VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS PROHIBITION (VAPP) ACT

A Comic for VAPP Act Awareness

www.evanigeria.org
HMM. ADA AND DEVAAAN ARE LATE AGAIN. THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY FOR OUR MEAL AS USUAL!

I WILL PROCEED TO PLACE OUR ORDERS QUICKLY. I LOVE FREE MEALS.

HIGH-FIVE!

HMM...

BEING ‘FASHIONABLY LATE’ IS MORE OF DEVAAAN’ STYLE, THOUGH, ISN’T IT? ADA ‘THE NERD’ IS USUALLY PUNCTUAL.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS KEEPING HER?

MOST PROBABLY THE TRAFFIC? AGAIN THOSE POTHOLE-FILLED ROADS TO THE CAMPUS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO GET IN ON TIME. BUT I COULD CALL HER PHONE TO BE SURE SHE’S ALRIGHT.

NEVER MIND, MAIMUNA. HERE SHE COMES.
Is that Ada? What's wrong with her?

Ada? Are you--

I feel so sick.

Ah, come sit. What is wrong? Are you okay?

A few girls in my department have complained about him! They also predicted that my turn would come, but I never believed them.

I mean, I study extra hard and put in work for my grades. It is so unfair. I had already told him a “no” the first time. Shouldn’t that be enough?
Ada, what are you talking about?

It’s my Math303 lecturer! I’m just coming from his office. He said he would fail me again if I...if I don’t...—sniff—

...if I don’t sleep with him. He gave me an “E” last semester when I refused his advances.

Now, he’s threatening an “F”. I can’t afford to fail a second time, guys. I don’t know what to do.

There must be something we can do. Can’t we report him?

That is assuming the girls will want to speak up. Especially those who gave in to his threats. Who would even believe them? Remember, he is a highly respected professor in the university.

She said he’s done this to other girls in her department. So, we have multiple victims, which means multiple testimonies?
Sorry, I'm late, guys.

You this girl, don't you get tired of being sorry?

Mm hmm. Sure.

Come on, you know I came as fast as I could.

Oya, I'll pay for everyone's food as my punishment. How about that?

We know. We've already placed our orders on your bill.

What's wrong, Ada? What did I miss?

-Sigh-
**Patrick, what’s up?**

It’s nothing.

**Are you sure that’s all? Looks to me like there’s more on your mind.**

That’s not true. You think we haven’t noticed that you barely touched your food?

**I’m just...I just feel bad for Ada.**

**You’re too observant, detective Laolu.**

Okay. But you all have to promise that this stays between us.

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**WE PROMISE.**

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At first, it was just her words.

She’d call me all sorts of humiliating and derogatory names. Then once she’s ‘cooled off’, she’d come back and apologize.

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Sofia, my girlfriend. I have endured this emotional and psychological abuse for 7 months. Two days ago, we got into an argument and she got really angry and slapped me and this is not the first time she’s hit me.

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Who?

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At first I was really ashamed to tell anyone. But I confided in my cousin Emeka. He only made it worse by laughing at me. He even added that I was a weakling and if I ever got out of the relationship “then she must have beat me out of it.”
Oh my God.

That's awful, Patrick. No one should have the right to hurt anyone.

Patrick, and also Ada, shame should never let you be bullied into silence.

When we were in our first year. You all remember Segun right? We started dating in our second semester. I had to break up with him when my mum found out about our relationship.

She insisted I would perform better at school if I didn't have a boyfriend. She was right, I was getting distracted already. So I broke it off.

But just before our exams that semester he invited me to join a private study group holding in his room off-campus.

It was in the afternoon after all broad daylight and it wasn't going to be just the two of us, so I didn't even give it a second thought.

That is a mistake I regret everyday because that day he raped me.
Yes. He didn't stop there. I had shared some of my nudes with him, really compromising photos to be honest. He began using them to threaten me to have sex with him.

No way!

He even went as far as taping a headless picture of me in my classroom above it. He wrote “Guess Who?”

He texted me later saying if I didn’t return to the relationship, the next picture would have my face on it. I became really depressed *whisper* and I even contemplated suicide.
I saw a flyer from an NGO called Education as a Vaccine at the school social club.

I called the “My Question Service” helpline on the flyer, spoke to the nicest counsellor who walked me through all the provisions of the VAPP and how I could get justice.

It was about the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act and detailed how I could get help.

I won’t lie, I didn’t believe it would work but long story short, Segun is presently under investigation and I have a restraining order against him. He was also forced to delete all the photos he had of me.

Na wa o, so things can work in this country? If it wasn’t you talking I would have been shouting ‘na lie’ by now.

If it didn’t happen to me it would have been tough to believe too.

I need this information Laolu, my husband hits me at the slightest provocation; make e no go kill me abeg.

Let’s call them immediately, but not before Devaun pays for our food.

Oh no!
You have a story too?
My Question Service
WhatApp - 08027192781
Sms to 38120 - free for MTN and Airtel
Call 0800MYQuestion (08006978378466)
- free for all networks.

Silence and blaming survivors encourages the perpetrators of violent acts.

In Nigeria 300-350 women are killed by their husbands, boyfriends, former partners, or male relations annually - Shuja, 2014.

The Violence against Persons Prohibition Act supports the rights of men and women alike.
More than 55% of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence have never sought help or justice. - The Nigeria Demographic and Health survey, 2018.

Over 30% of women and girls aged 15-49, have experienced some form of sexual, physical, emotional or psychological abuse. - The Nigeria Demographic and Health survey, 2018.
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