

EPISODE 15

Shadows, Secrets, and a Dangerous Agreement

In the days that followed, Ade and Precious grew closer with surprising speed. Ade had a way of entering people's hearts without

"One condition. You will come to my house tomorrow and do what I ask." Then

effort. He was naturally cheerful, always ready with a joke, and he knew exactly how to lift Precious whenever her mood dropped. Around him, laughter came easily, and for the first time in a long while, Precious found herself smiling without forcing it. They became very close friends, yet beneath that growing friendship, something remained unsettled. Deep within her, Precious still remembered the voice of God that had once pointed her toward Uche. She knew what she had heard and what she believed, but pain, disappointment, and confusion had clouded her clarity, so instead of seeking direction again, she began to ignore that inner voice.

> *he put his phone away.*
>
> — PETER'S ULTIMATUM

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THE OUTING

The next day, Ade asked her out. "*Make we go out small,*" he said with a grin. "*You need to clear your head.*" Precious hesitated for a moment, then agreed. They went to a modest but lively restaurant filled with chatter, music, and the clinking of plates — one of those places where people came not just to eat, but to feel alive. They ordered food and drinks. Precious watched quietly at first because she had assumed Ade did not have much money. He carried himself simply, without any show of wealth, but as the outing continued, she noticed how freely he spent without hesitation. "*Order anything you want,*" he told her casually. That surprised her and somehow, it impressed her. By the time they finished eating, something had shifted in her heart again. She began to like him much more than she had ever expected.

As they sat together, laughing and talking, Precious drifted into her thoughts as her mind began to paint a different picture. She imagined herself with Ade — driving, laughing, music playing, free and adventurous. She saw them crossing long roads, climbing hills, shouting with excitement as the

wind rushed through the windows. She imagined leaning out of the car laughing while people watched with admiration. It felt easy. It felt fun. It felt like a life without pressure.

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DAVID RETURNS

She was still lost in that imagination when Ade suddenly tapped her. "*Precious,*" he said, pointing. "*See that guy... why he dey video us?*" She blinked and followed his gaze. Her expression changed instantly. It was David — the same young man from before, the one who had once recorded her during an embarrassing moment and later collected her number. Anger rose within her immediately and she stood up. "*Hey! David!*" she shouted. "*Stop that!*" The moment he realized he had been noticed, David lowered his phone and ran. Precious did not hesitate — she ran after him. "*Leave am!*" Ade shouted, grabbing her hand, but she pulled away forcefully. "*Leave me!*" she snapped. When he still tried to hold her back, she turned and slapped him in frustration. Ade stepped back, stunned, while Precious took off.

She chased David out of the restaurant and onto the busy road. Cars passed quickly with horns blaring, but she did not stop. David ran ahead, dodging people and obstacles, while Precious followed with determination. She was fast, strong, and incredibly angry. They ran into a crowded market where traders shouted and people moved aside. "*Thief!*" someone shouted, assuming the worst. David ran wildly, knocking things aside, but Precious followed closely, refusing to lose him. At one point he climbed over an obstacle and disappeared briefly, but Precious knew the market well. She quickly took a shortcut, cutting across narrow paths until she spotted him again. He eventually ran into a quiet compound. The noise of the market disappeared and everything became still. Precious slowed down because something felt wrong, but her anger pushed her forward until she entered.

THE TRAP

What she saw inside shocked her. Peter stood there calmly, as though he had been expecting her. Precious stopped in her tracks. "*What is the meaning of this?*" she demanded. "*What kind of nonsense is this?*" She turned to David. "*So you know him?*" Peter stepped forward slowly. "*So you get mind to leave me,*" he said coldly, "*and go after one useless evangelist.*" "*Don't call him that,*" Precious snapped, grabbing his shirt. "*Don't get me angry.*" Peter smirked slightly. "*Angry? You never even start.*" He lifted his phone. "*I will send that video to him. Let him see the kind of person you are.*" Precious's heart skipped. "*What video?*" she asked, though she already knew the answer. Peter laughed softly. "*This boy has been watching you. He has seen everything.*" Her anger turned into fear. "*Don't try it,*" she said firmly, but Peter shrugged. "*What if I do?*" He tapped on his phone as though about to send it. Precious's confidence broke. "*Please,*" she said, her voice softening as she stepped closer, pleading now. "*Please.*"

THE CONDITION

Peter watched her carefully, then spoke. "*One condition. I will not send it,*" he said slowly. "*I will even allow you marry your evangelist. But you will come to my house tomorrow and do what I ask.*" Precious froze as her expression hardened. "*Why would I do that? I am married!*" she asked quietly. Peter laughed. "*Which marriage? The one wey scatter?*" "*It will still happen,*" she insisted weakly. "*That one no concern me,*" he replied. "*What concerns me is tomorrow.*" He showed her Uche's number on his phone, and she stared at it in shock. "*How did you get that?*" Peter smiled. "*Spy,*" he said simply. She turned slowly toward David, her anger rising again. For a moment she felt like attacking him, but she held herself back.

She was trapped, confused, and cornered. Tears gathered in her eyes.

After a long silence, she spoke. "*Okay,*" she said quietly. "*I will come.*" Peter nodded with satisfaction and put his phone away. "*Good.*" Precious wiped her face quickly. "*Delete the video,*" she said. Peter shook his head. "*After.*" The word landed heavily. Precious stood there for a moment, her heart racing and her thoughts scattered. She had just made a decision, and deep within her spirit, something was already warning her. But she walked out anyway.

> *"Deep within her spirit, something was already warning her. But she walked out anyway."*

✦ **Watch Out for the Next Episode** ✦