

# MYSTERY PURIFIER

## CHAPTER 1

### *Dear Cause*

On one beautiful Monday evening after school, 17-year-old Obioma Okoro, an only child that was born and raised in Nigeria, West Africa was in the sitting room with her dad Mr. Okoro while he was watching the news. The news was about children in other parts of Africa who were hungry. Obioma had sympathy on them and bowing her head, she said a word of prayer for the children. Then she looked up and turned to her dad and asked him, “dad what do you think the biggest problem facing humanity is”? I want to help solve it.

Her dad smiled at her and said to her, “there are many problems facing humanity, but your focus should be on a cause that is dear to you and make sure you give it your all when you find out exactly what that is”. Obioma thought for a second, and exclaimed “daddy daddy, I know the problem that I want to solve”, and she sang around “I know it, I feel it, I will do it”. Her dad chuckled and said, “why don’t you share it with me, am I not your super dad anymore”? She laughed and said “okay daddy, just because you are the best super dad”. She then whispered it to him and said “shhhh we don’t want to jinx it now, do we”?

Mr. Okoro gave his daughter a big hug and said to her, “I am proud of you for having a heart to help other people, and this will be our little secret. Your mom would have been so proud of you. I am here to help you solve this problem one step at a time because that is what your mom would have wanted”. Obioma hugged her dad tightly and said “I love you daddy”, and he said “I love you too cupcake”. From that day, Obioma’s dad always saved some money to contribute in any way he could to the problem his daughter wanted to solve. He would occasionally send some of the money to organizations that were helping to provide a solution to people who had the problem.

Obioma was happy that her dad was helping through his contributions, but she wanted to do more and not knowing how to go about it made her very sad. She would sit for hours thinking about different ways she could help, but she always discarded whatever idea she had. One evening, while watching the news, she saw missionaries who were providing clean water to people who did not have access to clean water where they lived. Her heart ached because that was the cause she cared dearly about. She thought to herself, what if there was a way to purify the contaminated muddy looking water these people have? She nodded in disappointment and sighed saying, “that can only happen if I had superpowers”.

## CHAPTER 2

### *One morning walk*

The next morning, Obioma decided to take a walk to a beautiful spring of water nearby. Her dad was making breakfast and she yelled from the door, “dad I am going on a walk”. Before he could stop her, she had hurried out of the door and was on her way to the spring. Mr. Okoro, her dad, stepped out of the kitchen and shook his head saying to himself, “she is definitely keeping me on my toes”. He went back to the kitchen and continued making breakfast.

In about ten minutes, Obioma had gotten to the spring, and she stood admiring the beauty in front of her. She bent down and scooped some water in her hands and drank it while thinking about how good it would be to provide people with clean water. All of a sudden, she felt this wave rush through her while drinking the water. Obioma opened her eyes trying to remember what had happened to her. She tried to trace her steps from when she left the house, and remembered she was drinking water from the spring, and she started feeling some type of way. That was all she could remember, except now, she was sitting there confused. She rubbed her head, while trying to think about how long she might have been at the spring.

Mr. Okoro, on the other hand, was worried about his daughter because she had left home for three hours, and a walk should not take up to an hour. He had gone in search of her but did not know where to look because she only said she was going for a walk. He sat worried and prayed that his daughter was alright. He had decided that if she was not back in thirty minutes, he would call the police to report her missing. His heart ached and for the first time in a long time, he cried.

Obioma got up and was about to leave the spring when she saw an old lady trying to get some water from the spring. Obioma ran to help her out and the old lady smiled at her and said, “your wishes have been granted”. Obioma gave the lady a puzzled look because she did not understand what she was talking about. She asked ma’am, what do you mean? and the lady smiled and said, “time will tell”. Obioma, more confused than she previously was, politely said “thank you ma’am” and hurried home knowing her dad would be worried.

Obioma got home in ten minutes and saw her dad sitting on the floor crying. She touched his shoulder and he flinched but upon looking up to see his daughter he had the biggest smile on his face. He hurriedly wiped the smile off his face and scolded Obioma for making him so scared. She wanted to be mad at him for scolding her, but she could see how much pain he was in. Obioma gave her dad a big hug and said I am sorry super dad; I will not do that again. Obioma then said, “hey dad, how about that breakfast” and they both laughed. Her dad was just happy to have her home that he did not ask why she took so long and Obioma did not mention it, just yet.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### ***Vacation***

In the summer, Obioma and her dad were planning on where to go for a vacation. Obioma told her dad that she wanted to help organizations who took clean water to people who had contaminated muddy water. Her dad then booked a trip to a small town called Tena in Ethiopia with an organization that provided water to people who had contaminated water.

Obioma on getting to Ethiopia told her dad that the first thing she wanted to do was to see the water source the people had. Her dad took her on a trip to the water source, he left her on the path leading to the water source and went off to speak with a few of the inhabitants of the town. On getting to the water source, Obioma thought to herself, I wish they had clean water and she touched the water. Suddenly, the color started changing and spreading and before she knew it, the water was pure. She got scared and ran to call her dad who was surprised to see that they had a source of clean water, and he asked himself, so were they lied to? He got furious and thought to confront the missionaries because it cost a lot to go on the trip and they also had to get donations from others but before he could zoom off, Obioma said, I know what you are thinking dad, but I think it was me.

Mr. Okoro glanced at her, but he could not understand what she meant, and he asked her to explain, and she narrated the whole story but of course, it was difficult to believe. He took her to another water source, and she thought to herself, I wish they had clean water and she touched the water and suddenly, the color started changing and spreading and before she knew it, the water was pure. Her dad was shocked, but he was more scared for his daughter because she now had the power to purify water and he asked her not to ever mention it to anybody. He kept wondering how she got the powers and he said to her, well your wish has come true, this was a cause so dear to you and now you can solve this problem for people. Instead of jumping up, Obioma was lost in thought and her dad offered a penny for her thoughts and she said the spring, the old lady, now I understand.

Her dad said “cupcake, what spring, what old lady, have you been leaving home without letting me know”? Obioma said “no dad, it was on the day I took a walk, I actually went to the spring”. “Okay, and what happened at the spring, I am confused”, he said. Obioma explained the whole story about her journey to the spring to, how she passed out after drinking the water and her encounter with the old lady. Her dad was very glad to see that his daughter had the power to help others, and he made it his mission to try to keep it a secret. Mr. Okoro immediately asked his sister who is a seamstress to make a costume for Obioma, so her identity would be kept a secret, but he lied that the costume was for a school play. Obioma did not go to any other water sources till she got back to Nigeria.

On getting back to Nigeria, her dad told her that he was going to make a plan on how to help other town and countries with dirty water. He said they will start with those who had little to no source of clean water. Obioma and her dad traveled to several places, and wearing a costume, she would sneak away to purify the water and then she would leave. Thankfully, the money her dad was saving up came in handy to take care of their moving expenses. Soon enough, it made rounds on the news about how the water in so many places were getting mysteriously purified. One live witness granted an interview saying he saw someone in a costume close to their water source but before he could make out who it was the person had left and he saw the water was pure after the person left.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### ***Fame and Nemesis***

The news went viral worldwide. After Obioma came back from her latest mission, she went to school the next day and all the students in Obioma's school spoke about the news and one kid in particular said, "it will be cool to have superpowers, but it would be even better to meet the mystery purifier". From that day, Obioma called herself the mystery purifier. She remained under the radar for a while after that till it was being reported in the news that the water in so many places that were made pure had suddenly contaminated again.

Most people were confused and started asking if the mystery purifier was playing a prank on them. In so many places, people started rioting and saying that the mystery purifier must be caught and made to pay for joking around with the needs of others. Obioma on hearing what people were saying got really scared and would always cry. Her dad saw her crying one day, and said to her, all you wanted to do was to help others. "This is not your fault, and we will find new ways to solve the problem of the contaminated water but first we need to know who is behind all this and stop them immediately".

Before Mr. Okoro could begin his next sentence, the news cut him short with the report of someone in a costume known as mud man laughing hysterically and saying that not everybody is to have pure water and so he would go around restoring the water to their previous state and also making some more water sources contaminated. He then openly said, "hey mystery purifier, stop me if you can". In that moment, Obioma knew what she had to do. She asked her dad to book a ticket to the last place that was reported newly contaminated. She said to herself, "I know that is where they had this press release". She packed up her costume and she and her dad took the next flight to the town.

She put on her costume in the house her dad booked and went to purify the water knowing the news channels would be there. As she approached, people stared at her puzzled and thinking so who is this other person in a costume. She walked to the top of a little mountain a bit far from where the people were and said, I am the water purifier. The people's jaws dropped as they gasped, but before anyone could say catch her, the press has surrounded her asking her series of questions. She yelled, "wait, I have only one thing to say". "I made it my mission to travel around to purify the water that was contaminated but I do not think the mud man liked the sound of that, which is why he is against me, but you can never stop someone on a life mission and at the end, good will prevail over evil.

Obioma's dad created a scene that distracted the crowd, and then she ran away to her safe place. After a few minutes, her dad met with her and let her know that he was proud of her. However, the mud man was determined to stop the mystery purifier and he contaminated multiple sources of water daily. The people became weary because one minute they would have clean water and the next, they would have contaminated water. They made lots of videos and protests against mud man and pleading to their hero, the mystery purifier to help them. Obioma had newfound motivation and made a plan to stop the mud man.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### ***Family Secrets***

Obioma was determined to stop the mud man, and the only way to stop him was to take away his powers. She found out that he only wanted to avoid contact with clean water and that was why he kept contaminating the water sources because he could lose his powers if clean water was poured on him. The mud man had no idea that Obioma knew how to take him down because there was only one other person that knew his secret, and that was Obioma's aunt who made her costume. Her aunt while watching the news, recognized the costume she made and confronted Obioma's dad about it. He revealed to her that his daughter was the mystery purifier. Obioma's aunt was excited and promised to keep the secret.

However, that was not the only secret she kept because the mud man was her only son. He was cursed by a young girl that he would be a villain because he bullied her. He never believed the curse would come to pass till he fell in a mud pit and his life changed after that. His mom had been worried about him and wanted him to come back to being himself even though she wanted to protect his identity. She did not hesitate to tell her brother that her dear son was the mud man. She also told Obioma that her son said it was only clean water that could take away his powers to contaminate water with mud.

Obioma started scheming on how to trap the mud man in a place and give him a good bath, but the only problem was that he was never in a place, he would dump mud in the water and leave like he was never there. He only showed himself when he wanted to threaten the mystery purifier. Obioma and her dad had to come up with a plan to trap him in a place and take away his powers. The mud man had a good heart, but he could not get past the curse. No matter how hard he tried, he found himself doing the same evil over and over again. Whenever he set out, he only thought of doing evil. He could only be free on the conditions set by the little girl.

Obioma knew the only way to get the mud man to go to a place was to go through his mom. His mom agreed to help the mystery purifier "heal" her son. One day, when her son set out to contaminate water, she called him crying and asking him to save her from the mystery purifier who held her captive. He hurried over to the address without thinking about the implications. When it came to his mother, he sometimes got in touch with his good heart. He got to where his mother was and tried to untie her. While trying to untie his mom, the mystery purifier and her dad poured a huge bath of water on him with a loud SPLASH, and he screamed nooooo, who did that to me? and he fell with a loud thud.

His mom, Obioma and her dad watched him anxiously to see what would happen next. They all had questions running through their minds: did he lose his powers? was he alright? Will he regain consciousness? Will he know that he was set up? Etc. As they watched him closely, he started moving his fingers, feet, and they were all happy but then he started shaking furiously. The atmosphere got tense and PANIC was written on their faces. Could that not only be the end of mud man but of their dear son, nephew and cousin. His mom was about to run to him but was halted in her tracks by the sight before her.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### ***Puzzling changes***

Before their very eyes, mud man had stopped shaking but all the water around him started gathering to him and his body absorbed them. He was increasing as he kept absorbing the water that became mud as it came in contact with his body. Obioma's dad, and his mom were terrified and ran to hide behind a wall, but Obioma stood there watching. Her dad begged her to hide but she refused. The mud man roared to life and as wayyy bigger than he was. Obioma wondered what could have gone wrong, did her aunty lie to her? was that the end for her?

The mud man walked towards the mystery purifier with fury in his eyes. Obioma was anticipating what he would do. Surprisingly, when he got close to the mystery purifier, he did not try to end her. He only asked, where is my mother. Obioma smiled because she saw a glimmer of hope. Although he had become a bigger mud man and had more mud to contaminate water, he had his heart intact. His mom stepped out of hiding and asked if he was okay. He turned his back to her and yelled angrily "what is this? why did you call me here? did you try to deceive me"? His mom could not find the right words to explain herself. He chuckled happily when he noticed that he had more powers.

The mud man stormed off and when he got to the doorway he said, "there is no stopping me now". He turned back and gave his mother a look of betrayal and said "not even you". His mom fell to the ground crying. Her brother tried to comfort her while Obioma stood staring at his back as he walked away. Her dad walked up her and touched her shoulder saying, don't lose hope cupcake. That was all Obioma needed to hear in that moment, and she ran off. Her dad called out to her, but she yelled "this is my mission and my battle. Take care of yourself and aunt". The mystery purifier was out of sight, but not out of mind.

The mud man contaminated more water in a day and in more places than he did previously. Obioma tries to track down the mud man to stop him once and for all, but she did not each place without purifying their water first. After a long day, Obioma kept asking herself why the mud man did not lose his powers. She had to find the missing piece of the puzzle because that the only way to stop the mud man. Obioma tried to find the little girl who cursed the mud man, but all her attempts were futile. However, she refused to give up because the lives of a lot of people depended on her actions.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### ***Crushed expectations***

Mr. Okoro spent days worrying about his daughter and her wellbeing. A part of him wished she never had superpowers in the first place. He was devastated and all he could do was to pray and cry sometimes. Obioma was all he had, and he was the person who kept Obioma going but she had to be selfish this time, for a good cause. Mr. Okoro understood that fact very well, but he could not help but pray that it all ended soon so his cupcake could come back home to him. He had no idea where she was, and it broke him.

Obioma was somewhere in the world trying to trap the mud man. So far, she had only successfully tracked him down. She began by purifying the water that he had contaminated and thought it would be a good idea to speak to the people and let them know that she was doing her best to help them. The

mystery purifier got a loudspeaker and addressed the people but as she was doing that the mud man kept contaminating more water sources and the people were not happy about that.

A crowd was drawn to mystery purifier. She addressed the crowd close to the last water source in the town that the mud man had not contaminated, knowing that would be his next stop. She hoped to get hold of him then. She hoped for a breakthrough, but she was not expecting the rage from the crowd that had gathered. The only thing he heard was get her, get her and, for the first time she was more scared than motivated. What could she do to change the minds of the people? She was not the bad guy; how did the tables turn?

The crowd moved towards the mystery purifier to get a hold of her, and she took steps backwards wondering where to go from there. Just then, the mud man came behind the crowd unnoticed. Only Obioma noticed he was there. She said to the crowd, the mud man is here to contaminate the water, I am not pointing this out for you to go after him, but I am only saying that I am here to help. All the people shrugged saying it was your help that brought the mud man in the first place and made matters worse. You gave us false hope and we know the mud man is only here because of you. Once you are gone, the mud man will also leave us alone.

Obioma continued to take steps back, one, two, three and SPLASH. Obioma had fallen into the river. Though she was the mystery purifier, she did not know how to swim and none of the people jumped in to save her. Many said, that is what she deserves. Obioma saw herself sinking, deeper and deeper. Everything went black, and then gradually started turning light blue, and then the bright light of the sun entered her eyes. She coughed twice and it felt like a déjà vu. What happened to her? whatever happened felt like it had happened before but something else caught her attention. Her cousin knelt beside her an expression of shock on his face. Obioma wondered how he got there. Obinna, she called out to him, and asked what happened to me and how did you get here?

## CHAPTER 8

### *Missing piece*

After staring at each other for a few minutes Obinna finally said, “I was the mud man”. Obioma was shocked to hear that her cousin was the mud man. She had lots of questions, but the most important question was how he got transformed to his normal state and what had taken place after she fell into the river. When she could finally find the words, she asked him how he became the mud man. His mom lied to her that he went for a study abroad program. Obinna explained that he bullied a little girl who cursed him that he will be a villain. He felt trapped in his own body. She then asked him how he got transformed and he smiled and said you set me free.

Obinna explained to her that as he watched her fall, the mud man was happy that his enemy was going down but something in him ached to see someone else lose their life because of the problems he had caused. He finally got in touch with his core and decided that he would save her because the people were not willing to do anything and so he jumped into the river and brought her out. He forgot all plans of contaminating the water. He brought her to land and tried to resuscitate her, that was the only thing on his mind. The people clapped but more prominently all the people were saying look, he is no longer

the mud man, he is now a normal person. His identity was revealed but that only meant he was free from the curse.

It was in that moment that it occurred to Obinna that he was indeed no longer the mud man but had returned to his normal state. He became ecstatic but quickly diverted his attention to Obioma. He removed Obioma's mask to resuscitate her and that was when her identity was revealed. The news channels arrived at the scene, took a lot of pictures and went live to capture the moment. Obioma's dad and aunt booked the next flight when they discovered where their children were. They had a lot of explaining to do but they were happier that their children were safe and well. However, one question kept lingering in everyone's mind. How was the mud man transformed?

Obioma hugged her cousin saying how happy she was to see him free and Obinna bowed his head in disappointment promising never to bully anyone again. It was then that a thought came to Obioma. Obinna loved his mom and so he would do anything to help her but when he saw someone who was supposed to be his enemy in trouble and decided to help, he set himself free from the cure. The water did the cleansing, but Obinna had to get past his ego, get in touch with his core, and partake in his own freedom. The missing piece was doing a noble and good deed for someone that he did not know. It had to come from his heart and from a place of compassion. It all made sense to Obioma, and she was glad everything fell into place.

She shared her thoughts with Obinna who was happy to be free, and shortly after, Obioma's dad and aunt arrived at the scene, and they all enveloped themselves in a big bear hug. There was peace, love, and joy in the atmosphere. All they could hear was the aww and applause of the people. Obioma did not care that her identity was revealed, she was just happy to help and now she did not need to wear a costume anymore. The news stations could not wait to get an interview with the family. Obioma asked Obinna if he would love to be her sidekick to accompany her around the world to purify the water in many places to which he agreed. It felt like they were finally having their happy ending, with mystery purifier and her sidekick there to provide clean water.