

Transcripts for O2O Project Mini-Series
“Nelima & Gathoni”

Episodes 1-8
English

Episode 1

INT. NELIMA'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY

A small space but homely.

A baby cries. NELIMA (25) tries soothing the baby, her gaze is on a pregnancy test kit in a box.

Nelima peeps outside. There are two women by the toilet and shower.

The door opens. Startled, she drops the pregnancy kit.

MAMA NELSON (49) walks in carrying a basket with kale. She takes the baby. The baby stops crying.

Nelima quickly manages to grab the pregnancy kit and slip it into her bag without Mama Nelson noticing. Nelima grabs her bag.

MAMA NELSON

I don't know why you
keep going to that
salon, it's a pandemic
no one has money to
throw away on hair and
beauty.

NELIMA

People are coming back mama. We need
every shilling we can make.

MAMA NELSON

(talking to the baby but loud enough for Nelima
to hear)

When is your mama going give you a
little brother? That's what she
should be focused on.

Nelima ROLLS HER EYES at the comment. She
doesn't like it. She kisses the baby and dashes
out.

Nelima runs back in, grabs a mask and leaves.

INT. SALON. DAY

GATHONI (21) is applying a brave shade of lipstick. She admires her reflection. A phone is strategically placed to record this.

GATHONI

If you liked this
video, like, share,
comment and follow.
Seize the day my
friends. Remember, to
wear a mask and be
safe.

She signs off with the love heart gesture.

Nelima rushes in.

She drops the pregnancy kit in front of
Gathoni.

NELIMA

I need your help.

Gathoni is excited.

GATHONI (CONT'D)

Aww.. You're having a
covid baby...
Congratulations sis..

Nelima looks anxious, Gathoni notices it.

NELIMA

It's not funny,
Gathoni! These Covid
times are brutal, we
can barely afford
basics. Nelson doesn't
have a job and we
barely have customers.

GATHONI

Did you hear? The boss
lady is asking us to
take a salary cut.

Nelima winces even more.

GATHONI (CONT.)

Sis don't worry, relax
until after you've
confirmed that there's
a bun in the oven.

Gathoni peeps outside. There's a queue at the
public toilet.

GATHONI (CONT'D)

Listen, do this, take
that bucket and if you
can aim nicely; take a
bucket go to the
corner, pee on the
stick then clean the
bucket, simple.

Nelima scowls at her.

Nelima and Gathoni peep outside at the public
restroom to see a longer queue.

NELIMA

Dangit! Give me the
bucket.

INT. SALON. DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

Nelima anxiously stares at the pregnancy test
in Gathoni's hand. Gathoni sets a timer on her
phone.

GATHONI

Don't worry kids come
with a plate or is it a
spoon?

NELIMA

With this pandemic.
This is really a bad
time. You know I'm
saving everything I can
to open my own
business. Instead of
saving steadily I keep
digging into my
savings.

GATHONI (surprised)
You still going to your savings group
even in the middle of the pandemic?
Girl you are rolling in it! Pay our debt
with China too!

NELIMA
We had to close it and take our money
out.
It's hidden at home.

GATHONI
Nelson still doesn't know you have
it?

Nelima shakes her head no.

GATHONI
Don't take this the
wrong way but, You know
there are easy ways to
fix this if you don't
want a kid.

Nelima gasps.

NELIMA
Condoms? Nelson says
they hurt his
nini..plus if he hears
about this he'll have a
heart attack and think
I'm having an affair.

They both laugh.

GATHONI
Not condoms I know many
men are team raw, I
mean like the injection
or pills.

NELIMA
Hey! Don't get me into
health issues! People
get barren from those
things.

GATHONI

Ah my friend, so wise
in so many ways, but so
dumb in some others.
People don't get barren
from birth control..If
Covid has taught me one
thing, it's that we
better focus on what we
can control. Me, I'm
not leaving pregnancy
to chance. If you
don't want kids now,
then you can use family
planning.

NELIMA

I do want kids. Just
later, when we have
more money. Plus if
his mama found out I
was taking those family
planning things, she'd
probably tell Nelson to
divorce me.

GATHONI

Nelson wouldn't do
that. You're being
dramatic like his mama.

Nelima can't wait, she's barely holding herself
together. She blurts out.

NELIMA

Gathoni kids are so
expensive.

GATHONI

Family planning sis
that's your only
choice, clearly
withdrawal isn't
working.

NELIMA

Don't mention those
things to me.

GATHONI

Then find somewhere to
do these pregnancy
tests coz they will be
maaaany...unless this
is the ONE.

Nelima makes a face.

NELIMA

If you tell anyone
about this I swear..

GATHONI

What will you do? I
know all your
secrets...Can't you
trust me with a little
thing like peeing in a
bucket?

Gathoni's phone beeps.

NELIMA

I can't look.. You
check and tell me..

Gathoni gets up.

Episode 2

INT. SALON. DAY (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS)

Gathoni picks up the pregnancy kit and looks at it. She gasps dramatically then looks at Nelima, Gathoni looks sad. She hugs Nelima, lets go and looks at her with a concerned look.

GATHONI
Congratulations, you...
are... NOT pregnant.

Nelima is visibly overcome by emotion.

NELIMA
Thank you Thank you! Oh
thank god.

Nelima sinks into a chair, she cries and laughs at the same time.

GATHONI
Sis, do you want to go
through this every
time? The same way
you're saving for a
salon, take control of
your body.

Nelima looks at her, she doesn't look convinced.

NELIMA
And do what now? Go to a gov't
clinic,
or a chemist and say "give me family
planning?"

GATHONI
Actually, yes!

NELIMA
You don't understand,
you're still single!
You don't have to deal
with a husband and his
family.

GATHONI

That's true. But I know sperm doesn't care if you're married or not. It doesn't check for a ring once it's inside you.

(beat)

Does Nelson know that you don't want kids now?

NELIMA

Shhhhh...You're getting on my last nerve.. Haven't you been listening when I tell you how badly his mother wants a second child, she's pushing him so naturally he wants one. Obviously I haven't told them that I don't want another child right now. I'm not stupid!

Gathoni mimics her.

GATHONI

Gathoni, kids are so expensive, I have no money, Covid has taken away all our clients.

Just then Nelson walks in. Gathoni looks at the pregnancy kit in Nelima's hands. Panic.

Gathoni shouts

GATHONI (CONT'D)

Out out out out.. Here we believe in science, Covid is not witchcraft! Wear a mask for protection!

GATHONI pushes NELSON out the door. He turns away and wears his mask. Nelima drops the pregnancy test kit into Gathoni's bag.

NARRATOR

As Gathoni distracts Nelson,
Nelima hides her pregnancy test in the
first place she could think of :
Gathoni's purse.

Nelson walks in.

NELSON

Influencer.. or is it
influenza? Are you an
influencer for Covid?

GATHONI

Don't just see me here,
I've hit 25k followers,
soon you'll ask for my
autograph.

NELSON

Babe, let's go. See you
around Gathoni.

Nelima takes her bag, they leave. As they walk
out she turns and mouths 'thank you' and makes
the "shh" signal with her finger to remind her
friend to keep the secret.

INT. GATHONI'S ROOM. NIGHT

Gathoni checks her reflection in the phone
video, then hits the record button to go live
on instagram.

GATHONI

Hi ladies. And you
gentlemen. I know that
most of my posts are
directed at my fellow
girls, but this one is
also for you! Listen,
I'm going to say
something that may make
many people
uncomfortable. But let's
talk.

INT. NELIMA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Nelima sits on her bed and counts money in her wallet, she then kneels at the bedside- peeks to see if Nelson can see her then reaches for her savings box stashed under the bed. She puts some money in her savings box and then carefully places it back under the bed.

NARRATOR

As is weekly tradition, Nelima secretly adds to her savings box. She is hoping to get closer to her savings goal and her dream of opening her own salon.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Nelson glances at his phone while watching TV/ Suddenly he looks shocked- something has come up on his feed. It's Gathoni on a livestream.

GATHONI

Ladies, it's time we took control of our bodies. I'm talking about family planning y'all! Lot's of women think of having babies only when they are young, when her man wants her to or when her parents want grandkids. Now, I know a lot of you gentlemen will say: It's not just about the woman, isn't it about us too? YES IT IS!

Nelima walks into the room.

NELSON

Your friend is crazy!
Who will marry a woman like that? look at the nonsense she posts!?

Nelima walks over to sit near Nelson as he shows her his phone. Gothoni's live stream is still on.

GATHONI

I'm not saying to go behind your back. But have these conversations with you women. Listen to them. Decide together. Don't just assume that she's just waiting for you to get her pregnant! Me, I use injections or pills and it works for me!

NELSON

She even brags about being on family planning for those online, yet she is single. What will people think of her?! She's ruined her reputation. She's embarrassing herself in public!

NELIMA

Everyone knows that she had an open mind and an open mouth!

NELSON

These are private things not be aired, these things should stay between a husband and wife.

NELIMA

Women fear being judged, that's why they don't discuss it.

NELSON

Why should a woman use family planning? If it's not a license to sleep around?

NELIMA

Surely Nelson! That's ridiculous!

NELSON

(muttering) crazy woman.

Nelson sits up and exits the room. Nelima rushes over to the living room table and grabs her phone to continue watching the live stream. Gathoni is still speaking.

GATHONI

Too many married women are afraid to talk to their husbands. Too many are afraid that mothers in law will judge them. And because we pretend that only married women have sex, single women are afraid to tarnish their reputations! Dear ones, use #chukuacontrol What family planning method are you using? Me, I'm on injections and they work for me! I want to hear from everybody! Don't be shy! Cause I don't want to see a bunch of covid babies out there running around the streets of Nairobi when this is all over! Alright guys! Bye!

Nelima watches the video until the end. She grins proudly before putting her phone away.

INT. GATHONI'S ROOM.

Gathoni has fallen asleep, messages are coming into her phone non stop. Including one from NELIMA that says:

MY FRIEND, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? YOU'RE TRENDING!

Episode 3

INT. GATHONI'S ROOM. DAY

Gathoni's phone lights up, messages keep coming in.

It disturbs her sleep. She wakes up and looks at it. She sits up, she looks at it again. She stares in shock. Jumps out of bed and dances a celebratory dance before running out.

INT. KITCHEN. DAY

Gathoni runs in. Her mother is in the kitchen making breakfast, she's banging everything she touches, she's visibly upset. Gathoni notices her mother's mood, stops, and tip toes towards the door. The mother gives her a murderous look, she stops.

MAMA GATHONI

You're not going to
embarrass me, sit down,
we need to talk.

GATHONI

Mum, I see you are on
social media... Will
you be my number one
supporter? Don't tell
me you finally got on
social media. Promise
me you will be my
number one follower.

Mama Gathoni slams the pregnancy test stick in front of Gathoni. Gathoni laughs nervously as she realises the misunderstanding.

GATHONI

Mummy believe me it's
not mine.

MAMA GATHONI

Gathoni, is your brain
really switched on?!
What is wrong with
you? You know how single

mothers are treated
terribly! You don't know
this?! It's almost as
though they have made
the worst mistake ever!
you have seen it with
your own eyes. Whose
child are you?

GATHONI

Mummy... I'm not
pregnant.

MAMA GATHONI (angry)

Oh, so I do not know how to read
these kinds of tests?! I'm that thick?
Dropping your panties for the fun of it?
If you are taking tests it means you could
be! Your father is furious, you know.
He's the one who found it!

GATHONI (sarcastic)

Does he want to send me to the
village away from this scary Urban
Jungle and all its temptations?

MAMA GATHONI (visibly
upset)

Babies are no joke. I had you when I
was 16. No one even told me how you can
get pregnant or how to take precautions
not to. I never finished my secondary ,
they married me off to avoid shame. The
one

thing I wanted for you was to chart
your
own destiny. That means being a mama
when
you're ready.

GATHONI

(tender)

Mama, I'm safe, I promise.

Gathoni, trying to change the subject, gets excited then shows her the video.

GATHONI

Look, my video went viral..

Mama Gathoni pushes the phone away.

MAMA GATHONI

This isn't time for your tubes and videos!

GATHONI

Mum, are you saying I should not use the advice you gave me to help other people?

The mother watches the video as Gathoni grabs a slice of bread before running back to peer over her mother's shoulder. Suddenly-

MAMA GATHONI

These are not things to talk about in public. Let people learn from their mothers, didn't you learn from your mother?

Gathoni grabs the take away mug and turns to her mother.

GATHONI

But look! thousands of people received your wisdom indirectly through 'your tubes'!

Gathoni suddenly remembers the time and scoffs down more of her bread before rushing out the door

MAMA GATHONI

Hey remember there's a curfew! Nairobi is not your mother's! Wear your mask!

Gathoni dashes out.

EXT. OUTDOOR. RESTAURANT. DAY

Gathoni appears, she looks around and smiles brightly when she sees MATHEW (26). She rushes to him. He looks at her.

MATHEW

We have to rush because of curfew.

GATHONI

Wow.. Did the hugs and kisses disappear when covid came?

He looks away, he's visibly angry.

MATHEW

I don't understand you, why are you chasing clout like this? Is it for stupid likes?

Gathoni is shocked.

MATHEW (CONT'D)

This influencer stuff is getting out of hand. You have to quit.

GATHONI

Did you read the comments, I'm actually helping people.

MATHEW

Helping them do what? Break homes? You want single people to get family planning without telling their men?

(BEAT)

Wait! Do you mean to tell me you use these things too?

GATHONI

Let me ask you this... You don't wear a

condom, why do you think we don't have a baby right now? Do you think I perform miracles?! Or perhaps Covid has made me baren?! I don't get it! You men are ridiculous. You don't wear a condom and then are shocked that women take precautions.

MATHEW

You should have told me! Instead of posting it for the world to see! But don't worry yourself about it. I know why these family planning business is so important to you. You don't want to get pregnant by your sponsor. Everyone knows how you Nairobi chicks are. We are all sharing you, you're not even hiding it! You're all chasing money!

Gathoni is exasperated. She scoffs then slow claps.

GATHONI

Wow! Thank you for showing me your true colours! I thought I was dealing with a modern man! Instead your reasoning is from 1920! Actually, let's be honest, you're not thinking at all! Look at the comments! See how lots of men are now using family planning!

And by the way, if I
were chasing money,
you'd be choice 59,
broke as you are!

MATHEW

You think I'm talking
nonsense but you're the
one acting like a
street girl! How is it
you didn't think about
how that video would
affect me?!

GATHONI

How is it?!

MATHEW

Yes!

GATHONI

The video is mine and
it's about me! How is
it about you?! You could
start a whole city with
the number of single
mamas out there with
baby-daddies who don't
pay a dime or lift a
finger, do you think
anyone would choose
that life?!

MATHEW

Ok then, because
everything is all about
you... Then let it be all
about you. I'm done, we
are done, it's over.

He storms off.

Gathoni is sullen as she watches him go.

INT. MATATU. NIGHT

Gathoni, mask on, wipes a tear. She stares out of the window. Tears fall. Gathoni hunches over in her chair. She takes out her phone and reads messages below her video.

Wanj110 - This post touched me to the core, my dude was against family planning but when I got pregnant he dumped me. Me, I'd tell all the ladies to take control for themselves.

WANJA - I'm scared of getting FP and I'm single isn't it like a green light to be promiscuous?

WAIRISH2000 - @Wanja it's you protecting yourself, don't worry what people say you know yourself and the right partner will understand.

VITAMINSEA - love heart emojis. You rock.

NONIE - Emojis of flowers - here have all the flowers.

She smiles as she reads.

She comes across a post: "Entrepreneur's Challenge: Get the most likes for your business idea and win 10k to start your business."

She sits up and reads it again. She bookmarks it.

She looks out as the matatu is moving and shouts.

GATHONI
Hey! That's my stop.

Episode 4

INT. NELIMA'S KITCHEN. NIGHT____

Nelima is on the phone. She texts Gathoni:
About to have the talk. Wish me luck.

Her phone pings.

GATHONI: You got this, so proud of you girl.

NELIMA closes the curtains and sees her
neighbor SALLY. The houses are adjacent to
each other so it's easy to talk to each other.

SALLY

All the pubs are closed so husbands
are home!

NELIMA

Good night Sally.

SALLY

Next year you will remember me!
This place will be full of covid
babies!

SALLY laughs at herself. Nelima closes her
front door.

INT. NELIMA AND NELSON'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Nelima walks in, gets into bed, with Nelson.
Nelson caresses Nelima's shoulder. Nelima
ignores Nelson's advances and lies down.

NELIMA

Goodnight.

He runs his hand down her back and kisses her
neck. Nelima closes her eyes tightly, she takes
a deep breath.

Nelson pulls her close, Nelima pulls away.
Nelson sits up.

NELSON

What seems to be
bothering you.

NELIMA

Nelson, life is hard
because of Covid, we're
broke. If I get
pregnant, what are we
going to do? Nelson is
not amused.

NELSON

Just say you're not in
the mood, don't accuse
me of not providing for
my family. Don't give
me that!

NELIMA

(SHUSHING HIM)

Don't yell, I don't need nosy
neighbors.

NELSON

Is it my fault that
people aren't taking
taxi rides now?

NELIMA

Babe.. You're the best
provider but be honest
we're struggling.

NELSON

Listen, by the
time a baby comes,
Covid will be over,
everything will be
normal.

NELIMA

It's not just Covid.
Look at this place!
Let's move out and go
live in a place where
we are not woken up by
people screaming.

NELSON

So let me ask you,
haven't we been here
since getting married?
We have our little one
whom we are raising,
right? And you have
lacked for nothing in
this house? Suddenly,
it's all not good
enough? I'm just
asking.

Nelson turns away.

NELIMA

What is wrong with
aspiring to live in a
nicer neighborhood
where people have
security and privacy ?
Crime will only rise
now that people are
desperate.

NELSON

You know that these
times are stressful
enough. I just wanted
to give my wife some
love, it wasn't an
invitation for a
lecture.

Nelima is nervous.

NELIMA

What if we were to go
to a clinic and get
things so we don't have
children now.

Nelson is now focused.

NELSON

What are you talking
about? Condoms?

NELIMA

I'm talking about family planning. We

can decide which one together.

NELSON

Really... It's that
slay queen wannabe at
the salon putting
stupid ideas in your
head, right..

NELIMA

I'm just saying that we can go and
ask,
together.

NELSON

Don't you know, those things can make
you barren.
And for some women it even makes them
act crazy.

NELIMA

That's not true. I've been reading
on
the internet that family planning
helps space babies, we could have a
kid when we are ready. When we have
a bit more money.

NELSON (cutting her off)

Money, money, money! Where will we
get the money for family planning
when all you're doing is spending it
all buying data bundles so you can
read about it on the internet?!

NELIMA

Nelson, why can't you understand that
I'm only looking out for us?

NELSON

Is there something else you are
hiding
From me?

NELIMA

Like what?

NELSON

My friend Steven's wife asked him to start wearing condoms and a week later she found her in a fancy pub in Westlands with a sponsor.

Nelima starts crying quietly. She's sitting on the bed, her back to Nelson.

Nelson glares at her. He realizes he's gone too far.

NELIMA

You've never said anything like that before. You've never hurt me like how you've just hurt me today.

Suddenly there's a scream followed by gunshots.

They all fall to the ground.

The baby screams.

Nelima rushes to the baby. She takes him and sits on the ground, rocking him.

Nelson watches them from the spot he's hiding at.

He crawls towards them and holds them.

NELSON (out the window)

What's going on?

SALLY

A thief. They got him. They've even burned him.

They listen as the commotion outside dies down.

Silence.

Nelson watches Nelima rocking the baby who has fallen asleep. He takes the baby and puts him to bed.

He goes to Nelima who is transfixed in her position. He helps her up and back to bed.

He holds her.

NELSON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

She looks at him.

Episode 5

EXT. CLINIC. DAY

Nelima is trailing behind Gathoni, Gathoni turns and gestures for her to hurry up. They look around, a woman walks past them, Gathoni walks past the clinic. The woman disappears, Gathoni pushes Nelima in.

INT. CLINIC. DAY

Nelima and Gathoni walk in, they sanitise their hands. Nelima looks hesitant.

A guard points at Gathoni's mask which was on her chin. Gathoni rolls her eyes and puts it on properly.

There's a queue; a woman with a child, women alone and a young couple. People are masked and maintaining social distance.

Nelima watches a young couple whispering and giggling, they look happy.

NELIMA

I really shouldn't have let you talk me into this.. Nelson will be so mad if he finds out.

GATHONI

Sis, you're just getting info being here doesn't mean you're committed to anything. The lady we're meeting is super. She's one of my gals.

Nelima is not convinced. She looks around.

NELIMA

Do you know what would happen if Mama Nelson knew I was here? I'll never hear the end of it.

Nelima is nervous.

The guard brings a VERY pregnant lady to the front of the queue.

NELIMA

Maybe she was on those family planning things and they failed.

Gathoni shushes her, the pregnant lady turns to her and gives her a deathly stare.

Nelima cups her mouth in shock and shame.

Gathoni laughs then whispers.

GATHONI

That's going to be YOU soon, whether you want it or not, unless you plan your future! take control of your body !

It's their turn to go in.

INT. CLINICAL OFFICERS ROOM. DAY

The clinical officer looks up as they walk in, she's warm. She knows Gathoni.

CLINICAL OFFICER

Hey girl! Ah! So it's you! I've missed you!

Gathoni turns to Nelima, Nelima is nervous.

GATHONI

This is my friend Nelima I was telling you about. She's looking for family planning...contraceptives-

Nelima nearly jumps off her seat.

NELIMA

No....I'm certainly not.. That's not what we agreed on..

CLINICAL OFFICER

Have you used any preventive methods before?

Nelima shakes her head. She gets up to leave.

NELIMA

I'm sorry, I don't think I should be here. I'm married, I'm a mother. I want to have more kids.

Nelima briskly gets up and storms out. She opens the door and the first thing she sees is a woman in the waiting room crying by herself. It's a pretty bad sight. She stops to look at her. The CLINICAL OFFICER is standing behind her.

CLINICAL OFFICER

That lady went to a traditional healer

when she thought she was pregnant. She wasn't even pregnant, but the healer gave her something to put inside her. As a result she got an infection that almost killed her. She's lucky to be alive.

But she's just found out she'll never be able to have kids. [AZ7] [E08]

(pause - Nelima looks at her)

You're not the first married woman who wants to space pause [AZ9] having kids you know.

You're just being a good mom.

(pause)

Why don't you come in and at least listen to your options. Family planning is

safe and you can have children whenever you decide. They don't make you barren[AZ10] .

They don't make you crazy. They don't cause kids to come out with 5 heads or any of the other crazy things rumors people say. I've heard them all. [AZ13] [E014] Most of them are just that - rumors - with no scientific evidence.

Nelima is conflicted. She looks at the nurse, then at the woman. But she goes inside again.

CLINICAL OFFICER

Here are some choices[AZ15] in family planning methods. It depends on your personal preference, your lifestyle, and when you want to have kids again. And of course, it may depend on what we have in stock. IUDs or implants are sometimes hard to get. But you can read about them here

Handing her pamphlets.

(CONT)

Most family planning methods h
have some side effects. Some may impact
your period[AZ16] [E017] [E018] , but this is
not at all
bad for your health. And it won't
impact your ability to have kids
when you stop using them. I promise
you.
I use them myself.

GATHONI

The problem is the husband!

CLINICAL OFFICER

Ah. Yes, of course. Well, I can't help
you there. Men are men. If I could
fix that, I'd be rich! [AZ19] [E020]

They all laugh.

CLINICAL OFFICER (cont)

But I can tell you, you're not alone.
Many women discuss family planning with
their partners. The best outcome is for
you
two to come together. Then it's a
decision
that he feels you've made together.

As a health provider, I'll^[AZ21] help you
choose you
what I think is best for you. How you
convince your husband, or not, is not
my business.

Nelima looks at the pamphlets.

GATHONI

Ah, she's already hiding things from
him, this is easy!

NELIMA

Your mouth! I swear.

GATHONI

No, it's not that - it's just money.

CLINICAL OFFICER

Well, that's another thing we have in common.

They all laugh.

GATHONI

You see! this is why I don't want a husband.

EXT. CLINIC. DAY

Nelima and Gathoni are exiting the clinic, they are in a good
mood.

They bump into Sally (45). Nelima gets nervous, she surreptitiously drops the pamphlets she was carrying. Sally picks one up before Nelima does.

SALLY

Nelima, is that you?

NELIMA

Hi Sally.

SALLY

(pointing to the clinic)

I told you about Covid babies!

Sally looks at the pamphlets Nelima dropped. She realizes that it's not pregnancy that brought Nelima to the clinic. She gives Gathoni a dirty look.

SALLY

You know these things are for a certain types of women. The types who seek attention. Not respectable wives and mothers.

Gathoni makes a face.

GATHONI

You must be Sally the Megaphone! Heard so much about you!

NELIMA

I have to pick up my baby..let's go Gathoni.

SALLY

Say hello to Mama Nelson tell her I'll pop in for tea.

Nelima curses under her breath, she tugs at Gathoni and they quickly walk away.

NELIMA

My life is about to turn into hell.

GATHONI

You're so dramatic.

NELIMA

You'll see

Episode 6

INT. NELIMA & NELSON'S LIVING ROOM. DAY

There's a knock on the door.

NELIMA opens. Standing there is APOSTLE PAUL, (50s), wearing his Sunday preaching outfit. Behind him is MAMA NELSON.

APOSTLE PAUL

Hello Nelima.

NELIMA

Apostle Paul! Please, come in.
What an honor, allow me to put on something nice and make some tea.

NELIMA walks past Nelson, angry, cursing under her breath.

NELIMA (under her breath)

Now we'll be the subject of the sermon this Sunday.

NELSON

Apostle Paul, what a surprise, what brings you here?

INT. NELIMA & NELSON'S LIVING ROOM. DAY

Everyone (Mama, Apostle, Nelson). Nelima walks in, dressed in a Sunday dress and with a thermos of tea.

NELSON

Welcome!

Mama Nelson opens her huge kikapu and removes cups and a flask and puts them on the table.

NELSON

Mum, what are you doing?

APOSTLE PAUL

My children God has a plan for you, even in

times of plagues like
Covid when all seems
bleak, there's
abundance on the other
side of this test.
Remember he got his
people out of Egypt.

NELSON (confused)
I'm confused.

around

MAMA NELSON
Do you know your wife is running
with that social media harlot and
going to clinics to prevent her from
having children behind your back!
Imagine, she wants to
leave me with only one grandchild!

Nelima is trying hard to compose herself but an
errant tear escapes, she quickly wipes it.

As apostle Paul is addressing Nelima and
Nelson. Mama Nelson is chorusing. Yes and Amen
after he speaks.

APOSTLE PAUL (CONT'D)
Now you both came
before me before your
wedding, as is mandated
by the church of
course. And you both
pledged to carry out
God's will to have
children. As a young
couple you have one
purpose on earth to
fill it with offspring,
have another child soon
and God's blessing will
flood your home. But
these so called
artificial methods
interfere with God's plan.

Nelima is visibly angry and shaken.

APOSTLE PAUL (CONT'D)

Nelima, do you remember
we spoke about this at
your premarital
counselling? Mama
Nelson tells me
that you have received counselling
and even pamphlets about these
things.
Since you've received counselling
from
these people, perhaps then you'd be
open to receiving counselling as well
from some of our sisters in faith at
the church?

NELIMA

I was only looking for information.
Nothing more. The health officer at
the
clinic said many women use family
planning
to space children.
(looks at Nelson)
I'm telling the truth.

She grits her teeth, shakes her head and takes
a deep breath. Her eyes are red, she's about
to burst into tears.

NELIMA (CONT)

I'm just trying to do
what's best for my
family, that is all.

Nelima stops as her voice breaks, Nelson
watches her struggling.

Nelson clears his throat.

NELSON

Actually Apostle, as
the head of this house,
it was my idea for my
wife to go to the
clinic. As you said
we're young, there's no

rush to have other
children now.
Especially during a
pandemic.

Mama Nelson screams and fake faints on the
sofa. She breaks out in tongues.

MAMA NELSON

See, I told you
Apostle, The devil has
taken control of my
son's house.

Nelima is shocked, she stares at Nelson and a
smile slowly curves on her lips.

Mama Nelson gets more dramatic and cries loudly
admonishing Nelima.

MAMA NELSON (CONT'D)

It is this woman
running around with
single women and
whispering curses into
my son's ear! Just look
at this! The devil has
snatched my son away
from me!

She breaks down dramatically.

NELSON

Apostle, me and my
family will see you
next Sunday. This is
between my wife and I.

APOSTLE PAUL

And Jesus... I need to
pray for you.

Nelson gets up. Mama Nelson glares at Nelima,
she looks at Nelson, he's adamant.

MAMA NELSON

Nelson, even me, your
mother, you won't
listen to me? I gave
birth to you, I nursed

you, and now you think
you are a big man? You
spit on me?

NELSON

I've heard you, please,
give us some privacy.

Nelima is shocked and pleased. Apostle Paul and
Mama Nelson walk out.

Nelson turns back to Nelima.

NELIMA

I just went to get some information.
I promise.

NELSON

I believe you. But why do you have to
go around with that Gathoni? You
know what people say about her.

NELIMA

She's my friend. And she listens to
me.

NELSON

I'm listening to you now, aren't I?

NELIMA

Do you mean what you said?

NELSON

I don't know.

Nelima looks disappointed.

NELSON

But I'll tell you what. I'll go with
you
to the clinic and we can get
information together. Let's go and
listen.

NELIMA

You will?

She smiles and hugs him.

NELIMA

I know have pamphlets
and-

NELSON

Of course! Everyone in
the neighbourhood knows
you have these
pamphlets.

They both laugh as they hug each other.

Episode 7

INT. SALON. DAY

Gathoni and Nelima are laughing and chatting.

GATHONI

Nelson yaani he became
your knight in shining
armour, in front of his
mother!

They high five.

NELIMA

I feel so relieved G.

GATHONI (GATHONI)

What did I tell you? I
like the way Nelson
loves you. He's given
me hope that there are
a few decent men out
there.

As they laugh, an elegant woman AUNTY(40) peers
through the door to check if it's open. Nelima
sees her.

NELIMA

G, check it out! We
have a customer. And
she looks like she has
money!

GATHONI

Oh god! That's my
auntie. Yeah, she has
money. But I don't
think she's here for a
weave. I think my
father has sent an
emissary. He's still
mad over finding your
pregnancy test and
wants me to get
married. This is all
your fault you know!

NELIMA

What can we do for you madam?

Gathoni rolls her eyes then turns around and smiles sweetly.

GATHONI

Nelima, meet my Aunty.

The aunty looks at her, that type of look that's an inspection. Aunty straightens Gathoni's clothes.

AUNTY

I wanted to try out this salon I keep hearing about. I hope none of you have corona, I'm high risk you know!

Nelima turns on the heater.

NELIMA

You're so elegant Aunty. How about a mani-pedi as you get your hair done. Show your nails some love?

AUNTY

You're such a sweet talker, fine.

GATHONI

I don't think Aunty is here for beauty treatment Nel. I think she's been sent as a messenger.

NELIMA

Well, we need the customers! Plus no one can make her even more elegant than us!

The aunty laughs heartily.

AUNTY

You should listen to
your friend Gathoni and
treat me like a
customer.

They start working on Aunty.

GATHONI

Aunty, I know my father told you
about the pregnancy test. If you've
come to scold me
let's just get it out of the way.
Do you think I should go to the
village
and get married?

AUNTY

Nope.

NELIMA

It was my test Aunty. Gathoni just
helped me.

AUNTY

I figured. Where do you find a
place to pee around here anyway?

Gathoni is pleasantly surprised. They laugh.

NELIMA

That bucket.

AUNTY

I see that boy broke up
with you?

GATHONI

How did you know?

AUNTY

I saw him with some new girl on
Instagram.

GATHONI

Aunty, you're on insta?

AUNTY

I'm not that old! I
shared your video, you
know.

GATHONI

That video?

AUNTY

Yeah, that one. Ah you're lucky
your father doesn't even know how
to use a smartphone!

Gathoni puts down her phone and combs her
Aunty's hair.

GATHONI

What did you think?

The aunty turns and faces Gathoni.

AUNTY

I've never been so
proud as an Aunty.

GATHONI

(emotional)
Really?

AUNTY

Many things have changed since I was
your age. We didn't have instas and
tik toks and snaps or what have you.
But one thing that hasn't changed
much
is that we stigmatize women who use
family planning to delay their
pregnancies or space their babies. So
I'm proud that my girl is not afraid
of speaking up. If more people do
it,
things will change.

Gathoni gives her Aunty a big hug.

AUNTY

Men these days are not
after relationships let
alone serious ones,

they want to run around
with fifty girls. Then
when you get pregnant,
they say it's not
theirs. Pff.
You deserve a man that
cares for your well
being as well as his.
And that includes
respecting your right
to decide when to have
his baby. And Same goes
for you Nelima,
Alright.

GATHONI

All this time Aunty I never knew
you were so cool.

AUNTY

Please, I'm the *original* influencer!
You
can always come to me you know.

As they all laugh, Nelima's phone pings, she
looks at it.

NELIMA

Maskiini! I've been
robbed.

END

Episode 8

INT. NELIMA &__ NELSON'S HOUSE. DAY

Nelima bursts in. The room is in disarray. Nelson is holding the crying baby while assessing the damage. He's distraught. She takes the baby.

NELIMA

Is the baby ok?

NELSON

We're fine, no one was here when it happened.

She runs into the bedroom, the bed is flipped upside down. She knows what this means: her savings box is gone. She frantically clears the space with one hand and the baby in the other. There's a hole there. No savings box.

She sits down on the floor, distraught. She starts crying.

Gathoni walks in and hugs her.

NELIMA

It's gone. My savings.
3 years of saving for
my salon. I can't..

Nelima sobs.

INT. GATHONI'S ROOM. NIGHT

Gathoni is busy on her phone.

Gathoni scrolls through social media, she sees a picture of her ex with a woman with the hashtag #loveliveshere. She stares at the picture, zooms in and scrutinises it then unfollows and blocks him.

She scrolls on and stops at the entrepreneurs promotion. She sits up and looks at her phone intently. She puts it down, takes a note book and writes.

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INT. NELIMA & NELSON'S LIVING ROOM. DAY

Mama Nelson and Sally walk out carrying mops and buckets.

An exhausted Nelima sits down.

The room is clean and has been rearranged.

Her phone pings. She looks at it. Its a message from Gathoni: Check insta.

She tries to open instagram and instead gets a message that her bundles are depleted. She checks her mpesa and she has ksh 226. She pauses.

Nelson walks in from the kitchen.

NELSON

Babe, do you have money
we buy chicken liver?

She shakes her head.

NELIMA

There's githeri in the
hotpot.

Nelima buys bundles and opens insta. A video of Gathoni's has gone viral again.

She taps the video.

GATHONI

Hey insta lovers, fans
and haters. Today, I'm
going to tell you a
story about a friend of
mine. I won't say her
name, but she is a mama
and a wife. She has

dreams. Not crazy big dreams. Just simple, dreams that may seem small to many people, but to her, they were everything...you see my friend was saving whatever little money she had to open a salon of her own. *Do you know how hard it is to save money during this pandemic?* But she did it. And you know what else she did that I'm really proud of her? She went to a family planning clinic and even convinced her husband to go with her. Why?

She just wants to move up a little, move to a little bigger house, move to a little safer street. But like so many of us women, no matter how much we sacrifice, how hard we work, she had to endure so much stigma just to plan her future.

Tonight, my friend's house was robbed during these desperate Covid times. She lost her savings and her small dream is gone. So I'm entering this competition because I want to make her dream come true. She deserves it. Not just for her, but for all the women who work so hard for their families. Who plan our future. Like and share

this video and let's
give my the salon that
she's been saving for.
Let's do it for all us
women who simply want
to be captains of our
own destiny.

Nelima is crying as she watches the video. As
she's watching the video, she sees the likes
keep climbing. The comments are touching and
very supportive.

She picks up the phone and calls Gathoni.

NELIMA

What have you done now!

GATHONI

Sis.. We won!

Nelima is shocked.

NELIMA

Won what...

GATHONI

I won the prize money
to start a business
using your story.

NELIMA

This is not a joke so
you can embarrass me
online?

GATHONI

I got all my new
followers to like and
share it. So I won.
We won.

NELIMA

You're crazy!

GATHONI

I'll give you the
money. But I only have
one condition. I come

on board as a partner,
50-50.

Nelima is thrilled.

NELIMA
Sure it's a Deal.

EXT. NELIMA AND GATHONI'S NEW SALON. DAY

Nelima and Gathoni together, each standing on two chairs, hoist up a sign that says "G & N Salon. For the woman in control." Nelson is directing, making sure that the sign is straight.

Nelima and Gathoni stand in front of their sign and high-five each other.

EXT. CLINIC. DAY.

Nelson and Nelima enter.

NARRATOR (female)
As he promised, Nelson went to the family planning clinic with Nelima.

INT. CLINIC. DAY

Nelson and Nelima are sitting down in the waiting room - the same one where Gathoni and Nelima were earlier in our story. They're holding hands. Nelson has the pamphlets in his hands. He seems a bit out of his element.

NARRATOR
To Nelson's surprise, he wasn't
the
only man there.

Nelson looks around the waiting room, he sees a few other men there seemly in the same position as himself.

The same HEALTH PROVIDER comes to the door and smiles at Nelima and signals her to come in with Nelson.

INT. CONSULTATION ROOM. DAY (CONT.)

Nelson and the health provider are speaking, she's clearly explaining things to him and using the pamphlet as an explanation aid.

NARRATOR

Nelson was also surprised about how little he knew about family planning. He was happy that the health provider answered all his questions. But most of all, Nelson was happy that he and Nelima made the choice together.

CUT TO:

Gathoni, exiting her salon. There's a guy there waiting for her. A new guy, clean cut. He has some flowers.

NARRATOR

As for Gathoni, she discovered that not all men are like Mathew and soon she was in a new romance with someone who supported her decisions around family planning. And her desire to plan her future.

THE END.