

SWALDO HAD HIS OWN IDEA OF FAMILY VALUES, BUT THEY WERE NOT THE TYPE OF VALUES THAT I THOUGHT THE KIDS NEEDED TO BE DEALING WITH AT THE TIME SO I NEVER ALLOWED HIM TO EXPLOIT THOSE VALUES AROUND THE KIDS, SWALDO GAVE THE KIDS EVERYTHING THAT HE WANTED THEM TO HAVE, NOT WHAT THEY NEEDED.

HE SAYS THAT ONE OF THE KIDS ARE NOT HIS BECAUSE WE BROKE UP FOR A FEW MONTHS AND WHEN HE RETURNED I WAS PREGNANT, WITH HIS BABY.

HE’S NEVER BEEN SURE BUT HE STAYED AROUND ANYWAY, I GUESS HE WAS IN LOVE.

NOW HE’S TRYING TO MAKE EXCUSES, SAYING HE CANT HANDLE IT NO MORE,HE WASN’T MAKING ENOUGH MONEY, SWALDO WANTED LOVE BUT HE NEEDED CASH, AND THATS HOW THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND,SWALDO WAS LIKE ONE PERSON GOING IN TWO DIRECTIONS WITH THE SAME PLAN.

SWALDO WAS REALLY IN LOVE, BUT I DON’T THINK IT WAS LOVE FOR ME BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE SWALDO WAS MOVING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM ME, SWALDO WAS A VERY PERSISTENT PERSON HE WOULD NEVER GIVE UP.

HE KEPT TRYING TO TALK ME INTO BUYING A HOUSE WITH HIM, I KEPT TELLING HIM THAT I DIDN’T WANT A HOUSE, BUT HE WENT AND BOUGHT ONE ANYWAY.

WELL SWALDO MOVED INTO HIS NEW HOUSE BY HIMSELF, I NEVER WANTED A HOUSE AND HE KNEW IT SO I NEVER MOVED IN WITH HIM, I WOULD VISIT HIM SOMETIMES ON THE WEEKEND WITH THE KIDS AND SOMETIMES WITHOUT THE KIDS.

I COULD TELL THAT HE WAS LOSING SOME LOVE FOR ME.

IT SEEMED AS THOUGH WHENEVER I WAS AT THE HOUSE WITH HIM ALONE HE COULDN’T WAIT FOR ME TO LEAVE, IT WAS LIKE MY PRESENTS ANNOYED HIM, THERE WAS NO MORE LOVE FROM HIM AND NO PEACE FOR ME, THINGS WERE GETTING STRANGE.

HE STARTED SHOWING A JEALOUS SIDE, HE NEVER ASKED BUT I KNOW THAT HE THINKS THAT THERES SOMEONE ELSE AND THAT’S WHY I DON’T STAY IN THE HOUSE WITH HIM, HE WAS WRONG AND I COULDN’T SEE IT, THIS GUY WAS MAKING ALL KINDS OF BAD DECISSIONS AND NOW HE WANTS TO TURN IT ALL AROUND, BUT IT DON’T WORK LIKE THAT, HE BOUGHT A HOUSE THAT ONLY HE WANTED, SO HE MOVED INTO IT ALONE THEN HE GOT CONFUSED, AND LONELY SO HE SOLD THE HOUSE AND MOVED BACK WITH ME AND WANTS TO BLAME LIFE FOR HIS MISTAKES, BUT I BLAME HIS BLIND STUPID LOVE.

SWALDO WOULD GET VERY UPSET WHEN I WOULD SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON THE PHONE, UNFORTIONATLY THAT WOULD BE THE ONLY TIME THAT HE WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, AND THAN WHEN I HANG UP, SWALDO WOULD GIVE ME THE SILENT TREATMENT.

I USED TO THINK THAT HE WAS GOING CRAZY, IT SEEMED LIKE NOTHING WOULD WORK FOR HIM, WHICH WAS NO SURPRISE TO ME, BECAUSE SWALDO WASN’T DOING TO WELL WHEN I MET HIM, I TRIED TO HELP HIM BECAUSE I LIKED HIM BUT I DIDN’T EXPECT HIM TO FALL INLOVE WITH ME.

SWALDO WAS BEGINNING TO SHOW DISSAPOINTMENT IN HIMSELF, I KEEP ASKING MYSELF, HOW COULD I LET THIS HAPPEN?

BUT WE STAYED TOGETHER ALL OF THESE YEARS, I MUST HAVE BEEN A LITTLE IN LOVE WITH HIM, OR CRAZY.

THIS MARRIGE WAS BECOMING A NIGHTMARE, I THOUGHT SWALDO WAS GOING TO LEAVE HOME A FEW TIMES, AND HE DID A FEW TIMES, BUT HE ALWAYS CAME BACK IN SHORT TIME BECAUSE HE WAS IN IMAGINARY LOVE. I GUESS?

 BUT AS MISERABLE AS IT SEEMED THAT WE MADE EACH OTHER, WE WILL RECONNECT SOON IM SURE, AND THINGS WILL FINALY WORK OUT BECAUSE THAT’S ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS TO ME.

WELL THAT’S ABOUT ALL I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT SWALDOS STORY HANK AND I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE SOME SENCE OUT OF IT BECAUSE I SURE CANT.

WELL MY READERS I WILL SAY THANK YOU, BUT I WON’T SAY GOODBYE, BECAUSE THIS IS NOT OVER.

WRITTEN BY HANK: