

**WHEN  
CHAMPAGNE  
HAS BEEN  
IMBIBED**

ANOTHER ONE FROM

—  
**I MAY END SOON**

**WHEN  
CHAMPAGNE  
HAS  
BEEN  
IMBIBED**

**BY**

**I MAY END SOON**



# CHAPTER ONE

Very early on a Monday morning, in such a cold weather, did it bechance that some police men arrived a hotel. Something had happened the previous night. It was about a young lady by the name Belinda. Belinda's body was found in one of the rooms in the hotel lying unconscious on the floor. The management at the hotel had contacted the police to inform them of the development and the appearance of the police at the hotel was in reaction to the call. Belinda's body was lying unconscious in one of the rooms; there were stains of blood on the floor, on the wall and on her body that were traceable to an injury sustained at the back of her head. With the appearance or state in which Belinda's body was found, it seemed like she had been attacked. Belinda's body had been conveyed in an ambulance to the hospital for treatment that morning after the arrival of the police. However, Belinda's life was not lost but a serious damage had been done.

## **(At the hospital)**

"Doctor, I was told you called for my appearance in your office and here I am. What is the matter?"

"Madam, how are you to the young lady in the ward?" asked the doctor.

"I am her mother; her own biological mother. So tell me whatever the matter is." said Belinda's mother.

"Okay Madam. After observation and running some medical operations on your daughter, we discovered that the injury which your daughter sustained at the back of her head had caused her some serious damages in her brain. I am sorry to announce to you that your daughter is now suffering from Amnesia. Consequential to her sustenance of that injury, she has lost her memory." said the doctor

"What? Is it that serious? So my daughter has lost her memory?" said Belinda's mother.

"I am sorry Madam. She has lost it at the moment." said the doctor.

Belinda's mother leaned back on her seat, looked up at the ceiling and wept at what had happened.

"I am really sorry Madam; really sorry." said the doctor.

"But, can I see my daughter?" asked Belinda's mother.

"Yes, you can. In fact, such a move is very much welcomed as that can help her recuperate from her situation. If she sees or interacts with someone she used to like or something she was very close to or familiar with prior to her present state of memory loss, it can help bring back memories of some of her past experiences especially the ones related to that particular person

she sees or interacts with. It can help better her condition. Let me call one of the nurses to show you to her ward.” said the doctor.

Belinda’s mother was shown to Belinda in her ward. Her wound had been dressed and her body had been cleaned up of the blood stains and she was looking better. She had even regained consciousness and her weakness had mitigated. But what happened man? She had lost her memory. Belinda’s mother was in the ward with Belinda and a nurse was present in the ward. Soon afterwards, Belinda’s uncle, Ben, arrived and joined the three of them in the ward. He had been informed of what had happened.

“Welcome, Uncle Ben.” said Belinda’s mother.

“Thank you Madam. (Turning to Belinda) Belinda, what happened to you?” said Uncle Ben.

Instead of replying the question, Belinda looked at Uncle Ben and looked at her mother. She looked around the ward. She was surprised at what she was seeing. What could she call where she was? What was she doing there? Belinda continued to look around. She had been helped to sit on the bed in the ward. Again, Uncle Ben threw a question.

“Belinda, I said what happened to you?” said Uncle Ben.

Belinda looked at Uncle Ben and said: “Are you talking to me?”

Belinda’s mother and Uncle Ben looked at each other surprisingly. Belinda’s mother was shocked despite having heard the news. She had heard what had happened to her daughter and she was now confirming it live. After a while, Belinda’s mother spoke to her daughter Uncle Ben had heard too before he came and was also confirming it. Belinda was suffering from memory loss.

“Yes, he is talking to you.” said Belinda’s mother.

“No, I don’t think so. He was referring to Belinda. (Turned to the nurse) Are you the one bearing Belinda?” said Belinda.

“No. You are the one bearing Belinda. That is your name.” said her mother.

“No.” said Belinda.

“Yes, you are.” said her mother.

“I said no.” said Belinda.

“Yes. If Belinda is not your name, then what is your name?” said her mother.

“Me? Name? (Belinda tried to think for a while then she spoke) Do I have a name? I don’t think I have a name. I cannot remember ever having a name. And by the way, who are you to know if I bear a particular name or not?” said Belinda.

Belinda’s mother and Uncle Ben looked at each other again in surprise.

“I am your mother. I gave birth to you. You are my own daughter. And this man here is your uncle; a younger brother to your father.” said her mother.

Unexpectedly, Belinda laughed. Belinda’s mother and Uncle Ben were thrown into surprise by that. Why was she laughing?

Belinda continued to laugh and the duo who was in surprise continued wallowing in their surprise. Afterwards, Belinda spoke.

“This is really funny. Do you guys do comedy? Because I don’t just understand what is happening here. You are my mother and he is my uncle; the younger brother to my father. Mother? Uncle? Father? I cannot just relate. I don’t think I have ever seen the two of you before you came into this place today and here you are claiming you are my mother and he is my uncle. By the way, I don’t think I have a mother. I don’t think I have a father. I cannot remember ever having an uncle.” said Belinda.

At that, Belinda’s mother stood up from where she was sitting and grabbed Belinda by her two arms. She was going emotional.

“Belinda, look into my eyes. Look into my eyes and tell me again that I am not your mother. Tell me that you are not my daughter.”

Again, Belinda laughed. What was happening was funny to her. Uncle Ben stood there in his astonishment.

“Woman, is this a joke or what? Are we playing games here? I said I don’t know you as my mother. I cannot remember ever having a mother on general terms let alone knowing you particularly as my mother.” said Belinda.

“Belinda, I said I am your mother. I am your mother. (This time, Belinda’s mother held and shook Belinda’s body with emotions. She was trying to get Belinda to understand her. She shook Belinda’s body in such a rough manner out of emotions and the nurse felt that could be dangerous to her health and she tried to free Belinda from her mother’s hold)

“Madam, please take it easy. You may deteriorate her condition with the way you are acting. Please, leave her alone.” said the nurse.

Belinda’s mother withdrew her hands from the hold. And then something happened that

amplified her already established shock. After Belinda's mother withdrew her hands from her hold, Belinda did not laugh this time. She became annoyed and embarrassed. Belinda turned to her mother and said:

"Is this woman okay? What is all this? What is all this embarrassment? I said I don't know you and you are acting like we know each other. Please leave me alone. (Turns to the nurse). In fact, I don't want to see this woman here. I am afraid she may kidnap me from here." said Belinda.

"Calm down, please." said the nurse.

"Don't tell me to calm down. It is either she leaves or I get out of here." said Belinda.

"I, your mother, should get out of here?" said her mother.

Belinda got angrier at her mom's statement. She stood up from her bed and moved towards her mother. And what happened man?

She gave her mother a dirty slap! "Get out of here woman." Belinda yelled at her mother.

Belinda's mother was so shocked. She held the spot where she had received the hit. She could not hold back the tears as they rolled down her cheeks. The nurse approached Belinda's mother.

"Madam, please take it easy. You know your daughter before she was brought here and you have heard what happened to her. Please, try to understand. Kindly move out of this ward and leave her for now, please." said the nurse.

Belinda's mother was walked out of the ward in tears and Uncle Ben followed. Before she got out, while was at the door, Belinda's mother looked to look at her daughter who was giving her a strong look in return. She did not show any remorse for what she had done. Belinda's mother could not stand the situation and she walked out of the ward. The nurse went with her to console her outside the ward then she went back into the ward to attend to Belinda.

"Please, take it easy okay. She is out now." said the nurse.

"I don't want to see that woman here again. What rubbish?" said Belinda.

"She would not come back, okay? Just relax." said the nurse.

"By the way, who are you?" asked Belinda.

"I am only here to take care of you and help you get better. So relax. I am not here to harm you. I am here to help you." said the nurse.

Belinda was made to lie her on the bed and was left alone in the ward.

### **(At the hotel)**

In process of investigation, the police engaged the bar man at the hotel in some interrogations. There were two inspectors; Inspector John and Inspector Ramsey.

“You are the bar man here right?” asked Inspector John.

“Yes, I am.” replied the bar man.

“What can you say about the lady whose body was found in one of the rooms in this hotel and the unconscious state in which she was found?” asked Inspector John.

“Actually, I am the bar man so I work in the bar and my work here does not extend to giving customers access to our rooms in this hotel. But, I can say something about the lady because she and some people were at the bar yesterday before she disappeared from there.” said the bar man.

“Can you tell us what you think can help us in our investigation concerning the case with this lady?” asked Inspector John.

“Yesterday night, some individuals walked into the bar. From the way they walked in and interacted, it seems like they came together. Afterwards, my attention was called for.” said the bar man.

### **(Flashback)**

“Bar man, give every single one of us here two bottles of champagne; the males and the females alike.” said one of them.

(The other people scream)

“You crazy man? Are you going to wound someone? We have got ladies here.” said another.

“Come on man. This is party time and we are all going to drink and get high all night. We are having fun tonight. (Turns to bar man) Come on, go and bring the drinks.” said the other guy.

“Okay Sir.” said the barman.

### **(Flashback ends)**

“And I delivered the drinks to them according to what was requested for and I continued with my work.” said the barman.



“How many of them were together last night?” asked Inspector Ramsey.

“Seven of them including three ladies; that lady whose body was found in the room and two other ladies.” said the barman.

“After serving them the drinks, what happened afterwards?” asked Inspector John.

“After I served them, I saw them drinking and after some time, all of them had disappeared from the bar.” said the barman.

“Okay. We would leave you now. We would call you if there is anything we want to ask you later or if we need your appearance for any other reason.” said Inspector John.



# CHAPTER TWO

## **(Back at the hospital)**

After what had happened, Belinda's mother was not allowed to see her daughter in the ward. Treatments had been administered on Belinda for her to recuperate from her memory loss and they had been having positive effects on her. One afternoon, Belinda was lying on her back and was gazing at the ceiling in her ward. She was alone at that time. Belinda was there in that state when she began experiencing some thoughts in her mind. Something was going on in her mind. She could visualize something.

## **(Flashback)**

Belinda was in the kitchen doing the dishes when one of the plates slipped from her hands and fell on the floor and got shattered.

"Oh! Shit!" Belinda exclaimed.

Belinda got a broom in the kitchen and began sweeping the pieces of the broken plate towards the door of the kitchen where she would then pack them and dispose of them. When Belinda swept the pieces to a point close to the door, she noticed a smell in the kitchen. What she was frying was burning! Belinda dropped the broom and rushed to the spot of the food to check on it. While she was doing this, some footsteps were following one another heading closer to the kitchen where Belinda was. Someone had heard the sound of the shatter of the plate and was coming to the kitchen to check what was happening. Footsteps after footsteps until this person got closer to the door of the kitchen and was about to take a step in.

Belinda turned round and saw this person this about to step into the kitchen and she could smell potential danger. Broken pieces of the plate were at a point close to the door and this person was about to place a foot on the spot. In a bid to avoid an injurious occurrence, Belinda screamed from where she was.

"Mummy, Noooooooooooo!!!"

## **(Flashback ends)**

While Belinda was in that state, her mother was in a conversation with the doctor in his office.

"Madam, you have to understand. We are doing this for your daughter. We are trying to avoid whatever could deteriorate her present state." said the doctor.

"No, doctor. I want to see my daughter. I have not seen her for days now. I want to see the state that my daughter is." said Belinda's mother.

“Madam, please take it easy and try to understand. Your daughter said she does not want to see you and you going there may exasperate her if she sees you and it may aggravate her present state. I am telling you now that your daughter is responding to treatment and things are getting better. You would not like it when her situation where she is responding to treatment and getting better would take a turn into the opposite and unfavorable state. Please, try to understand. We are not allowing you to see your daughter until she becomes able to recognize you as her mother or she feels at ease with you around her. But for now, I am sorry, you cannot see her.” said the doctor.

“But she is having Amnesia. Is she going to recognize me or remember ever having that experience with me? I promise this time, I am not going to tell her I am her mother. I am not even going to talk to her. I just want to see my daughter.” said Belinda’s mother.

“I have said that she is responding to treatment and getting better. She may recognize you if she sees you. We are not allowing you see your daughter and that is it.” said the doctor.

“You are joking doctor. I am seeing my daughter today.” said Belinda’s mother

Belinda’s mother rose from where she was sitting and headed for Belinda’s ward. The doctor pursued and called after her as she went.

“Madam, please don’t try something that may bring regrettable results. Don’t go there madam. Please don’t do it.” said the doctor.

The doctor went after Belinda’s mother and caught up with her at a point close to the door that led to where Belinda was and tried to prevent her from going in. Two nurses joined them and were also trying to keep Belinda’s mom away from her daughter. Belinda’s mum insisted on going in but the doctor and nurses insisted on preventing her from doing so. All of a sudden, they heard a scream right from inside Belinda’s ward.

“Mummy, Nooooooooooooo!!!”

The four of them rushed into the ward in reaction to what they had heard. Belinda sat up from her lying position and was looking unsettled. The two nurses went to check on Belinda, asking her if anything was wrong. Afterwards, Belinda looked up to see this figure of a woman who she could remember having some close interactions with in the past.

Mummy!!! Belinda screamed.

Belinda’s mother was taken by surprise. Her daughter had recognized her. She rushed to where her daughter was.

“What did you just say? Did you just call me mummy? Can you recognize me as your mother?” said her mother

“Yes, Mummy. I can recognize you. Or are you not my mother?” said Belinda.

“Oh! My daughter, I am your mother. I am your mother.” said her mother.

Belinda’s mother embraced her daughter as tears rolled from her eyes.

“Mummy, what is happening here? What happened to me? Who brought me here?” said Belinda.

“Don’t worry, my daughter. Everything will be alright. I am here so don’t worry.” said her mother.

Belinda noticed something on her mother’s face. She softly touched the spot and examined it.

“Mummy, what happened to you here?” asked Belinda.

Belinda’s mum looked back the doctor and looked at the nurses as tears rolled from her eyes. Did Belinda just ask that question?

“Belinda, my daughter. Don’t worry. I am alright, okay? Mummy is fine.” said her mother.

Belinda’s mother embraced her daughter again.

Are you thinking she was now like she was before the incident? No! The memories were only coming back gradually. Ask her about who had appeared to her to attack her the night she was attacked, she did not know. Ask her about some incident at some points in her past which she used to remember prior to her attack, she could not say. There was still a long way to go. But she could remember she had a mother and she could now recognize her.

### **(At the police station)**

Inspector John and Inspector Ramsey were deliberating on Belinda’s case. Belinda lost her memory and she could not remember who had attacked her on that night until that time. However, the police had some things in their possession that could help in their investigation. Belinda’s mobile phone was with them. And there was something else. A golden ring! What has the golden ring got to do with Belinda’s case anyways? That morning when the inspectors arrived the room where Belinda was, right beside where Belinda’s body lay, there was a golden ring there on the floor. Pure gold! Belinda’s mother was questioned about the ring and she said that she never saw such ring with her daughter so she did not think her daughter owned it. Who was the owner of the ring?

“John, look! I have seen something” said Inspector Ramsey.

“What is that? Let me have a look.” said Inspector John.

“See this. This is a conversation between Belinda and someone on ChatPlace. And it seems she was talking to a man. With the way the conversation went, it seems she was talking to her boyfriend.” said Inspector Ramsey.

“Really?” asked Inspector John.

“Have a look. The guy asked that they should meet in a particular room upstairs which she consented too in her reply. Looks like the guy was there with her at the bar and he asked her to meet him upstairs. If that is the case, then that means the guy was the one with her in the room where she was attacked.” said Inspector Ramsey.

“Hmm! That is catching. We are making progress. What is the name of the guy? Can you find it there?” said Inspector John.

“She saved his number as Donald.” said Inspector Ramsey.

“Donald?” Inspector John picked up his phone and dialed a number.

“Hello, Inspector John. Is anything the matter?”

“Madam, there is a development. Do you know anyone by the name Donald with your daughter?” said Inspector John.

“Yes, I do. That is her boyfriend. What about him?” said Belinda’s mother.

“There is something about him. Do you know his address?” said Inspector John.

“Yes, I know where he lives. I can give you his house address.” said Belinda’s mother.

“Okay, Madam. Please forward his house address to this number as soon as possible.” said Inspector John.

“Okay.” said Belinda’s mother.

Belinda’s mother forwarded the address and Inspector John and Ramsey went for Donald, Belinda’s boyfriend.

(Door bell rings at Donald’s house. Donald goes to open the door. His parents and sister were out and not at home.)

“Good afternoon here.” said Inspector John.

“Good afternoon, please who are you and how may I help you?” said Donald.

(They both bring out their Identity cards and showed it to Donald) “I am Inspector John and this man here is Inspector Ramsey from Efficient police station. Are you Mr. Donald?”

“Yes, I am. Is there any problem?” said Donald.

“Do you know of any lady by the name Belinda?” asked Inspector John.

“Yes, she is my girlfriend and I have not heard from her for days now. I have been thinking of going to see at home but I have been busy. Is there any problem with her?” said Donald.

“Actually, we want your appearance in our police station. We want to ask you some questions.” said Inspector John.

“You want my appearance? What is the matter? If there are questions you want to ask, why can you not ask here?” said Donald.

“Mr. Donald, please, come with us. We would not like to embarrass you. Just come with us and we would as you some questions. Just to ask you some questions; that is all.” said Inspector Ramsey.

“Okay.” Said Donald.

They take Donald to the police station.

**(At the police station)**

“Mr. Donald, can you explain this on your girlfriend’s phone?” said Inspector John. (Donald was shown the conversation on Belinda’s phone)

(Donald looks at it for awhile) “What is this? I cannot relate with this. I don’t understand.”

“Don’t you pretend, Donald. You can see your name there, can’t you? That is a conversation between you and your girlfriend who was attacked in one of the rooms in the hotel which you both went with some other people. Or where you not at a hotel with your girlfriend on the date of the conversation displayed on that phone?” said Inspector John.

“Attacked? You mean Belinda was attacked and I did not know all these while? Is that why I could not hear from her?” said Donald.

“So you don’t know your girlfriend was attacked that night and lost her memory as a consequence? You don’t know she is in the hospital now?” said Inspector John.

“I don’t know all that. Truly, I was with her and some other guys that night and we were having champagne and having fun and while we were there, I received a call.”

**(Flashback)**

“Hello mom, what’s up?” said Donald.

“It is not mom. It is Janet.” said his sister.

“Janet, what’s up?” said Donald.

“You have to start coming home now!” said Janet.

“Why? I am having fun here. Is there any problem?” said Donald.

“Dad called mum and told her that he is on his way back and he is no more going for the trip. Mum has asked me to call you because you know you went out with his car and Dad would not be pleased finding out that you took his car out and you are still out at this time of the night.” said Janet.

“Really? This is bullshit man! So I have to start coming now?” said Donald.

“Yes. If Dad comes home before you, you know what that means. Start coming home now.” said Janet.

“Okay.” said Donald.

**(Flashback ends)**

“I was called to come home that night and I went to where Belinda was and I informed her that I was going home. And I left. I was the first one of us to leave the place. If you doubt that, I have a proof on my phone.” said Donald.

“And what proof is that?” asked Inspector John.

“A record. My phone records the conversations I have when I make or receive a call and the record of that particular conversation is still on my phone.” said Donald.

(Donald plays the record to both officers and they heard the conversation. Inspector John checked the date and time of the call and that of the record and confirmed their relation. Donald’s claim was turning out to be true! Inspector Ramsey grabbed Belinda’s phone and was doing something on it.)

“So who is this Donald that your girlfriend was talking to?” asked Inspector John.



“I don’t know. But I know I am not the one.” said Donald.

“Wait guys! I found something.” said Ramsey.

Donald and Inspector John looked at Inspector Ramsey.

“And what is that?” asked Inspector John.

“There are two numbers saved as Donald on this phone.” said Ramsey.

Inspector John and Donald looked at each other.

“Let me have your phone.” Inspector John said to Donald.

Donald handed over his phone to Inspector John. Inspector John dialed his own number on Donald’s phone to get Donald’s number. After he had gotten his number, they checked Donald’s number with the number of the person Belinda had a conversation with. They were different! They checked the number of the other Donald. They were the same!

“Do you know of any other Donald with your girlfriend?” said Inspector John.

“I don’t know.” said Donald.

“We are going to trace or hunt the person who owns this number.” said Ramsey.

“So can I go home?” asked Donald.

Inspector John looks at Donald and Donald looked back. They looked at each other and then....

## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

