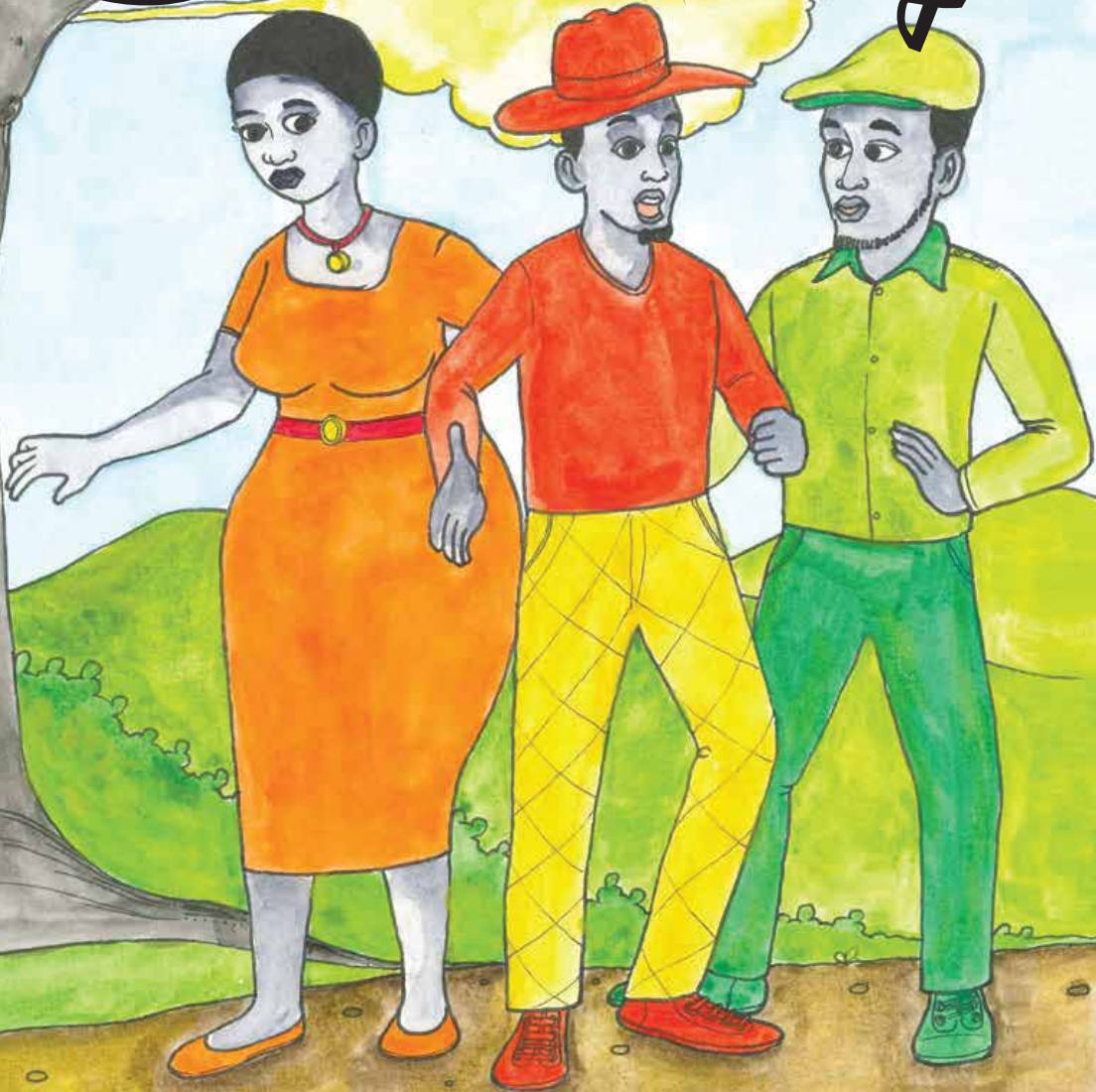


# David's Story



A Story of love that stood the test of time

Written and illustrated by:  
Dr. Thomas MUYOMBO

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## **Senator, Dr. Rasha Kelej MESSAGE**

As an African woman and the CEO of Merck Foundation, I am very proud to introduce this inspiring story of David and Jane.

In many cultures, childless women still suffer discrimination, stigma and ostracism. An inability to have a child or to become pregnant can result in being greatly isolated, disinherited or assaulted. This often results in divorce or physical and psychological violence. Therefore we have created “Merck More Than a Mother” campaign with the aim to define many interventions to empower infertile women through access to information, health and change of mind-set.

This story is one of these interventions to break the stigma around infertile women and raises awareness about infertility prevention and male infertility.

It's important for parents and caregivers to start teaching respect and nurturing empathy from a very young age. We should teach boys these qualities at their schools and through media. I believe both boys and girls need the same kind of guidance.

Just like girls, young boys gradually learn how to control their behavior during their pre-school and elementary school years. This story is our way to empower our boys to develop true respect for women and know few facts about Infertility prevention and how it affects both men and women equally.

Reading David's story will teach our children to respect and value all people regardless of being parents or not. It will also help preparing our children for tomorrow with the right family values of love and respect. Everyone deserves respect and love, and should never ever be overlooked or, worse, abused — even if they are childless.

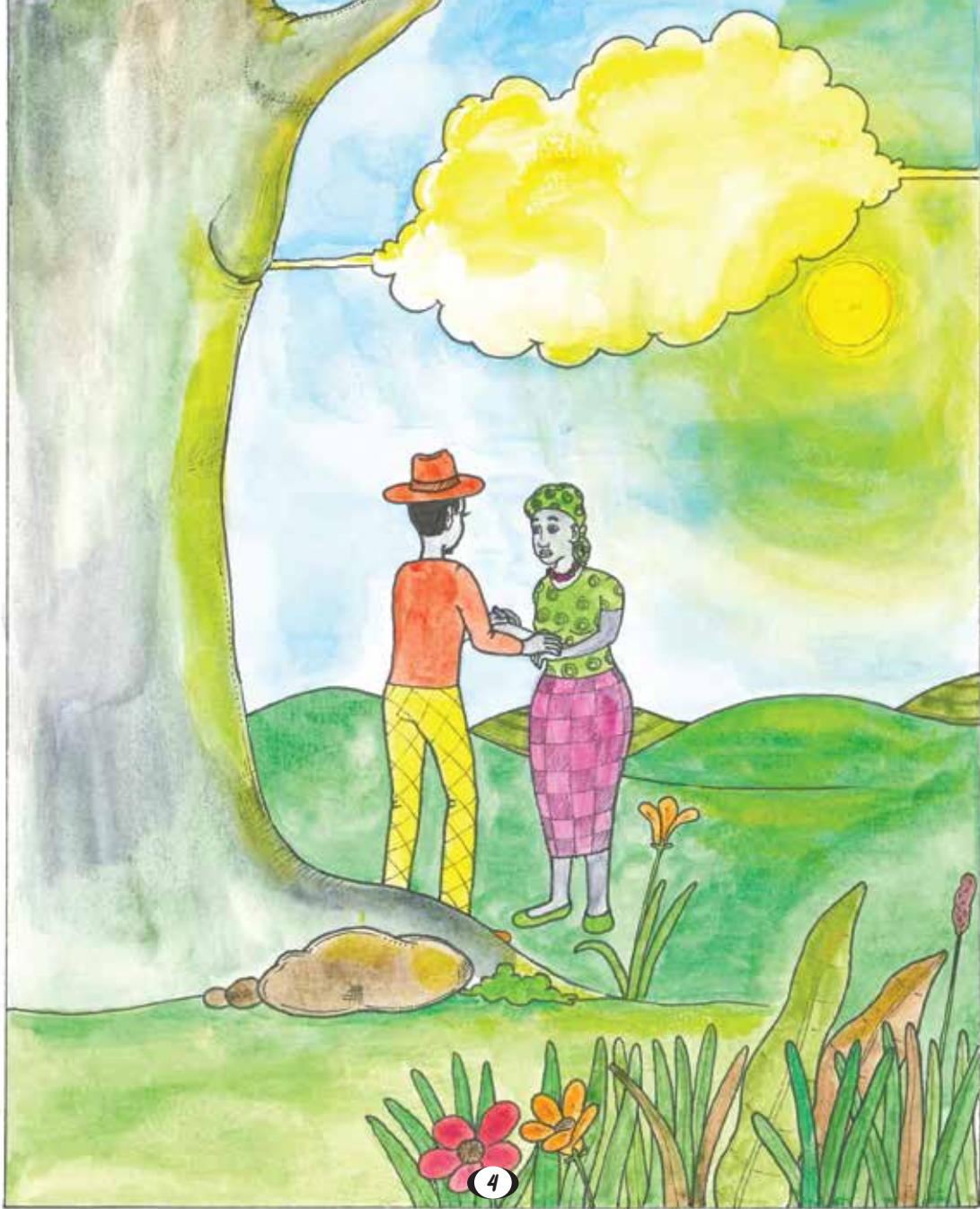
I hope you will understand the story's message “Having a child, takes both a man and a woman, every woman is more than a Mother, Every man is more than a Father “.

Enjoy reading David's story.....

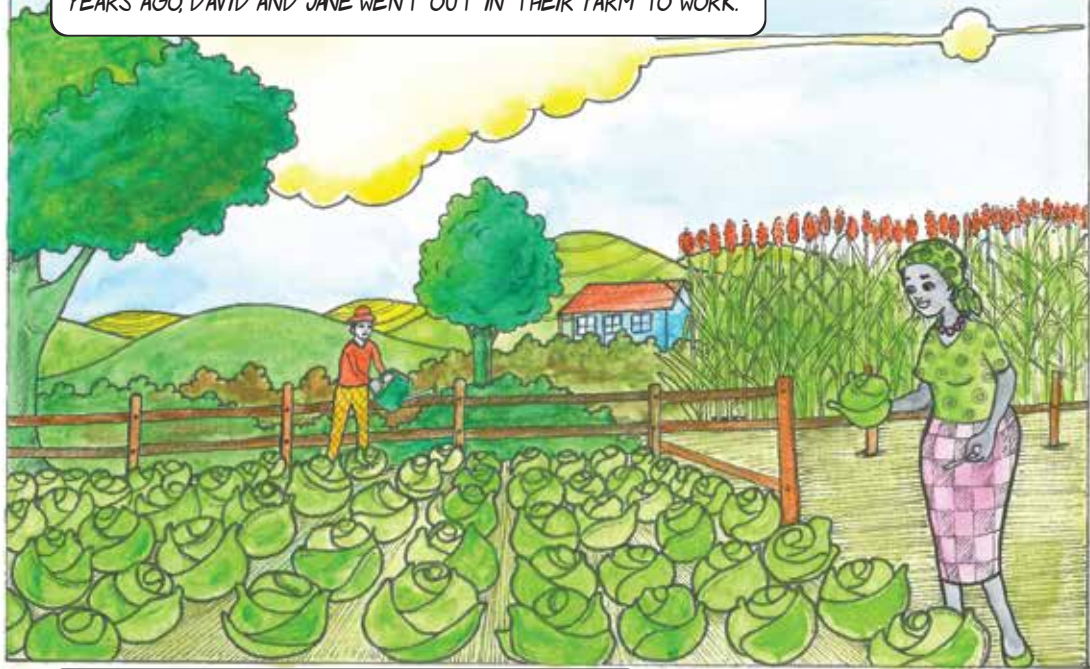
**Senator, Dr. Rasha Kelej**  
**CEO of Merck Foundation**  
**Member of the Egyptian Senate (2020-2025)**  
**Most Influential African (2019, 2020)**  
**African Woman of the Year 2020**  
**President of 'Merck More Than a Mother'**



IN A LAND FAR AWAY LIVES A MAN CALLED DAVID.  
DAVID IS MARRIED TO JANE, HIS CHILDHOOD LOVE.



DAVID AND JANE ARE WEALTHY DUE TO THEIR HARD WORK. TWO YEARS AGO, DAVID AND JANE WENT OUT IN THEIR FARM TO WORK.



THEY WERE SAYING LOVELY WORDS TO ONE ANOTHER.



MY LOVE  
JANE, I LOVE YOU  
LIKE I NEVER  
LOVED BEFORE.





A LADY CALLED MAMA BOMBOY AND HER SON CHUKWUDI PASSED BY DAVID AND JANE'S FARM.

CHUKWUDI, LET US SAY A GOOD HELLO TO DAVID AND JANE. I THINK YOU KNOW THEM, DON'T YOU?

YES I DO, MOTHER

I WONDER HOW THEY CAN BE HAPPY LIKE THAT WHEN THEY CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN. THE WOMAN IS INFERTILE.

I NEED TO LET THEM KNOW HOW MISERABLE THEY SHOULD FEEL.

HELLO LOVEBIRDS!

HELLO MAMA BOMBOY

AND THEN...

HOW CAN SOMEONE  
BARREN LIKE YOU  
JANE PRETEND  
TO BE HAPPY?  
YOU SHOULD BE  
MOURNING AND  
HIDING YOUR FACE

ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?

NO!



MAMA BOMBOY WENT ON...

YOU SHOULD GIVE YOUR  
HUSBAND A CHILD OR  
ELSE RETURN TO  
YOUR PARENTS. DAVID  
DOESN'T DESERVE THIS,  
HE IS A KIND MAN.



AND JANE STARTED CRYING

MAMA BOMBOY, HOW CAN  
YOU BE SO CRUEL LIKE  
THAT? WHAT DID WE DO  
TO YOU?



DAVID WAS SHOCKED

JANE MY LOVE, PLEASE  
DON'T CRY. YOU KNOW HOW  
MUCH I LOVE YOU, DON'T  
MIND ANYTHING SHE SAYS.





AND... MAMA BOMBOY WENT AWAY

SHE JUST SAID  
THAT I AM BARREN!  
YOU KNOW I ALSO  
LOVE CHILDREN  
LIKE EVERY WOMAN.

DON'T THINK ABOUT  
WHAT SHE SAID. I LOVE  
YOU WITH ALL MY  
HEART AND I DON'T  
MIND NOT HAVING  
CHILDREN

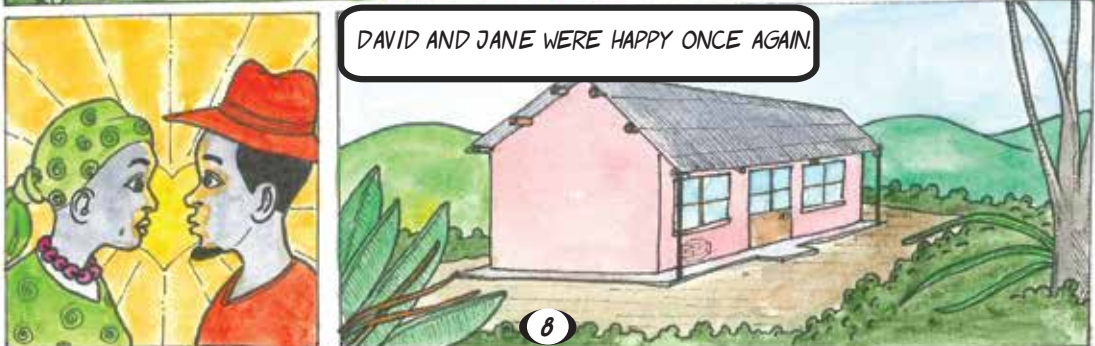


DAVID AND JANE WENT BACK HOME

JANE PEOPLE  
LOVE TO TALK.  
BUT THEIR TALK  
WILL NOT STOP  
OUR LOVE.



DAVID AND JANE WERE HAPPY ONCE AGAIN.





ONE WEEK AFTER, JANE WENT TO  
THEIR FARM TO HARVEST ORANGES

I SHOULD HURRY, MY  
HUSBAND HAS A BUSINESS  
MEETING TO ATTEND



JANE WENT HOME FAST

DAVID WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF  
THEIR HOUSE WAITING FOR JANE TO  
COME. HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO AND  
LEAVE NO ONE AT HOME.





JANE GOT THERE ON TIME

HERE  
SHE COMES.  
SHE IS NEVER  
LATE

JANE SWEETHEART, LET  
ME RUN TO THE BUSINESS  
MEETING I DON'T WANT  
TO BE LATE.

ON HIS WAY TO THE MEETING, DAVID WAS  
WONDERING WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS HIS  
FRIENDS WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH HIM.



HE WONDERED IF HIS FRIENDS WANTED TO BUY ALL THE YIELD HE GETS FROM HIS FARM.

OR IF THEY WANTED TO OFFER HIM SOME MONEY TO INVEST IN HIS FARMING BUSINESS.

DAVID ENTERED THE MEETING PLACE

I SEE THEM IN THE CORNER

HELLO DAVID

HELLO

LONG TIME MY FRIENDS! WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?

FINALLY

AND THEN,

YOU SEE DAVID, WE HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU. WE KNOW YOU ARE SAD BECAUSE YOUR WIFE IS INFERTILE. LET'S HELP YOU AND FIND YOU A FERTILE YOUNG WIFE

WHAT?

MUSA IS RIGHT. WE THINK YOU SHOULD LEAVE THAT MISERABLE WOMAN YOU HAVE AS A WIFE.

OKAY!!! NOW I SEE THE KIND OF BUSINESS YOU CALLED ME FOR!

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, I CAN NEVER LEAVE MY WIFE INFERTILE OR NOT, I LOVE HER.

NOT ALL WOMEN ARE BARREN, LEAVE HER.

LET'S LEAVE THIS DISCUSSION HERE



THE NEXT MORNING, DAVID DECIDED TO TAKE HIS WIFE JANE TO THE HOSPITAL TO SEEK SOME MEDICAL HELP

JANE MY LOVE,  
I PROMISE TO  
DO EVERYTHING  
FOR YOU TO BE  
TREATED.

THANK YOU  
DAVID MY  
EVERYTHING.



AT THE HOSPITAL



THEY ASKED TO TALK TO A  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PHYSICIAN



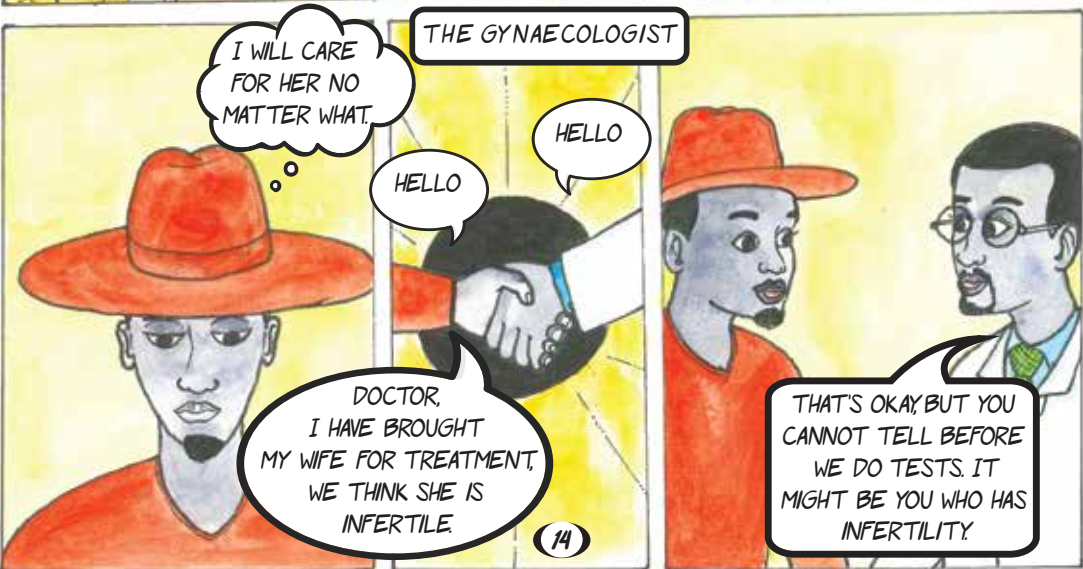
LET US  
SEE IF THE  
GYNAECOLOGIST  
IS AROUND, HE  
WILL HELP



I HOPE THIS  
IS NOT  
SERIOUS.



DON'T WORRY  
MY LOVE



THE GYNAECOLOGIST

I WILL CARE  
FOR HER NO  
MATTER WHAT.

HELLO

HELLO


DOCTOR,  
I HAVE BROUGHT  
MY WIFE FOR TREATMENT,  
WE THINK SHE IS  
INFERTILE.

THAT'S OKAY, BUT YOU  
CANNOT TELL BEFORE  
WE DO TESTS. IT  
MIGHT BE YOU WHO HAS  
INFERTILITY.






WHAT? ME?  
NO WAY.  
A MAN IS NEVER  
INFERTILE.




I HAVE NEVER  
SEEN ONE  
INFERTILE  
MAN IN MY  
LIFE.



MEN TOO CAN BE  
INFERTILE... LET US  
HOPE YOU TWO ARE  
JUST FINE.



LET US  
HOPE SO.



I DID NOT  
KNOW THIS.

AFTER DOING ALL THE  
REQUIRED TESTS, IT  
WAS DAVID WHO HAD THE  
PROBLEM THAT WAS CAUSING  
THE INFERTILITY. DAVID  
HAD A LOW SPERM COUNT.  
THE DOCTOR TOLD THEM  
THAT INTRAUTERINE  
INSEMINATION (IUI )  
PROCEDURE IS REQUIRED TO  
BE DONE.  
DAVID AND JANE AGREED TO  
THE PROCEDURE.

THE DOCTOR TOLD THEM  
THAT MANY CASES OF  
INFERTILITY ARE TREATABLE  
ONCE THEY ARE DIAGNOSED  
EARLY.

HE MENTIONED THE  
FOLLOWING AS THE MAJOR  
CAUSES OF INFERTILITY;

- POOR NUTRITION
- UNTREATED SEXUALLY  
TRANSMITTED DISEASES  
SUCH AS CLAMYDIA AND  
GONORRHOEA,
- CONSEQUENCE OF  
INFECTIONS CAUSED BY  
PRACTICE OF FEMALE  
GENITAL MUTILATION, UNSAFE  
ABORTION OR UNSAFE  
DELIVERY

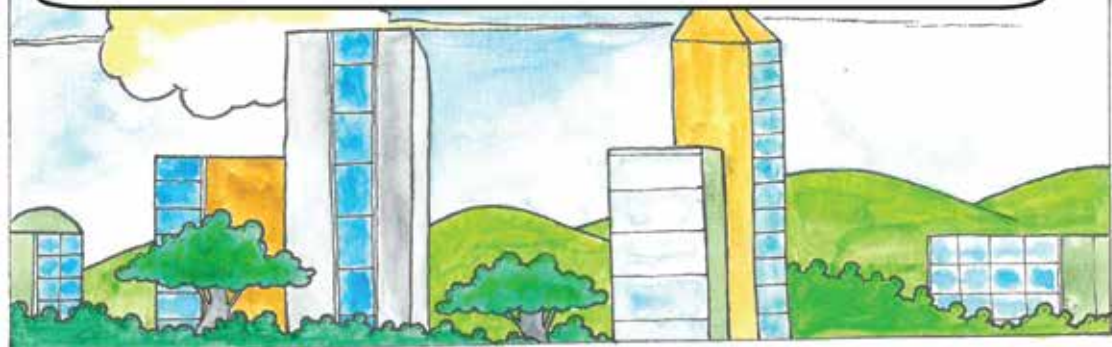
- THE USE OF HERBAL  
DOUCHES AND ENEMAS WHICH  
LED TO PELVIC INFECTIONS  
AND TUBAL BLOCKAGE.

- EXPOSURE TO SMOKING,  
LEADED PETROL AND OTHER  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTANTS.

HE TOLD THEM THAT ONCE  
YOU GO FOR REGULAR CHECK  
UP AND CONSULT EVERY  
TIME YOU ARE SICK, YOU CAN  
EASILY PREVENT YOURSELF  
FROM HAVING INFERTILITY.

DAVID AND JANE THANKED THE  
DOCTOR AND WENT HOME.

DAVID AND JANE AGREED TO UNDERGO THE INTRAUTERINE INSEMINATION (IUI) PROCEDURE



AT THE HOSPITAL, THEY MET WITH THE DOCTOR WHO WAS GOING TO PERFORM THE INTRAUTERINE PROCEDURE.



DAVID WAITED PATIENTLY.



THE DOCTOR PLACED DAVID'S SPERM INSIDE JANE'S UTERUS TO FACILITATE FERTILIZATION.





JANE TOOK A PREGNANCY TEST AFTER FOURTEEN DAYS AND SHE WAS PREGNANT.

NINE MONTHS AFTER THE INTRAUTERINE (IUI) PROCEDURE, IT WAS TIME TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL TO GIVE BIRTH.



DAVID AND JANE WERE HAPPY  
TO FINALLY HAVE A BABY

I AM HAPPY  
NOW I AM A  
FATHER

NO DAVIDI,  
YOU ARE MORE  
THAN A FATHER



YOU WERE MORE  
THAN A FATHER  
EVEN BEFORE  
WE HAD THIS  
BABY NYAMEKYE



DAVID SMILED.

YES, JANE MY  
LOVE YOU ARE  
ALSO MORE  
THAN A MOTHER





ONE DAY, DAVID MET MAMA BOMBOY AND MUSA ON THE WAY TO THE MARKET...

MY FRIENDS, I HAVE LEARNT THAT INFERTILITY IS NOT A CURSE, IT'S A CONDITION THAT AFFECTS BOTH MEN AND WOMEN AND CAN BE TREATED ONCE SOMEONE SEEKS TREATMENT EARLY. NO ONE SHOULD BE STIGMATIZED BECAUSE THEY ARE INFERTILE.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE BAD WORDS AND FOUL MOUTH.

NOW I HAVE LEARNT MY LESSON. WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS RIGHT.

THE END



Spread the word to the world with us. Say no for infertility stigma

## OUR HASHTAGS

#NoToInfertilityStigma

#MoreThanAMother

#MoreThanAFather



Share your story with us on social media and use the above hashtags and let the world know that infertility affects both men and women equally. No woman or man should suffer stigmatisation due to infertility.

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# *David's Story*

*How love withstands and conquers all.  
You will discover how love is  
everything.”*

the author

This book is a property of

