

The trials and tribulations of Amina

by Busingye Etresa Martina

I have light-skinned and dark-skinned daughters,
You know how blessed I was
Just mention what kind of wife
you dream of
So, we can talk of the cows involved!

This is the exchange,
that led to Amina's marriage.
A primary school graduate,
Who will now never again set her eyes on a board,
Besides schools may never open
Therefore, there are no regrets
She is a woman now.

Amina's husband
A toad twice her age
Boasts of marrying one of the
Most beautiful girls in the country
With a belly, almost the size of hers
Yet in hers sits a child
Who kicks to greet his mother

Night holds more than darkness for Amina
Her husband returns straight from the club,
A kilometer away from home
Staggering through the ajar rackety door
Calling out for his beautiful wife

Instead of lips, fists and feet meet Amina's body
Which hurts from head to toe.
Not from labor pains
But the "tough love" of her husband

AMINA!!!!!!!
Where is my water for showering?
Must I remind you all the time to get it?
Every morning you act sick,
But I know

You are lazy!
You are dirty!
You want to start work in the afternoon,
I know your tricks
I AM YOUR HUSBAND NOT YOUR FATHER!

Amina nauseous every morning,
Hurries to get her husband
A basin of water to shower.
Then rushes to the cramped-up kitchen
To make her husband breakfast.
Amina, no one told you,
Your husband is your firstborn child!

Amina wants to start a kiosk
To supplement the food on their table
for she doesn't eat right for her condition.
But what will her family say?
What will his family say?
What will her neighbors say?
What will the village say?
That her husband failed to provide for the family?
She is a woman and therefore she will sit
And wait for the confetti her husband brings,
Whatever remains after he has had a drink.

One year into hell more fire blazes
Her husband is knocked by a speeding car
On his way from the club
Amina is left with three infants
And in-laws that won't sit in the same room as her
Since she led to the death of their son

No source of income but handouts
She will start her own kiosk
Tomatoes to sweets
She will get revenue
To feed her offsprings

Amina's dream of becoming an engineer,
Keeps her pillow wet.

Busingye Etresa Martina is a 19 year old woman from Uganda. She is currently a student at Mt.St.Mary's college Namagunga in Form Five. Martina loves writing poetry especially because it lets her speak her mind in ways that seem impossible. She is the founder of the Tsunami Of Hope community which is all about building positivity in the world. She is also about to launch her own blog called Unfolded pages.